A Clean, Abundant Water Supply - A Necessity for Metro Atlanta and Georgia

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Water is one of the most important resources on the planet. We use it for everything from drinking and showering to producing energy to power our homes. Around 60% of our bodies are made of water. None of us could survive without this precious, life-giving gift of nature, and yet we waste so much of it. Only 3% of Earth's water is freshwater, and out of that, less than 1% is readily available to use. This small amount is used for agricultural, industrial, and domestic consumption like irrigation, drinking, cooking, power, and much more. Our supply of water is very limited, so it is important to conserve and take care of the water and make sure it is clean and healthy.

Metropolitan Atlanta's water comes from the Chattahoochee River. This river provides drinking water to more than ⅓ of Georgia's population. Water is collected from the river, purified, and then sent in underground pipes to our homes. When that water is used, it becomes wastewater. This wastewater flows to the treatment plant to be purified and is then sent back into the Chattahoochee. Both our actions and lack of actions have an impact on our water sources. Every single person along the Chattahoochee River affects it.

Water is polluted or wasted in several ways. Not turning the tap off, taking long showers or baths, or having a leaky faucet can waste a lot of water. Water sources can become polluted from stormwater pollution. Stormwater pollution occurs when rainwater runs off of surfaces, such as rooftops and streets, picking up trash and pollutants. This runoff gets washed into storm

drains and is carried untreated directly to our nearby streams. In addition to this, water treatment systems can back up because of clogs, such as food scraps, fats, oils, and grease (FOG). Untreated industrial waste also causes water pollution.

Everyone can do their part to help conserve and keep our water clean. We can reduce the amount of time the faucet is on and take short showers. Using energy and water-efficient appliances is very helpful. Minimizing outdoor water use is also important. Covering pools and watering lawns only when necessary saves a lot of water. Refraining from littering and disposing of waste in the trash instead of the sink helps prevent water pollution. It is always a priority to report leaking, damaged, or faulty pipelines or storm drains.

Having a clean, abundant water supply for the Metropolitan Atlanta area and the state is essential because water is a basic need. Every living being needs this resource and is accountable for its responsible use. We need and use water in our everyday lives. It is very important that we have enough clean water available for the population to use and that we use this water responsibly.