

Hamilton Creek Metropolitan District

Fall 2004

www.hamiltoncreek.org

Water Usage

The District came within a few hours in mid-August of having to switch over to the wells due to low flows in the Creek coupled with high usage. Fortunately, at almost the last possible moment, we experienced several days of heavy rain that restored the flow in the Creek and significantly dropped usage. Combined with the September snowstorm the water level in the Creek is at a level that should be adequate for our water needs until next summer.

The water rights for the District are 68 gallons per minute (gpm). While historic information is limited, prior to the effects of the drought in 2002 the lowest flow in the Creek was approximately 85 gpm. The cumulative effect of the drought years has resulted in the Creek being very susceptible to low summer flows following poor snow pack years. During spring run off periods the Creek has flowed over 400 gpm. The lowest flow recorded was in 2002 at 6 gpm. Currently, the Creek is at the fall / winter level we have observed for the last two years of 60 gpm. The District pumping equipment has the ability to draw 30 gpm from the Creek with a minimum pumping rate of 15 gpm. At this time we are pumping at the 30 gpm rate. On average, our water usage is approximately 6 gpm for household usage and 9 gpm overall when landscape usage is factored in. The low drought flows of the Creek fluctuate drastically during hot dry weather. Unfortunately, at the same time the hot dry weather causes the Creek flows to drastically drop, landscape usage substantially increases. The District has a 200,000 gallon water tank at the top of Hamilton Creek. From a top level of 30 feet of water, the tank level is allowed to drop up to five feet to cycle water and to provide breaks in the pumping before the pumps are used to restore the tank level. The tank also helps in balancing high usage periods with low usage periods during the day. However, when customer demands exceeds 15 gpm and the Creek volume drops below 15 gpm, the District would have no choice but to utilize the wells to keep up with water usage.

The District requested a cut back in landscape usage in the July newsletter and through emails in August when we were nearing the point of having to switch to the wells. During dry periods in July and August water demand was 20 gpm. At the same time, the flow of the Creek dropped from 25 gpm to less than 18 gpm. When the emails were sent requesting residents to limit outside usage the demand immediately dropped to 15 gpm. Prior to the August rain, the Creek flow dropped to 15 gpm. During the rain period the demand dropped to 10 gpm. At the end of the irrigation season the demand has returned to approximately 6 gpm.

Water demands for homes in Hamilton Creek vary depending on the occupancy and landscape usage. As indicated in the July newsletter, the target level of usage in Hamilton Creek is a maximum of 15,000 gallons per quarter and it was suggested that if you were exceeding 20,000 gallons in a quarter due to landscape usage you should consider additional water conservation. There currently are 84 homes in Hamilton Creek. During the recent quarter including the irrigation months of July, August and September, 62 homes (74%) used under 20,000 gallons of water; 15 homes (18%) used between 20,000 and 30,000 gallons; and 7 homes (8%) used over 35,000 gallons and of those 3 homes were over 50,000 gallons.

During years of adequate snowfall, supplying water to meet usage demands should not be a problem in Hamilton Creek. However, during the drought periods following winters of below average snowfall, the District will not have water available to supply excess landscape usage.

Snow Removal

The Metro District will again be using Collard Excavating for snow removal service this winter on the roads and for driveway access plowing. Snow removal is the one service that generates the majority of owner comments during the year. Collard Excavating has provided cost effective service for many years and there has not been any other firms interested in providing a bid for the plowing. Maintenance of the roadways is expected to begin earlier in the morning this year. The driveway access plow follows the roadway plowing. Depending on the snowfall received, the driveways may not be cleaned with each plowing. The driveway snow removal from Collard is access plowing. The purpose is to allow vehicles access to the driveway, but not all areas of the driveway will be plowed. The degree of plowing is dependent upon the availability of snow storage. Due to the large machinery used, driveway plowing may cause scrapes in the driveway surface. The driveway shoulders and objects that may be hidden beneath snowfalls should be clearly marked. As an alternative to the driveway access plowing, the District has made arrangements with Mario Zieba for residents that would like complete driveway plowing and/or sidewalk snow removal. The enclosed questionnaire lists the driveway plowing we have indicated for your property based on last year. The three options for plowing are listed should you desire to change your driveway plowing option.

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Post Office Mail Delivery.

As reported at the Annual Meeting, three quarters of the residents responded to the mail box survey last February. Nearly 70% of the residents responding indicated they would like mail delivery to Hamilton Creek. Over half of those wanting mail delivery preferred delivery into Hamilton Creek compared to the Highway 9 location. As of this time the Post Office has stated that mail delivery into Hamilton Creek is not an available option. The concern with the new School site delivery area was safety with the location made available by the Town of Silverthorne. Currently, the South Forty has three lock boxes and Hamilton Creek residents have 11 individual mail boxes in this location. After completion of the work at the School site, the Town of Silverthorne determined the planned snowplow turn around on the road side of the mail boxes had safety problems and for this reason they constructed the turn around on the back side of the mail boxes. They had originally said that they would not allow any access behind the mail boxes. Additionally, Summit Stage is planning on using this turn around to expand the bus service to this point. The Town has requested they be allowed to monitor how the turn around works during the winter to make a determination regarding mail boxes next spring. While the Town will not do anything specific for the mail boxes, potentially a bus shelter may be added to this location. As a result it may be possible for Hamilton Creek to install locked mail boxes in this location that at a minimum would face away from the road towards the turn around and the possibility exists that the Town may allow boxes to be installed on the other side of the turn around to remove them from the road shoulder.

The location on the alternate plan of installing mail boxes in Hamilton Creek was revised based on comments at the Annual Meeting. The new proposed plan has the installation of boxes in three locations that would utilize pull offs from Hamilton Creek Road. Going up Hamilton Creek Road the first location would be uphill from the first hairpin corner on the right side; the second pickup zone would be above Eagles Wing Trail on the left side; and the final pick up area would be at the intersection of Hamilton Creek Road and Lakeview Circle. At this time the Post Office has indicated it will not provide service into Hamilton Creek, but their position may be subject to review particularly if the Town of Silverthorne cannot provide a safe alternative to pick up at the School site.

In the questionnaire enclosed with this mailing there are choices regarding post office delivery to provide the District with the direction most residents would like to see taken regarding mail service.

Association Clean Up Day
Saturday June 18, 2005

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Annual Association Meeting
Saturday June 25, 2005

Trash Removal Services.

At the Annual Meeting there was an owner suggestion that consideration be made to consolidating trash pick up for all residents to one service. The idea of providing a centralized dumpster is not currently being pursued mostly because of the lack of a suitable location for the trash pickup / dumping that would not adversely affect an owner. The benefit to Hamilton Creek residents to consolidate to one trash removal service include limited trash on the curb to one day per week, lower costs and future leverage in maintaining low rates and good service.

Niel Christensen has obtained proposals from the Trash Company (formally Snowy Peaks) and Waste Management. The two forms of service include weekly pick up for full time residents and "seasonal pickup" that would be service only on request and billed per pickup. The proposal from the Trash Company includes bi-weekly recycling pickup. The proposed costs are as follows:

Waste Management (curbside recycling not available)

Weekly pickup	\$ 51 per quarter
	\$45 if consolidated into the Metro Billing
Seasonal pickup	\$ 10 per pickup

Pickup day is Wednesday

Trash Company (includes curbside recycling)

Weekly pickup	\$ 60 per quarter
	\$48 per quarter senior rate (62 and over)
Seasonal pickup	\$ 8 per pickup

Pickup date is Thursday (recycling bi-weekly).

To assist the Metro District in determining if residents would like this service and if so, which firm, a choice regarding the trash options is included on the enclosed questionnaire.

High Water Usage.

Sometimes high water usage can result from water losses the homeowner may not be aware of. In the house, toilets can have small leaks not noticeable to even full time residents that can result in up to 5,000 gallons of lost water per month. Normally, the cause is a small leak in the flap closure or a shutoff setting just barely above the tank overflow. A quick leak test is to place food coloring in the tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak. During irrigation season, another loss of water results from missing drip system emitters or sprinkler system pipes with cracks that allows water to leak into the ground and may not be noticeable. Your water meter can be used as a tool to check usage you cannot account for. Most water meters are located in a utility room. The meters have a usage wheel that spins like a clock when there is water usage. Looking at this usage wheel and comparing water usage readings on a daily basis can be tools in identifying sources of water usage if you suspect a leak contributes to your high usage.