

PINERY PIPELINE JULY 2025



Please join us at our District Office for our monthly Board Meetings typically held at 6:00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, July 16th and Wednesday, August 20th.

From your Board of Directors

As we head into July I'd like to take time to discuss outdoor water use, some of the ways that you could be using more water than necessary, and things you can do to use less.

At my home I start off every season by running each irrigation zone to ensure that all the sprinkler heads are functioning properly and are adjusted to water the correct area. I also check all my drip irrigation to verify that there are no leaks and that the drip lines are in the correct place. I then also review the sprinkler controller schedules to ensure that they are configured properly. You may have seen a helpful guide in last month's newsletter providing guidance on the correct frequency and run times for various sprinkler head types.

Throughout the watering season I also regularly monitor the Eye on Water app on my phone. It allows me to see my water usage by month, week, day, and hour. I'll frequently check the app to ensure that the actual usage aligns with what I expect, based on the zones that ran on previous days. The app was already very helpful this summer in identifying and measuring the amount of excess water used due to an irrigation line break that occurred this past month. I had accidentally cut a line when I drove a landscaping stake into the ground. The break led to approximately 1,000 gallons of water being spilled out onto my driveway overnight.

If you haven't registered for your free Eye on Water account, I would highly suggest you do so by visiting the District website.

I also made use of one of the programs offered through Resource Central to have about 300 square feet of turf removed from my lawn for only \$1 per square foot. The team arrived and in less than an hour all the turf was gone, leaving us with a blank slate to be replaced with new low water use plants. The area will eliminate two more rotary sprinkler heads.

The District is also offering its own turf replacement program that will provide \$5 per square foot, if you replace high water use turf with more Colorado-friendly landscaping. If you are interested, I would suggest going to the District website to get more information. These are just some of the many programs and resources that the District offers to help you reduce your water usage and save you some money. Check out the District website for details on all the programs that are offered.



Josh Connors,
Director, Pinery Water and Wastewater District

HOW MUCH WATER SHOULD I PUT ON MY LAWN?

Generally, in Colorado, lawns need about 1 to 1.5 inches of water each week (including rainfall) to maintain a healthy, green appearance. This equates to about 20-30 minutes per zone, twice a week, for pop-up sprinkler heads, or 40-50 minutes per zone for rotor heads. During the summer, two watering days per week should be sufficient with a third day added during extreme heat or dry periods.

The best method to apply water to your lawn is through the “Cycle and Soak” process. Instead of running your sprinklers for one long interval which leads to water waste, break up the 20-30 minutes into shorter intervals with pauses in between. For example, instead of one cycle of 20-30 minutes, try three cycles of 7-10 minute intervals with an hour in between each cycle. This will reduce water waste/runoff and will help the soil absorb more water. You can check if your lawn is watered sufficiently by sticking a screwdriver into the soil. If it goes in easily, you can skip a day of watering. If you must work it in, consider applying more water. In essence, Colorado lawns need to be watered deeply and infrequently to encourage robust root growth and help your lawn withstand dry spells more effectively.

SMART IRRIGATION MONTH

July is Smart Irrigation Month. Smart Irrigation Month was created to promote the social, economic and environmental benefits of efficient irrigation technologies, products and services in landscape, turf and agricultural irrigation. This time of year is opportune to make adjustments and changes in your irrigation system. Using water more efficiently conserves water and reduces your water bill.

Here are some tips to conserve water and improve your irrigation:

- Select & inspect sprinklers properly – Select sprinkler heads and nozzles that apply water uniformly to the target area. Inspect your sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they are not obstructed or spraying the incorrect direction.
- Use drip irrigation – Drip or “low pressure, low volume” irrigation applies water directly to the base or roots of plants. These systems are ideal for watering individual plants and smaller landscape areas slowly and precisely.
- Consider time of day – Watering in the early morning hours when it is cooler (and often less windy) reduces water loss. Aim for your last cycle to end by 5:00 a.m.
- Keep an eye on it – Sign up for Eye on Water to track your home’s water usage and receive custom leak alerts (free!). Visit **PineryWater.com/Eye-On-Water** for more information.
- Get smart – Take the guesswork out of irrigation by upgrading to a smart controller. Controllers based on weather and soil moisture automatically adjust the watering schedule depending on conditions at your location.
- Evaluate your irrigation – Sign up for a FREE Slow the Flow sprinkler evaluation. Call Resource Central at (303) 999-3824 or sign up at **ResourceCentral.org/Sprinklers**.
- Learn new tricks – Check out FREE online Waterwise Yard Seminars offered by Resource Central. Visit **ResourceCentral.org/Seminars** to register.
- Work with a certified professional – Protect your investment by working with a professional Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL). Find one at **QWEL.net**.

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