

News & Updates

from Thornton Water

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Preparing for Seasonal Sprinkler Adjustments



As summer winds down, don't forget to decrease your sprinkler times to align with the changing season. Shorter days and cooler temperatures mean your lawn and plants need less water than the peak months of summer heat. By late September, and the official start of fall, make a plan to drain and blow out your sprinklers to prevent broken pipes and valves when freezing temperatures come. [Learn more about winterizing your sprinkler system here.](#)

Check out our [blog post on cool weather preparations](#) for more tips and tricks to prepare your home for the fall.

Don't let cold weather take you by surprise! Start reducing your outdoor watering times now and plan a day to winterize your irrigation system before the first freeze.

Source Water Protection Week

Clean, reliable water starts at the source. From Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, Thornton Water is joining the American Water Works Association to celebrate [Source Water Protection Week](#) to raise awareness and promote the protection of our state's critical and precious drinking water resources.

Thornton's Water Resources Division works hard year-round to acquire, protect, and maintain water supplies, all in an environmentally responsible manner. This division currently manages water rights in the South Platte, Clear Creek, and Cache la Poudre River basins. For each basin, Thornton monitors streamflow conditions, weather, and drought indicators to anticipate potential impacts on the water supply and make operational changes to best utilize the supplies available.

Learn more about Water at Work in Thornton on the [Thornton Water website](#).



Thornton's water comes from multiple sources, including high mountain creeks.

Thornton Water Digital Library Now Available

Thornton Water has a library of information on how the city delivers clean water to customers every day. To make this information more easily accessible, we have created a [digital library](#) of resources. Check out our most recent Impact Report, Water Quality Report, and Water Efficiency Plan in a new, easy-to-read flip book format on desktop, laptop, or mobile devices. Accessible PDF versions of all reports are also available on [ThorntonWater.com](#).

An Effective Water System

When you turn on a faucet in Thornton, you are accessing water that has traveled from snowmelt in the Colorado mountains through a series of rivers, reservoirs, pipes and treatment and filtration processes to reach your tap. The hardworking team at Thornton Water works around the clock to ensure our community maintains a clean and reliable water supply, now and in the future.

In 2024, Thornton was recognized with the Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance. This accomplishment recognizes member water systems that exhibit high levels of performance in the areas of community sustainability, customer experience and satisfaction, enterprise resiliency, financial viability, infrastructure strategy and performance, operational optimization, regulatory requirements, stakeholder understanding and support, water resource sustainability, and workforce development.

We are honored to deliver these high standards to our customers and are always looking toward the future of water quality and resiliency for our community. In 2024, we continued to expand your water supply through the ongoing construction of the Thornton Water Project, conducted necessary maintenance and improvements throughout your water system, and invested in additional testing and monitoring systems to ensure the quality of your water. This report details the full impact of your water utility for the year.

Your Water Team – 133 dedicated individuals working in:

- Utilities Operations
- Thornton Water Project Development
- Water Resources
- Agricultural Stewardship
- Water Quality
- Water Treatment
- Real Estate Management
- Utility Billing
- Water Law

Water treatment testing

Remote operation and instrumentation in the treatment process

Water pipes at Thornton Treatment Facility

Hydrology at Long Draw Reservoir

Snowy Egret at Thornton's Great Lakes

Access the Thornton Water digital library for an interactive digital magazine format of the 2024 Impact Report.

Naturally Thornton

From Water-Thirsty Bluegrass to Water-Wise City Landscapes

Thornton Water is working with the city of Thornton Parks and Forestry Division to revitalize the Naturally Thornton project, a collaborative effort to replace high-water-demand, low-use grass areas on public land in Thornton with native and water-wise grasses.

The Colorado-friendly varieties of grasses planted in sites across Thornton require significantly less water and maintenance to grow compared to traditional bluegrass varieties. Thornton's bluegrass conversions also provide a safe haven for the next generation of wildlife, including butterflies, birds, and other wildlife across the city.

Read our [Naturally Thornton blog post](#) or visit the [city of Thornton Open Space page](#) to learn more about featured native and water-wise grass conversions across Thornton.



Thornton has begun replacing turfgrass at passive-use sites, including hillsides and detention ponds, with native and water-wise grasses.

Water Quality Corner

PFAS Testing in Thornton

Thornton's water quality lab is now certified to analyze per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), chemicals that have been found in water, air, and soil across the nation and world. Thornton is the fourth municipal lab in Colorado to be certified for PFAS analysis. Thornton's water quality lab spent three years completing the certification process to continue delivering the highest quality of drinking water that meets EPA guidance. City staff presented on the certification process at the regional Rocky Mountain Water Conference last month.

Visit the [city of Thornton's PFAS page](#) for more information.



Thornton's water treatment lab has a Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LCMS) instrument that detects and measures tiny amounts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in water samples.

Questions? Give us a call!
 Utility Billing: 303-538-7370
 Water Efficiency Programs and WaterSmart customer portal: 720-977-6600