Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Stormwater management, pollution, polluted runoff, water conservation and managing expenses are concerns we all share. Take a moment to read about a few ideas to reduce pollution and conserve water resources and in the process save a few dollars.

I hope you enjoy a few of these simple ideas. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 708-598-3400 or on the web at dweakley@paloshillsweb.org.

Have a Great Year,

Dave Weakley, Commissioner of Public Works, Sewer and Water
City of Palos Hills

111 Ways to Conserve

There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.

#2 When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.

#3 Some refrigerators, air conditioners and ice-makers are cooled with wasted flows of water. Consider upgrading with air-cooled appliances for significant water savings.

#4 Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

#5 Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

#6 Choose shrubs and groundcovers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.

#7 Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.

#8 Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.

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(over)
#9 Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.

#10 For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.

#11 Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.

#12 Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.

#13 Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.

#14 Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.

#15 Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.

#16 If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.

#17 Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, then reuse it to water houseplants.

#18 If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.

#19 We're more likely to notice leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.

#20 If you have an automatic refilling device, check your pool periodically for leaks.

#21 Check the root zone of your lawn or garden for moisture before watering using a spade or trowel. If it's still moist two inches under the soil surface, you still have enough water.

#22 When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.

#23 Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.

To see 88 more ideas about how to conserve water, reduce pollution and polluted run-off to our ditches, creeks, streams and rivers, visit: http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/.