



Manitou Bathhouse - Circa 1883
Courtesy of Manitou Springs Heritage Center

About Us

The Mineral Springs Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization founded with this mission:

To restore, protect, and publicize the mineral springs of Manitou Springs and to document their historic origins."

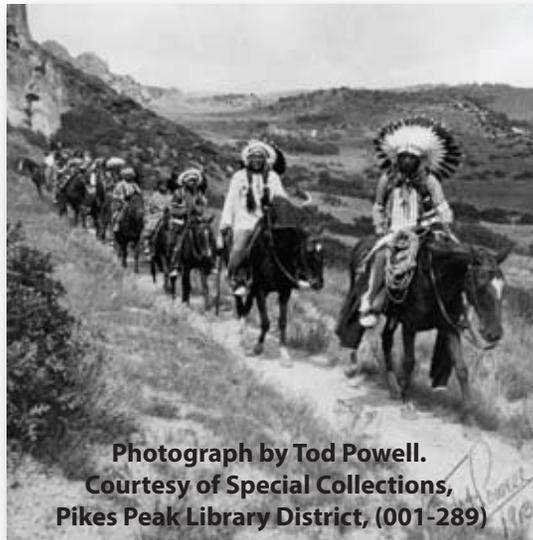
For more information, visit our mobile friendly website

www.manitoumineralsprings.org

or scan the QR symbol with your smartphone

Call or write and find out how you can donate to help preserve this precious resource.

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Photograph by Tod Powell.
Courtesy of Special Collections,
Pikes Peak Library District, (001-289)



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7 MINUTE SPRING PARK

The crowning jewel of many restorations by the Mineral Springs Foundation, the gazebo at 7 Minute Spring Park incorporates the 1880's design of a structure that once sheltered the popular Ute Iron spring on Ruxton Avenue.



Tasting the Waters - Manitou Soda Spring - 1918

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 an American public eager for relief from diseases such as tuberculosis. In 1871, a resort town known as Manitou was developed to take advantage of the unique springs and picturesque location. This health-oriented culture prospered until the rise of the pharmaceutical industry in the 1930's.

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.

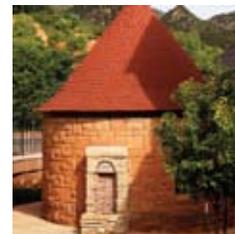
7 Minute Spring



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 fountains 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 Kenmuir Quarry sandstone, now known as Red Rock Canyon Open Space. The font was designed and constructed by Carl Reed.

Shoshone Spring



Navajo Spring



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.

Cheyenne spring is another natural artesian soda spring, though it wasn't developed commercially until 1893, when the Manitou Mineral Water Co. built a stone spring house around it and conveyed the water and gas to their bottling plant. The water is now piped to the cast bronze font designed and fabricated by sculptor Paul Rogers.

Cheyenne Spring



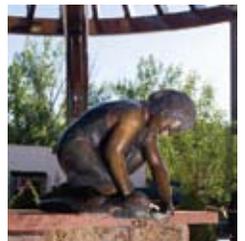
Wheeler Spring



Jerome B. Wheeler, famous for his banking, mining, and railroad interests in both Manitou Springs and Aspen, owned a large estate called Windmere 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.

Named after Winfield Scott Stratton of Cripple Creek mining fame, this spring was drilled in 1936. In previous years, Stratton's trolley system would turn around here at the "loop" and passengers could transfer to the smaller "Dinky" trolley that continued up Ruxton Ave. to the Cog Railway. The bronze sculpture at this font was created by Fred Darpino.

Stratton Spring



Twin Spring



Twin spring, drilled in the 1920's by William S. Crosby, is named for two flows of mineral water from different depths that are combined at this font. This sweet tasting soda water is favored by locals in mineral water lemonade. The font was designed and cast by Kerstin Eriksson, depicting a whimsical scene of Manitou and surrounding features.

Manitou Springs' 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 effervescent spring waters. The current font was designed and constructed by Steve Wood.

Iron Spring Geyser

