



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Parks & Recreation Water Fact Sheet

- ◆ DPR uses water for irrigation, drinking fountains, fountains, lakes (boating, fishing, etc.), restrooms, stormwater management, showers, pools, spraygrounds, and building fire protection.
- ◆ DPR used 1.8 billion gallons of water in 2007. 1.8 billion gallons would be like covering City Park (315 Ac) with 16.5 feet of water.
- ◆ Recreation Centers and Pools used 283,581,000 gallons of water in 2007.
- ◆ DPR uses four different types of water: Potable, Reuse, Raw Well, Raw Ditch and receives bills from eight different service providers.
- ◆ The majority of water use is for park irrigation, which is approximately 2,900 acres in the DPR system.
- ◆ The number of water meters which track water use has increased from 799 in 2001 to 902 in 2007.
- ◆ Irrigation heads and controllers have a usable life of 10 to 15 years. The oldest parks in the DPR System date back to the early 1900's. Rufus M. Merrill patented the lawn sprinkler on July 9, 1878. This picture is a postcard from 1908 of the Denver State Capitol with irrigation on.
- ◆ DPR established a Water Conservation division in 1990. The division determines their work plan through the use of the DPR Water Conservation Plan, DW Tap Smart Plan, GreenPrint, Game Plan, DPR Planning, Design, Construction & Maintenance Standards, and other studies of the system's infrastructure.
- ◆ DPR began converting parks to reuse water in 2004. In 2009, DPR had 19 parks on piped reuse water, a total of 253.6 irrigated acres (Crescent, Denison, Dunham, Greenway, Jackie Robinson Fields, Lowry Sports Complex, McNichols, Russell Square, Schafer, Stapleton Central, Swansea, Verbena, and Westerly Creek). City Park and Washington Park (291.5 irrigated acres) also use reuse water served through the City Ditch system, for a total of nearly 545.1 acres.
- ◆ The Better Denver Bond passed in 2007 with over \$17 Million in irrigation improvements, scheduled for over three years.



System Snapshot

Urban Parks – over 4,100 acres

Recreation Centers – 29

Pools – 28

Municipal golf courses – 7

Fountains – 20

Lakes – over 370 acres