

News & Updates



from Thornton Water

[November E-News](#)

[January E-News](#)

[March E-News](#)

[April E-News](#)

2026 Water-Wise Garden Tour

Save the date for our first official water-wise garden tour on Saturday, June 27, from 9 a.m. to Noon! Explore beautiful residential water-wise gardens and low-water landscapes across Thornton in a reimagined version of our annual Water-Wise Garden Open House. Meet with seasoned pros from Thornton Water and other industry partners to discuss garden maintenance and best practices during drought and learn how to transform a section of your yard on a budget. [Click here to register for the garden tour.](#)



Remember Thornton's Water Use Rules this Spring

As temperatures rise in Thornton, it's important to remember how and when to use water to protect both your landscape and Thornton's water supply during [Stage 1 drought restrictions](#).

Thornton Water customers must follow these mandatory outdoor watering rules:

- Limit lawn watering to two days per week. Thornton customers can choose their watering days.
- No lawn watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Watering of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and vegetable gardens is allowed on any day.

Follow this Recommended Watering Guide to achieve a water-wise, healthy lawn.

2-Day Watering Guide				
Minutes Per Zone, Per Watering Day:				
You can choose your watering days				
	Fixed Spray Nozzles minutes	Rotors minutes	Rotary Nozzles minutes	Manual Sprinklers minutes
May	15	33	42	23
June	22	48	61	34
July	24	52	65	36
August	20	44	55	31
September	14	31	39	22

The Thornton outdoor watering guide provides recommended times to run each type of sprinkler on your property. [Click here for an accessible table of recommended watering times.](#)

If you water with a hose, we recommend using the manual sprinkler minutes for the different areas of your lawn. Splitting your watering schedule into 2 to 3 shorter cycles a few hours apart (a.k.a. the [cycle and soak](#) method) can help water reach deeper into the soil while preventing runoff.

Drought FAQ

As watering season begins, here are a few questions we often hear. For more FAQ's, visit [ThorntonWater.com](#).

Do I have specific watering days?

No, residents can choose their own two watering days each week.

What if my lawn looks dry?

Lawns may appear dry as they transition into the growing season. Your lawn may look stressed, especially if your roots are shallow and the grass is used to frequent watering. Deep, infrequent watering encourages a stronger root system and will make your lawn more drought-tolerant in the long-term.

Can I water my lawn more than twice a week if it's hot?

No. Even during warmer weather, sticking to two days a week helps conserve water and maintain long-term lawn health. Remember to water between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. to take advantage of cooler overnight temperatures and minimize evaporation.

Can someone help me set up my irrigation system to meet the new requirements?

Thornton residents can sign up for a free [Slow the Flow residential](#) or [non-residential](#) sprinkler consultation through Resource Central. A sprinkler consultation is a great way to learn about your sprinkler system, increase efficiency and keep your landscape healthy.

During your appointment, experts will:

- Evaluate your sprinkler system.
- Identify leaks and inefficiencies.
- Provide personalized recommendations to improve your system's performance.

How Thornton Parks is Saving During Drought

Thornton's Parks and Open Space Division is actively working to reduce its outdoor water use in public spaces by:

- Focusing watering on trees, shrubs and high-use turf grasses, like popular parks and sports fields.
 - You may notice watering in parks during the day as staff run routine water-efficiency system checks and support key high-traffic areas.
- Decreasing watering times and frequency in non-functional areas with non-functional turf, including detention basins and low-traffic areas. These areas may stay dormant and dry all summer long.
- Identifying and quickly fixing sprinkler system leaks.
- Using non-potable or non-drinking water sources to water when available.



A side-by-side look at drought impacts: 2025's green landscape at Thornton City Hall compared to 2026's drought conditions and reduced irrigation efforts.

The Thorncreek Golf Course is:

- Watering with non-potable water sources that cannot be used for drinking. 90% of the golf course is watered using non-potable water from Big Dry Creek. Only 10% of the golf course sprinklers use potable drinking water, including the greens, driving range tee, and the clubhouse grounds. Thorncreek staff is reducing both potable and non-potable water use.
- Reducing water use on non-functional areas like the clubhouse grounds, driving range fairway and far roughs that do not impact gameplay.
- Using moisture meters and evaporation-based irrigation programming to give the grass only the water it needs.
- Decreasing watering on the far roughs near the clubhouse and on non-essential areas of the course by 50%.



To achieve 10% water savings this year, some grass areas near the edges of the Thorncreek Golf Course may remain dry to preserve potable and non-potable water for functional grass areas.

Thornton's Parks and Open Space Division continues to prioritize long-term water efficiency by re-planting native vegetation and water-wise landscapes across the city. Learn more about Thornton's long-term water-wise landscaping plans in [our Naturally Thornton blog post](#), or read the [Thornton Parks Drought Irrigation Plan](#) on the Thornton Parks and Planning webpage.

Questions? Give us a call!
[Utility Billing:](#) 303-538-7370
[Water Quality:](#) 303-255-7770
[Water Efficiency Programs](#) and WaterSmart customer portal: 720-977-6600