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Technology to Save Irrigation Costs

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Modern technology may help Reno save as much as \$50,000 a year in irrigation costs for city parks. Tuesday, the Reno City Council approved a request from the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department to purchase special radio controlled irrigation controllers.

The Parks Department has been using the remote controlled system for the past five years at the Idlewild, Mira Loma, Miguel Ribera and Crystal Lake parks. A cost analysis of the system indicates irrigation costs per acre of turf at those sites are 5-12 percent below costs per turf acre for sites not on the central system. Using an average savings of 8.5 percent, it is estimated the irrigation bill on other sites that would use the system would be reduced as much as \$50,000 annually.

The cost of the Motorola Irrinet Irrigation Controllers will be about \$255,067 and will allow the Parks Department to put stronger controls in place and provide for better monitoring of the park irrigation system. Personnel will be able to set irrigation scheduled from a central computer, monitor valve status, adjust schedules for temperature and wind, and allow for remote site shutdown in the event of a problem.



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