



Amended and Restated Water Conservation Plan and Drought Response Policy

Adopted by Cherokee Board of Directors in Public Hearing August 18, 2026

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Executive Summary

Cherokee Metropolitan District (CMD or The District) has prepared this updated Water Conservation Plan (Plan) to improve stewardship of limited water resources, provide clear regulations governing water use, and satisfy relevant Colorado regulations. This plan describes Cherokee's existing system and progress on water conservation made under previous plans as well as future plans to enhance water conservation in line with Colorado Water Conservation Board objectives.

Section 1. District Authority and Plan Purpose

1.1 Authority

Cherokee Metropolitan District was organized pursuant to §§ 32-1-101 *et seq.*, C.R.S. (the “Special District Act”) and pursuant to that act is empowered with the management, control, and supervision of all business and affairs of the District. The Special District Act authorizes the Board to adopt, amend, and enforce bylaws, rules, and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and laws of the state of Colorado for carrying on the business, objects, and affairs of the Board and the District. The Special District Act further authorizes and empowers the Board to fix and from time to time increase or decrease rates, tolls, penalties, or charges for service. It is of state, regional, and District interest to conserve available water supplies by updating and implementing a water conservation plan.

The Cherokee Board of Directors approved this water conservation plan including watering rules and regulations by Resolution 2026-06 which was approved in a public meeting on August 18, 2026. It is in effect until amended, replaced, or repealed by the Board of Directors.

1.2 Plan Purpose

The purpose of this Water Conservation Plan is to set rules and regulations to ensure efficient utilization of the District’s limited water resources and provide mechanisms to reduce water consumption, eliminate water waste, and promote water reuse.

Section 2. Water Rights and Existing System

2.1 Water Rights

Cherokee Metropolitan District water is sourced from two groundwater supplies: the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Alluvial Aquifer (UBS) in eastern El Paso County and Denver Basin Aquifer Wells in northern El Paso County. These rights total 4,388 acre-feet per year (AFY) that can be delivered to Cherokee’s main service area. An additional 653 AFY water rights are limited to serving existing customers with the UBS Basin.

From 2016 through 2025 Cherokee diverted an average of 3,096 AFY from these supplies to serve all regular customers and consecutive systems. Further detail on water rights and status of commitments against supplies can be found in Cherokee’s most recent Water Resource Report.

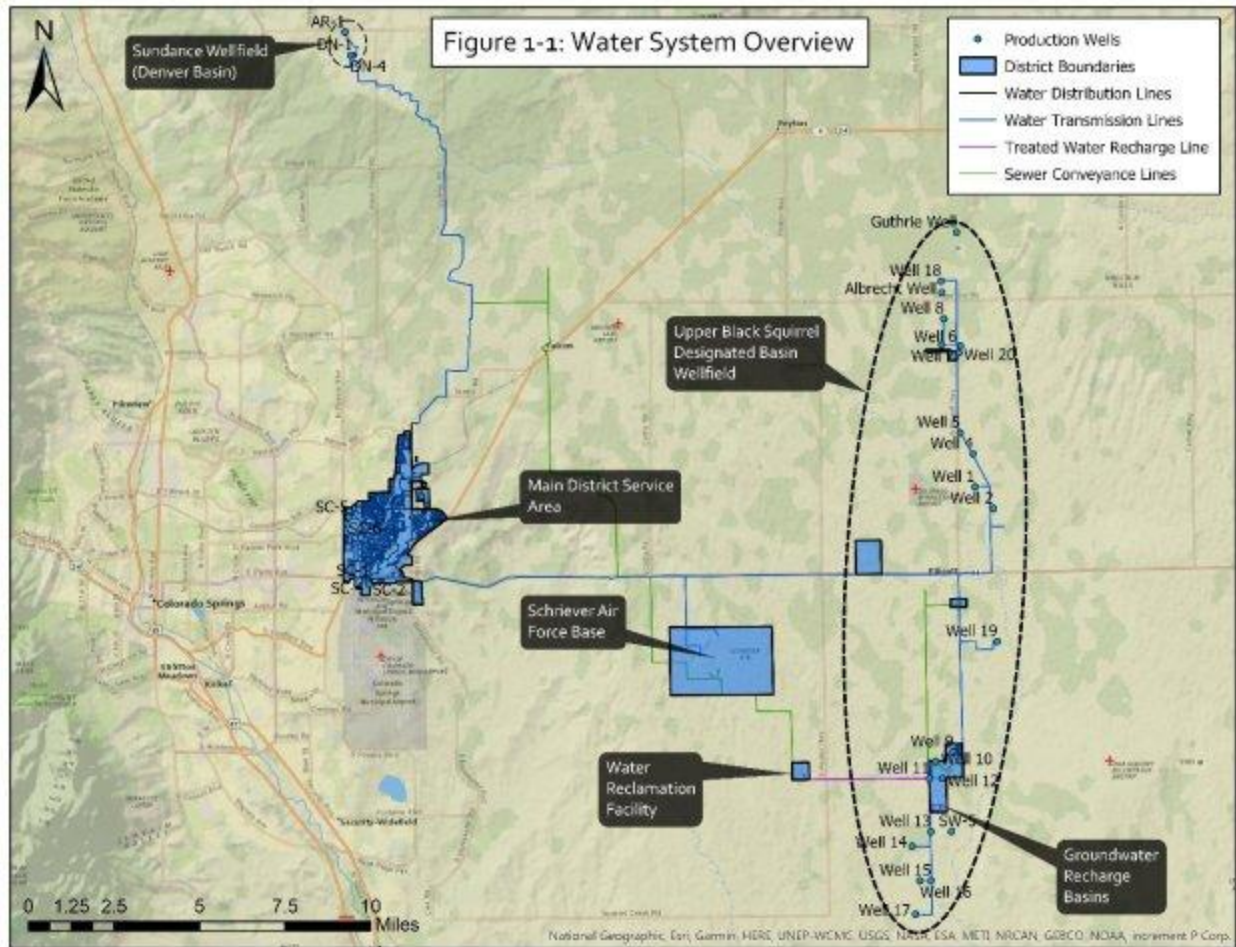


Figure 2-1: Cherokee water system with water rights areas

In addition to first use alluvial aquifer and Denver Basin rights, Cherokee also holds an adjudicated Replacement Plan permitting diversions of additional water proportionate with treated wastewater returned to the UBS basin.

2.2 Existing Water System

Over 90% of Cherokee's raw water is collected from the 20 wells in the UBS Aquifer via two large-diameter pipelines and brought to a treatment facility and pump station near Ellicott, Colorado. Here, it is chlorinated and pumped 15 miles to a three million gallon tank at the southern end of the District's main service area. Cherokee's largest customer, Schriever Space Force Base, and several small communities are served directly from the pipeline. In the District's main service area, this water is distributed to two pressure zones through two pump stations, three gravity storage tanks and approximately 120 miles of water mains.

The remaining less than 10% of Cherokee's water supply is withdrawn from deep bedrock aquifers in northern El Paso County and brought to a treatment facility southeast of the

intersection of Black Forest Road and Hodgen Road. From here it is chlorinated and pumped through a 17-mile transmission main to the main Cherokee service area.

Section 3. Current Water Conservation

3.1 Historic and Current Metrics

Water Use Efficiency

Cherokee's efforts under the previous water conservation plan have resulted in some of the lowest per-account water consumption in Colorado. This effect is especially apparent in single family residential accounts which have reduced consumption by 20% since 2010.

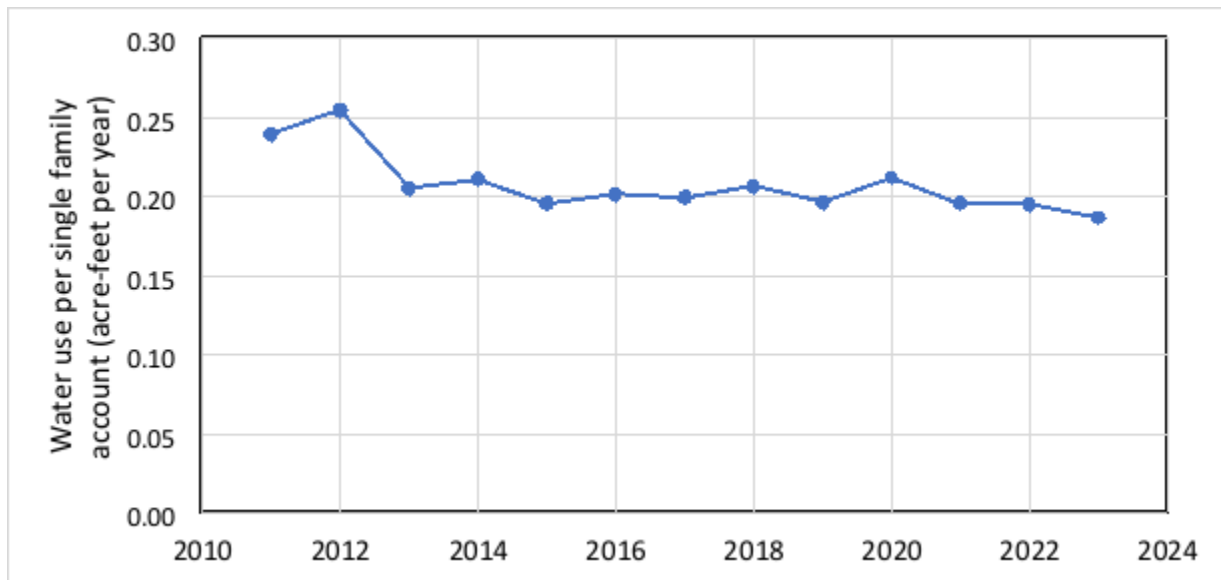


Figure 3-1: Single family residential water use from 2010-2025

Data for water use by customer type is not consistent enough before 2010 to extend the trendline in figure 3-1 further back. However, there is high quality data on Cherokee's population from 1980 onward and total water diversions from 1964 onward. The Census population for the Cimarron Hills CDP represents most of Cherokee's customers but excludes water consumption from nonresidential customers, consecutive systems, and Schriever Space Force Base in eastern El Paso County. Dividing the total water production by annual population yields a bulk gallon per capita per day (GPCD) value. However, this number is inflated from a more traditional GPCD since growing nonresidential, military, and consecutive system population are considered in the numerator but not the denominator.

Table 3-1: Gross CMD consumed gallons per capita per day every 5 years since 1980.

Year	CMD Population*	Annualized Growth	Total Water Consumption	GPDP**
1980	6597		1557.3	210.7
1985	8879	6.1%	2319.6	233.2
1990	11160	4.7%	2781.4	222.5
1995	13177	3.4%	2692.7	182.4
2000	15194	2.9%	3449.0	202.6
2005	15678	0.6%	3872.5	220.5
2010	16161	0.6%	3587.4	198.1
2015	17736	1.9%	3001.9	151.1
2020	19311	1.7%	3351.4	154.9
2025	21026	1.7%	3379.1	143.5

*CMD population from Census data for 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020, based on average decadal growth rate in 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2015. 2025 population estimated based on growth in residential taps from 2020-2025.

**GPCD is a gross number including dividing all water use by resident population of main service area. This represents the total amount of water used by all customers including commercial, consecutive systems, military, and institutional divided only by main District residents and cannot be compared directly to traditional residential GPCD metrics.

According to this imperfect measure, per capita water use in CMD fell by 6% between 1980 and 2010. It fell by a further 22% from 2010 to 2020, the decade when most of CMD's water conservation policies were implemented. The metric has fallen another 7% from 2020 to 2025 which demonstrates the continued success of water conservation measures across all customer types and consecutive systems.

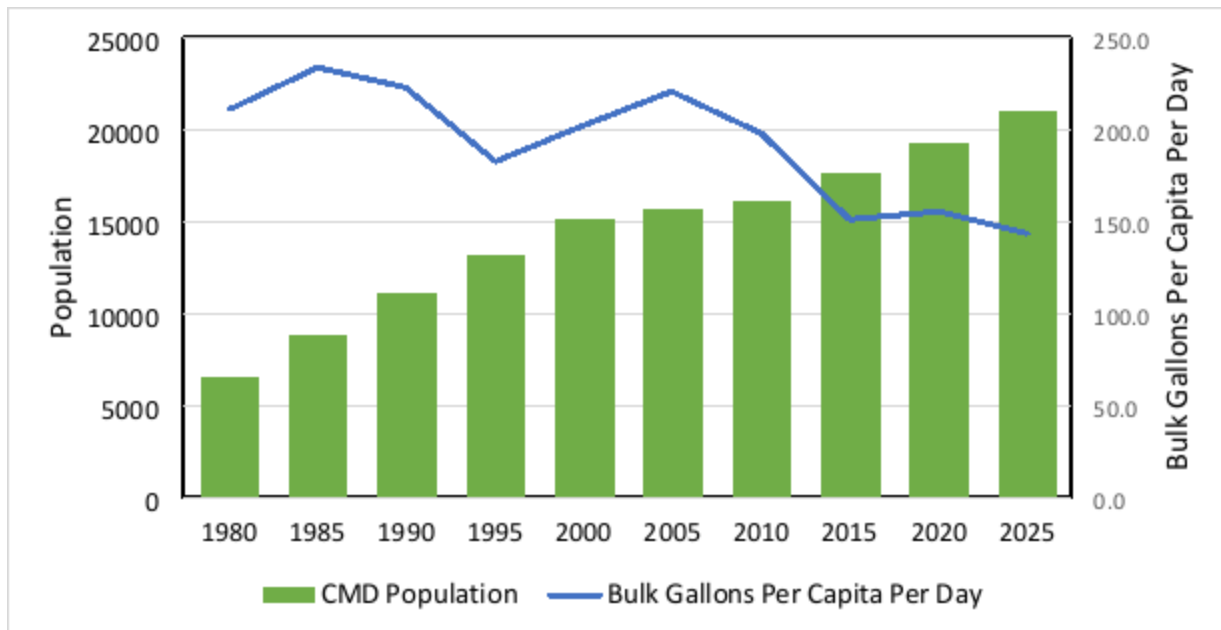


Figure 3-2: Historic bulk gallons per resident per day including nonresidential and consecutive uses with implementation of major policy changes. (Population interpolated for all years except 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020)

The total water production shown in Table 3-1 and Figure 3-2 do not include nonrevenue water losses. CMD’s nonrevenue water loss has averaged between 5 and 8 percent in each year since 2020. This includes all water produced which does not flow through a customer meter including leaks, treatment losses, fire department use, malfunctioning meters, and theft. Cherokee is fortunate to use water treatment technology with low water losses but reducing losses from leaks and other causes requires constant vigilance and diligent maintenance.

3.2 Current Water Conservation Policies

Inclining Rate Structure

Perhaps the most consequential driver of the significant reduction of water use starting in 2010 was the introduction of an inclining rate structure. Historically, CMD had a flat water rate structure but starting in 2010, CMD followed the lead of other Front Range utilities and implemented this structure. This led to an immediate drop in water use and incentivizes current and future customers to make investments in water conservation.

As part of this process, Cherokee separated all commercial and multi-family accounts into indoor accounts and outdoor irrigation accounts. This allows indoor and outdoor water use to be tracked and charged separately. This has incentivized businesses and apartment buildings to reduce indoor use and convert to low-water landscaping. It’s challenging to analyze trends among commercial customers since water consumption varies widely from warehouses to restaurants

and other uses between. The proxy GPCD metric discussed earlier in this section has held a consistent downward trend even as the number of businesses in the District has grown in line with residential population.

Outdoor Watering Restrictions

In 2007, Cherokee implemented outdoor watering restrictions for the first time. Under normal conditions, regulations limit sprinklered irrigation to no more than three times per week after 6PM and before 10AM. Declared water shortages can trigger additional cuts discussed in greater detail in section 5. For several years from 2010-2015, water use restrictions were escalated to their highest level, severely restricting or banning outdoor use. It's difficult to disentangle water use reductions due to higher rates and those due to enforcement of outdoor watering bans but this contributed to the significant decline in per capita water use observed over the same period.

The watering restrictions discussed further in section 5 are similar to previous watering restrictions but are more specific and include an higher fine schedule for high water users. Furthermore, they authorize the District to shut off service to irrigation-only accounts if they have a known leak and do not repair it in a timely manner.

Meter Replacements

Water meters have a service life of between 15 and 20 years. Each month, a certain number of customer meters do not transmit the meter reading to the billing system properly. Sometimes this is a one-off error but if the problem persists, the meter is added to a replacement list. Cherokee technicians make it a priority to replace these meters at District cost soon after they malfunction and current policy states that a customer refusing to allow meter replacement for at least two billing cycles can have their water shut off.

This active meter replacement program ensures that nearly all customers have functioning meters and have water usage closely tracked. During times when there are no malfunctioning meters to be replaced, District technicians will make appointments to change out the oldest meters in the District to proactively prevent failure and lack of water use visibility.

High Use Alerts, Leak Checks, and Leak Credits

Under CMD's inclining rate structure, residents with large water use receive higher bills for high water use. If a resident has an unusually high bill based on their average usage in the same months in previous years, Cherokee staff proactively provide them with a high usage notice which states that this could indicate a water leak.

Cherokee offers free leak checks to any home that requests one in which a technician will check all fixtures in the house and the irrigation system and examine the meter. If the technicians locate

a leak, they will assist the customer with no cost fixes and recommend professionals to perform more intensive work. The team performs an average of five checks per week with more in the spring and summer as irrigation systems are turned on.

If a customer fixes a leak with or without a technician's input, they can apply for a leak credit which writes down their bill for the period of the leak, further encouraging customers to report and correct leaks and reduce CMD's overall water waste.

Parks

In addition to water and wastewater services, Cherokee manages 53 acres of parks and open spaces in the District. As part of historic water conservation efforts, irrigated areas within the parks have been reduced and turf has been replaced with resilient native blends where practical. Cherokee also converted several small park areas from fully irrigated to xeriscape demonstration gardens.



Figure 4-1: Xeriscape demonstration garden on Hathaway Drive

Golf Course

Cherokee Metropolitan District operates a municipal golf course called Cherokee Ridge within its main service area. Historically, this golf course used low-cost municipal water from the CMD system but starting in the early 2000's CMD began exploring other water supply options for the course. In 2008, wells were drilled to withdraw lawn irrigation return flows (LIRF) and other augmentation flows from the Sand Creek Alluvium. A formal augmentation plan was approved in 2012 which allows the Cherokee Ridge course and a smaller public course in the service area to draw water from the Sand Creek alluvium through a combination of LIRF credits, augmentation rights, and other nonsewered return flows.

This plan has been in operation since 2012 and both courses recent signed a 20-year agreement to maintain this system. |Sand Creek is a dry creekbed in a heavily urbanized watershed and it would be prohibitively expensive to treat to a potable standard. Using this water source to offset previously potable water use conserves other resources for use serving general customers, saving over 70 acre-feet of potable per year.

Water Theft

Taking water directly from the distribution system without meters and other infrastructure poses a threat to the integrity and safety of the drinking water supply in addition to causing a financial loss to the District. The most common method of water theft in the Cherokee system is construction contractors using another utility's construction meter or neglecting to use a construction meter. District personnel check all construction meters to ensure that they are CMD meters and if they are not, staff confiscate them. This has proven effective in getting contractors to seek a District meter with functioning backflow prevention and billing to ensure water is not being lost from the CMD system.

Section 4. Future Water Conservation

4.1 Reuse Improvement

Cherokee has made strong progress lowering average per-customer water use to regional lows and nonrevenue water loss remains low due to diligent infrastructure upkeep and low water treatment losses. Now that water use rates have been brought well below national and statewide averages, the primary water conservation focus is on effectively using reclaimed water.

In 2003, Cherokee and Meridian Service Metropolitan District, another local water utility, began planning for a new wastewater treatment facility in eastern El Paso County that would deliver its effluent to the Upper Black Squirrel Creek aquifer. This replaced the existing facility which discharged return flows into the Fountain Creek watershed where they could not be recovered. In 2005, Cherokee and Meridian Service Metropolitan District jointly filed the Cherokee-Meridian

Replacement Plan, a legal framework which would allow Cherokee and Meridian to accrue credits for water returned to the aquifer and use those credits to divert water from new wells in the aquifer.

The new wastewater treatment plant was completed in 2010 and water has been recharged into the aquifer since that date, dramatically improving productivity in the area. In 2024, the Replacement Plan was approved and wells are expected to be in production by the end of 2027. Based on calculations from both Cherokee and Meridian, the additional water available under the plan will allow stable growth to continue to 2050 without needing to purchase new water supplies or divert additional nonrenewable Denver Basin water. Greater detail on expected yield of the Replacement Plan can be found in Cherokee's most recent Water Resource Report.

Serving growth with reuse water not only reduces stress on other water supplies in the region, it also ensures that return flows from this new growth are captured and reused, continuing the cycle and preventing water waste.

4.2 Education

Cherokee's current water conservation education is focused on informational mailers, website posts, and information printed on mail statements. With the rise of electronic billing, the District is working to adapt the communication strategy to reach more customers. This strategy is primarily focused on social media and emailed newsletters. CMD already benefits from regional communications and advertisements about water savings from Colorado Springs Utilities. However, improving communication to District customers including those who do not frequently read their mail will improve water conservation and critically improve understanding of and compliance with Cherokee's drought-related water use restrictions.

4.3 Building Codes

Construction within Cherokee Metropolitan District is primarily regulated by El Paso County Community Development and Pikes Peak Regional Building Department. The land development and building codes have required low flow fixtures and xeric landscaping for at least the last decade and enforce these restrictions on major renovations as well as new developments. Cherokee supports this policy by reviewing all new construction and renovation projects in the District and providing comments to the developer to make changes which support water conservation while remaining within current regulations.

In the development review process, Cherokee issues a water commitment early in the process based off initial land use estimates. The water allocated at the beginning of the development is rechecked at each review stage and if detailed plans show a greater water use than the initial plans, the developer must reapply for additional water commitments, if available.

Section 5. Water Use Restrictions and Drought

5.1 Objective

The objective of water use restrictions is to promote water conservation during normal hydrologic conditions and to reduce demand on Cherokee's water supplies during drought conditions. These restrictions allow the Board to respond to high demand and low water supply by enforcing curtailment of outdoor irrigation to ensure that there is always sufficient water for indoor use and emergency fire protection.

These regulations also align Cherokee's watering regulations more directly with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) Water Wise rules. This ensures that water conservation communications from CSU and CMD will not conflict and confuse customers. The alignment also ensures that in the event there is planned or emergency water sharing between the utilities, both can implement the same drought response rules.

However, these rules do not obligate CMD to match the CSU watering restriction stage unless active water sharing is in progress. The decision on where to set CMD's drought response stage sits solely with the Board based on supply and demand in Cherokee's system.

5.2 Water Use Restrictions

Watering restrictions are divided into six stages summarized in the table below. Stage 0 is always in effect and further stages may be declared or reversed by two mechanisms. The first is by Board resolution in response to hydrologic conditions to reduce demand and preserve supplies for critical uses. The second is by the General Manager in response to specific infrastructure failures that reduce the ability of the District to deliver water to Cherokee customers. The staff-level watering restriction expires 7 days after enactment unless the Board extends the restriction by an affirmative vote. The enforcement process and fine schedules found in Table 5-1, Table 5-2, and restated in Appendix A have been adopted separately by the Board and may be amended from time to time.

Table 5-1: Residential watering restrictions summary including single family and separately metered multi-family

Stage	Watering days per week	Demand Reduction Goal*	Enforcement	1 st Offence (Residential)	2 nd Offence (Residential)
0 (Baseline)	3	0%	Reports	Written warning	\$100
1	3	5%	Reports	Written warning	\$300
2a	2	15%	Patrols	Written warning	\$300
2b	1	30%	Patrols	Written warning	\$500
3	0	45%	Patrols	Written warning	\$1,000
4	0	50%	Patrols	Written warning	\$1,000

Table 5-2: Commercial, irrigation, single-meter multi-family, and other account types

Stage	Watering days per week	Demand Reduction Goal*	Enforcement	1 st Offence (Commercial)	2 nd Offence (Commercial)
0 (Baseline)	3	0%	Reports	Written warning	\$500
1	3	5%	Patrols	Written warning	\$500
2a	2	15%	Patrols	Written warning	\$1,000
2b	1	30%	Patrols	Written warning	\$1,000
3	0	45%	Patrols	Written warning	\$2,000
4	0	50%	Patrols	Written warning	\$2,000

*Demand reduction goal is based on 50% of water being used for irrigation and reductions in this amount corresponding to the number of days restricted. Realistically reductions may be lower than this goal if customers water more on fewer days and higher if water saving messaging is successful.

Fines may be assessed once per month of violation following the first written warning. Fines are assessed on the monthly bill and if unpaid will result in disconnection pursuant to Cherokee's payment and disconnection policy. Commercial, irrigation, single-meter multi-family and other high usage account types have higher fines due to higher average water use and higher bills. The intensity of water use patrols will scale based on the watering restriction stage with earlier stages focusing on high users and irrigation only accounts and more restrictive stages contemplating randomized after hours patrols of the whole service area.

Sprinklered irrigation is by far the largest use of outdoor water and is the primary focus of the District's outdoor water use regulations. However, other outdoor water use and some indoor is restricted to support water use reduction subject to the detailed rules below.

Stage 0 (Baseline)

Under normal conditions, Cherokee customers must observe the following rules.

1. Sprinklered irrigation is prohibited between 10AM and 6PM.
2. Sprinklered irrigation is limited to three days per week (customer decides which days).
3. Excessive irrigation which causes water to pool or run on streets is prohibited.
4. Hose cleaning hard surfaces is prohibited.
5. Vehicle washing must use a positive shutoff nozzle
6. Customers may report water use in violation of these standards and CMD will investigate.

Stage 1

Under drought conditions when supplies are stable but the Board determines that education on water savings would be beneficial for the public to lower water use and prepare for greater restrictions, if necessary.

1. All stage 0 restrictions remain in effect.
2. CMD staff will occasionally inspect high-use commercial, irrigation, and multi-family customers to ensure compliance with regulations.
3. CMD will increase water saving messaging and outreach.

Stage 2A

Stage 2A is implemented when moderate water use reductions are needed to protect current and future water supplies. This stage implements patrols by CMD staff within the District's main service area.

1. All stage 0 and stage 1 restrictions remain in effect except where they conflict with stage 2A restrictions. In this event, higher stage restrictions govern.
2. Sprinkler systems may only be used two days per week (CMD assigns days based on address)
3. Sprinklers are limited to daily time limits:
 - a. Fixed Spray: 20 minutes
 - b. Rotor: 45 minutes
 - c. Rotary Nozzle: 60 minutes
 - d. Hose-end sprinkler: 3 hours
4. Nonrecirculating water features and ponds must be turned off.
5. Customers must apply for a landscape establishment permit to water on additional days.

Stage 2B

Stage 2B further restricts outdoor water use and patrols become more frequent.

1. All stage 0, 1, and 2A restrictions remain in effect except where they conflict with stage 2B restrictions. In this event, higher stage restrictions govern.
2. Sprinklered irrigation is restricted to one day per week.

Stage 3

Stage 3 is a near complete ban on outdoor irrigation and would only be enacted if water supplies are critically low, threatening CMD's ability to supply water in the next few months. In addition to a greater frequency of patrols, high water use accounts may receive additional scrutiny.

1. All stage 0, 1, and 2 restrictions remain in effect except where they conflict with stage 3 restrictions. In this event, higher stage restrictions govern.
2. All outdoor irrigation is banned except for a. and b. below.
 - a. Existing trees and shrubs may be hand watered once per week.
 - b. Drip systems can be operated one day per week.
3. Landscape establishment permits will no longer be issued.
4. Outdoor water feature filling is prohibited
5. Outdoor vehicle washing is prohibited.
6. Power washing from CMD prohibited
7. Construction water allowable only on an existing construction site.
 - a. All new meter issuance and transportation of water offsite is prohibited.
8. Commercial and industrial customers must demonstrate month to month reductions in water use or submit plans to same.

Stage 4

At stage 4, there is physically insufficient water to serve all users and water use must only be used for critical needs including fire protection. This stage may be declared in certain areas in the event of a major infrastructure failure that cuts off the water supply until the infrastructure is restored.

1. All stage 0, 1, 2, and 3 restrictions remain in effect except where they conflict with stage 4 restrictions. In this event, higher stage restrictions govern.
2. All outdoor irrigation is banned except for a. below
 - a. Existing trees and shrubs may be hand watered once per month.
3. Commercial and industrial customers must demonstrate water use reductions of at least 20% over historic stage 0 usage
 - a. Failure to meet this reduction target may result in the assessment of a stage 4 violation fine of \$2,000 per month.
4. Use of water for construction is banned. All construction meters must be returned to the District.
5. No new connections to the system are allowed.

5.3 Leak Repair Regulations

Cherokee works proactively to identify leaks in the distribution system and completes nearly all leak repairs within 24 hours of discovery. However, Cherokee cannot control leaks outside the distribution system including inside homes and businesses and on private fire loops. For leaks past the meter, the inclining rate structure and leak process described in section 3.2 incentivize customers to repair leaks.

However, if there is a known leak and the customer does not repair it, Cherokee may issue a written notice for a watering restriction violation for the relevant stage. If a repair or repair plan is not submitted within 14 days the District may assess the relevant fine. If after 14 further days the leak is not repaired or a plan is not in place to repair it, Cherokee may disconnect service until the leak is repaired.

5.4 Disputes

Any customer who receives a violation notice or fine in the above sections may appeal the decision to Cherokee's customer service manager or general manager within 30 days. In the event that the dispute is not resolved by those staff members, customers may appeal the decision to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board is final.

Section 6. Conclusion

This water conservation plan documents Cherokee's progress toward being a state and regional leader in water saving as well as plans to continue this success in the future. It also updates Cherokee's existing water regulations in line with local standards and closes a regulatory gap for private water systems and leaks. Cherokee's water conservation plan will be reviewed on a five year cycle or when changes to the water system necessitate updates. This plan will allow CMD to build on the progress made over the past two decades to improve water efficiency and focus new water development efforts on water reuse to minimize the District's impact on statewide water resources.

Appendix A: Summary of Watering Restrictions and Leak Repair Regulations

CHEROKEE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Water Conservation Plan — Appendix A

Water Use Restrictions & Regulations — Customer Fact Sheet

This fact sheet summarizes Cherokee Metropolitan District's water use restrictions and enforcement rules as adopted in Section 5 of the Water Conservation Plan. It is intended as a quick reference for customers and District staff. The full regulatory text in Section 5 governs in all cases.

Year-Round Baseline Rules (Stage 0) — Always in Effect

The following rules apply to all customers throughout the year, regardless of whether a higher stage has been declared:

- **Watering hours:** Sprinkler irrigation is prohibited between 10AM and 6PM from May 1 through October 15.
- **Watering frequency:** Sprinkler irrigation is limited to three days per week. Customers may choose which days.
- **No runoff:** Irrigation that causes water to pool on or flow across streets, sidewalks, or storm drains is prohibited.
- **No hosing hard surfaces:** Cleaning driveways, sidewalks, or patios with a hose is prohibited.
- **Vehicle washing:** A positive shut-off nozzle is required when washing vehicles or equipment with a hose.
- **Leak repair:** Known leaks past the meter must be repaired or a repair plan submitted within 14 days. See Leak Repair Regulations below.
- **Reporting:** Customers may report suspected violations to the District. CMD will investigate all reports.

How Restriction Stages Work

Watering restrictions are organized into six stages. **Stage 0 is always in effect** and applies to all customers year-round. Stages 1 through 4 may be added on top of Stage 0 when conditions require. Each higher stage includes all rules from lower stages unless they conflict, in which case the higher stage governs.

Stages can be declared by two authorities:

- **Board of Directors** — by resolution, in response to drought or low aquifer levels (long-term hydrologic shortage).
- **General Manager** — in response to a specific infrastructure failure (e.g., a main break that limits supply). A staff-declared stage expires after 7 days unless the Board extends it by vote.

Watering Restriction Summary by Stage

Stage	Days/Week	Sprinkler Time Limits	Additional Restrictions
Stage 0 Baseline	3 (customer chooses)	No limit	No watering 10AM–6PM (May 1–Oct 15) No irrigation runoff No hosing hard surfaces Vehicle washing: shutoff nozzle required
Stage 1 Watch	3 (customer chooses)	No limit	All Stage 0 rules in effect CMD increases conservation outreach Spot inspections of high-use accounts Landscape establishment permits available
Stage 2A Warning	2 (Even: Sun/Wed Odd: Tue/Sat Comm: Mon/Thu)	Fixed spray: 20 min/zone Rotor: 45 min/zone Rotary nozzle: 60 min/zone Hose-end: 3 hrs	All Stage 0–1 rules in effect Non-recirculating water features & ponds off Randomized patrols begin
Stage 2B Warning	1 (Even: Sun Odd: Sat Comm: Mon)	Fixed spray: 20 min/zone Rotor: 45 min/zone Rotary nozzle: 60 min/zone Hose-end: 3 hrs	All Stage 0–2A rules in effect More frequent patrols
Stage 3 Severe	0 (sprinklers banned)	N/A — sprinkler use prohibited	Trees & shrubs: hand-watered or drip, 1 day/week No new landscape establishment permits No water features or pond filling Outdoor vehicle washing prohibited Power washing prohibited Construction water: existing sites only; no new meters Commercial/industrial: must show month-to-month reductions A/C thermostat: 78°F or higher
Stage 4 Critical	0 (all outdoor use banned)	N/A — all outdoor use banned	Exception: trees & shrubs hand-watered 1 day/month Commercial/industrial: must reduce use ≥20% vs. Stage 0 baseline All construction water banned; all construction meters returned No new connections to the system Water reserved for indoor use and fire protection only

* **Exception for trees and shrubs:** Hand watering or drip irrigation of existing trees and shrubs is always permitted within the limits noted above, at any stage.

Violation Penalties

Violations must be observed by a designated District employee or agent. The first offense at any stage results in a written warning. Fines for subsequent violations are assessed once per month and added to the customer's water bill. **Unpaid fines may result in service disconnection.**

Stage	Violation Type	1st Offense	2nd & Subsequent
Stage 0 — Baseline	Watering rule violation	Written warning	\$100 residential \$500 commercial
Stage 1 — Watch	Watering rule violation	Written warning	\$300 residential \$500 commercial
Stage 2A — Warning	Watering rule violation	Written warning	\$300 residential \$1,000 commercial
Stage 2B — Warning	Watering rule violation	Written warning	\$500 residential \$1,000 commercial
Stage 3 — Severe	Watering rule violation	Written warning	\$1,000 residential \$2,000 commercial
Stage 4 — Critical	Watering rule violation OR commercial/industrial failure to reduce use $\geq 20\%$	Written warning	\$1,000 residential \$2,000 commercial
Any stage	Known leak not repaired within 14 days	Written notice	Fine per applicable stage; service disconnection after 28 days
Any stage	Private water main leak not repaired / no plan within 72 hrs	\$200/day until repaired	District may hire contractor and bill owner

For repeated or ongoing violations, the District may also **disconnect water service or restrict flow to the premises** until compliance is achieved.

Landscape Establishment Permits

Customers installing new landscaping may apply for a **landscape establishment permit** to water on additional days beyond the stage limit. Permits are available during Stages 1 through 2B only. **No permits are issued during Stage 0 baseline conditions, or during Stage 3 or Stage 4.** Permits must be displayed visibly at the premises while in effect.

Leak Repair Regulations

Customer-side leaks (past the meter):

- CMD proactively notifies customers of unusually high use that may indicate a leak, and offers free leak checks upon request.
- If a known leak is not repaired or a repair plan submitted within 14 days of written notice, the District may assess the applicable stage fine.
- If the leak remains unresolved after a further 14 days, the District may disconnect service until the leak is repaired.

Private water main leaks:

- CMD will notify the private main owner immediately by phone, email, or letter upon discovery of a leak.
- If no repair plan is provided within 72 hours, the District may assess \$200 per day until the leak is repaired.
- The District may also hire a contractor to repair the leak and bill the cost to the owner's monthly account.
- If the leak poses an immediate threat to the distribution system or nearby structures, CMD may repair it immediately at the owner's expense.

Dispute Resolution

Any customer disputing a violation notice or charge may appeal to the **Customer Service Manager or General Manager within 30 days** of the notice or bill date, whichever is later. If the dispute is not resolved at the staff level, the customer may appeal to the **Board of Directors**.

Questions? Contact Cherokee Metropolitan District at (719) 597-5080 or visit 6250 Palmer Park Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80915. *This fact sheet summarizes Section 5 of the Cherokee Metropolitan District Water Conservation Plan. The full plan text governs in the event of any discrepancy.*