



Recreation and Parks Department, Bakersfield, California

City Uses Rain Bird® Central Control for Efficient Irrigation of Parks & Streetscapes

Bakersfield's Recreation and Parks Department maintains the city's 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.

THE CHALLENGE

Although staff has relied on Rain Bird's Central Control System for over 20 years, departmental growth requires additional equipment and manpower to meet increasing irrigation requirements. In California, water efficiency is especially important and the Recreation and Parks Department also wants to set a strong example for the community. "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," explains Darin Budak, Assistant Director of Recreation & Parks.

THE SOLUTION:

The department participates in Rain Bird's Central Control Dollars Program—an incentive program that offers matching funds as users purchase related equipment and supplies. In this scenario, the department will redeem its Central Control Dollars for new equipment as well as training to ensure staff knows how to use the system to its full potential.



Rain Bird Central Control

Core Products Used:

- Rain Bird Central Control
- WS-PRO2 Weather Station
- ESP-SITE-SAT Series Satellite Controller
- ESP-SAT Series Satellite Controller
- PGA Series Valves
- VB Series Valve Boxes
- 1800® Series PRS Sprays
- 1400 Series Bubbler
- 5000+ Series Rotors

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Maximize Operational Efficiency
- ✓ Scale the Existing System
- ✓ Reduce Water Consumption



APPROACH:

Onboard New Sites to Rain Bird Central Control

Budak and team will move forward outfitting the new sites with Rain Bird controllers, valves, rotors, sprays and bubblers. The new controllers will all be linked to the existing Central Control system. Everything will be controlled from one central location and the team can then manage the entire system remotely, when necessary. "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. That gives us invaluable peace of mind," says Budak. Rain Bird Central Control also splits irrigation stations into microclimates based on variables such as soil moisture, plant material, infiltration rates, and sun exposure. 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," Budak explained.



“ Rain Bird Central Control helps us save a tremendous amount of time and money when it comes to programming and monitoring our sites. Rain Bird’s technology has given us the power to do more with less.

DARIN BUDAK
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, RECREATION & PARKS



RESULTS:

Efficiency, Savings & Peace of Mind

Thanks to Rain Bird's Central Control Dollars Program, the Recreation & Parks Department was able to significantly offset training and product expenses. When it came to abiding by AB1881 and setting an example for the Bakersfield area, Central Control'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. As an added bonus, Budak and his staff can also use Rain Bird's Central Control for other convenient purposes...such as controlling the electronic lock system for park restroom facilities.