

# water sense



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS  
FALL 2015

## North Augusta Takes Control of Irrigation

In 2005 as the new Superintendent of the Property Maintenance Department, different brands of irrigation controllers existed and needed was a better way to manage them. Searching for the right control system, several manufacturers presented their respective products but none quite matched up to Calsense. Dave Rippe, the local Calsense rep introduced the City to the amount of service included with the product cost and helped lay out a plan. The main priority was to get the first controller installed at the municipal center via Ethernet and have it act as Hub, and then communicate to any other controller via radio.

The plan began with the construction of the city's new municipal center. Initial cost was balanced by the long term value associated with the factory-direct service and the 10 year warranty, unparalleled to the rest of the other manufacturers. The first controller was an indoor wall mount unit with a Tipping Rain Bucket, an ET Gage, flow sensor and a freeze sensor. A radio test was conducted to see how far reliable communication throughout the city could go from the one Hub. Once established controllers can be added when budget allows and phasing little by little onto the system can occur. The weather data can also be shared to other controllers from the one location.

Since the first controller was installed staff saw firsthand how easily it all worked together and was quite excited to have chosen Calsense. Appropriate budgeting each year allows existing controllers to be



Riverview Park Aerial Photo

replaced with landscape upgrade projects. Any new construction project that comes on board has a Calsense controller specified on the irrigation design.

Calsense stands behind their product as long as it's installed per their specifications. Once a controller was hit by lightning and the Calsense rep installed a loaner panel and shipped the damaged one back to the factory for repair. The site was down for only a day. Another time when communication issues occurred, Dave Rippe worked with the IT Department on numerous occasions, above and beyond to help identify that the issue was on the city's end with the main server. It is truly impressive the amount of service and support the City receives from the Calsense manufacturer when building a central control system.

In 2012 the city's main park, Riverview Park underwent a multi-million dollar renovation. Three pedestal controllers were added to manage the site with Dave's design help. Existing are two, 4" points of connection each

with a bypass, manifold system and 100 zones. In this way all station flow rates can be read to provide individual break protection, as Calsense measures water dynamically through the different sized flow sensors. The FLOWSENSE™ technology allows for irrigation to occur based on system capacity and determines which zones to run simultaneously, thus minimizing the overall watering window. In 2014 another pedestal controller was added to the soccer complex and this time fields and common areas were tied together into one, saving cost.

The City of North Augusta looks forward to continue growing a solid relationship with Calsense into the future. It's easy when long term value is received and money is well spent!

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