



ELBERT CREEK
WATER COMPANY

WATER IN THE WORKS

AN ELBERT CREEK WATER COMPANY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
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A Message from ECWC

Hello, and welcome to the fifth issue of *Water in the Works*, a quarterly newsletter published by Elbert Creek Water Company (ECWC). The purpose of this newsletter is to improve communication between ECWC customers and staff while providing customers with useful and informative articles, ideas, and updates about our distribution area. In this issue we introduce our newest operator, discuss summer water use, and cover backflow prevention and cross-connection control.

Please welcome ECWC's newest operator, Alex Klink

“Hello, my name is Alex Klink! I have been a resident of Durango since 2008. I have been with Elbert Creek Water Company since April, 2021 as a water/wastewater operator. I graduated from Fort Lewis College in 2014 with a degree in Geology and a minor in Adventure Education. After working for years as a geologist on oil drilling rigs, I have landed as a water/wastewater operator at ECWC. I love living in the southwest and am fascinated by the geology and history in the area. In my free time I enjoy spending time outside in the wilderness. I particularly love snowboarding, rafting, mountain biking, and backpacking. I am excited to be a part of the team at ECWC and look forward to working in such a beautiful place!”

If you see Alex out in the community, feel free to say hello and introduce yourself!



Irrigation season is just around the corner...

...and that means it's time to start planning ahead for consciously and conservatively watering your landscaping. We live in a desert climate, which presents unique challenges when trying to maintain and enjoy outdoor patios, lawns, gardens, and other plant life. ECWC encourages all customers to be mindful of their water usage. According to NOAA, most of La Plata County and specifically the Glacier property continues to labor under "extreme" drought conditions, the next to the highest level of drought classification. Presently, the snowpack in the San Juan Mountains is at 60% of average. While ECWC isn't currently planning to have to initiate water restrictions, it's always a possibility that we should keep in mind, especially given our current extreme drought conditions. Please take a few minutes to review ECWC's enforceable water conservation policy and irrigation schedule, which among other things, specifies times of day that are appropriate for irrigation and includes a weekly schedule that all customers must adhere to. You can find this information at the following links: <https://elbertcreekh2o.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ECWC-Appendix-B-2-28-19.pdf> and <https://elbertcreekh2o.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ECWC-Appendix-C-2-28-19.pdf>. **If you sub-contract with a landscape company to maintain your plants and program your irrigation clocks, please share this information with them so you will be set up for success. *ECWC reserves the right to fine customers for violating the Company's irrigation procedure and conservation policy.***

You can also consider planting more water-wise vegetation, which requires much less water to thrive. For more information on such plant life, please review a presentation given to ECWC customers last spring by Glacier Club's landscaping manager: <https://elbertcreekh2o.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Glacier-Water-Wise-Landscaping.pdf>. Another great tool for information on native plants specific to our area is this booklet, published by the Colorado Native Plant Society: <https://conps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Low-Water-Native-Plants-for-CO-Gardens-Mountains.pdf>.

Finally, keep in mind that using irrigation water wisely will result in lower water bills during the summer!



Gardening with native plants also helps attract pollinators- groups of insects that are important to the local ecosystem.



Did You Know? Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control

By Sean Young

I hope this “Did You Know” finds you well as we rapidly approach this summer. I do not know about you, but I am ready to spend a good amount of time outside enjoying the beautiful weather at the Glacier Club!

Elbert Creek Water Company (ECWC) is currently updating its Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Program (BPCCC), and this may affect you. As a public water system, ECWC is required to control all cross-connections to prevent backflow events. Backflow is when water flows in the wrong direction and introduces contaminants into a potable water system, causing contamination. The contaminated water can come from a connection with a non-potable source (cross-connection). Contamination of through cross connections has consistently caused more water-borne disease outbreaks in the United States than any other reported factor. Common cross-connections include:

1. Irrigation Systems
2. Fire suppression systems
3. Boilers/HVAC systems
4. Other industrial or commercial uses of water

Inspections often disclose numerous unprotected cross-connections between public water systems and other piped systems on consumers’ premises, which might contain wastewater; stormwater; processed waters (containing a wide variety of chemicals); and untreated supplies from private wells and streams. Therefore, an effective BPCCCP is essential.

ECWC is working closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to ensure regulatory compliance. By law, ECWC is required to have the 2020 backflow reports submitted to CDPHE by May 1st, 2021. This helps ensure that ECWC is doing everything possible to protect the water system and its customers. If you want to know more about ECWC’s BPCCCP, please contact us, and we would be more than happy to answer your questions.

For more information, please review this brochure from CDPHE:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mDlc1FMZa1aqYyVKQy0QupXhQShuZRuU/view>

ECWC's Water Quality/Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for 2020 is Now Available



To view ECWC's CCR for the 2020 calendar year, please click this link:

<https://elbertcreekh2o.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ELBERT-CREEK-WATER-CO-CO0134840-2021-CCR-Final.pdf>

This report will also be sent out to all ECWC customers with their April bills on May 17th.

Please contact us if you have any questions about this report.