

Denver Botanic Gardens — Denver, Colorado



PROJECT LEADER:

Devin Riles, Irrigation Water Manager

RAIN BIRD PRODUCTS:

- MI Series Mobile Controller
- VFD Pump Stations
- SiteControl Central Control
- TW2 Decoders

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:

August 2011

“With the MI Series Mobile Controller, I can immediately access my irrigation zones, water features, landscape lighting and audio via my cell phone from anywhere in the U.S.”

—Devin Riles, Irrigation Water Manager,
Denver Botanic Gardens

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Located in the middle of the Mile High City, Denver Botanic Gardens emphasizes native plants, water conservation and biological pest control. Spanning 24 acres of landscape, the Gardens feature thousands of plant species and represent the various microclimates present within the state of Colorado.

THE CHALLENGES:

As a popular public attraction, the Gardens feature much more than plants and turf. In addition to 378 irrigation zones, Devin Riles, irrigation water manager for the Gardens, uses Rain Bird’s SiteControl Central Control System to manage landscape lighting, audio programming, holiday lighting, misting systems and emergency mainline master valves for a grand total of 420 stations. When making any necessary adjustments, Riles and an irrigation technician had two options—memorizing each and every one of those stations or carrying around a map of the gardens with each station assigned a unique code.

THE SOLUTION:

Rain Bird’s Mark Austin and Mike Dahlin worked with Riles to find a suitable solution. Their answer was the MI Series Mobile Controller. Typically used by golf course superintendents, the MI Series Mobile Controller software can also be used to manage landscape irrigation systems, lighting, audio and much more.

The software runs on a central control computer to provide remote system control via a web-enabled mobile device. Up to nine remote users can simultaneously control sprinklers and programs, review system activity or directly change settings on both sprinklers and irrigation programs. All activity is logged for convenient review.

Riles and his irrigation technician began using the MI Series Mobile Controller on their cell phones or on an iPad mounted to their irrigation cart. This allowed them to pull up any of their 420 stations on their screens and activate them without having to memorize a long string of commands.

“With the MI Series Mobile Controller, I can immediately access my irrigation zones, water features, landscape lighting and audio via my cell phone from anywhere in the U.S.,” Riles said.

THE SAVINGS:

When it comes to how much water, time and money the Gardens has saved by using the MI Series Mobile Controller, Riles is still crunching the numbers. However, there’s no doubt that the mobile controller has been a lifesaver in at least one instance.

“I was at an Independence Day fireworks show when I got a call that one of our valves was leaking quite a bit of water,” Riles recalled. “There was no way I could jump in my car and head to the Gardens, due to the huge crowd and traffic congestion. I just pulled out my smart phone and used the MI Series to shut down the master valve and stop the flow of water until I was able to fix the problem the next day.”