

# Hamilton Creek Metropolitan District

Summer 2002

[www.hamiltoncreek.org](http://www.hamiltoncreek.org)

## Water Restrictions

The District has imposed water restrictions effective immediately that prohibits any outside water usage after 8 AM and before sundown.

In the last newsletter, the "Spring" issue, there was information on the drought, water conservation tips and the following:

*Historically, summer water usage by Hamilton Creek residents is at least double that of other periods and at times has approached three times the normal household usage levels. Last summer, just prior to the seasonal rains in July and August, water demands from landscaping left the District unable to increase the water stored in the tank*

The intent was to have residents voluntarily limit outside water usage. Instead our water usage is at a record level for May and June with July anticipated to be just as high. The water quality has suffered due to the high usage. At times the District has approached the negative usage point, where we are using water faster than we can add it to the water tank.

As the voluntary reduction request did not work, the first step in the mandatory restrictions is in effect. Outside usage is only allowed before 8 AM and after sundown. Outside usage includes landscape watering and other usages including washing cars.

We all hope future winter snows end the current drought. Should the drought continue additional restrictions limiting outside usage days and finally not allowing any outside usage would be necessary.

## Why limit outside usage during the day?

Observed usage during the heat of the day has probably been the most frustrating aspect to the District during the current drought. Because of the typical low humidity and breezy conditions during the day, most water applied during this time is lost to evaporation. Sprinkling at this time is somewhat like a humidifier in a home, but to the outside air. Attempting to apply water to landscaping during the heat of the day is very inefficient. Hardly any of this water makes it to the root of the plant, which is the intent of any landscape irrigation. If you must apply water to your landscaping, doing so during the early morning and nighttime hours will allow the use of substantially less water to achieve satisfactory results.

**Will rain help?** Rain helps the District as it limits outside water usage. The seasonal monsoon rains had a slow beginning in early July and are still anticipated to return for the remainder of July and August by most long-term forecasts. Just as the water restrictions are intended to maintain our water source by limiting outside usage, rains naturally reduce the need for outside irrigation. However, the rains will have little or no effect on the source water of the District. Only a substantial snow year that slowly filters into the ground in the surrounding collection areas will aid in returning the water source to normal levels.

**Check your filters.** If you use filters within your house on the water system, you may need to check them more frequently. Due to our water pumping volume and the drought conditions, the District is experiencing increased sedimentation in the water. This is not a health concern, but it is clogging the PRV's in the District's main system and filters within individual homes. If you notice a decrease in your water pressure, it might be corrected by changing your filters.

# Association News

## Tips to Conserving Water

- Install sensible native landscaping following xeriscape principals of minimal water usage.
- Limit the use of “spray” irrigation. In our climate much of the water evaporates before it hits the ground. Drip systems provide the most efficient irrigation.
- Irrigate in the early morning or late evening when cooler temperatures and lower winds limit evaporation. Watering during the middle of the day does little for your landscaping and uses a substantial amount of the limited water available in the District.  
NOW MANDATORY – NO OUTSIDE USAGE AFTER 8 AM OR BEFORE SUNDOWN.
- Fix any leaks in your home – leaky toilets are the leading cause of wasted water in your house.
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine with full loads for better water efficiency.

**What is normal usage.** Conservative water usage, on a quarterly basis, is approximately 5,000-6,000 gallons per person. Outside irrigation will substantially increase this number. Good water conservation would result in 20,000 gallons or less for your household. If you did substantial landscape irrigation, and if it were a normal year, keeping usage in the summer below 30,000 gallons would be acceptable. During the drought, a lower number is required. If you are using over 30,000 gallons, then you need to make some adjustment in your usage.

**Water System Repairs.** Most of the issues with access to the surface water diversion on Hamilton Creek have been resolved. Construction of the Creek diversion is expected to begin within the next few weeks. A small temporary treatment structure will be built next to the existing pump house. A “bag filtration” treatment system will be installed, and pending State of Colorado certification, the intent is to begin using the new water source before the end of the year.

The drought is a factor in this also. The Creek flow has dropped substantially, but remains sufficient to provide household water. However, to meet outside irrigation demands during drought periods, it is likely one of the existing wells will need to be used to supplement the supply.

**Cleanup Day and Annual Meeting** Both the clean up day and annual meeting were a great success. Over 40 residents contributed to the huge slash pile collected at the cleanup day. Over 70 owners attended the annual meeting the following Saturday. Next year’s dates are Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> for the Cleanup Day and Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Meeting.



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**New Address Signs** Many vacant lot owners have had address signs installed. Some of the existing homes have had new posts installed. The Association will continue with a program to place signs on all properties and upgrade any address signs starting to show age. Remember, any real estate or contractor signs must meet design specifications and be hung under your address sign. Any security signs must also be mounted on the address signposts. Signs in any other location on your property is not allowed.

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