

SAVE OUR WATER

Within the past few years, Chicago has experienced **MORE SEVERE STORMS** than it has in the past,¹ which has led to **FLOODING. SEWER WATER** that cannot be handled in the water treatment centers ends up being **EMPTIED INTO OUR WATER WAYS**. Scientists predict there will be more floods and droughts due to our changing climate.

The average person uses about 50 gallons of water a day. Here in Chicago, one person uses up to 200 gallons a day.² Water conservation can reduce the amount of water that goes into our sewers, **PREVENTING** sewage water from **FLOODING** our homes and **CONTAMINATING LAKE MICHIGAN AND OUR LOCAL RIVERS**.

Water conservation and reducing storm water runoff will help us adapt to climate change and prevent combined sewer overflows and other water pollution.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

SHUTTING OFF THE FAUCETS



When not in use, like when brushing your teeth, shut off the faucets. This will conserve water and save money. By turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth, you could save up to 500 gallons a month³.

<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/kids/whysave.html>

WATER METER

The City of Chicago Department of Water Management offers a program where home owners install a water meter at no cost. By installing a meter home owners could save money and a get **free rain barrel**.

<https://www.metersave.org/>



DUAL TOILET

Next time you purchase a new toilet purchase a dual toilet. A dual toilet has two buttons that will provide appropriate flush; one for solid and one for liquid. This toilet will help conserve water. Regular toilets use about 7 gal per flush as opposed to dual toilets which only use 1.6 gal

NATIVE RAIN GARDEN



Do you want a beautiful garden that attracts butterflies? With a little work, you can create your own native rain garden with native plants that do well in

water. Native rain gardens capture storm water in their roots and also let rain water slowly drain back into the soil. If you are interested in creating your own native rain garden, please go to the link below.
<http://www.sheddaquarium.org/gardensandwater.html>

RAIN BARREL



Rain barrels capture storm water and prevent it from going into the sewers. Water from the barrel can be used to water gardens and lawns. If you would like to purchase a rain barrel or learn more about them visit:

<http://www.sustainablebackyards.org/resources/>

For more information on water conservation projects visit:

<http://www.h2ouse.org/>

References:

1. Hawthorne, Michael. "Climate Change: More Intense Rains Could Swamp Chicago's Aging Sewers." Chicago Tribune. Chicago Tribune, 21 Apr. 2011. Web. 31 July 2013.
2. Chicago Conservation Corps. "Every Drop Counts Water Audit", City of Chicago Department of Environment. 2009
3. "Water Saving Tips." Water Saving Tips. City of Chicago, n.d. Web. 31 July 2013.
4. "Toilets." Regional Water Providers Consortium. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2013.