

Outside Conservation

1. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slows down evaporation.
2. If you have a pool, use a pool cover to cut down on evaporation. It will also keep your pool cleaner and reduce the need to add chemicals.
3. Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus.
4. Don't water the lawn on windy days. There's too much evaporation.
5. Cut down watering on cool and overcast days and don't water in the rain. Adjust or deactivate automatic sprinklers.
6. Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation.
7. Have an evaporative air conditioner? Direct the water drain line to a flower bed, tree base, or lawn.
8. Drive your car onto a lawn to wash it. Rinse water can help water the grass.
9. Tell your children not to play with the garden hose.
10. If you allow your children to play in the sprinklers, make sure it's only when you're watering the yard--if it's not too cool at that time of day.
11. Xeriscape--replace your lawn and high-water-using trees and plants with less thirsty ones. But do this only in wet years. Even drought resistant plantings take extra water to get them going.
12. When taking your car to a car wash--a good idea for saving water--be sure it's one of the many that recycles its wash water.
13. Dispose of hazardous materials properly! One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water, effectively eliminating that much water from our water supply.



Board of Commissioners
233 East Broad Street
Winder, Georgia 30680

Phone: 770-307-3005
Fax: 770-307-3141



Barrow County

2007 Drought



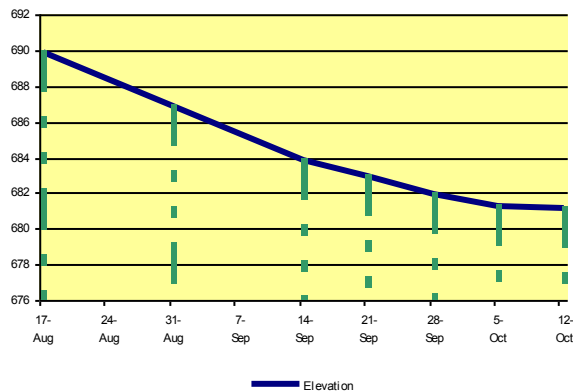
Board of Commissioners
233 East Broad Street
Winder, Georgia 30680

Tel: 770-307-3005

Status of Bear Creek

As of November 16, 2007 the Bear Creek Reservoir contained approximately 3.2 billion gallons of water. Withdrawals from the reservoir have decrease steadily from October through the present date (16 November). The Bear Creek WTF daily average for treated water has decreased to 5.212 MGD in November. This reflects a **19.11%** from October to November. To date Athens-Clarke County has not pumped any water from the reservoir during November. These reductions are attributed to the conservation efforts by all the citizens and businesses in the member counties.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has provided the Upper Oconee Water Basin Authority with a withdrawal permit of 15 million gallons of water a day from the Middle Oconee River. This withdrawal began on September 28, 2007. With the reduction in water usage, as well as additional withdrawal from the River, our ability to continue use of the Bear Creek Reservoir has been extended. Water conservation should continue to play a vital aspect in our maximizing the use of Bear Creek as a water resource, particularly during the current drought and into the future.



Why Conserve?

Water conservation is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water. Conservation further stretches our water supplies, as well as protecting places like Bear Creek. Using less water also puts less pressure on our sewage treatment facilities, and uses less energy.

The Water and Energy Connection

For your personal energy bill, using less hot water saves on water heating. On the flip side, saving energy and using alternative energy saves water.

What Can I Do?

Many effective ways to conserve water in and around your home do exist. Look through this list for ways that will work for you. Indoor savings are based upon a family of two adults and one child.

Ten ways that will save the most:

1. Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. Set your sprinklers for more days in between watering. Better yet, especially in times of drought, water with a hose. And best of all, convert your lawn to native plants.
2. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints.
3. Don't run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end.
4. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors.
5. Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.
6. Shorten your showers. Even a one or two minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons per month.
7. Use a broom or leaf blower instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
8. Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.
9. Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on house plants or your garden.
10. Don't water the sidewalks, driveway or gutter. Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn or garden where it belongs--and only there.

In the bathroom:

1. Put a plastic bottle or a plastic bag weighted with pebbles and filled with water in your toilet tank. Better yet, for even greater savings, replace your water-guzzling five to seven gallon a flush toilet with an ultra-low flush model.
2. If you're taking a shower, don't waste cold water while waiting for hot water to reach the shower head. Catch that water in a container to use on your outside plants or to flush your toilet.
3. Check toilet for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired.
4. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
5. Turn off the water while shaving. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of water to rinse your razor.



In the kitchen:

1. If you wash dishes by hand don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water. If you only have one sink, use a spray device or short blasts instead of letting the water run.
2. When washing dishes by hand, use the least amount of detergent possible. This minimizes rinse water needed.
3. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This beats the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking.
4. Don't defrost frozen foods with running water. Either plan ahead by placing frozen items in the refrigerator overnight or defrost them in the microwave.
5. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a filled sink or pan.
6. Use the garbage disposal less and the garbage more (even better--compost!).