



CHATHAM COUNTY—SAVANNAH
METROPOLITAN PLANNING
COMMISSION

The WaterSpout

2018 SUMMER EDITION

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citizens, it is true that some of the impacts of flooding can be reduced through prevention on our parts.

You may be asking yourself, "What can I do to prevent flooding?" The biggest way to help prevent flooding is to limit the impervious surfaces on your property. If you add a patio or want to pave your driveway, consider pervious concrete, pavers, or other porous materials to allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground where it hits rather than flowing off your property into storm drains or ditches.

You should also keep drainage ditches on your property free of debris, foliage and vegetation that would impede the flow of water. It is illegal to dump any type of debris into a canal or drainage ditch. This debris can become entangled in ditches, culverts and shallow streambeds and reduce drainage causing the water to back up. Dumping debris in canals or drainage ditches should be reported to the local public works department or local law enforcement agencies.

In addition, be sure to check with the local permitting department before you build on, alter, re-grade, or fill on your property. A permit may be required to ensure that your projects do not cause flooding problems on other properties. If you see a building being constructed without a building permit clearly posted, contact the appropriate phone numbers listed below.

Permitting Offices:

City of Bloomingdale Planning/Zoning: 912-748-0970
City of Savannah Development Services: 912-651-6510
Chatham County Building Safety and Regulatory Services: 912-201-4300

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Find us on the Web:
www.mpcnaturalresources.org
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Find us on Facebook:
[MPC Natural Resources](https://www.facebook.com/MPCNaturalResources)

Find us on Twitter:
<http://twitter.com/#!/MPCNatResources>

Address:
110 East State Street
Savannah, Georgia 31412
Phone:
912-651-1440



Water Restrictions are Still in Effect

It is important to remember that there are permanent outdoor watering restrictions for all of Chatham County. These restrictions remain in effect during both declared drought and non-drought periods.

The following outdoor watering schedules apply for all of Chatham County:

- The use of outdoor water is not allowed between **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**;
- No watering is allowed on **Fridays**;

Outdoor watering allowed between 4:01 PM– 9:59 AM

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses	Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses	X	Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses



Thanks to Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation's *Live Well. Be Well.* initiative, Forsyth Farmers' Market has created **Farm Truck 912**, a mobile farmers' market that brings local fruits and vegetables to Savannah neighborhoods with the least access to healthy food.

Farm Truck 912 both *accept* and *double* SNAP/EBT benefits and offer health and nutrition opportunities!

The current Farm Truck stops include:

Only Rain Down the Drain

Summer time in the Southeast means afternoon thunderstorms. Those rains can sometimes be a welcome reprieve from the summer heat, as they cool us down a bit and give our trees and lawns a much needed drink of water. But where does all the water go that does not make its way onto our lawns or other pervious surfaces? It goes into our storm drains, directly to our streams and rivers without any treatment to filter out the litter and other pollutants.

Check out this short video that reminds us all why we should never litter and why we should always pick up litter that we see, even if it is not ours:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhIBSOITYdQ&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=May+2016&utm_campaign=May+2016&utm_medium=email)

[v=LhIBSOITYdQ&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=May+2016&utm_campaign=May+2016&utm_medium=email](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhIBSOITYdQ&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=May+2016&utm_campaign=May+2016&utm_medium=email)

FARM TRUCK 912

Current Schedule

Monday

WW Law Library / 909 E Bolton St.
4:00-6:00pm

Tuesday

Skidaway Island / 1 W Ridge Rd.
12:30-2:00pm

Daffin Park / 1301 E. Victory Dr.
3:00-6:00pm

Wednesday

Savannah Gardens / 515 Pennsylvania Ave.
1:00-2:30pm

Lady Bamford / 1410 Richards St.
3:30-5:15pm

Thursday

CITGO Sheppard's Gas & Food Mart / 1302 W Gwinnett St.
12:30-2:00pm

West Broad Street YMCA / 1110 May St.
3:00-5:30pm

Sunday

Jewish Educational Alliance / 5111 Abercorn St.
11:00-1:00pm

Last updated: 3/07/2018

Xeriscaping 101

Xeriscaping refers to landscaping in ways that minimize water use by reducing or eliminating the need for supplemental water for irrigation and maximizing the use of natural precipitation. Native plants whose natural needs are consistent with the local climate are emphasized.

Xeriscaping is an official landscaping technique that originated in the 1980's in response to ongoing, multi-year droughts impacting the western portion of the United States. As people have realized the benefits of this type of landscaping, it has gained popularity around the world.

Per the US Environmental Protection Agency website, residential outdoor water use across the country accounts for nearly 9 billion gallons of water each day, mainly in landscape irrigation. The average US household uses more water outdoors than for showering and washing clothes combined.

While we all love a lush, green lawn it is time for those of us that are using lots of water and fertilizer to achieve the perfect yard to acknowledge the impacts that has on the environment and consider making a change in our landscaping mindset. A complete overhaul of your yard is not necessary in order to make an impact. Consider implementing xeriscaping techniques, such as adding mulch, to your landscaping routines and when adding new plants pick ones that are native to the area.

7 Principals to Xeriscaping

1. The fundamental element to Xeriscape design is water conservation.
2. Improve your soil so that it drains quickly and stores water at the same time.
3. Reduce the size of turf areas as much as possible.
4. Select plants that are native to your region.
5. Cover the soil's surface around plants with mulch.
6. Water conservation is the main goal, so when irrigating avoid overwatering.
7. Don't "over" maintain your lawn (i.e. don't cut grass too short as taller grass is a natural mulch that shades the roots and helps retain moisture, don't over fertilize and don't overwater.).



Advantages to Xeriscaping

- **Saves Water** Reduces the amount of water "consumed" by your yard.
- **Less Maintenance** Less time and work needed for maintaining your yard, making it simpler and less stressful.
- **No Fertilizers or Pesticides** Using native plants will eliminate the need for chemical supplements.
- **Saves Money** Reduces costs by eliminating the need to water or fertilize your lawn.
- **Improves the Look of Property** Native plants tend to survive and thrive better than those not naturally found in the region.
- **Reduces Pollution** The elimination of large expansions of turf areas results in less fossil fuel consumption from gas mowers.
- **Provides Wildlife Habitat** Use of native plants, shrubs and trees offer a familiar and varied habitat for local wildlife.

To find native plants for your area, go to the University of Georgia Extension website at:

[Native Plants for Georgia Part I: Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines | UGA Cooperative Extension](#)



Transportation Survey

If you live or work in Chatham, Bryan or Effingham County we want to hear from you!

The Coastal Region (CORE) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is in the process of developing our Metropolitan Transportation Plan, for the Savannah metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan is a comprehensive, multimodal "blueprint" for transportation systems and services aimed at meeting the mobility needs of the metropolitan area through the next 20+ years.

Plans, projects, programs, and policies are proposed as transportation recommendations that reflect solutions to improve the overall quality of life for residents in the area.

We have developed a short 5 minute [survey](#) to get to know your thoughts on issues that will affect development of the plan.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2045mobility>



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Forsyth Farmers' Market

Every Saturday at the south end of Forsyth Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Support local farmers, and improve your health by shopping at the Forsyth Farmers' Market. Select from a variety of fresh, regional produce sold by farmers, and take advantage of nutritional information and demonstrations offered at the health pavilion. EBT cards are accepted.

Please visit: www.forsythfarmersmarket.org



Check out our **new and improved** MPC Natural Resources website!!

<http://mpcnaturalresources.org/>