

Your Water News Resource

Cottonwood
Water & Sanitation District

WHERE DOES YOUR WATER COME FROM?

Every time you turn on the tap, water arrives quietly and reliably. But the story behind it spans decades of planning, millions of dollars in investment, and partnerships with more than a dozen organizations working together to keep our community's water flowing—even in years as dry as this one.

Your Water Sources

Cottonwood Water draws from three main sources, each playing a different role in how we meet your daily needs.

1. Cherry Creek — Our Primary Supply—100% Renewable!

Nearly 82% of every gallon we delivered in 2025 came from Cherry Creek, treated at the Joint Water Purification Plant (JWPP). Two key partnerships help us manage this invaluable supply:

- ♦ **Upper Cherry Creek Water Association (UCCWA)** coordinates regional partners to manage flow and water rights, including Colorado's obligations under the Colorado River Compact.
- ♦ **Cherry Creek Project Water Authority (CCPWA)** developed additional storage in a purpose-built reservoir (formerly a gravel pit)—providing a critical buffer during dry summers. All water routes through the JWPP before reaching your tap.

2. South Metro WISE Authority — Regional Resilience

Through the WISE Partnership (formed 2014) with Denver Water and Aurora Water, Cottonwood receives renewable water imported from outside our basin. The project makes ~10,000 AF/YR available across member agencies. Our 4% share (~400 AF/YR) is an important piece of our long-term water supply resilience.

3. Deep Wells — Our Legacy Supply, Now a Backup

From our founding in 1984 through 2019, most of our water came from the Arapahoe Aquifer (Denver Basin). Unlike surface water, this source is **non-renewable**... once pumped, it doesn't come back. In the early 2000s, the District set an ambitious goal: transition to at least 75% renewable water by 2020. **We met that target!** Deep wells remain available as backup, but our renewable water sources now do the heavy lifting!

Despite this significant multi-generational investment, Cottonwood Water's fees are currently ranked **4th lowest** among water providers in the Denver South area. High-quality service at a competitive rate.

Investing in Efficiency & Drought Resilience

Parks & Open Space Irrigation Conversion Projects (2019-2025): Converted irrigation at Crown Point, Cottonwood Highlands, and other open spaces from potable to non-potable water, so high-quality drinking water is directed where it matters most: homes, businesses, and healthcare facilities.

Walker Reservoir (online late 2024): After nine years of planning, design, permitting, and construction (2021-2023), this CCPWA facility now provides ~140 additional AF/YR of water storage to Cottonwood, available precisely when we need it most during dry years.

Chambers Reservoir (in progress): Working with Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority (ACWWA) on a cooperative infrastructure agreement to share storage capacity, strengthen drought resilience, and continue delivering services at competitive rates.

The Partnerships Behind Your Water

None of this is possible alone. Our network of partners spans supply, treatment, emergency preparedness, and regulatory compliance:

- ♦ **Water Supply:** UCCWA (ACWWA, Aurora Water, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, East Cherry Creek Valley Water) • CCPWA (Castle Rock Water, Inverness Water, Pinery Water) • WISE (City of Aurora, Denver Water, plus ten regional water providers in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties)
- ♦ **Local & Emergency:** Arapahoe County Water & Wastewater Authority • Inverness Water & Sanitation District • Stonegate Metro Village • WISE Partnership
- ♦ **Community & Conservation:** Colorado Water Conservation Board • Resource Central
- ♦ **Regulatory:** CDPHE • Colorado Division of Water Resources • Douglas County • South Metro Fire • Town of Parker • U.S. EPA • U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

The Bottom Line: Clean, reliable water doesn't happen by accident. It is the result of decisions made years, sometimes decades, in advance, investments spanning generations, and collaborative relationships built on shared purpose. We are proud of the progress Cottonwood Water has made, and remain committed to keeping you informed about the work happening behind the scenes to protect one of our community's most essential resources.

Cottonwood Water Demonstration Garden

Over the past couple of years, the District, with the help of volunteers from right here in our neighborhood, has been quietly transforming the demonstration garden at Cottonwood Water into something special. This spring, an outstanding group of volunteers came together to plant 11 new Garden-in-a-Box kits from Resource Central, adding 158 new native plants to our growing collection.

The plants are still young, but like every Coloradan, they're built for exactly this climate. Colorado natives are adapted to our dry summers, cold winters, and dramatic swings in between — meaning less water, less maintenance, and more resilience than traditional landscaping.

“Like every Coloradan, they are resilient — and they’ll reward a little patience with years of beauty”

The demonstration garden is designed to be a hands-on resource for rate payers. Whether you're thinking about reworking a flower bed, replacing your lawn, or just curious what a native garden actually looks like in our corner of Colorado, this is the place to find inspiration.

You'll find a variety of Resource Central's Garden-in-a-Box styles on display, so you can see how different kits look at different stages of growth, and picture what they might look like in your own yard! Resource Central's kits are available to residents, including rebates from the District, and our garden shows exactly what to expect.

A huge thank-you to every volunteer, Dolores, Lorenzo, Alex, Nicole, Jessica, Kelli and Linda Dillon, who showed up with gloves, good humor, and a willingness to get their hands in the dirt. This garden belongs to the community!

Please stop By the Cottonwood Water Demonstration Garden! It is open daily during daylight hours. No appointment needed. Simply come take a walk and see what's growing. 8334 Sandreed Cir. Parker, CO. 80134

Cottonwood Water Trash Collection Program

Homes that qualify for the Program are signing up every day! If you haven't enrolled yet, we encourage you to give it a try. You have a no-risk opt-out window between November 2 and November 16 — if the Program isn't the right fit, just let us know and your trial ends there. But if you stay, during and after the trial period, you'll enjoy the following benefits and much more:

- Weekly trash and biweekly recycling collection on the same weekday (holiday delays apply)
- Two 96-gallon totes (one trash, one recycling)
- One combined monthly bill from the District
- Safer, quieter streets with fewer trucks and less roadside clutter
- Two annual community large-item collection days (Spring and Summer) — stay tuned for the Summer date!
- Moving out of the District? Your trash collection service is terminated on the same date you request transfer of water and wastewater service to a new owner or tenant. Simple as that!
- Have specific questions not addressed in our trash collection Q&As on the website? No problem! Please call us and District staff will be happy to explore additional options with the trash service provider on your behalf.

Next Meeting of the Board

Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM. 8334 Sandreed Cir. Parker, CO. 80134. The public is invited to attend!

District General Information

58 Inverness Drive East #100. Englewood, CO 80112. Open 8am-5pm Monday-Friday.

During normal business hours call: 303-792-9509. Please visit www.cottonwoodwater.org

After-Hours Water Emergencies: 303-426-3167.