

## Missouri Park Ditch History & Development

The idea of constructing a ditch to provide irrigation for this part of Chaffee County was originally conceived by Henry Newby. Originally proposed to be called the Newby Ditch, it is now known as the Missouri Park Ditch. The following is an approximate chronology of event in the development of the Missouri Park Ditch

- On or about November 15, 1880, construction of the ditch began.
- Around November 15, 1880, Henry Newby applied for water rights to use 10 cfs from the South Arkansas River. This water right was adjudicated by the Colorado Court and in a decree dated June 19, 1890, given Priority Number 80 with a Priority Date of November 15, 1880.
- On approximately May 10, 1881, Construction was completed from the headgate on the South Arkansas River to a point between what is present day known as CR 140 and CR 250.
- On approximately March 9, 1882, Henry Newby and six other people formed the Missouri Park Ditch Company (MPDC) and filed as a corporation. That filing is in perpetuity with the Colorado Secretary of State.
- Around April 15, 1882, MPDC filed for an additional 30 cfs decree. This water right was adjudicated by the Colorado District Court and in a decree dated June 19, 1890, given a Priority Number 106 with a Priority Date of April 15, 1882.
- In approximately May 1882 construction of the Missouri Park Ditch Extension was initiated by approximately thirteen shareholders owning land below what was then known as the Missouri Park Ditch.
- In approximately 1889, 13 people filed claims with the State of Colorado, claiming ownership of the Missouri Park Ditch Extension as Tenants in Common. The extension ran from the terminus of the Missouri Park Ditch located between current CR 140 and CR 250 eastward to what is currently known as Colorado Highway 285. It is important for us to understand today that while the “Extension” ended around Highway 285, there are two laterals which run to the east side of Highway 285 called the Brown and the Reid laterals.
- On June 20, 1890, the MPDC filed for an additional 15 cfs decree. This water right was adjudicated by the Colorado District Court and in a decree dated April 5, 1921, was given a Priority Date of January 18,

1921, because it is considered supplemental water under Colorado State law, and therefore is given the priority date of the original adjudication.

- On December 31, 1915, the Missouri Park Ditch filed for an additional 15.4 cfs. This water right was adjudicated by the Colorado District Court and in a decree dated July 9, 1969, given a Priority Date of December 14, 1942, because it is considered supplemental water under Colorado State law, and therefore is given the priority date of the original adjudication.
- On March 27, 1920, the first By-Laws were written and published.
- On January 13, 1923, an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation was filed that changed Article 2.
- In March 1943 an amendment was filed to change the term of existence of the corporation from twenty years to in perpetuity.
- In February 1981 an amendment was filed which allowed for the Secretary/Treasurer to be hired without the necessity for that position to be held by a shareholder.
- On March 2, 2017, a Proclamation was filed with the Chaffee County Clerk recognizing the Missouri Park Ditch, including the original Missouri Park Ditch and the Missouri Park Ditch Extension, as running from the headgate on the Arkansas River to the start of the Reid/Brown Lateral just west of US Highway 285. The entirety of the Missouri Park Ditch is now managed by the MPDC.
- In 2021 the MPDC Articles of Incorporation were updated to reflect the current structure of the MPDC and extent of the Missouri Park Ditch.
- In 2022 the MPDC Bylaws were updated to comply with and expand on the revised Articles of Incorporation to support the operation of the MPDC into the future.
- In July 2020, the MPDC was notified by the State Engineer that the State of Colorado was processing water right abandonments for 3 cfs of the Missouri Park Ditch 1921 water rights and all 15.4 cfs of the 1942 Water Right. In November 2021, the MPDC was able to demonstrate that it was appropriate remove the 3 cfs of the 1921 water rights from the abandonment list. However, the MPDC was unable to demonstrate that the 1942 water rights should also be removed. To date the MPDC has not been notified of a final determination on the 1942 water right by the State Engineer.