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Conserve  
and  
Preserve

*this natural,  
precious,  
but limited  
resource.*

## “Conservation now, is better than restoration later.”



We turn on the faucet to get a drink of water, to take a shower or to wash clothes. It is something most people in Florida do, without thinking about where the water comes from.

Ever since the convenience of indoor plumbing, individuals, industries and utilities have drilled wells into the underground water source known as the aquifer, to pump freshwater to the earth's surface for its many uses, including the water you drink. Humans have dredged, drained and pumped Florida from one of the wettest places on the planet, to the point where we now face water shortages.

Currently, “the Floridan Aquifer, one of the five cleanest sources of water on earth, is being lost at the rate of approximately 46 billion gallons per year,” as indicated in the Florida Water Atlas.

So the importance of conserving and protecting this natural resource from mismanagement and pollution is obvious. One form of pollution rarely talked about, is stormwater runoff. In urban areas such as Brooksville, stormwater runoff carries with it pollutants such as oil, dirt, chemicals and lawn fertilizers that flow directly into our lakes, streams, rivers, springs and the gulf where they can seriously harm water quality.

Most people are aware that littering is wrong, but do not think about the fertilizers and chemicals they use on their lawns, the pesticides and herbicides they use around their homes. As well, little thought goes into the soaps used to wash their vehicles and boats, the oils/fuels that spill while maintaining motor equipment, the paints and thinners they use and discard.

These common daily activities can cause pollutants to enter the stormwater system, and end up coming out of our faucets. All of us have a moral obligation to help conserve, protect and improve the quality of water that enters the stormwater system. No doubt you would agree; that conservation now, is better than costly restoration projects later. Your water awareness can make a big difference to the future of Florida's water systems. Some things we can all do at work or at home are:

- Use phosphate free soaps when washing your vehicles, boats and homes, and if able, wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- Use environmentally safe cleaning solutions on your pets; also pick up waste and dispose of properly.
- Don't let paint, thinner or other contaminants flow into the street, or down the drain.
- Remember to blow leaves, soils and other yard debris back into your yard, not into the street or walkways.
- Do not overwater your lawn. Consider using a micro-irrigation system.
- Collect rainwater from the roof to a rain barrel for irrigation.
- Reduce or eliminate fertilizers.
- Use environmentally friendly landscaping.
- Install low-flow shower and faucet fixtures.
- Check for water leaks and repair if needed.



**Save Our Planet** is a 25 minute PowerPoint presentation designed to visually stimulate ones thinking, invite discussion and promote an awareness of water conservation, and protection.

A condensed version of **Save Our Planet** is available in an 8 minute video presentation on the City's website.

For more info: contact Jon Dowler at City of Brooksville, Department of Public Works, Phone: 352-540-3860

We can all contribute to a safer water supply and a healthy future for our children, grandchildren, and all generations to come.

For more information on water conservation, preservation and education, go to the City of Brooksville's website, Department of Public Works, Stormwater Management.

City of Brooksville website:  
[www.cityofbrooksville.us](http://www.cityofbrooksville.us)



To report illegal dumping, call your local stormwater management department at:

The City of Brooksville,  
Department of Public Works at:  
352-540-3860