How Arvada Parks conserve water

Water conservation is a critical part of the City's Parks Maintenance Philosophy:

> *Maintain the City's parks and open spaces to the highest possible standards while **making the best use of City resources** in a sustainable and equitable manner.*

The City's Parks Maintenance team operates with that philosophy by relying on technology to maximize water efficiency and conservation.

The focus driving the approach is the City's centrally computerized irrigation system, which operates ¾ of Parks' yearly irrigation consumption.

A centralized computerized irrigation system has many benefits:

- **Incorporates data from weather stations located throughout the city**, and will automatically shut irrigation off when precipitation levels reach a predetermined threshold.
- **Real-time flow calculations**: trigger alarms any time water flow varies from the norm, automatically detecting leaks, stuck valves, broken heads, mainline breaks and unopened valves – which can all potentially waste large amounts of water if gone undetected or require manual oversight.
- **Tracks environmental factors** such as temperature, humidity, wind speed and soil conditions to determine the EvapoTranspiration (ET) rate, or how fast water is transpired back to the atmosphere, ensuring maximum irrigation efficiency.

How Arvada's golf courses conserve water

The City's two golf courses, West Woods and Lake Arbor, also use weather data and computerized irrigation to increase water conservation and efficiency.

In addition to the irrigation control devices that monitor and reduce water use, the courses implement water conservation measures such as:

- Use of **drought-resistant or native plants** in non-play areas, which require little to no irrigation.
- Parts of the course that were once maintained turf have since been converted to **native areas.**
- **Keeping a health turf plant** – when grass is healthy, meaning it has full coverage and deeper roots, it requires less water and is more resistant to disease