

## Sustainability Spotlight

### Water Conservation

Since 1993, March 22<sup>nd</sup> is a day that is recognized and celebrated by communities around the globe as World Water Day. It is used to help promote the responsible use of water as well bring awareness for how to make water more accessible and safer for consumption. More than 2 billion people in the world live without safe, clean drinking water. This year's theme is 'Water for Peace', building on the ripple effect we create when we all cooperate on our most important resource. Water access is a basic human right and has only been magnified in the past few years due to the pandemic and the increased temperatures due to climate change.



*Image Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

In Southfield, we are fortunate enough to have access to clean, accessible water every day and may seem like we take it for granted. Potable water requires constant advocacy by elected officials at every level as well as the professionals at water treatment facilities. Just as clean water demands continuous effort, the goal of water conservation is a never-ending battle.

There are many ways to achieve water conservation in your home and community. By making small changes and decisions to your everyday life, you can begin to see a change. Water conservation is a snowball effect! You may consider one or more of the following methods to conserve water:

- Turn off the water while washing your hands, brushing your teeth, or scrubbing dishes until you're ready to rinse
- Repair any leaking faucets or fixtures around your home
- Making the switch to more modern appliances and water friendly toilets is another way to help conserve water. Making certain home upgrades can be beneficial, not just for the conservation effort, but also your wallet.
- Installing a rain barrel in your yard is also a huge way to help with conserving water and is sure to be noticed on your monthly water bill in the summer. Rain barrels collect rainwater and allows you to use the stored water for gardening and lawn irrigation, washing your car, and cleaning your drive. Instead of using water from the spicket on your

house, you instead connect your hose to the rain barrel and use the water that is already stored in it to complete whatever task you need to do.

If you want to take part in something bigger, there are watershed groups like the Rouge River Rescue and other nearby cleanup efforts happening throughout the year. Participation in these types of cleanup projects not only help in the larger goal of water conservation, but they also make a difference in your community. Remember, small changes snowball into bigger results.



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