

PUTNAM VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT PRESENTATION: MS4PY7 SWMP

1. LIMITED FRESH WATER SUPPLY

- **Ninety-seven percent** of all water on earth is saltwater which is not suitable for drinking.
- Only **three (3) percent** of all water is fresh water, and **only one (1) percent is available for drinking water.**
- We depend on a reliable, clean supply of **drinking water** to sustain our health. We also need water for **agriculture, energy production, navigation, recreation, and manufacturing.**
- Pressure on water resources are likely to be **exacerbated by climate change.**

2. WHAT YOU CAN DO INDOORS TO SAVE WATER

- **Faucets:** Install **aerators on faucets** and turn off the faucet while shaving, brushing teeth and washing dishes.
- **Dripping and Leaking Faucets and Toilets:** Replace dripping and leaking faucets and toilet fixtures. A slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you will almost save 6,000 gallons a year.
- **Shower and Baths:** Install a low-flow shower head. They are inexpensive and can pay for themselves in water, sewer and energy savings in less than a year. For a five (5) minute shower, you can reduce water usage from about 40 gallons to about 12 to 15 gallons.
- **Replace Old Dishwashers and Clothes Washers:** Replace old appliances with more efficient water saving and energy star rated appliances. Do only full loads. Avoid extra cycles whenever possible.

3. WHAT YOU CAN DO OUTDOORS TO SAVE WATER

- **Watering Lawns and Gardens every other day:** If your community allows watering, water lawns and gardens on alternate mornings instead of every day.
- **Water Early in The Morning:** Early morning watering minimizes evaporation. Watering late in the day promotes fungus and other lawn diseases.
- **Cutting Lawns:** Do not mow lawns too short. Keep the grass height to 2 inches. Taller grass requires less water. Mowing fewer times will also save time and money.
- **Mulching around Shrubs and Garden Plants:** Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to limit evaporation. Apply mulch to a minimum depth of four (4) inches. Mulch will help keep plant roots cool, prevent soil crusting, minimize soil erosion, and reduce weed growth. In addition to reducing watering during dry seasons, the mulch in around shrubs will also promote the growth of microorganisms which are needed for healthy plant root growth.
- **Car Washing:** Wash cars less frequently. If you wash your car at home, utilize phosphorus free detergents. Wash the car away from a storm drain or on a grass path where water can infiltrate into the grass. Rinse the car once, wash from a bucket and rinse quickly again. Be sure to use a shut-off nozzle on your hose, and shut the nozzle off, when soaping the car. If your car needs to be washed especially in the winter, take the car to a car wash, which treats and recycles the water.

4. STORMWATER POLLUTANTS

Water, our most precious commodity, is brought to us in the form of rainfall, snow and ice melt. To maintain the sustainability of this precious commodity, we must take positive steps to reduce stormwater pollution from non-point sources of pollution

- **Reduction of Excessive Application of Salt and De-Icing Chemicals:** After the snow has melted, and before the first rainfall,

parking lot and street sweeping should be considered. Utilize a covered storage facility to store sand, salt and de-icing chemicals

- **Reduction of Pesticides and Lawn Fertilizers:** Use pesticides and lawn fertilizers sparingly as they promote algae growth and contaminate our drinking water supplies
- **Maintenance of Septic Systems:** Have your septic systems inspected and cleaned at least every three years to reduce pathological contamination of our drinking water supplies
- **Management of Construction Sites:** Any construction performed on your site must be properly inspected and managed to reduce the release of sediment and chemicals from construction site into the adjacent waterway
- **Maintenance of Automobiles:** Have your automobile serviced and maintained to prevent leakage of oils, greases and other chemicals into the stormwater runoff

5. UTILIZING GREEN STORMWATER PRACTICES

Green stormwater practices are not only attractive water-friendly alternatives to conventional or traditional stormwater management practices, but can also be a cost-effective means to protect our water resources. These green stormwater practices include:

- **Bio-Retention Structures**
- **Rain Gardens**
- **Green Roofs**
- **Infiltration Basins and Trenches**
- **Vegetated Bioswales**
- **Porous pavements**
- **Rain Barrels and Cisterns**
- **Natural Vegetative Landscaping**
- **Tree Planting**
- **Container Gardening**