

water sense



WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Summer 2007

Water Savings and Factory Support Prove Central Control Value

The City of Sammamish, located in Washington State, was incorporated in August of 1999. It has views of the Seattle skyline and the Olympic Mountains to the west, and the looming grandeur of the Cascades to the east. Home to roughly 38,640 people, the residential community is located on the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish, with Redmond to the north and Issaquah to the south.

As one might suspect, Sammamish gets its fair share of rain throughout the season, but the City does have to irrigate close to 25 acres of park and street property from April through September. Since the local water district watches the water consumption within the city very closely and occasionally issues water use restrictions during the summer months, using the centralized Calsense Water Management System has really made the relationship between the two entities great.

The City started the concept of central control with one stand-alone Calsense ET2000 controller with a rain bucket and an Evapotranspiration (ET) gage wired to it. It didn't take long to show the savings that Calsense brought to that park alone. Using ET to irrigate has been amazing and the reports generated from the controller to troubleshoot problems have made



Sammamish Commons Park

maintenance tasks much easier. The one controller gave the City the opportunity to experience how user friendly it was and to build into a system over time. Seven years later with proven water savings and strong customer support for staff, 11 controllers have been added to the City's parks and streetscapes.

Currently the controllers are connected to a central computer through local radio which allows the sharing of local weather to all sites as well as provide a list of last night's problems. Sites can be monitored from a computer in a matter of minutes rather than visiting all of the sites which would take hours. The labor savings alone are substantial. Some of the sites use the Calsense controller to run ball field lights. The light option gives the ability to run restroom door locks, restroom lights, and security lights at many of the sites. The printed water reports generated from the centralized system show proof of how the City is saving water and has allowed some of the parks to remain on a discounted water rate

established by the water district several years ago but since has been discontinued. In one example a park site with Calsense showed a 54% savings in one year!

The no-charge customer support from the local representative Kevin Schasel visiting Sammamish to help with all concerns on a regular basis, the communication support from their radio technician Bill Bellinger, and the 1-800 Tech Support at the factory has been fantastic. This has allowed the department to include into city specifications the use of the Calsense system when any new project with irrigation gets constructed. It has been a great relationship working with Calsense and the City of Sammamish looks forward to the new and upcoming innovations they continue to deliver. Thanks!

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