

Longhorn Village, Austin, Texas



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:

Paul Smith, RVI

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR:

Weigelt Enterprises

COMPLETION DATE:

December 2009

RAIN BIRD PRODUCTS:

- ESP-LXD Decoder Controller
- ET Manager Cartridge
- 5000 Series Rotors
- PEB Valves
- 1800® Series Sprays
- Xerigation® Technology

“What I like best about the LXD controller is the fact that it’s very user-friendly...a very simple interface with the dial and very minimal button usage. It gives you every bit of information you want in just a few turns.”

— Mark Lung, Senior Project Manager
Weigelt Enterprises

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Construction of Longhorn Village, a multi-million-dollar project with over \$1.5 million in landscape improvements, began in the summer of 2009 and was completed by the end of the year. Funded by the University of Texas Regents, the 55-acre complex features an assisted living facility that is surrounded by 41 villas. Designed for aging UT alumni and benefactors, the upscale community promotes active living through abundant green spaces, walking trails and a nearby golf course.

CHALLENGE:

Located in drought-prone Austin, Longhorn Village features a diverse mix of plant species with varying water requirements. The site’s landscape contractor, Weigelt Enterprises, faced the added challenge of meeting the high expectations of residents. “When people don’t work, they’re constantly looking at their landscape and surrounding facilities,” explained Wayne Weigelt, owner, Weigelt Enterprises. “For us, it can be a nightmare if we don’t install good products.”

SOLUTION:

The project was initially specified to use a competitive controller. However, Weigelt approached James Seabolt, contractor account manager, to see if Rain Bird offered a similar product. “We found out Rain Bird not only had a comparable solution, they had a better solution,” Weigelt said. Upon learning of the new Rain Bird® ESP-LXD controller, Weigelt submitted a revised plan to the landscape architect. Along with the ESP-LXD, the team opted to install the Rain Bird® ET Manager Cartridge for precise, weather-based irrigation scheduling. “We needed a controller that would...give us exact, matched ET rates,” said Mark Lung, senior project manager.

COST AND WATER SAVINGS:

In addition to the up to 50 percent water savings of ET Management, Longhorn Village has also enjoyed a wire savings, thanks to the efficiency of two-wire control. Furthermore, the ESP-LXD provides Longhorn Village the flexibility to expand to up to 200 stations—one valve at a time—resulting in greater efficiency and flexibility.

For Weigelt Enterprises, the simplicity of the ESP-LXD has led to significant time and labor savings. “We are able to send much less staff to maintain our irrigation system, because it takes only one person to operate the controller and oversee the entire 18-acre site,” Weigelt explained.