

Littleton Public Schools, Littleton, Colo.



CUSTOMER/CONTRACTOR:

Brad Leitner
Structural/Grounds Manager

COMPLETION DATE:

April 2009

RAIN BIRD PRODUCTS:

- Maxicom²® Central Control

"Thanks to Maxicom²®, the irrigation of 26 sites can be handled by only two technicians. We have seen an almost 30 percent cost savings over five years on water alone. And, that doesn't even take into account the fact that we almost tripled the amount of land being irrigated."

— Brad Leitner, Structural/Grounds Manager

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Located south of downtown Denver, Littleton Public Schools encompasses approximately 30 square miles, includes 24 public school complexes and serves approximately 16,000 students. Areas requiring irrigation include decorative landscaping as well as school common areas and athletic fields. Plantings include drought-tolerant turf grass, native and non-native ornamental shrubs and ground covers, and deciduous and evergreen trees. The mild climate features annual precipitation of about 17 inches.

CHALLENGE:

With a staff of just two irrigation specialists, Littleton Public Schools must water an area of turf that has nearly tripled in the last 15 years. Due to drought concerns, conservation measures have looked to curtail or eliminate landscape irrigation in the Denver area. Additionally, to prevent student injuries, the local grounds manager must maintain safe footing conditions on athletic fields with the flexibility to rapidly change or cancel irrigation schedules in conjunction with games and practices.

SOLUTION:

Littleton Public Schools use a Maxicom²® Central Control with a FREEDOM™ Remote Control System. A telephone line connects the central controller to Cluster Control Units (CCUs) in the field, while a two-wire system links CCUs to the controllers. FREEDOM for Maxicom² allows the irrigation specialist to use a cellular telephone or, via the district network, a laptop to control the system from the field. The specialist can turn zones on and off, test schedules and cancel schedules as needed, all while monitoring results in real time.

COST AND WATER SAVINGS:

Even as Littleton Public Schools' irrigation requirements have grown, its water use has dropped considerably thanks to the efficiency of the Maxicom²® System. Over the last five years, water savings have resulted in cost savings of 29.8 percent—or \$690,700. Furthermore, FREEDOM for Maxicom² has allowed the irrigation technicians to troubleshoot and control problems (broken heads, etc.) from the field, saving time and minimizing wasted water.