

A HAPPY ENDING

By Nathan Wissenbach

Hello everyone, this is a story about being called out for leak detection at a mobile home park. They needed help finding leaks they assumed they had, due to very excessive water usage. We schedule the time to help find the leak they assumed they had. This is how the story played out.

I was called out to a mobile home park in Saratoga County near Stillwater. The manager stated that they thought they had a leak because their usage was up to 50,000 gallons a day. It was stated that this was a 255-unit park, and their water usage had been slowly climbing the last couple of years. They also stated they thought it might take two or more days to go through the whole park due to its size and said they would do whatever I needed to help.

I arrived at the community around 8:00 in the morning. I met up with a couple of people who were going to walk around with me, opening the skirting on the mobile homes so I could listen to the service lines to identify if there was a leak. One of the gentlemen helpers was an older man who had been living there since they created that community park and he stated that he knew where most the service lines were. We started at one end of the park listening to service lines and curb stops. The one thing that amazed me was the older gentleman knew exactly where all the service lines were for the homes. The older gentleman had one person opening the skirting to the mobile homes while we listened to the service line. We ended up working all day and were able to listen to all the mobile homes in the park and we identified 47 leaks. The leaks ranged from leaky ball valves under the trailers, to leaky risers, to broken service lines under the ground. This took almost 11 hours to complete.

About a year after I did the leak survey, I ended up running into the manager of this park. They stated that they fixed almost all the leaks that I found and couldn't believe how much they were saving on their water. They said they were at 50,000 gallons a day before I did the survey, but today they are only using 18,000 gallons, saving them 32,000 gallons of water a day. Being curious, I decided to calculate how much money they were saving as a result of doing the leak detection. They pay \$7.50 per thousand gallons of water used, which is a savings of \$240 per day. That means they are saving about \$7440 per month on their water bill.

This whole encounter is something I will always remember for a few reasons; the fact that the older gentleman knew where every single shut off was, the fact that the people were phenomenal to work with, and the excitement of the manager when they told me how much water the park was saving. It was a happy ending for all concerned. 💧💧



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