

Clean Water is Not Debatable

Imagine you just ran a 26-mile marathon race without drinking any water. You start to feel the thirst creeping up, your tongue starts to feel dry and rough, and your throat is parched. You ask for water from the stands, but they say they don't have any. You come home, still no water. You don't have a water filter or bottled water. You come home to hear the news on your radio. "...Now a water shortage in Georgia. People, save your water and squeeze every drop out of your bottles. We don't know how long this will last." Now imagine this was your every-day life without water. Our bodies need water, our crops need water, Georgia needs clean water to survive. So, what will you do? This hypothetical scenario is one of the many reasons why we all need to know the importance of having clean water.

For my entire eleven years of living, I have never once had to worry about clean water. Constantly having access to clean, filtered water is a luxury that everyone should have. It is extremely peaceful never having to worry about our greatest necessity. Sadly, my experience is not the case for everyone, especially those in poorer countries. Picture a whole town without water with only soft drinks to quench their thirst. The town would be riddled with diabetes and high blood pressure along with many other health problems from the lack of cleanliness that accompanies clean water.

More onto that, we need to keep our water clean. According to EnvironmentGeorgia.org, "Industrial facilities dumped 10,132,268 pounds of toxic chemicals into Georgia's waterways in 2012, making Georgia's waterways the 8th worst in the nation." In Kevin Osbey's segment of Georgia's Water Live he explains how buildup of waste can clog storm drains and sewers, which can lead to flooding. It can end up flooding roads and houses, and the houses' walls can become dampened along with mold, mildew, and lots of other pathogens that can lead to sickness. Then, Kwame Gyimah describes the many uses we have for water and how that toxic waste can get into the water that we use, that we drink. Now that we are still working to get rid of all that toxicity from 2012, I think we can agree that we don't need any more of it.

We are in the middle of a pandemic. Water and toilet paper, apparently — is our greatest need during these unprecedented times. So, educate yourself on how to keep your water clean. Don't just throw your trash on the ground, because when it rains, stormwater can force it into the sewage drains along with all the other wastes thrown onto the ground. Don't forget, reduce, reuse, recycle. Savor your water, don't waste it. Remember the importance of clean water. We need it to survive!