



Water source both east and west

“From snowy caps to Loveland taps.” Yes, it’s a bit corny, but the slogan is as accurate today as it was decades ago when it was coined by the City’s Water Division. Loveland’s primary water source is snow pack from the Big Thompson and Colorado River basins on both sides of the Continental Divide west of the city.

The Water Division’s responsibility is to keep quality water flowing to the Loveland community. Constant attention is required to environmental, engineering and financial considerations.

The water folks are taking care of business, for today’s water meets the City’s requirements for both quantity and quality, and at very low cost to customers.

The physical source of Loveland’s water is both obvious and remarkable. Much of
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[More water info inside](#)

Tour showcases gardens, helps youth

The fifth annual Loveland Garden Tour will be held Sat., June 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The self-guided tour will showcase gardens in five east-Loveland homes, McKee Medical Center’s Healing Garden and the Loveland Youth Garden. Selected gardens were chosen for their visual beauty, diversity of design, use of hardscape (no water required) and attention to water-management strategies.

Now in its fifth year, the tour has grown and continues to provide attendees with practical gardening ideas as well as an opportunity to support an organization that positively impacts area youth.

The tour was borne out of the Loveland Youth Gardeners Program—a hands-on, structured curriculum that gives teenagers

the opportunity to learn, build self-esteem and experience nature. The program was started in 1996 by Joanna Rago, a former clinical social worker who felt that at-risk and special-needs youth could benefit from the sense of accomplishment and satisfaction gardening provides.

“We are very excited about the upcoming tour,” said Rago. “The student gardeners have worked very hard at the Youth Garden, the featured home gardens are quite diverse and the art adds an interesting element.”

In addition to live plants, this year’s tour will include “art for the garden” – works by local artists that beautify landscapes but don’t require water. There will also be

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Library Summer Schedule

The Loveland Public Library will remain closed on Sundays until Sept. 7 when the library resumes its regular school-year schedule.

“Money Talks”

Is your child financially fit?

The Loveland Public Library’s next installment in its ongoing series, *Money Talks*, presents Financially Fit Kids, July 8 at noon in the Gertrude B. Scott room in the library.

Susan Linden, MBA, will discuss a variety of financial skills that children can and should learn at each stage of development from preschool onwards. She has free resources and games to share that make learning about finances fun. Beverages are provided and participants are welcome to lunch as they learn. For more information call 962-2402.

Treatment plant ensures water quality

Since its origin in the 1920s, the City's Water Treatment Plant along the Big Thompson River and northwest of Devil's Backbone has been supplying quality drinking water to Loveland. Today the plant can provide up to 30 million gallons a day of low cost, high quality water to the community.

Quality, efficiency and safety are the objectives the plant fulfills on a daily basis.

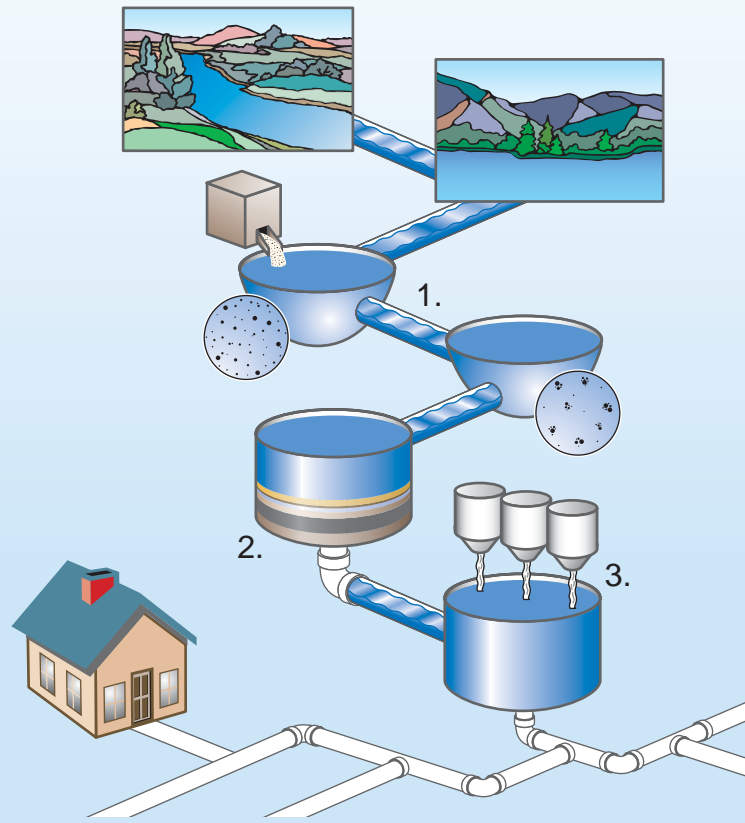
Loveland's water quality meets or exceeds numerous tests and requirements as it flows down into town through hundreds of miles of pipelines to homeowners' faucets. Ensuring the safety of operational personnel and maintaining among the very lowest usage fees in Colorado are also accomplished.

During the past two years, about \$8 million was spent to increase the plant's capacity by about 25 percent. Planning continues for further capacity increases, up to about 38 million gallons a day in 2025, after which a second treatment plant could be constructed. The increases have been and would continue to be funded primarily through fees paid as new development occurs.

The actual treatment of the raw water is a three-stage process that takes a few hours at the plant. A two-stage sedimentation process (1) settles out the larger particles, followed by a filtration state (2) that removes the smaller,

microscopic-size impurities. Lastly, a disinfection (3) process using chlorine kills off all pathogens, resulting in clean, good-tasting water for our homes and businesses.

The City's water staff happily point out that the fact that Loveland's supply begins with clean, Rocky Mountain water helps make the quality and taste the envy of consumers from other cities and states. And the 500 ft. elevation difference from the plant to town means that gravity, not pumps, provides the delivery.



Water source both east and west (continued from page 1)

the city's supply comes from the snow pack on the eastern side of the mountains west of the city. It flows into the Big Thompson River where it then meets the Water Treatment Plant and then enters pipelines for use in Loveland.

However, except for the big clue provided by the large brown pipe above Hwy. 34 at the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon, many area folks don't realize that about half of Loveland's water comes from the Western Slope. It flows through pipes and tunnels from

beyond Rocky Mountain National Park into the Big Thompson River here on the eastern side of the Continental Divide.

The Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) Project began operation in 1957, capturing water from mountain runoff in Lake Granby. The water flows through the mountains in a large tunnel to the eastern side, supplying Loveland and many other municipalities--north and south from Wellington to Broomfield and benefitting communities as far east as

What kids learn is shocking

For more than twenty years the power personnel from Loveland Water and Power have been teaching area fourth graders the shocking truth about electricity; that it's powerful, and if you're not careful, it can hurt you.

Dan McQueen, Power Operations Supervisor and thirty-year veteran with Water and Power, stressed that the message is not about frightening kids, but equipping them with the knowledge they need to keep themselves safe with electricity.

When McQueen joined the department thirty years ago, linemen were being dispatched seven or eight times a week to retrieve tangled kites from power lines during kite-flying season. Not only was this time-intensive for line crews but it demonstrated to McQueen that kids didn't understand how potentially dangerous tangling with power lines can be.

McQueen, who had two young daughters of his own at the time, decided to go to their school and teach kids about



electrical safety. That marked the beginning of the City's Power Safety Demonstration Program.

In the early days of the program, linemen would take their trucks and present their information outside, but McQueen wasn't satisfied that the message was getting through. That's when he decided to do his own version of show and tell for students. He built a portable model of an electrical transformer that could be plugged into an

outlet in the classroom. He and a fellow lineman would carefully operate the model that simulated what happened when kite lines hit power lines – POP!

"These demonstrations gave the kids the visual they needed to understand how powerful electricity is," said McQueen. "They saw us big guys up there with gloves and safety gear on and they'd see the flash and hear the buzz. You could tell they had a new appreciation for what came out of the plugs in the wall."

Power personnel go out 15-20 times per year to talk to area fourth grade classes about electrical safety and, according to McQueen, the kids are getting it. "These days our guys are going out to pull kites out of power lines about half as often.

"The kids seem to know now that they need to avoid the power lines. They also know what to do if their kite does get tangled up – drop the spool and call us," McQueen added.

For more information on the City's Power Safety Demonstration program call Loveland Water and Power at 962-3000.

Wise water users deserve praise

Loveland's water staff suggests that residents take their right hand, reach over their left shoulder and give themselves a well deserved pat on the back. That's because for the past several years, local citizens and businesses have done a fine job of conserving the city's water.

And as a result, there have been no significant water-use restrictions in Loveland since 1981. (Restrictions existed briefly in 2003, then quickly rescinded.) Levels of water supply resulting from winter mountain snow and seasonal local precipitation have varied, yet thanks to wiser use by Loveland locals, restrictions and "water cops" have been unnecessary and will not be needed again this summer.

Expansion of the Green Ridge Glade Reservoir, the Water Treatment Plant and construction of three large water tanks around town have also smoothed

supply, but smart use by Loveland's water customers deserves the most credit.

Summertime irrigation of lawns and gardens causes the greatest increase in demand. During an average day in the winter, Loveland consumes about 6 million gallons a day. That can increase to 25 million gallons a day during July and August. Attention to proper watering frequency, techniques and other conservation efforts has been beneficial.

One of the easiest ways to determine lawn watering needs is the "footprint test," City water staffers explained. Simply walk across a dry lawn. If the grass springs back and leaves no footprint, water is not needed. If the footprint remains, some moisture is needed.

For more conservation tips, contact the Water Division at 962-3717 or visit the Water and Power section of www.cityofloveland.org.

Top 10 Water Saving Tips

1. Water lawn only when needed (Saves 750-1,500 gals/month)
2. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints (Saves 600 gals/month/leak)
3. Don't let the hose run when washing the car (Saves 150 gals/wash)
4. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors (Saves 500-800 gals/month)
5. Run only full loads in clothes washer, dishwasher (Saves 300-800 gals/month)
6. Shorten showers by a minute or two (Saves 500-700gals/month)
7. Don't clean walks and driveways with hose (Saves 150 gals/use)
8. Don't use toilet as ashtray or wastebasket (Saves 400-600 gals/month)
9. Capture and reuse tap water while waiting for hot water (Saves 200-300 gals/month)
10. Sprinkle the lawn, not the driveway (Saves 500 gals/month)

Sterling and Julesburg.

Loveland's share of the C-BT Project is only three percent. It should be remembered that the physical existence of water and the rights of ownership are not at all the same. For example, Loveland doesn't own and can't use all the water in the Big Thompson River. And the water in Lake Loveland belongs to Greeley. Acquiring water rights for the growing community of Loveland is a continuing process that City water staffer's take pride in.

Faucet or bottle; you make the call

More or less, it makes sense and cents to drink Loveland tap water rather than bottled water:

- More—The quality of the water from the Loveland faucet is much more regulated than bottled water, ensuring very high quality when the spigot is opened. Loveland's water must pass numerous tests of the EPA and state health department, and its source is Rocky Mountain snowpack. Bottled water is regulated only by the FDA—if at all—and its source is rarely disclosed.

- Less—Loveland's water requires no packaging, meaning there's less (none, actually) trash to discard, collect, recycle or fill up the landfill.
- Less—Energy is not used to create the packaging or transport the finished product. There are no bottles and gravity is the transporter.
- Less—The cost is less, far less. A quart of bottled water can cost a buck, while 150 gallons of Loveland's finest costs about a nickel.

Event planning just got simpler

Loveland is home to a large number of fun, outdoor events. For those who attend, preparation usually consists of slapping on some sunscreen and throwing a few greenbacks into pockets. For those on the planning end, there is quite a bit more to think about.

In order to hold an outdoor event within city limits an event permit is required.

Events that normally require permits include parades, athletic events such as foot or bicycle races, street fairs, craft shows, carnivals or any other activity that takes place on public property and/or interferes with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

"It's never been easier for anyone planning an event to fill out and submit their application," said Karla Sprague, administrative specialist with the Police Department.

Thanks to the generous offer from Larimer County to customize their online event permit system for the City of Loveland, the application process has been updated and is very convenient to use for everyone involved.



This new online function is the result of a unique partnership between government agencies that benefits Loveland residents because Loveland tax dollars were not spent to develop or buy a program to manage event permits.

Applications can be submitted up to one year in advance but not less than 20 business days before an event. Applicants must allow additional processing time if permits from other city departments and outside agencies are required.

For more information visit www.cityofloveland.org, go to the Online Services button and click on *Submit Special Event Permit*, or call 962-2239.

Food, fun and fireworks on July 4th

The Independence Day celebration at North Lake Park will provide fun and entertainment for the whole family and again promises to be the biggest and best fireworks display in northern Colorado.

There are many great viewing areas in the park and around Lake Loveland, however, certain areas will be off-limits for the safety of spectators. Attendees are encouraged to walk or bike to the park to cut down on traffic congestion. The fireworks show will begin at 9:17 p.m.

The Swim Beach will be closed July 3-4. Parking will be available on 29th St. from Duffield to the golf course with handicap parking from Taft to Beach. Additional parking for a fee will be available in the Loveland High School (LHS) lot plus some additional free handicap parking at LHS.

Personal fireworks, alcoholic beverages, pets (except for service dogs) and overnight camping in North Lake Park are prohibited.

For more information call 962-2825.

Save gas, burn calories and 2-wheel it!

Bike to Work Day is June 25

On Wed., June 25, cyclists of all shapes and sizes will leave their cars at home and ride their bikes to work as part of the Bike to Work Day event sponsored by the City of Loveland. Why bike? To save money on gas, burn calories, reduce stress, preserve air quality and reduce traffic congestion.

Cyclists can stop at a breakfast station 6:30-8:30 a.m. for food, a free water bottle or other prize, and tech support for their bicycles.

Breakfast Station Locations:

- McKee Medical Center, 2000 N. Boise
- Thompson Pocket Park, 4th & Lincoln
- Jeff Peterson Xeriscape Garden, 1st & Washington
- North Lake Park, 29th and Taft
- Schmidt's Bakery & Delicatessen, 808 SW 14th St.
- High Plains Environmental Center, 1854 Piney River Drive (near McWhinney Blvd and Eisenhower Blvd)

Bike to Work Day is part of Colorado's Bike Month-part of a nationwide effort to encourage everyone to experience the fun and freedom of safely riding a bike to work, school, to do errands and for recreation.

Additional Bike to Work Day sponsors include McKee Medical Center, Peloton Cycles, Antonio's Burritos, Schmidt's Bakery & Delicatessen, P.E.D.A.L., EmbroidMe, High Plains Environmental Center and 3 X Fast.

For more information on Bike to Work Day or Loveland Bike Month call 962-2647 or email schuld@ci.loveland.co.us.



Graphic by Julia McClurg, 2007

Bike ride? Don't forget your helmet

Every year, 1.2 million children go to the hospital for biking-related injuries and 800 people die every year as a result of biking accidents. Wearing a properly fitting bike helmet can prevent serious injuries and reduce the risk of brain injury by 88 percent.

To help promote safe biking in our community, Loveland Fire and Rescue in partnership with Safe Kids Larimer County, is now providing helmet fit testing.

"Bike helmets are a very important piece of safety equipment. We strongly encourage children and adults to wear properly fitting helmets when engaging in outdoor activities such as biking, skateboarding, sledding or roller skating and blading," said Deputy Fire Marshal Scott Pringle.

To schedule a helmet fitting appointment, call the Loveland Fire Prevention Bureau, 962-2537. A number of free helmets are available through the fire department to community members who are unable to purchase their own. A small donation is suggested but not required. For more information about bike helmet safety visit www.usa.safekids.org.

Time to fight the bite! Prevent West Nile Virus

Unfortunately West Nile Virus (WNV) is here to stay and everyone is at risk. Protect yourself and your family from the threat of WNV by following these simple guidelines:

- Limit outdoor activity at dawn and dusk-this is when mosquitoes are most active. If you must be out at that time wear long sleeves and pants and use a mosquito repellent.
- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, or DEET-free picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus on all exposed skin before going outdoors.

- Drain standing water around your home weekly to reduce mosquito habitats-this includes flowerpots, buckets, wading pools, rain gutters, tires, toys, puddles and birdbaths.
- Keep shrubs, bushes and trees pruned-the added light and airflow deter mosquitoes from hiding there during the day.
- Replace outdoor lights with yellow lights. Yellow bulbs attract fewer insects than standard white light bulbs.
- Reduce all dense under-growth around your home and keep the lawn mowed short.



- Report any standing water in your area-this includes standing water in parks, golf courses, agricultural fields and/or suburban detention basins or non-flowing ditches. Call the City of Loveland Mosquito Control Program, 962-2583 to report standing water or for other mosquito-related concerns. For additional information on reducing your risk and effective repellents see: www.comosquitocontrol.com and www.fightthebitecolorado.com.

To fight the bite remember the 4 D's:

- D**rain all standing water around your house weekly
- D**usk & Dawn are when mosquitoes are most active, so limit outdoor activities at those times
- D**EET is an effective ingredient in insect repellants or use DEET-free picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- D**ress in long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk or in areas where there is a lot of mosquito activity

Tour showcases gardens, helps youth (continued from page 1)

a silent auction of decorated wheelbarrows. The wheelbarrows will be on display at Chase Bank in Loveland from June 2-27. At the Youth Garden, located at the corner of S. Douglas and Daphne Drive, there will be a children's activity and door-prize drawings.

Ticket booklets are \$12 (no charge for children 6 and under) and include information on water-wise gardening, the featured gardens, participating artists and a map of the tour. Tickets can be

purchased in Loveland at; Earle's Loveland Floral & Gifts, Gateway Garden & Home Center, Loveland Garden Center and Rowe's Flowers & Gifts and in Fort Collins at; Bath Garden Center & Nursery, Fossil Creek Nursery and Gulley Greenhouse & Garden Center.

For more information on the Loveland Garden Tour or Loveland Youth Gardeners go to www.lovelandyouthgardeners.org or call 669-7182.

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive City Update on various dates throughout the month depending on their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' bill distribution schedule. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, hillea@ci.loveland.co.us. Visit the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org.