

PINERY PIPELINE OCTOBER 2025



Please join us at our District Office for our monthly Board Meetings typically held at 6:00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, October 15th and Wednesday, November 19th.

From your Board of Directors

What is a Mill Levy? Why do we NOT have one?

A mill levy is a tax charged for a specific service to cover the operational costs, this is expressed in mills. In this case, it would be for water and wastewater service. The Pinery Water and Wastewater District, unlike some other districts in the state, does not charge a mill levy to its customers. This unique approach, a testament to our community's foresight, is a point of pride for us all. But why is this the case?

In 2010, your Pinery Water and Wastewater Board held a community meeting with customers to discuss future water supply needs. It was unanimously decided that there would be no mill levy. As an alternative, a water project fee of \$12.50 was approved following a detailed analysis of the projected needs. So instead of, like some other neighboring water districts, having a mill levy AND a water project fee, we have the fee only. The fee was introduced in 2011 and billed to each customer monthly. Since 2011, these funds have supported new water supply projects, including the new Walker Reservoir near Franktown, the Water Infrastructure Supply Efficiency (WISE) project, and the construction of new water supply wells.

So how do we compare with neighboring water districts?

Castle Pines North Metro...30.5 mills

Parker Water and Sanitation...5.8 mills

Cottonwood Water and Sanitation...9 mills

Stonegate Village Metro District...23.6 mills.

In addition, Parker has a monthly fee of \$3, East Cherry Creek Valley Water fee is \$30, and Stonegate has a fee of \$22.17.

In summary, your Board has planned with a vision, while keeping costs reasonable, especially in comparison to what we could experience. This approach not only keeps costs down but also allows us to improve our infrastructure when we have a fund balance that we feel comfortable with. Some examples include replacement of old water lines, new and improved wastewater treatment equipment, and numerous other equipment upgrades to provide us all with *Quality Water for Life*.



As a final note, I urge you to sign up for the Eye on Water app. This initiative is a crucial step in ensuring we all keep a good Eye on our Water usage. To learn more or sign up, please call the office at 303-841-2797.

Jim McGannon, Director, Pinery Water and Wastewater District

ITS TIME TO BLOW OUT THOSE SPRINKLERS!

Don't let these warm fall days fool you. Our first frost is right around the corner. As you are doing your last lawn maintenance for the year and putting all your gardening tools away, it is time to think about winterizing your sprinkler system. When the frost level reaches below the depth of the irrigation system, winterizing your system can help prevent damage from freezing and ward off costly repairs in the spring. Below are some tips from Rain Bird Irrigation Manufacturing Company to help you winterize your system.



1. Insulate your assets:

- Shut off the water that supplies your irrigation system. You need to protect your main shut off valve for your irrigation system from freezing temperatures. You can protect it from freezing by wrapping it with insulation (insulation can be found at any home supply store). If you do not have a main shut off valve for your irrigation system, you may want to consider installing one as a preventative measure. You also want to make sure any above ground pipes are insulated as well.

2. Stay in control:

- If you have an automatic irrigation system you will need to shut down the controller (timer). Most controllers have a rain mode which will shut off the signals to the valves and keep all your programmed information. If your controller also activates a pump for your system, make sure you disconnect those wires so that you don't cause overheating damage. An alternative to the rain mode is to shut off the power to the controller. If you do this, you will have to reprogram all settings in the spring.



3. Drain the pipes:

- Now you need to remove all the water from your pipes so that it won't freeze, expand, and break your pipes. There are a couple of different ways that this can be done. However, since there could be a safety risk, we recommend you contact a local irrigation specialist.

4. Protect your valves and backflow preventers:

- If you have any valves or a backflow preventer that is above ground, make sure that you insulate them just like the pipes and main shut off. Be sure not to block the air vents and drain the outlets on the backflow preventer.

(For more information go to **[Rain Bird's website to view how to winterize your irrigation system](#)** and **[Hunter Industries website](#)**)

Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

5242 Old Schoolhouse Road
Parker, Colorado 80134
(303) 841-2797

www.pinerywater.com
information@pinerywater.com

For after-hours emergencies,
(303) 841-2797 EXT 9