

November 2007

Mayor Franklin and City Officials respond to Level 4 Drought

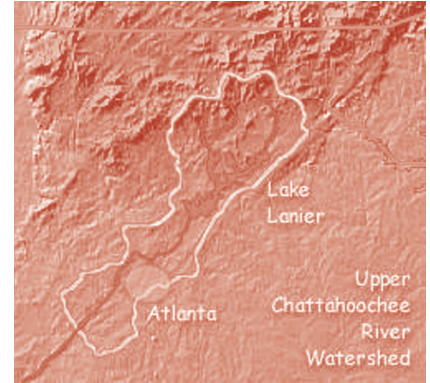
The Chattahoochee River, Metro Atlanta's primary water source, actually starts out as a small spring called Chattahoochee Gap, high in the north Georgia mountains. The river falls almost 2,400 feet for the first 100 miles and then flows into Lake Lanier, a manmade reservoir created in the 1950s by damming the river at Buford. The U.S. Corps of Engineers manages the reservoir, controlling the release of water that flows down the Chattahoochee.

Water levels at Lake Lanier have dropped to a 50-year low, prompting the State to take extreme water conservation measures; including banning all outdoor watering in North Georgia, which includes the City of Atlanta, other than for exempted activities under State Law 391-3-30-05.

We may not know exactly when rainfall will return to normal, but there are things each of us can do to conserve the water that is available to us now. Mayor Shirley Franklin and Commissioner Robert Hunter held a special press conference in October to discuss the seriousness of current conditions and conservation measures on three fronts.

- Individuals and commercial establishments should practice indoor water conservation wherever possible. Irrespective of the drought, conservation must become second nature for all water customers. Atlanta is located within a watershed that has one of the smallest water sources of any similar size city in the U.S.
- The City's Clean Water Atlanta Program will continue to systematically and aggressively repair or replace leaking meters and water pipes that have been in the ground for 50 years or more. Currently, we are repairing over 500 meters a month and making great progress in replacing aging water pipes, but even at this rate it will be years before we see a substantial drop in the number of reported leaks.
- Commissioner Hunter called on federal and state agencies to re-examine current water release policies at Lake Lanier, striking a balance between fish and wildlife

preservation and sufficient water reserves for the millions of people who depend on the Chattahoochee River for clean, safe drinking water.



Call the Water Violation Hotline, 404-982-1414

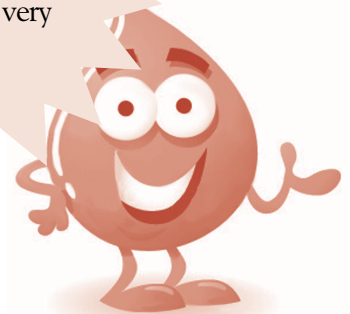
On October 1, the City of Atlanta instituted a ban on outdoor watering. Exceptions to the outdoor watering ban include:

- Personal food gardens
- New landscaping installed by a certified or licensed landscaper – private citizens may water such landscaping for 30 days
- Several commercial exceptions – see www.atlantawatershed.org for specifics.

All watering must be done between Midnight and 10 am. If you witness any outdoor watering that does not fall under one of the exceptions, please call DWM's new Water Violation Hotline, 404-982-1414 to report it.

November Super Water Saver

Joyce D. Jones of Southwest Atlanta recycles the water from her dehumidifier to water her houseplants. She has more than a dozen very happy houseplants!



over→

Important Numbers to Remember

Customer Service: 404-658-6500
Customer Service Fax: 404-658-6637
Customer Service E-mail: watershedhelp@atlwater.com





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Nine Tips for Conserving Water Inside Your Home

People often don't realize how much water they use on a daily basis. If each of us made some small changes, we could conserve gallons of water each day.



Here are some tips that do make a difference:

- 1) Take a "Navy" shower. Rinse, turn water off, soap up, turn water on and rinse again. Limiting the amount of time you spend "under the water" reduces water use considerably. And you get just as clean.
- 2) Gentlemen – shave in the sink, not the shower. Ladies, if this is too acrobatic, shave in the shower...but do so during the "soap-up" portion of the Navy shower.
- 3) Do like Mayor Franklin does, and keep a 10-gallon bucket in your shower. When it is full, water desperate outdoor plants. You can also keep a bucket in your kitchen. Pour water you would normally pour down the sink into the bucket. It will make you realize how much water you pour down the sink every day.
- 4) Don't let the water run while you brush your teeth. Again, teeth get just as clean when the water isn't running.
- 5) Dispose of floor sweepings in the trash, not the toilet.
- 6) If you have an ancient toilet, consider switching it for a new, water-conserving model. If this home improvement project isn't in the budget, at least make sure your toilet isn't running when it shouldn't be. If it is, replace the flapper mechanism inside the tank. This inexpensive fix could save you gallons of water each week – and reduce your water bill.
- 7) Hand-wash your dishes. Fill one sink with soapy water and one sink with rinse water. Hand-washing is far more water-efficient than running a dishwasher. If you have to use your dishwasher, make sure it is full before running it.
- 8) Turn in your top-loading washing machine for a much more efficient front-loading model. Top-loading machines can use as much as 40 gallons per wash, while front-loading models use less than 20. Use cold water to wash your clothes. Again, don't run your washing machine if it isn't full.
- 9) Use your food disposal unit sparingly. Instead, create a compost pile. You will waste less water and have compost to use on your landscaping once the drought is over!

For more information about water conservation inside the home, call 404-589-2684.



Hats Off to Veterans



What we recognize as Veteran's Day was officially founded in 1919 when President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11 Armistice Day to commemorate the temporary agreement between the Allied Nations and Germany to cease fighting. Although World War

I wasn't technically over until June 28, 1919, the November 11 armistice set the stage for the official end of the war. Armistice Day eventually became Veterans Day.

As you pay tribute this month to veterans and members of the armed services, give a thought to DWM's Safety and Security Division, whose members – many of them veterans – work hard every day to protect the Department's infrastructure and facilities.

The small security surcharge that appears on your monthly water bill helps the Safety and Security Division improve security at all DWM facilities .

Happy Birthday – to DWM

In September 2002, Mayor Shirley Franklin embraced the Environmental Protection Agency's preferred approach to water resource management, which is based on the idea that everything occurring within a watershed basin – water withdrawal, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, pollution control and even development – can have significant impact on our water sources. To address these multiple influences, Mayor Franklin brought all of the City's water-related functions together into one department: Watershed Management.

Five years later, we've made substantial progress toward completing our federally mandated \$3.9 billion Clean Water Atlanta project deadlines. A cleaner Chattahoochee River is the icing on our proverbial birthday cake. We're happy to serve you, and we look forward to the next five years.

