

water sense



WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS
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Columbia County Benefits Using Technology to Manage Resources

Columbia County Parks and Recreation Department in Georgia began working with the Calsense Water Management System approximately five years ago during the construction and opening of a new soccer park. Due to the success of Calsense in managing all aspects of the irrigation system, the Department obtained additional funding to upgrade all existing parks in the County. Dave Rippe, the Calsense field service representative greatly assisted the department every step of the way, and so far thirteen (13) controllers have been installed, with four more parks scheduled to be upgraded in the near future.

In the process the County has taken advantage of the Calsense lighting feature which enables employees to control the lights as well as the irrigation systems thru the County Ethernet infrastructure. Lights at the parks can be programmed several weeks in advance for all soccer, football, and baseball games and special events. There are times when lights need to be adjusted at the last minute, such as inclement weather causing cancellation, or a game running into over-time, etc. As a result of the Calsense system, adjustments can be made instantly. This technology has helped cut down on the amount of time staff members spend going to and from parks.

While labor savings was the primary intention, the technology has also allowed the County to manage water use

PHONE

800.572.8608

FAX

760.438.2619

WEB

www.calsense.com



Greg Dross, Parks Services Supervisor, Columbia County Parks & Rec

in a manner that was previously impossible. In the past, a water line break might not be discovered until the water pooled several days later, and hours could be spent trying to locate the break. The Calsense technology identifies and shuts down the station on which the break or issue has occurred, while irrigating all other valves. In the case of a mainline break, the master valve closes and the entire system automatically shuts down.

Since parks are spread out all over the county with varying weather conditions, rain buckets have been installed at site specific locations. Parameters are set such as minimum rainfall measured for shutoff, and soil holding capacity so that only usable rainfall is used to determine how long irrigation should remain off before automatically coming back on. Using the central control software, staff is able to proactively shutdown controllers in all parks based on anticipated rain or freeze events, saving both water and possible accidents due to icy conditions.

Another cost saving feature is the handheld remote so one employee can handle repairs without a second employee standing at a standard controller turning it on and off while the repairs are done.

Using the RRe-TRAN, one person can turn a zone on and off, blow out the line, and repair and adjust the head saving a tremendous amount of labor.

Although it's costly to install the Calsense in established parks, the long-term benefit of cost-effective and efficient control of both the irrigation and lighting systems, not to mention labor is justifiable as the average ROI is about three years. The Calsense system is specified on all new parks in the design and planning phases currently with the County. Calsense has enabled Columbia County to meet and exceed state and local mandates put in place during drought seasons. Without a doubt, Calsense is a company that works hard at helping customers meet and exceed expectations set for water, labor and lighting goals for any county parks department around.

Written by:

Greg Dross, Park Services Supervisor
Columbia County Parks & Rec

