



# Phase II Stormwater Program

Summer 2017

## *Working Together to Use Water Wisely!*

### Simple Ways to Save Water

#### Why is Water Important?

Water is an essential commodity in our daily lives. It may be considered a renewable resource, but our supplies are not endless and every increase in demand for water places an additional strain on our ecosystem. As consumers, we have a responsibility to use our water more wisely and when using water efficiently, we can help preserve reliable water supplies today and for future generations.



#### Turn off the Tap!

The bathroom is where over half of all water used inside a home takes place. Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth in the morning and before bedtime, you can save up to 8 gallons of water! That adds up to more than 200 gallons a month. The same is true when you wash dishes. Turn off the tap! Scrape your dirty dishes into the trash, then put them in the dishwasher.



#### Shower Power!

Taking a shower uses much less water than filling up a bathtub. A shower only uses 10 to 25 gallons, while a bath takes up to 70 gallons! If you do take a bath, be sure to plug the drain right away and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub. To save even more water, keep your shower under five minutes long - try timing yourself with a clock next time you hop in!

#### Fix That Leak:

A showerhead that drops just 10 drips in a minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year. That's enough water, if you saved it all up, to wash 60 loads of dishes in your dishwasher! Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by making sure they're screwed in tight. Having someone handy wrap the showerhead in "pipe tape," a special tape available at hardware stores, and using a wrench to tighten it will help.

Fixing a toilet leak is a great way to reduce household water use and boost water conservation. If your toilet has a leak, you could be wasting about 200 gallons of water every day. That would be like flushing your toilet more than 50 times for no reason! Small household leaks can add up to gallons of water lost every day. Remember to check your plumbing

fixtures and irrigation systems each year in March during Fix a Leak Week. More information can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>

#### Beat the Heat!

Watering your yard first thing in the morning is a great first step to water-efficient landscaping. Avoid watering your yard in the middle of the day. Watering when it's hot and sunny is wasteful because most of the water evaporates before the plants have time to drink it.



#### Who Needs a Garden Hose?

An easy way to save water is to use a bucket and sponge when washing cars and bikes. Washing your bike or car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose saves a lot of water. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running, but using a bucket and sponge only uses a few gallons!



