

CASTLE PINES NORTH



METROPOLITAN DISTRICT™

September 2022

Nathan's News



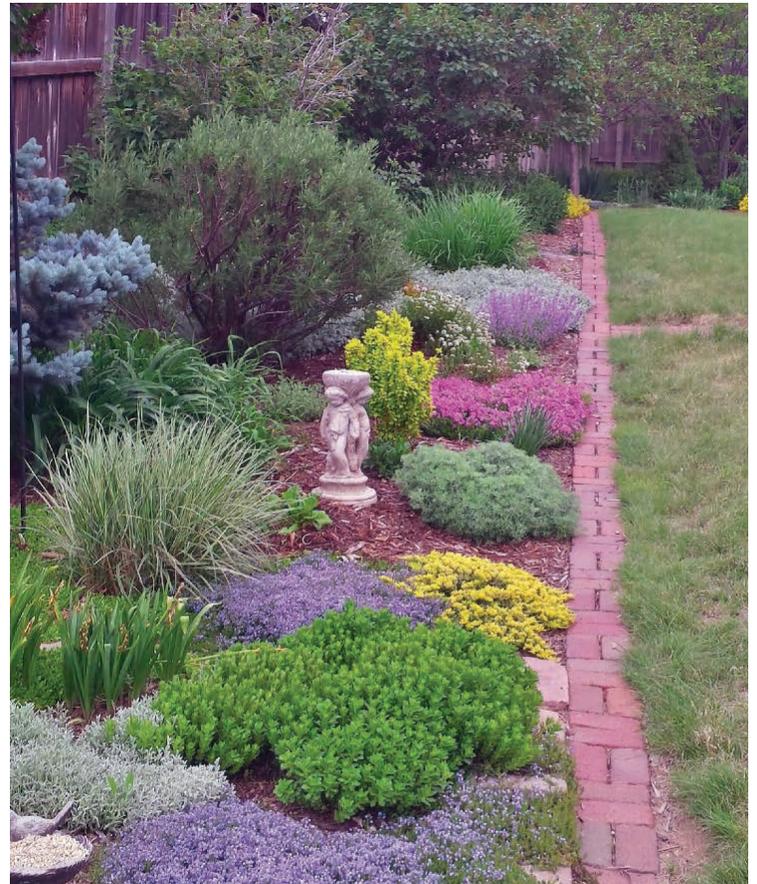
Insights from Interim District Manager Nathan Travis

For many of us, nearing the end of summer often equates to scattered attention. Work seems to require more, and kids and grandkids return to school, ushering in new demands on our time, attention, finances, and emotions. The holiday season looms large, and life becomes a blur.

However, life begins to slow for those of us in water operations — if even just a little bit. Here at CPNMD, our average water production in winter is about 700,000 gallons per day (gpd). From early May through September, that number jumps dramatically, peaking at about four million gpd. In other words, we produce nearly six times more water during our five-month irrigation season than we otherwise do from October through April. That peak demand can sometimes place an unnecessary strain on our robust network of deep-water wells in the Denver Basin Aquifer System and deplete vital water resources.

CPNMD residential and commercial customers and CPNMD itself collectively expend more than 60% of the high-quality aquifer water we pull from the Denver Basin Aquifer System on greening our Kentucky Bluegrass lawns. In the context of annually intensifying

drought conditions, old approaches to water conservation are unsustainable and require updating.



Replacing lawns with hardscapes is excellent for water conservation, but it is often less than aesthetically appealing. Instead of hardscaping away our Kentucky Bluegrass lawns, let's replace them with native plants and xeric grasses. ([Colorado State University's PlantSelect](#) is a superb resource for hardy native and xeric vegetation.)

MORE WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER

We can help you extend the benefits beyond reduced water use to **lower water bills**.

Because outdoor irrigation is our community's dominant water-use culprit, we ask all homeowners and HOAs to review our **Water Conservation Rebates Program**, a description of which lives in the center column of our homepage at www.cpnmd.org.

As part of our 2023 budget-development process, we are taking a hard look at increasing our current 40-cent per square foot sod-removal incentive to *at least* \$1.00 per square foot — and more if board and budget allow.

In the realm of water conservation, we want CPNMD to lead residents and HOAs by example. For starters, I propose we replace the Kentucky Bluegrass lawn at CPNMD's headquarters and other non-park locations throughout the district with xeric grasses and vegetation next year.

Let's eliminate Kentucky Bluegrass and take advantage of our parks, trails, and open space network. After all, you pay for these amenities and you may as well use them!



What can you, as a homeowner or HOA do? **Great news here!** There are many ways you can conserve vital water resources and save money.

We recognize that water-efficient sprinkler heads and smart-irrigation controllers are expensive. Our **Water Conservation Rebates Program** (soon to be updated for 2023) offers incentives to help defray a portion of those costs.

Beyond that, be aware of and promptly fix leaking toilets and dripping faucets. Avoid long hot showers and running the sprinkler system in the heat of the day or after a good rain.

Lastly, check our homepage (www.cpnmd.org) for a free home irrigation system audit through our partnership with **Resource Central**. Do it! You'll be glad you did!

As we continue looking for long-term, sustainable, renewable water resources to augment our 1,006 acre-feet of renewable water in Chatfield Reservoir, our board and staff/consultant team are performing necessary due diligence on multiple options, including but not limited to partnering with a neighboring water district and participating in regional water projects.

We welcome your insights and perspective. Be vocal. Reach out. Ask questions. We care and are listening. Our residents are our greatest resource.

In the words of Red Green, *"Remember, I'm pulling for ya'. We're all in this together, so keep your stick on the ice."*

Residents may reach Nathan Travis at nathan@cpnmd.org and (303) 688-8550.