WHERE THE WATER COMES FROM

The sparkling mineral springs of Manitou Springs are created from deep-seated waters rising through the Rampart Range and Ute Pass faults to mix with the surface waters of the Williams Canyon and Fountain Creek watershed basins. The geologic faults are also the origin of carbon dioxide gas, which adds effervescence to the mineral waters. Each element combines in the Manitou geologic formation, dissolving the limestone to create a cavernous hydrologic system called a karst aquifer. All of the springs in the Manitou Springs mineral water aquifer system are artesian, meaning they rise to the surface under natural pressure. Each spring has a distinctive taste due to the differences in mineral content, caused by the dissolution of the underground limestone and dolomite.

American Indians view the waters as sacred, a gift from the Great Spirit with medicinal qualities. Fur Trappers and early explorers passed along stories of the healing waters to American public eager for relief from diseases such as tuberculosis. In 1871, a resort town known as Manitou Springs gained momentum during the 1930’s. The public springs were restored and the process continues today.

A resurgence of interest in the natural healing benefits of Manitou’s mineral springs gained momentum during the 1980’s. The public springs were restored and the process continues today.

TAKE A TOUR OF THE MINERAL SPRINGS THAT MADE MANITOU FAMOUS

While visiting, please stop by the Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau to pick up a free mineral springs brochure, detailed content chart and sampling cup. Our staff and volunteers will be glad to help you locate all of the springs and share their tasting experiences with you. These special healing waters cannot be found anywhere else.

7 Minute Spring

In 1909, 7 Minute spring was drilled adjacent to the site of the former Manitou House hotel and produced a geysering event every 7 minutes. A replacement well was drilled in 1993, along with the development of the surrounding 7 Minute Spring Park. Two fonts were designed by Bill Burgess and Don Green in collaboration with Maxine Green.

Shoshone spring contains the greatest amount of deep-seated water from the karst aquifer system and the highest mineral content of all the downtown springs. The round spring house was constructed during 1893 from Kennmuir Quarry sandstone, now known as Red Rock Canyon Open Space. The font was designed and constructed by Carl Reed.

Twin Spring

Matanot’s iron-rich mineral waters along the upper Ruxton corridor became so popular that Joseph Hiestand drilled this spring in 1910 to increase the supply. The pavilion is original and housed a large hand-blown glass font with electric light to showcase the effervescing spring waters. The current font was designed and constructed by Steve Wood.

Iron Spring Geyser

The Navajo spring font is located at the back of Patsy’s popcorn and candy store. This natural soda spring was a favorite of Native Americans and early settlers. Its effervescing waters supplied the nearby bathhouse and bottling plant, which produced famed “Manitou Table Water” and “Ginger Champagne,” sold throughout the country. The font was designed and constructed by Chris Dysart.

Wheeler Spring

Jerome B. Wheeler, famous for his banking, mining, and railroad interests in both Manitou Springs and Aspen, owned a large estate called Windemere just beyond this site. He is best known in this area for building the Manitou Mineral Water Co. bottling plant and the Town Clock. His son-in-law drilled this spring in his honor in 1920. The font was created by Randy Bowen.

7 Minute Spring

Maxine Green.

Shoshone Spring

Font was created by Fred Darpino.

Twin Spring

Font was designed and cast by Kerstin Eriksson, depicting a whimsical scene of Manitou and surrounding features.