

water sense



WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

FALL 2007

Bulloch County's Diamond in the Rough

Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation in Georgia maintains eight recreation areas encompassing more than 213 acres. Included is Mill Creek Regional Park, a 155 acre park opened in 1993. This state-of-the-art recreational complex funded through a 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, has become a model park. In 1996 it was voted USSSA Complex of the Year and has played host to more than 200 soccer tournaments including four national ones. Throughout the years a 10-acre multi-purpose field, 1.25 mile lit walking trail, and 9 picnic pavilions were added. The most recent, 'Splash in the Boro', is a water park with an 800-foot lazy river, 3 water slides, a play pool, a leisure pool, a therapy pool, and a competition size swimming pool.

During the initial construction phases of Mill Creek Regional Park a central control system was installed and required the use of a communication wire, linking all 8 controllers. Throughout the years, the communication wire had been repeatedly cut due to construction, creating constant communication problems. Options to solve this problem were researched. Going to a wireless communication system was heavily considered and after talking to many people and travelling many miles to look at different options, the decision



Mill Creek Regional Park, Statesboro-Bulloch County, Georgia

was made to go with Calsense.

While the central system was down each controller had to be programmed individually to run one zone at a time. This resulted in a 12 hour water window. Once the Calsense system was installed, the water window was reduced to four hours based on the smarts of the controller and system capacity. This saved electricity and extended pump life. The system also provided alert reports and station history reports. Whether the problem is a 'high' or 'low flow' or 'no current', these problems are displayed on the computer monitor the very next morning. The hand held remote has proven to be the best service tool purchased and is very useful in doing routine checks to ensure all heads are working properly.

The eight existing controllers were replaced with Calsense in July of 2006. The change out was done by in-house staff in three days with assistance from the local Calsense service tech. Two days later the software was up and running and communicating to all controllers via radio. Everyone is pleased with the controllers but more than

that we are overwhelmed by the service.

It is great partnering with a company that is more proactive than reactive. Although there were a few issues in the beginning, Calsense worked diligently to resolve the problem never taking more than a day. Dave Rippe, our local service tech has helped us tremendously. His knowledge of the product has been invaluable; from the on-site training to software upgrades, to the problem solving provided. Whenever there is a question we can pick up the phone and always get his help. This no charge after-sale support is provided directly from the factory. Needless to say the computer at Mill Creek Regional Park will be utilized to communicate with all the parks monitoring the daily irrigation systems throughout Statesboro-Bulloch County.

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