

East Dillon Water District

Summit Cove Median Information

September 2004

The following is an update of the Summit Cove Median project. The information in the July billing from the East Dillon Water District raised many questions regarding the project. Hopefully, the information below will address most questions residents have. If you have additional questions please contact the District at (970) 668-5655 Ext 12 or admin@eastdillon.com.

The East Dillon Water District has been a strong proponent of water conservation that incorporates sensible landscaping for the last twenty years. Over this time the District has adopted a water rate schedule that increases the water cost for excess usage, promoted xeriscape landscape methods in its newsletters, constructed demonstration xeriscape landscaping at the Grey Fox Pump Station and conducted landscaping seminars for residents. In the early 90's the District started the process to install demonstration xeriscape landscaping in the entrance medians to Summit Cove. Over 900 residences are accessed by driving by all or some of the medians. The daily visibility of the medians by most residents would be a strong component in our continuing attempt to communicate with water users regarding proper landscaping and irrigation methods. Pending the finalization of the design, permits and contractor availability, the first entrance median is scheduled to be done this year to demonstrate what the completed project will look like.

Installing landscaping in the drought? Some residents have raised the question why the District would install landscaping during a drought at the same time it has asked residents to conserve water. The simple answer is the median design will use a very small amount of water and it is hoped the education provided will result in the savings of a large amount of wasted landscape water at individual residences in future years. We expect the medians will use approximately 5,000 gallons of water during the summer season (2 quarters). Contrast this with individual homes and associations who are using anywhere from 40,000 to 800,000 gallons of water during the summer season to keep blue grass lawns green. The median project is part of the long term commitment by the East Dillon Water District to educate all residents that large amounts of water cannot be used to irrigate landscape. This is particularly important during the current drought and we anticipate it will become even more important in the future.

The contribution is VOLUNTARY. Funding of the medians is intended to be solely through voluntary contributions from individual owners or through homeowner associations representing a group of owners. No owner or association will be required to provide any funding for the project. **FUNDING IS SOLELY AT THE DISCRETION OF AN INDIVIDUAL OWNER OR A HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION – IT IS NOT MANDATORY!** The amount contributed is also at the discretion of the party making the contribution. The East Dillon Water District is assisting with the initial funding to get the project off the ground, but intends for this money to be replaced as voluntary funding is received over the years. Summit County Government has been requested to contribute a nominal amount on an annual basis from their general fund.

Why does the project seem so expensive? If the only requirement to install demonstration xeriscape in the medians was the landscape design and installation of the water lines the District would have done this years ago. However, the problem is the current medians would not support any landscaping. To support landscaping and minimize maintenance the medians required rebuilding. The height needed to be increased to protect any landscaping in the winter and the location of some of the medians needed to be changed for traffic control and access. The cost is in the removal and construction of the new medians. It is not the intention of the Water District to pay for this cost. Summit County Government has not had any interest or monies to rebuild the medians during the ten years the design has existed. As there was an interest that has been confirmed by our survey of the majority of the Summit Cove residents to improve the medians, the District became involved as the contact point in the effort to raise the needed rebuilding funds on a volunteer basis.

Why was the project started before residents had a chance to indicate their opinion on it?

The initial landscaping design was initiated by the District in 1993 and an access for water was completed during construction of a water line extension to serve the Snake River Sanitation Plant in 1998. The work this summer was to complete installation of irrigation lines to the individual medians prior to the planned work on Cove Blvd by Summit County. Summit County deferred that work for one year, but the District had already started the irrigation line installation when the road work scheduled for this year was cancelled.

Median design The medians will be rebuilt to raise them to protect the landscaping from winter plowing. A natural color stamped concrete will be used. The combination of the landscaping, decorative concrete, and widening of the medians will improve the overall appearance. The majority of the median surface will be covered with rock. The current blocking of the access to Elizabeth Circle will be eliminated. The turn around for the Summit Stage will be improved. The median design also factors in traffic sight lines. Landscaping in many areas of the medians is limited or not used due to sight line issues. The ends of the medians are being designed to minimize snow plow damage and to facilitate winter plowing.

Cove Blvd. The paving and modification of Cove Blvd by Summit County is currently scheduled for next summer. The District has been working with Summit County to insure the median design is acceptable to their engineers, maintenance personnel and snow plow operators. The County intends to narrow the roadway to better define traffic flow and to minimize future maintenance cost. The District is working with the County on the median design to incorporate turn lanes, improve the Summit Stage turn around and use available asphalt and width to improve pedestrian and bike access to the Stage. The intent is to best utilize the monies allocated to the roadway as efficiently as possible by incorporating the median project within the overall design.

Maintenance. The median design will require limited maintenance. The East Dillon Water District will control and maintain the irrigation system to insure proper water application, and also coordinate overall maintenance of the medians. The median design using xeriscape plantings and rock mulch will reduce maintenance time and cost. It is planned to have each median adopted by a homeowners association or a group of residents for maintenance. Two medians have already been adopted for maintenance.

Can recycled water be used? The landscaping design and water connection was developed to utilize recycled water in cooperation with the Snake River Sewer District. The East Dillon Water District believes this could be a starting point to the future use of recycled water on a larger scale. However, there are many obstacles to overcome regarding water laws and water rights before recycled water can be used. Additionally, while recycled water reduces the demands on the domestic water pumping, application for landscape purposes still uses up water. Conservation of water, either domestic or recycled remains the primary mission of the Water District.

Remember voluntary water restrictions remain in effect through September. Conserving water by limiting landscape usage and only applying water when appropriate is important in maintaining the limited water sources of the District. Restricting landscape usage is "mandatory"; the "voluntary" allows each resident to adopt their own schedule.

VOLUNTARY WATER RESTRICTION
Effective May 1st through September 30th.

- Outside usage is not allowed on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Outside usage is not allowed between the hours of 10 AM and 6 PM.
- Hand watering, using either a watering can or a hose with a shut off nozzle is **ALLOWED** at anytime (no restrictions as to days or time).
- Outside usage using drip irrigations systems is not restricted.

The District may impose mandatory water restrictions at anytime should they be necessary