Chart of recent water consumption in Cherry Creek 3

Fiscal year	Water consumption (in million gallons)	Increase/Decrease from prior year	Factors contributing to change for the year
2008-09	36.7		
2009-10	31.96	- 4.74	High-efficiency toilet program launched
2010-11	29.12	- 2.84	Toilet program ends, landscape changes start
2011-12	24.85	- 4.27	Water-saving sprinkler heads installed
2012-13	21.86	- 2.99	Continued landscape changes
2013-14	22.10	+ 0.24	Water line breaks increase consumption
2014-15	20.84	- 1.26	Landscape changes, improved
2015-16	21.66	+ 0.82	Minor water line leaks, population increases
2016-17	24.43	+ 2.77	Major water pipe leaks, population increases

NOTE: Water consumption decreased a total of 15.86 million gallons between 2008-09 and 2014-15. Consumption has risen by 3.59 million gallons (a 16.9 percent increase) the last two years. Some of the increase is attributable to breaks in the HOA's water-distribution system. The remainder is because larger families are moving here, increasing water needs for personal household consumption.

Here's what Cherry Creek 3 is doing to save water (and money)

Saving water means saving money for everyone in Cherry Creek 3. The effort to conserve is ongoing and a topic at nearly every Board meeting in recent years. The Board knows conservation is a community effort, one that cannot be accomplished by one person alone.

The purpose of this annual conservation newsletter is to explain how expensive water and sewage costs are to all owners in the Association. The Board stresses the importance of conservation inside your home: fixing leaks quickly, reporting water-related "roaring" noises you might hear while in your basement and making simple changes to the way you use water (see tips on Page 4). A faucet that leaks 1 gallon of water per minute may lose 10,800 gallons of water in a month.

Here are some of the things that Cherry Creek 3's volunteer Board members have done and are continuing to do to help manage water consumption:

- Offering cash rebates for owners who install WaterWise appliances in their home. Although the rebates are funded in the budget, the long-term effect is saving water and sewage costs for years to come. (For example, an old washing machine may use 40-45 gallons per load while a new, efficient laundry machine may only use 14-25 gallons per load. The switch to a new washer could save 11,000 gallons of water per year.
- Switching traditional pop-up sprinkler heads in lawn areas to newer, more-efficient rotary heads that can reduce water used for outdoor irrigation by as much as 40 percent per head. In recent years, more than 1,600 old heads have been replaced. New irrigation controller clocks help regulate water use outdoors.
- In areas where native and xeric plants have grown and thrive, sprinkler heads have been "dialed back" to use less water – or have been turned off completely because the plants can live off what nature provides.
- Replacing unused or little-used bluegrass areas with more xeric and native plants. Bluegrass requires lots of water to maintain. It is costly to mow, aerate and fertilize bluegrass because it is not native to Colorado. If you drive near new shopping centers and neighborhoods in the Front Range, you'll notice many developments have increased native and xeric plants and no longer use large amounts of bluegrass.
- Installing more trees. The Association planted more than 20 trees the past two years and plans to install several more this spring. Trees improve aesthetics, bolster curb appeal, cut down on noise pollution and provide many environmental benefits. Once a tree is established and grows, it becomes relatively self-sufficient and doesn't require as much money to maintain as large bluegrass yard sections.

Learn more online: The Cherry Creek 3 website, www.cherrycreek3.com, has more information about its water conservation efforts and landscape changes. These changes earned the HOA several statewide awards plus local and national media recognition in magazines, newsletters and two environmental documentaries.