

## Water Essay

by Andrew Cooke

In order for people to survive, they need access to clean, safe water. A flood can happen when it rains for long periods of time, when waves come on shore, or when dams break. When it floods, the water can become contaminated with nasty things. Metro Atlanta should have a combination of nature based solutions and building improvements to combat floods. At home we should try to conserve energy and reduce the amount of water we use so the excess water won't get evaporated, causing the atmosphere to hold more water that could be released for a long period of time.

When it floods, the water can pick up livestock waste, human sewage, and chemicals which clog the filtration systems in water treatment plants. Water treatment plants are complex systems that use filters, pipes, and lines that clean dirt and dissolve particles in the water. Floods can also pick up diseases and viruses that can cause humans to get sick if they were to drink it. Therefore, water treatment plants play a vital role in providing clean, safe water for Metro Atlanta.

To improve Metro Atlanta and to be water resilient in the face of climate change, they should improve the drainage system plans, plant vegetation, add more detention basins, and provide education on not polluting and preserving our water resources. Drainage systems should be well mapped and properly covered so big debris can't clog the drains. Plants and vegetation can help absorb extra water and prevent land erosion by slowing down water flow. Detention basins provide a path for the water to flow and be temporarily held. Plants are often placed by the basins to absorb the excess water. Most importantly, people need to be well educated on the importance of keeping the drains clean so they can help reduce the amount of litter that clogs

culverts and waterways. If the community works together to add plant vegetation, detention basins, and keep the water clean, then Metro Atlanta could be more water resilient.

People can do simple things in their daily routine that can conserve water. Things like checking for leaks, taking shorter showers, turning water off when brushing teeth or washing hands, not over watering lawns, and planting plants that are drought resistant are all effective in water conservation. Leaks in pipes can cause people to lose fifty or more gallons a day. Taking showers also consumes five to ten gallons of water. Saving water can help our environment be cleaner and more fresh. Earth has so much water so people need to do their best to conserve water for the future.

Floods can have nasty consequences, so in order to be more water resilient, we should make improvements to our building structures and drainage systems and be conscientious of how much water we are using regularly. These simple things will help the floods not to be so devastating, and water conservation will aid in a cleaner environment for everyone.