



Cobb County School District, Marietta, GA

Rain Bird® Irrigation Helps School District Reduce Its Water Usage

The Cobb County School District, located northwest of Metro Atlanta, serves over 100,000 students. As part of a larger, district-wide, water-saving initiative, schools are retrofitting their irrigation systems to improve performance and support sustainability efforts.

THE CHALLENGE

Drought is an ongoing problem in the Metro Atlanta area, so the school district needs a cost-effective way to reduce its water usage. With standard water pressure of over 100 psi, schools are specifically concerned with misting and fogging caused by high flow rates. The right water-saving solution will operate efficiently at higher water pressure.

THE SOLUTION:

The Cobb County School District and Water System have teamed up with Rain Bird to retrofit the irrigation systems at two schools: Harrison High School and East Side Elementary. Retrofitting an existing system can be a very cost-effective way to improve sustainability.



RD1800™ Series PRS Spray Head

Core Products Used:

- [RD1800™ Series PRS Spray Head](#)
- [5000+ Series Rotors](#)
- [HE-VAN High Efficiency Variable Arc Nozzles](#)
- [Falcon® 6504 Series Rotors](#)

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ✓ **Save Water**
- ✓ **Increase Sustainability**
- ✓ **Minimize Upfront Costs**
- ✓ **Improve Performance**



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APPROACH:

Precise Pressure Regulation

Rain Bird **RD1800® Series PRS Spray Heads** and **5000+ Series Rotors** will be installed at East Side Elementary to regulate the area's high water pressure. These pressure-regulating stem (PRS) sprays and rotors will **save the school approximately one gallon of water a minute.**

The school will further reduce water consumption by installing **HE-VAN** high-efficiency spray nozzles. These innovative nozzles allow sprinkler run times to be shortened by up to 35%, saving water and money.

Clear Indicators

In addition to pressure regulation, 1800 Series Spray Heads also feature Flow-Shield Technology, which—in the event of damage or nozzle removal—shoots an “indicator” stream of water into the air. “With the indicator, it’s pretty easy for people at the schools to spot the problem and report it back to me,” explains Steve Mclendon, irrigation technician for the Cobb County School District. “I take care of over 80 schools so I don’t get out to each individual school on a frequent basis. This feature helps save water until I get it fixed.”

Real-World Performance

At Harrison High School, installing **Falcon® 6504 Series Rotors** at the athletic fields will greatly improve efficiency. Not only will the throw of this rotor match well with the current irrigation design, but this product is proven to perform well at higher water pressures. The rotor's Rain Curtain™ Nozzle Technology will provide uniform coverage and eliminate water waste due to misting or fogging.



“With Atlanta’s high water pressure averaging 109 psi, using Rain Bird pressure-regulating sprays and rotors seemed like a good place to start proving out a concept and program that would help the Water System further their leadership position of finding ways to use water sustainably.

KATHY NGUYEN
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER,
COBB COUNTY WATER SYSTEM

RESULTS:

Significant Water Savings

By replacing all non-pressure-regulating devices with Rain Bird pressure regulating products, East Side Elementary's **water use has been reduced by 44%, saving 1.4 million gallons of water by the end of 2014.** High-efficiency rotors and uniform irrigation coverage have reduced water use at Harrison High School by 18%, with an **estimated annual water savings of over 600,000 gallons.**