

Pinery Pipeline

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Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

www.pinerywater.com

Water Ed through the DCWRA Ambassador Program



Representatives from the Douglas County Water Resource Authority (DCWRA)*, Douglas County government, the Douglas County School District and the Water Awareness and Responsibility Program (“WARP”) met in December 2008 to kick off the inaugural year of the DCWRA Ambassador Program. This innovative water education and conservation program was built specifically for Douglas County and will serve as a much-needed bridge between water education and community water conservation. The program is funded by DCWRA and will be implemented by WARP.

According to Mark Shively, DCWRA Executive Director, "This first year, we are able to include Castle View, Chaparral, Rock Canyon and Thunder Ridge high schools in the Ambassador Program. Our goal is to include more schools next year, and eventually serve every high school in our region. Education must be relevant to issues our kids will face in the future. In our region, what could be more relevant than water?"

Jim Christensen, Douglas County Schools Superintendent said, "We need a body of evidence to work from for water education. We usually work from national textbooks, but water sustainability is a local issue and this program provides the perfect solution to educate our youth about how Douglas County water affects their lives and the world around them."

In the DCWRA Ambassador Program, motivated high school students become water Ambassadors and will ultimately impart what they've learned to elementary students in their feeder areas. Once a high school student becomes an Ambassador, they will lead fourth-grade students in a series of activities including

assemblies, classroom presentations, and hands-on water-specific experiments and exercises. Representatives from WARP will coach participating high school students through a series of "train-the-trainer" sessions. "Our goal is to build future leaders who have a solid understanding of how important water and conservation are to the communities in which they live," said Stacie Sneider, WARP Director. WARP does this by employing the latest technology to teach these concepts in fun and engaging ways. In addition, students will learn about public speaking and be given the tools and support to present what they've learned to the elementary students. "We all know, elementary kids think teens are rock stars.

Imagine how much fun it will be for the young kids to learn about water and conservation from the teenagers", said Sneider.

Per Lisle Gates, Castle View High School Principal, "We are delighted to be part of this program. It is innovative and aligns with the ultimate vision for our school. Our environmental science students will surely resonate with the material and at the same time gain valuable life skills." The DCWRA Ambassador Program comes at a fortuitous time. Roughly 81% of residents surveyed in 2008 indicated that an adequate water supply that meets the long-term needs of county residents is of the highest priority. According to Jack Hilbert, Douglas County Commissioner, "Through this program, our future leaders and policy makers will be encouraged and empowered to conserve water. This model is a life building skill for our high school students in addition to providing an invaluable trickle-down of knowledge that will increase environmental awareness about water issues and conservation. "

~Stacie Sneider, WARP Director



*The Pinery Water & Wastewater District is a founding member of the DCWRA

A Day in the Life of a Wastewater Superintendent.....



What a change! When I started working for the District in 1989, we had very typical discharge requirements for the Wastewater Reclamation Facility. Today, we have one of the most stringent set of requirements in the United States. All of these changes are due to public concerns for water quality in the Cherry Creek alluvium and reservoir. The wastewater process uses a combination of natural biology, filtration, and chemical addition to remove harmful pollutants from the water. This process requires a staff of individuals dedicated to water quality preservation, constant maintenance and upkeep of the facilities; I have the privilege of overseeing three outstanding operators who maintain these lofty requirements.

One of our suppliers sent out a quotation that best describes our daily challenges, "*Wastewater Treatment: A process where you cannot control inputs, but have to create a perfectly defined output.*" The District's wastewater facilities have received two National EPA Awards and numerous Regional Awards for operational excellence and maintenance of a wastewater facility.

I am an active member in Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association and Colorado Rural Water Association and enjoy teaching other operators about the District's facility and technologies we use to obtain outstanding water quality results. When not treating wastewater I enjoy spending time with my children and grandchildren (if I can work it in with my golf schedule). Yes, golf is how I enjoy spending most of my free time.

We always encourage tours (group or individual) of the wastewater facilities; please give us a call anytime (303-805-1839). Have a GREAT DAY and I look forward to talking to you soon!

~Kevin Clark, Water Superintendent

WATER SYSTEM FLUSHING

The District maintains over 100 miles of water mains and more than 700 fire hydrants! Over the winter, mineral deposits that occur naturally in the water build up inside the water main due to lower water usage.

Every spring, the District clears the water mains that serve your home by opening fire hydrants. The amount of water delivered from the hydrant is able to pick up the deposits and remove them from the water supply.

By flushing annually, our high water quality is maintained and issues relating to taste, odor and color are greatly reduced. At the same time, fire hydrants are checked for operation and visibility to insure that if there is a fire, they are operational and easy to find.



Just a reminder to take a little time this spring and check out your sprinkler system. We suggest starting with an inspection for leaks throughout the system. Next, position sprinkler heads so that you are watering your landscaping, not the sidewalk! Finally, adjust the timing device appropriately.

Roots in your Sewer System?

For those Pinery residents living in areas with mature trees, trees, roots can become a real problem if they penetrate your sewer lines! *RootX* is a product that kills roots in the sewer line and prevents their re-growth for up to one year. Most importantly, it will *not* harm your trees!!!

RootX can be purchased at the District office.

You may also purchase similar products from your plumber, but **DO NOT PURCHASE PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN COPPER SULFATE.**

The EPA has approved *RootX* for use in all fifty states. Please call the District at (303) 841-2797 and press "0" for additional information.



LANDSCAPING CONSIDERATIONS



This spring, when you're considering a new landscaping plan or cleaning up the old landscaping, don't forget:

Keep the area around fire hydrants and meter pits free of shrubs, trees and fences. This clearance will help the emergency responders locate a hydrant in case of a fire emergency.

Additionally, it will assist District staff in reading your water meter and doing regular maintenance on the hydrants.

Please note, that the District is not responsible for replacing sod or foliage planted near the meter in the case of a leak at the meter. If there is any landscaping obstructing or impacting the ability to read the meter, the landscaping will be removed, cut back or trimmed.

If you have any questions, please give us a call!