



LITTLE THOMPSON  
WATER DISTRICT

# The Drip | Summer 2024

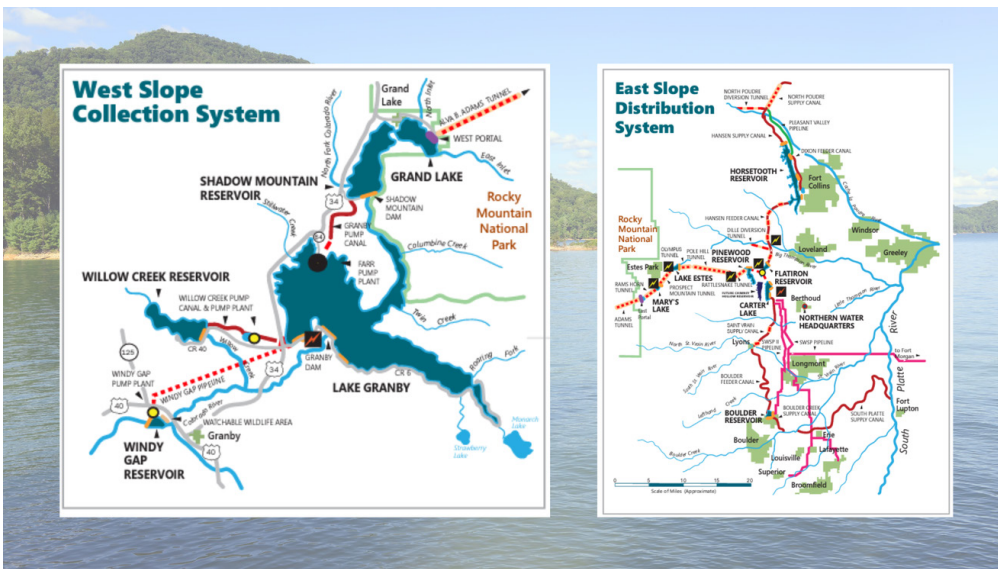
Official Newsletter of Little Thompson Water District

## How Little Thompson Water District Secures Our Water Supply

At Little Thompson Water District (LTWD), we serve over 10,000 residential customers and businesses throughout Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties with fresh, safe water. To keep water flowing for cooking, cleaning and bathing, we pump water from sources on the western slope of Colorado—mostly the Upper Colorado and Fraser Rivers.

Currently, 100% our water comes from the Upper Colorado River and flows through the Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) Project including Windy Gap water. The C-BT Project connects the water held in western slope reservoirs to our treatment plant and, eventually, our customers.

To get from the Upper Colorado River to homes and businesses in northern Colorado, raw water must travel from Grand Lake across the Continental Divide, through the Alva B. Adams Tunnel and into the East Slope Distribution System.



The C-BT's annual quota is set based on the available supply and storage of C-BT water, east slope soil conditions, water supplies and storage. They also take into account input from C-BT water users. This spring, the annual quota was set at 70%, up from the initial quota setting of 50%, which was set in October.

However, since the C-BT quota is a variable and supplemental supply and is supplied >>

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from the western slope only, it is important to acquire different water supply sources to balance and maintain a more robust supply year-to-year. Currently, LTWD is working on diversifying its water supply with the following sources:

- **Windy Gap** – As mentioned above, LTWD receives water from Windy Gap as well which is a west slope supply. However, LTWD is participating in the Chimney Hollow Reservoir Project which, once constructed and filled, will enable a more efficient and reliable yield.
- **Ditch companies** – LTWD currently owns water from local ditch companies. Although the native ditch share water isn't yet available as a water supply, it will be in the future. Through water court and infrastructure planning, our Water Resources and Engineering teams are working diligently to make these supplies available.
- **Dry Creek Reservoir** – This reservoir is split with another water supply district. LTWD owns approximately 5,000 acre-feet of storage to help regulate the District's annual water supply between wet and dry years.

With an eye on C-BT quotas and drought conditions on the east and west slopes, LTWD carefully plans for the present and the future to ensure we can meet our customers' demands. Likewise, we assess our annual available supply to set Water Shortage Contingency Plan Action Levels. These levels align water usage rules with the amount of water available to our community.

In spring 2024, we set this level to the lowest threshold: Green (Watch). This means our customers can use water normally with best practice water conservation techniques in mind. Check out the complete Water Shortage Contingency Action Plan to learn more about how we source water, action levels and rules for different shortage conditions.

## Save Money and Have a Healthier Lawn with a Slow the Flow Irrigation Audit



July is Smart Irrigation Month, which makes it a great time to talk about conserving water by making your sprinkler system more efficient. We've partnered with a local nonprofit called Resource Central so that LTWD customers can receive a free sprinkler evaluation this summer.

Typically, most people see a large jump in water usage over the summer from watering their landscaping, so an audit is a great way to see how water usage can be reduced. Not only are these evaluations free to our customers, but they also help you save money on your water bill and create a healthier lawns. >>

## The District's Water Quality Exceeded Regulatory Standards in 2023

LTWD's Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023 is now available, and we're thrilled to share the results!

It's always been our mission to maintain safe, reliable and good tasting water for everyone in our community. That's why we're constantly checking the contents of our water to look for contaminants like:

- Microbes
- Inorganic compounds
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Radioactive contaminants
- Organic chemicals

It's critical to keep these contaminants below state and federal standards. We're proud to announce that in 2023, all 53 compounds we tested for were below established reporting limits, making our water safe for bathing and consumption. We also had our 2-million-gallon Twin Mounds storage tank drained for a comprehensive inspection in November of 2023. Like the water that passes through it, the tank is in tip-top shape.

If you want to learn more about water quality in the District, you can view the full report on your website. We encourage you to share it with friends and neighbors in LTWD so everyone knows the water flowing from their taps is clean, tasty, and trustworthy. **Learn more at <https://bit.ly/3z39fty>**





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Over the course of your free evaluation, a Resource Central-trained associate will do a complete visual inspection of your irrigation system identifying problem areas and performing several tests on your system to create an efficient watering schedule for your yard.

Resource Central has found that 97% of systems evaluated have inefficiencies. Your evaluation will show you simple adjustments to your sprinkler system to make it more efficient and save you money.

There are still plenty of watering days ahead of us, so it's not too late to sign up for a Slow the Flow sprinkler evaluation. Spots are limited, and they're first come, first served, so get your name on the waitlist today. **Learn more and signup at <https://bit.ly/3VGVqtr>**



## Enter the New Water-Wise Landscape Contest

Are you looking to reduce your water bill and upgrade your landscaping with beautiful Colorado-native and water-wise plants? Do you want the chance to win up to \$250? Then make sure to enter this year's Water-Wise Landscape Contest!

The idea is simple: show us the most gorgeous garden you can create using water-wise plants with low water demands. Your landscape must have gone in before June 15th or after September 15th and needs to cover a minimum area of 200 square feet. We're also accepting any gardens planted within the last two years as long as they follow all other contest guidelines.

For a full breakdown of the rules, read up on 2024's Conservation Programs.

The Water-Wise Landscape Contest is open to all LTWD customers who get their applications in before October 15th—so get the mulch out and get busy! **Learn more and submit your application at <https://bit.ly/45rPjwy>**



## The Water Shortage Contingency Action Plan Status is Currently Green (Watch)

As mentioned, the District's Water Shortage Contingency Action Plan Status is currently Green (Watch). This means that we're not currently in a state of shortage. Even still, we encourage customers to be conservative about their water usage by following these Green (Watch) regulations:

- **Landscape watering** – No watering is permitted between 10 am and 6 pm. All trees and bushes must be watered by drip systems, handheld hoses with shutoff nozzles, deep root needles or arbor bags. Sprinkler systems can run a maximum of three days per week based on the last digit of your street address (Odds = Tues./Thurs./Sun. and Evens = Mon./Wed./ Sat.)
- **Save sod planting for September** – Please don't plant sod in July or August as it will take too much water to keep it alive. Planting in September is better for the sod and reducing water usage.
- **Vehicle washing** – When washing your car use a shutoff nozzle to quickly turn the water on when you need it, and off when you don't.
- **Spraying surfaces** – When you're cleaning your driveway, sidewalk and patio use a dry method such as sweeping or using a blower instead of a hose.
- **Construction, ponds and other bulk water uses** – Contractors must provide water for developments that will >>



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use over 1 million gallons of water, as do homeowners for personal uses.

It's shaping up to be a hot and dry summer in northern Colorado. This means the Action Plan Status could change. To avoid fines and possible service interruptions, read up on the full rules for all status levels and the potential penalties for noncompliance. **Learn more and view the Green regulations at <https://bit.ly/4b3FJKj>**



## Meet Our Construction Inspection Team

This quarter, we want to shine the spotlight on our construction inspection team. This small but mighty team of three inspects all the construction projects in the district, including new infrastructure and the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. A day in the life of the construction inspection team is always different.

Some days, they're in the office and other days they're out in the field. It just depends on what projects are going on at the moment.

This team is responsible for ensuring all construction is held to the high standards required by our district and the state. They're also excellent at solving problems associated with construction and are the go-to resource for the contractors performing the work. Inspectors are on site to solve and answer questions to keep the project moving efficiently and to be the eyes of the district to make sure the best product is delivered. This collaboration and excellence in construction benefits our customers with reliable service now and in the future.

Members of this team have the unique opportunity to take a hands-on approach including reviewing the design of the projects prior to inspecting the installation of the District's infrastructure and testing it to make sure can provide safe and reliable drinking water to our customers—from the initial conception to a completed product—as well as using all the technology and tools they have available to them.

We thank our construction inspection team for all their diligent work! Our operations would not be the same without them.

## Take Our Quick Customer Survey

We're interested to learn more about our customers and your preferred methods of communication. If you'd like to help us improve our service, please fill out this quick seven-question survey.

It's anonymous, takes less than five minutes to complete, and will

provide us with valuable information about our community. **Take the**

**survey at <https://bit.ly/3XmFQ7J>**



**SURVEY HERE**



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