

Property at a glance

Location: Rock Creek Ranch, Greenwood Village, CO
Staff: CoCal Landscape
Category: Public works
Total budget: \$210,000
Year site built: 1992-present
Acres of turf: 144 irrigated, 163 native
Acres of woody ornamentals: Unknown
Acres of display beds: 2
Total paved area: Unknown
Total man-hours/week: 400

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Extensive perennial and wildflower plantings
- ▶ Large scale, communications
- ▶ Ongoing development and construction

Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ Installed pond aeration systems
- ▶ Extensive underground drainage
- ▶ Berm construction to block headlights from residents

On the job

- ▶ 2 full-time staff, 10 seasonal employees, 1 licensed pesticide operator

Rock Creek Ranch

The 1999 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for Public Works

Rock Creek Ranch is a 1,200-home community located just outside of Boulder, CO, that has a little bit of everything — parkways, medians, a wastewater treatment plant, parks, ball fields, playgrounds, sculpture, jogging paths, soft trails, native plantings, wetlands and 20 ponds that are pretty to look at but are also used for irrigation. CoCal Landscape, Denver, CO, keeps it beautiful.

Both the size and diversity of this landscape present numerous maintenance challenges but irrigation is the

Editors' note: *Landscape Management* is the exclusive sponsor of the Green Star Professional Grounds Management Awards for outstanding management of residential, commercial and institutional landscapes. The 2000 winners will be named at the annual meeting of the Professional Grounds Management Society in November. For more information on the 2000 Awards, contact PGMS at 120 Cockeysville Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD; 410/584-9754. Web-site: www.pgms.org



largest. The Front Range of Colorado is arid and the community's plant material, ranging from junipers to Kentucky bluegrass turf, requires strict water management. The irrigation system contains 47 controllers, 2,400 valves and 40,000 sprinkler heads. All of it is managed as part of the community's complex gray-water irrigation system. CoCal Landscape did a good job with that, as it reduced the community's water consumption more than 40%.

The place isn't called Rock Creek Ranch for nothing. Meticulous trimming around numerous landscape boulders on the property add up to substantial labor time. In all, maintenance personnel edge more than 41 miles of property each month. And, since there are picnic areas, the CoCal crew is always picking up trash and dog feces and cleaning barbecue grills.

Annual color management requires frequent fertilizing, watering, insect and disease control, and deadheading to produce consistent results.

Landscape **PGMS**
MANAGEMENT



Twenty ponds require baseline surveys, nutrient analysis, pump maintenance, filter changes and a variety of environmentally friendly treatments for algae control.

