

Success Story: Douglas County, Colorado

Achieving the Perfect Balance: Low Water Bills and a Safe Playable Field: \$10,450 savings at one park in three months

Challenger Regional Park in Douglas County, Colorado sees thousands of visitors each day during warm weather months. Since many youths play recreational sports at the park, field conditions need to be just right. Dry, hard-packed turf is as dangerous as the other extreme, too much standing water. And faced with monthly water bills as high as \$18,000, the park had to cut water costs. The test was finding the perfect balance between water costs and a safe playable field.

Adding to this challenge was the local water district's restrictions which mandated watering every three days within a specific water window. Since the park sees so much traffic during the day, they watered at night. Park officials quickly learned that watering 12½ acres of turf every third day within a short water window was not realistic.

"At that time, we thought our only solution was to convert the entire park to synthetic turf. Then we heard about WeatherTRAK," said Douglas County Parks Supervisor Chuck Klafka.

Klafka discovered that the water district waived water day restrictions for WeatherTRAK customers. He immediately replaced the old style irrigation clock at Challenger Park with a WeatherTRAK ET Pro[®] Central smart irrigation controller and is thrilled with the results.

The County **reduced water bills by 25%** and **saved \$10,450** at Challenger Park alone during the first **three months** WeatherTRAK was installed. Because of this tremendous savings, park officials are able to keep real turf throughout the park.

"I rely on WeatherTRAK to provide me with an aesthetically pleasing and safe playing field for the public. With WeatherTRAK installed, I never worry about overwatering," says Klafka.

Klafka was also impressed with the programming of WeatherTRAK. "Set up was easy and straightforward. No other controller I've worked with has been able to program each specific sprinkler region in such detail."

The WeatherTRAK Professional Services Team worked with Klafka and his staff not only to find the right WeatherTRAK solution but also to make sure implementation went smoothly. Klafka adds, "The professional service team is outstanding. The level of on-site training for our staff and the support we received post installation gave me a lot of confidence in the product."

Prior to WeatherTRAK, all changes to the irrigation system were done manually consuming hundreds of labor hours every year. When it rained they had to physically shut off the irrigation. Now that WeatherTRAK is in place, park staff has more time to focus on other high priority projects. Klafka recalls his struggles with other irrigation clocks. "Old style irrigation clocks require a lot of manual adjustments and they are easy to mess up if you are not careful. Since installing WeatherTRAK, we have not had to make any adjustments. I could not be more pleased."