

City of Bakersfield (CA) Recreation & Parks Department



PROJECT LEADERS:

Darin Budak, Assistant Director,
Recreation & Parks

Sean Cacal, Parks Superintendent

Joe Gonzales, Parks Supervisor

RAIN BIRD PRODUCTS:

- Maxicom²®
- WS-PRO2 Weather Station
- ESP-SITE-SAT Satellite Controllers
- ESP-SAT Satellite Controllers
- PGA Series Remote Control Valves
- VB Series Valve Boxes
- 8005 Series Rotors
- 5000 Series Rotors
- 3500 Series Rotors
- 1800 Series Spray Heads
- 1400 Series Compensating Bubblers

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Recreation and Parks Department for Bakersfield, California is responsible for maintaining facilities, parks, streetscapes and arterial roadway medians. The department has grown significantly over the past few years, making it responsible for 60 parks and over 120 miles of streetscapes with a staff of approximately 130 full-time and 30 seasonal employees.

CHALLENGE:

The department has used Rain Bird's Maxicom²® Central Control System for over 20 years. When a five-year growth spurt added 20 more irrigation sites to the department's workload, Darin Budak, assistant director, and other staff members had to ensure that they were using Maxicom² to its full potential. To further complicate matters, the State of California enacted AB1881, a legislative bill that enforces strict water-efficiency standards for landscape irrigation. "We've always been concerned with water conservation," Budak said. "We want to set the standard and show what can be done to save water at both commercial and residential sites throughout the Bakersfield area."

SOLUTION:

The department participates in Rain Bird's Maxicom Dollars Program, an incentive program that offers matching funds as users purchase related equipment and supplies. The department used its Maxicom Dollars to train staff on the central control system and purchase additional equipment as new sites were brought on board the Maxicom² system. "Maxicom² helps us save a tremendous amount of time and money when it comes to programming and monitoring our sites," Budak said.

In addition to irrigation management, Budak and his staff also use Maxicom² for other purposes, such as controlling the electronic lock system for park restroom facilities. "If a supervisor learns about a problem at one of the parks at night, he can often use his laptop to take care of it from home," Budak said. "That gives us invaluable peace of mind."

When it came to abiding by AB1881 and setting an example for the Bakersfield area, Maxicom²'s water-saving features and flexibility helped the department significantly reduce its water consumption, saving \$215,000 of a \$1.9 million annual water budget. "We can use Maxicom² to split areas into microclimates," Budak explained. "For example, the city's northeast area has very heavy clay soil, so our irrigation needs there are less than the sandy areas near the river. Maxicom's technology has given us the power to do more with less."