

EVERY DROP COUNTS

Wise water use begins at home.

CLEAN WATER IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL LIVING THINGS

“A sustainable water supply is the lifeblood of thriving communities and regions. Access to clean water is a necessity for equity of opportunity and a high quality of life...”

*2009 Metropolitan Planning Council/
Openlands Report – Before the Wells Run Dry*

It is crucial for water users to be aware of the value of clean water to their families and communities. By understanding the need for water protection and conservation, residents can take personal steps to become water stewards every day with simple actions like turning off the tap, checking for leaks, and preventing harmful substances from going down the drain. Promote wise water use and help protect the watershed.

There are many ways residents can help protect and conserve this natural resource for generations to come. Keep reading to learn how!

OUR WATER SOURCE

HISTORY OF THE LOCAL GLASFORD AND MAHOMET AQUIFERS

The water source for the Champaign County drinking water supply is groundwater coming from wells that tap both the Glasford and Mahomet Aquifers. These aquifers are porous underground formations of sand or gravel that contain water. They were formed when glaciers filled in the riverbed that had previously run through the area.



Map courtesy of the Regional Water Supply Planning Council (RWSPC), MPC/Openlands, and the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS).

WATER QUALITY

Today, Illinois American Water delivers quality water service to customers that meets or surpasses all Environmental Protection Agency standards. Detailed information about the quality of the drinking water for the Champaign District can be found in the 2009 Annual Water Quality Reports. Visit the Ensuring Water Quality tab of our Web site, www.illinoisamwater.com, to search for your community report.

Prior to the 1960s, according to long-time residents, water arrived at the tap with a different, more mineral flavor as the water had percolated through the many layers of sand and gravel for thousands of years dissolving minerals (like iron and calcium) along the way. The lime-softening part of the treatment process has improved the taste.

FACT: The drinking water in the Illinois American Water Champaign District has been recognized on a state and national level as being some of the best tasting water in the nation.

WATER USERS AND USES

The US Geological Survey says **nearly 20 billion gallons of water are used each day in Illinois**. Statewide water usage is projected to increase almost 28 percent by 2025, according to a report from Southern Illinois University’s Department of Geography.

In Champaign County, Illinois American Water and its predecessors have provided water service since 1884. Today, the Champaign District serves a total population of approximately 141,000 including homes, high density housing, commerce and industrial users.

20,000,000,000
gallons per day



SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION

In 2009, the East Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Group issued a report on the long range sustainability of this water supply through 2050 and emphasized that **although supplies are expected to be adequate, it will be important for all water users to focus on conservation so that the aquifer can continue to recharge and provide water for generations to come.**



WATER CONSERVATION



AT THE TREATMENT PLANT

Illinois American Water’s new water treatment facility in Champaign County earned the first LEED® certification in Illinois and is one of only two water treatment facilities in the United States to receive the recognition.

LEED is the nation’s top program for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. Groups wishing to tour the facility may contact the local district office to make arrangements.

- *Pervious pavement absorbs water and reduces run off during heavy rains.*
- *Geothermal heating and cooling reuses water from the treatment process to heat and cool the buildings and reduce power usage.*
- *Landscaping includes native plantings to draw wildlife, reduce the need for mowing and maintenance and conserve water as native plants need less added moisture.*



The pipe gallery at the Illinois American Water Champaign water treatment facility.

WHY SAVE WATER?

Water is a finite resource – even though about 70 percent of the Earth’s surface is covered by water, less than 1 percent is available for human use.

The amount of water leaked from U.S. homes could exceed more than 1 trillion gallons per year, according to the USEPA. That’s equivalent to the annual water use of Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami combined.

Approximately 5 to 10 percent of American homes have water leaks that drip away 90 gallons a day or more. If the 5 percent of homes that leak the most corrected those leaks – it could save more than 177 billion gallons of water annually!

YOUR EFFORTS AT HOME AND WORK CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Each American uses an average of 100 gallons of water a day at home. The simple steps you take to use water wisely will help protect and preserve this natural resource for future generations.

- Regularly check your toilet, faucets, and pipes for leaks. Leak detection kits are available at no cost on the Web site, www.illinoisamwater.com or by calling the Customer Service Center at 1.800.422.2782.
- Reduce faucet leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replace them, or, if necessary, replace the faucet with a WaterSense labeled model.
- Leaky toilets are most often the result of a worn toilet flapper. Replacing the rubber flapper is a quick fix that could save a home up to 200 gallons of water per day.
- Tighten connections on your showerheads if drips appear when the shower is off.
- Consider installing water and energy-efficient appliances. The USEPA reports that EPA-certified Energy Star washing machines may use 35% less water per load. Water-saving shower heads, toilets and faucet aerators also help cut your water usage.
- Check your garden and lawn irrigation system for leaks, or hire a certified WaterSense expert to check it for you.
- For a leaky garden hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.
- If you water your lawn, set timers to run the system before 10 a.m. or after 5 p.m. to reduce water loss through evaporation. Use drip irrigation hoses to water garden plants and landscaping at the roots.
- Consider using rain barrels to collect and store water from roof drains. Use this water for garden and lawn irrigation.



PROTECT OUR WATERSHEDS

Watersheds are important. They fill our state water sources where water is drawn, treated and delivered to homes and businesses. They also provide habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife. It’s important to be aware of how our actions can affect the environment.

- Refrain from pouring cooking oils, greases and petroleum products down drains. Use community collection points for these materials.
- Never flush pharmaceuticals. Take unused medications to the pharmaceutical drop box at CarleRX locations to disposed of them safely.
- Consider using porous pavement (gravel for example) for driveways and walkways. The rain will soak into the soil instead of running off and contributing to erosion.
- Use native plantings to improve wildlife habitat and reduce the need for lawn care chemicals, irrigation and energy use for maintenance.

COMMUNITY EFFORTS

- Stop at the Illinois American Water trailer at community events and pick up conservation materials. We have tools and information to help you.
- Pursue certification for your business through the Illinois Green Business Association
- Volunteer to help with the Boneyard Creek clean-up and restoration projects.
- Contact the Prairie Rivers Network and offer to help with local environmental efforts focused on water protection and conservation.
- Learn more about the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois Water Drop Patch Project at www.girlscouts-gsci.org
- Follow the work of Prairie Rivers Network on their “Reining in the Rain” project that received an Environmental Grant from Illinois American Water. This rain barrel and rain garden project along Boneyard Creek is expected to reduce excess stormwater runoff and help reduce flooding and stream bank degradation.
- **Use your new monthly bill (that begins in July) to track your water usage. See whether your conservation efforts make a difference!**



2010 Boneyard Creek Cleanup

LEARN MORE

Pharmaceutical Disposal Programs: Prevention is a large part of any sustainable water protection program. Locally, residents can take their unused medications to CarleRX locations where special containers have been provided to accept non-controlled substances. The drugs are then shipped to a location where they can be incinerated safely. To learn more please visit: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/medication-disposal/>

Water Conservation: The National Theatre for Children delivers conservation messages and information about wise water use to elementary school students each winter. Encourage your local elementary school to invite the group to perform for students. This program has been provided to local schools, free of charge, by Illinois American Water since 2002.

Enjoy Tap Water! Champaign has been recognized at the state and national level for having some of the best tasting water in the nation! Refill reusable water containers and avoid the cost and environmental impact of bottled water.

Local Customer Assistance: The H2O Help to Others program is available for customers who need temporary help with their water bills. The program is funded by Illinois American Water and contributions from customers. It is administered through the Salvation Army office. If you need help or know someone who could use a hand, please contact your local Salvation Army office and ask about H2O Help to Others.

LOCAL GROUPS INVOLVED IN WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Illinois American Water
www.illinoisamwater.com

Mahomet Aquifer Consortium
www.mahometaquiferconsortium.org

Prairie Rivers Network
217-344-2371 | www.prairierivers.org

Illinois Green Business Association
<http://linc.illinois.edu/illinois-green-business-association>



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