



COLORADO • SINCE 1878

## **MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RECLAIMED WATER**

1. When did the City start using reclaim water?

The City of Louisville has been using reclaim water at the Louisville Sports Complex since 2001. The Coal Creek golf course starting irrigating with reclaim water in 2004, and the Community Park started in 2005.

2. What is reclaimed water?

Reclaimed water is water that has been recovered through the treatment of wastewater which has been further treated and distributed to provide a non-potable supply for irrigation at the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility. Reclaim water normally contains nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium), suspended solids, and small quantities of bacteria, salt and metals. Before it can be reused, however, this wastewater must undergo significant levels of treatment including filtration and disinfection to eliminate odors, destroy pathogenic bacteria, (disease causing organisms), in order to protect public health and the environment.

3. Is reclaimed water safe?

Yes. When properly treated and disinfected, reclaimed water poses virtually no risk of harm to humans or animals. Numerous studies have been conducted on the use of reclaimed water. These studies concluded that reclaimed water poses no increased health concerns compared to conventional agricultural practices. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has very high treatment standards for reclaimed water (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/PermitsUnit/reusepage.html>). The City of Louisville's reclaimed water exceeds all state standards for water to be used for irrigation.

4. Are reclaim water supplies separate from drinking water?

Yes. Standard practices require separate pipes for drinking water and reclaimed water. Guidelines set by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment ensure that reclaimed water facilities are clearly distinguishable from drinking water facilities to avoid mixing of supplies. Pipes are colored purple or labeled non-potable water to avoid cross contamination.

5. Why is reclaimed water used?

The City of Louisville understands the importance of conserving limited natural resources and believes that reclaimed water use is beneficial and cost effective. It also saves water, since every gallon of reclaimed water used on grass means a gallon is saved for drinking

water supplies.

6. Which laws regulate the treatment and use of reclaim water?

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has mandated rules and regulations that address health and environmental concerns associated with the use of reclaimed water.

7. Where can I find additional information on reclaimed water?

The following web sites contain information on reclaim water use in the State of Colorado and elsewhere in the U.S.

- [www.epa.gov/](http://www.epa.gov/)
- <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/PermitsUnit/reusepage.html>

Should you have any questions or concerns about reclaim water, please contact Terrell Phillips Wastewater Plant Superintendent, at 303.335.4783.