Project Overview

Intern: Josh Melliger
Major: Civil Engineering
School: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Project Description

The Mayor's Water Conservation Task Force (WCTF), formed in the late summer of 1988, was created to develop positive approaches to water conservation. The goals of the task force are to
- Maintain a public awareness program to keep peak day water use within the water system's ability to deliver.
- Encourage participation and support for water conservation practices from business, industry and the community.
- To identify and promote the adoption of water conserving plant materials and landscape practices.

This year the WCTF and the Lincoln Water System hired a P3 intern to help execute these goals. The primary project was to contact area businesses to perform an irrigation water assessment for them, identifying areas for water conservation especially with the landscape irrigation. Four businesses, including 2 banks and a large care dealership ere assessed. The intern also responded to complaints by the public of improper water use. Each water assessment consisted of three main steps.

1. Obtain water usage and surface area information regarding the facility. The amount of water applied by the sprinklers could then be determined.

2. Examine the existing system. Sprinkler types were recorded as well as problems with valves, heads, pipes, and other constituents of the system.

3. Provide recommendations.

Results

Each assessment explained to the client how to conserve water and still maintain a healthy landscape. All businesses assessed had potential to save water and as a result, money, as summarized in Table 1 below. Other common potential benefits included healthier and better looking grass, fewer complaints from customers and the general public resulting in a better company image, more company involvement, and potential awards from the community.

Table 1. Summary of Benefits

Number of Businesses Assisted	Water Saved (gallons)	Cost of Excess Water ($)
4	4,021,652	$7,419