



LITTLE THOMPSON
WATER DISTRICT

The Drip | Winter 2025

Official Newsletter of Little Thompson Water District

What is Your Monthly Bill Paying For?

When you receive your water bill from Little Thompson Water District each month, you might wonder what exactly you're paying for. For customers in a special district like ours, every dollar goes directly back into maintaining and operating the water system that supplies safe, reliable and good-tasting water for a fair price. Unlike municipalities, which may use property taxes and water bill revenue for other projects or have a general fund from which they can gain extra resources, our special district is singularly focused on water and only collects revenue through your water bill. This means your payments are used exclusively for:

- **Water Treatment:** Operating two water treatment plants at the south end of Carter Lake that deliver up to 50 million gallons of treated water daily (which we jointly own with Central Weld County Water District).
- **Maintenance and Repairs:** Keeping all our infrastructure—pipes, pumps and 650 miles of distribution system service lines—in top condition to ensure uninterrupted service.
- **Infrastructure Replacement:** Replacement of existing infrastructure that has reached its useful life or has had significant number of repairs in a small area and requires replacement.
- **Operational Costs:** Operating our facilities, staffing skilled employees and monitoring the quality of your water to meet regulatory standards.

Why Rates Are Increasing in 2025

After much consideration, including a public rate hearing on November 21, the board of directors approved a rate increase for 2025, a roughly 15% rate increase for base rates and tiered rates.

Additionally, an allotment surcharge is being added to standard residential taps. While this is a new penalty of \$8 per 1,000 gallons for 5/8" standard residential taps, this is based on going over your annual water allotment, which most customers don't do. For perspective, the annual allotment for standard residential taps is 228,000 gallons.

This adjustment reflects rising energy, maintenance and labor costs, which affect the expense of delivering water to your tap. While rate changes are never ideal, they're essential for keeping the system running efficiently and reliably.



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There are also plenty of ways to manage your water bill and water use. Our district offers various programs and resources to help you conserve water and, in turn, reduce your costs. We regularly share these tips and resources on our Facebook, website and quarterly newsletters.

We're committed to transparency and accountability, ensuring your money is spent wisely. With every dollar reinvested into the water system, you can trust that your monthly payment support a sustainable future for our community. For tips on reducing water use and exploring conservation programs, visit our website or reach out to our team.

Learn more about our 2025 rates on our website at littlenthompsonwd.colorado.gov/about-rates-and-charges



2025 RATES

Planning for Spring | Ways to Save Water



Spring may feel far away, but now is the perfect time to start planning your garden and landscaping projects. Thoughtful preparation can make a big difference in conserving water and lowering your bills when the growing season arrives.

Outdoor irrigation accounts for an average of 40% of residential use, and considering that's over less than half the year, we can make the most significant impact in reducing our water use by cutting back on irrigation. Consider incorporating water-saving strategies such as removing turf and replacing it with xeriscaping, which uses rocks, mulch and native plants that require less irrigation.

Opt for water-wise plants that thrive in our local climate, reducing the need for extra watering. These plants not only save water but also bring beauty and helpful pollinators to your yard. Getting a smart sprinkler controller can further enhance efficiency as well.

By planning now, you can take advantage of our rebates and programs to help turn your water-saving ideas into reality. Checkout the programs we offer below to get started!

- **Free Sprinkler Consultation:** Through our partners at Resource Central, experts can examine your sprinkler system to see where you can >>

The Water Contingency Action Plan Status

At LTWD, the Water Shortage Contingency Action Plan helps give the criteria for District staff to communicate to customers about changes in their water use required to ensure enough water is available each year. To do this, we ask our customers to observe the current "Action Level," which determines how each of us uses water.



Throughout 2024, we were able to stay at Status Green (Watch), which means very few restrictions on water use, with a few mindful observations, like watering hours and watering three days per week during the summer.

Because water usage is much lower during the winter, we will remain at Status Green throughout the winter and early spring. In April, Northern Water releases the C-BT quota, one of our primary raw water sources. We will update the Action Level when we know the quota and how much water we can expect from them.

Learn more about the action plan on our website at littlenthompsonwd.colorado.gov/supply-planning/water-shortage-contingency-plan.





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improve to save money and have a healthier lawn.

- **Free Lawn Removal Consultation:** Also through Resource Central, get a consultation on removing turf to reduce lawn maintenance and create a colorful habitat. Plus, eligible customers who go through Resource Central for the labor of removal of their turf can get a discount on services for being an LTWD customer.
- **Rebates for Water-Reducing Landscape Improvements:** LTWD offers rebates for soil amendment, installing water-saving plants and trees and upgrading to smart irrigation technology. Rebate forms are found on our website.
- **Demonstration Gardens:** Looking for inspiration for water-wise landscaping? There are several demonstration gardens throughout northern Colorado, including at Northern Water, Chapungu Sculpture Park (Loveland) and Berthoud Community Library.

While planting will not begin until late spring, you can plan for structural changes now and get excited about your upgraded curb appeal later this year. Visit our website to explore our available conservation programs and start planning for your water-saving spring planting.



[VIEW PROGRAMS](#)

2024 Water-Wise Landscape Contest Winners!

We're excited to announce the winners of our 2024 Water-Wise Landscape Contest:

First Place: Neal and Terri from Mead

Second Place: Melissa from Berthoud

Third Place: Donna from Johnstown

Participants had to plant before June 15th, after September 15th or have been planted previously within the last two years, change up at least 200 square feet of their landscape with a maximum of 50 square feet of rock, prominently feature water-wise plants, prioritize mulch and have a water-efficient irrigation system.

The winners received a \$250 prepaid credit card or bill credit, a \$125 bill credit and a \$75 bill credit, respectively. Thank you to everyone who participated, and congratulations to the winners!

Want to try your hand at a landscaping makeover to earn a bill credit and save money on your watering bill? Start preparing for our 2025 contest now!

Check out these beautiful water-wise landscapes from our Water-wise Landscape Contest winners

First Place



Second Place



Third Place





What We Do in the Off-Season

While summer often steals the spotlight as the peak water usage season, winter is when critical behind-the-scenes work happens here at LTWD. Water delivery is a 24/7/365 operation, ensuring homes and businesses have a reliable supply regardless of season. However, lower water demand during the colder months provides a valuable opportunity for essential maintenance.

Winter allows our team to temporarily shut down parts of the system to perform pressure-reducing valve (PRV) and tank maintenance without significantly impacting customers.

- **Water Tanks:** We take them offline and drain, inspect and clean them, as well as touch up the paint to prevent corrosion. There are seven above ground storage tanks in the district that require regular maintenance. Each one undergoes several exterior inspections each year and in some cases annual interior cleaning, or at least every five years.
- **PRVs:** We make sure all 65 throughout the district are working correctly and rebuild as needed to ensure pressure stays regulated in the system.

In addition to seasonal maintenance, monthly maintenance and operations tasks keep our four operations crews busy, no matter what time of year. Sixteen employees are divided into these four teams. Each month they:

- Manually read around 60 meters each month.
- Process 1,000 locate requests.
- Repair approximately 10 emergency leaks.

Between seasonal and ongoing maintenance, we ensure our system is ready to handle year round water supply.



LITTLE THOMPSON WATER DISTRICT

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