

Gimarron Ditch.

Will be a Grand Success and greatly Benefit the Valley.

A. B. Abernathy, who is contracting on the Cimarron ditch, was down from there the first of the week for repairs on tools and get to supplies.

Mr. Abernathy is very enthusiastic about the ditch and its possibilities. He says the water in the Cimarron is doubly abundant at this time to fill such a ditch and leave plenty in the stream. He even goes further and says it is his belief that no reservoirs will ever be needed at any season of the year to keep the ditch going.

The soil through which it passes in the long run along the hillside is of a stiff clay, which will hold water like a jar. The melting snows of last winter still remain as water in small ponds along the route of the ditch, showing the manner in which the ground will hold water.

Mr. Abernathy thinks the ditch is a bigger contract than at first supposed, but says that a long time before the headgate is reached by workmen, the ditch will be carrying water from side streams over Cerro hill.

This article from August 15th, 1901, published in the Montrose Enterprise, captures the early excitement for the Cimarron Canal construction project. The canal helped stabilize water resources in Bostwick Park, Shinn Park, and the city of Montrose.

The Bostwick Park Project

The Bostwick Park Project was part of the Colorado River Storage Project. It made water more reliable through the Cimarron Canal. The Project was authorized in 1964 and resulted in the construction of Silverjack Reservoir (1966-1971), which stored water for the Cimarron Canal. The Project also improved the canal and constructed the Bostwick Lateral in 1973 and 1974 from the end of the Vernal Mesa Ditch. This enabled more farming on Bostwick Park.

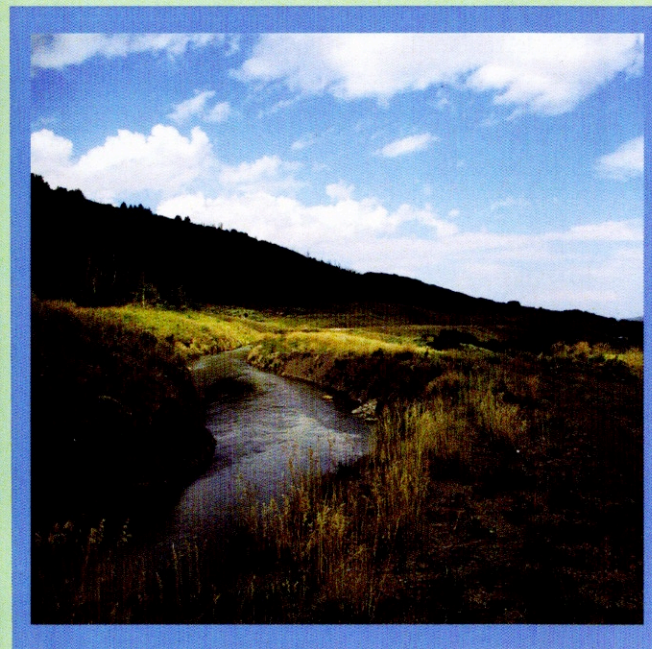
Collaboration & Outreach

The Cimarron Canal is a historical irrigation canal. It is managed by the Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District and the Cimarron Canal and Reservoir Company. In collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Colorado Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, J-U-B Engineers, Inc. on behalf of the Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District hired Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. to document the historical canal and produce a brochure about its history and importance to the early agricultural growth and settlement in the area.

For more information, contact the Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District

400 South 3rd Street
Montrose, Colorado 81401
(970) 249-8707
www.bpwcd.org

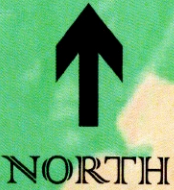
The Cimarron Canal



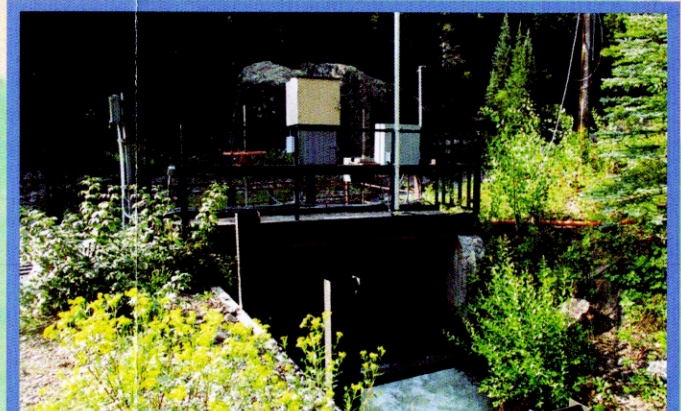
Land east of Montrose, in Bostwick Park and Shinn Park, was first settled in the 1890s for stock raising and limited crops. In 1899, the Cimarron & Uncompahgre Valley Canal & Reservoir Company was formed. The company constructed the Cimarron Canal to irrigate the lands east of Montrose and to supply water to the town of Montrose. The Cimarron Canal was completed in 1901. Water was pulled from the Cimarron River and continued northward across Cerro Summit into the Vernal Mesa Ditch. The Hairpin Ditch also took water from the Cimarron Canal, but to more limited agricultural land in Shinn Park. In 1904-1905, the city of Montrose constructed Montrose Reservoir to store water from the canal. The reservoir was later expanded in response to the area's population growth.

The Cimarron Canal

At its southern end, the Cimarron Canal pulls water from the Cimarron River. It continues northwestward for about 23.5 miles. Along its path, headgates control the distribution of the water to nearby landowners. Near Cerro Summit, the canal merges with the Hairpin Ditch and Vernal Mesa Ditch south of Highway 50.



A typical headgate along the canal, which controls the flow and distribution of water to users.



The Cimarron Canal diverts water from the Cimarron River through the 6-foot-wide diversion structure.

The entire length of the Cimarron Canal is on private lands, and therefore, may not be accessed by the public without express permission from the landowners and the Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District.