



CHATHAM COUNTY—SAVANNAH  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
COMMISSION

# The WaterSpout

2019 SPRING EDITION

## What's Inside:

Water Restrictions

Farm Truck 912

The Facts On Leaks

Fix a Leak Week

Forsyth Farmer's  
Market

Earth Day

## Easy Ways to Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater is rain that does not soak into the ground where it falls, instead flowing into stormdrains or directly into rivers or streams. In our area stormwater often times results in nuisance flooding. As stormwater flows over land it carries chemicals and sediments it picks up along the way with it. Eventually the stormwater, and all of its contaminants, makes its way into our area waterbodies degrading the water quality. Although stormwater runoff has many negative impacts, there are some easy ways to reduce the amount of stormwater running off of your property. Some ways include:

- Minimize the amount of impervious surfaces, allowing more rain water to soak into the ground where it falls. Consider using gravel, pavers, or porous asphalt instead of concrete or asphalt.
- Use rain barrels or cisterns to collect rainwater from your roof for later use.
- Plant trees or preserve existing trees on site. Tree roots absorb water and their canopies slow the fall of rainwater, allowing the ground to absorb more water since it is not falling all at once.
- Add mulch or similar materials to cover bare soil. Leaving bare soil in your landscape can result in the exposed soil being washed away during a rain event.
- Create a rain garden. Rain gardens work by collecting rainwater and filtering out contaminants before the water enters the groundwater. To learn more about Rain Gardens, go to <https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-rain-gardens>
- Consider xeriscaping (using native vegetation reducing the need for fertilizers and other chemicals, and supplemental water from irrigation). For more information on xeriscaping, go to <https://www.hgtv.com/design/outdoor-design/landscaping-and-hardscaping/design/xeriscape-design-ideas>
- Add a trench alongside a driveway or patio. A shallow, gravel filled trench can catch stormwater and slow the rate of runoff, allowing the ground to absorb more water.

Melanie Wilson  
Executive Director

Debbie Burke, AICP  
Natural Resources Planner

Find us on the Web:  
[www.mpcnaturalresources.org](http://www.mpcnaturalresources.org)  
[www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org)

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

Find us on Twitter:  
[http://twitter.com/#!/MPCNatResources](https://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	<b>X</b>	Even/Un-numbered addresses	Odd addresses

*mobilizing fresh food for all*



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:

## Mark Your Calendars



**Saturday**  
**April 20, 2019**  
 12pm - 5pm  
 Daffin Park

### THE FACTS ON LEAKS



**10**  
percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day



A leaky faucet dripping at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than  
**3,000 gallons**  
per year

**Did you know?**  
Minor water leaks account for more than



**1**  
**trillion gallons**  
of wasted water each year and is equal to annual household water use in



A shower leaking at  
**10 Drips**  
per minute wastes more than  
**500**  
gallons per year



**11**  
**million homes**

**REPAIR**  
leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary



Replace old toilets with WaterSense models & save



**13,000**  
gallons of water savings for the average family

Homeowners can save



10 percent on their water bills

look for



WaterSense  
Meets EPA Criteria

EPA
epa.gov/watersense



# Fix a Leak Week

This year the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Fix a Leak Week is March 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. According to the EPA's website, household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide. Each year EPA challenges us to hunt down those drips during Fix a Leak Week to do our part to make a difference.

You may ask, "Why do dripping faucets and running toilets matter enough to focus a week of attention on fixing leaks?" Water is vital to the survival of everything on the planet and is limited in supply. The Earth might seem like it has an abundant supply of water, but in fact less than 1 percent of Earth's water is available for human use. While the population and the demand on freshwater resources are increasing, supply remains consistent.

How can your little water leak make a difference in regards to the bigger picture of state wide water shortages? Approximately 10 percent of American homes have water leaks that drip away 90 gallons a day or more. The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, which equates to about the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry. Many of these leaks reside in old fixtures, such as leaky toilets and faucets. In fact, water lost by the leaky fixtures could be reduced by more than 30,000 gallons if new, efficient fixtures were installed. If the 5 percent of American homes that leak the most corrected those leaks it could save more than 177 billion gallons of water annually.

Some of the most common culprits for leaks around the home include dripping faucets and showerheads, worn out toilet flappers, leaky garden hoses, and tears/punctures in irrigation system lines. A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can

waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's enough water to take more than 180 showers. A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year- enough water to wash 60 loads of dishes in the dishwasher. An irrigation system that has a leak of 1/32<sup>nd</sup> of an inch in diameter can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

Still not convinced that fixing your leak is all that important? Per EPA's website, fixing easily corrected leaks can save a homeowner about 10 percent on their water bill. For minimal cost and effort, fixing leaks can save you money in addition to ensuring that we have an adequate water supply for all. With a slightly higher investment of replacing older toilets with new WaterSense labeled ones, it is estimated that a family can save 13,000 gallons per year and save you nearly \$2,400 in water and wastewater bills over the lifetime of the toilets.

Have we convinced you yet that it's a good idea for you and the greater good to check your home for leaks? If we have, a good method to check for leaks this time of year is to examine your winter water usage. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month. Another good means for checking for leaks is to look at your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak. To check your toilet for a leak, add food coloring to the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak.

Go to EPA's WaterSense page at <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>

to learn more about fixing leaks around the home.

## Remember Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!

Keep leaves off the ground and out of storm drains!

Leaves can clog storm drains and ditches causing street flooding, even with only light or moderate rainfall. Once leaves that enter storm drains begin to decay, they release nutrients that contribute to excess algae growth in our waterways.

Help us prevent water pollution and flooding by managing your leaves appropriately!



# FARM TRUCK 912

## Current Schedule

### Sunday

West Broad Street YMCA / 1110 May St.

12:00-2:00pm

Jewish Educational Alliance / 5111 Abercorn St.

2:30-4:30pm

### Monday

Union Mission - Yamacraw / 120 Fahm St

12:30-2:30pm

Hitch Village / Burney Dr. and E. Broad St.

3:00-5:00pm

### Tuesday

Skidaway Island / 1 W Ridge Road

2:00-5:00pm

### Wednesday

Daffin Park - Salvation Army / 3000 Bee Road

12:00-2:00pm

Lady Bamford- Fellwood / 1410 Richards St.

3:30-5:15pm

### Thursday

Good Samaritan - Garden City/ 4704 Augusta Road

10:00-12:00pm

Sheppard's Gas & Food-

Carver Village / 1302 W Gwinnett St.

12:30-2:00pm

### Friday

Sisters Court Apartments / 222 E 37th St

12:00-2:00pm

WW Law / 909 E Bolton St.

3:00-5:00

### Saturday

Montgomery Plaza / 3811 Montgomery St

1:00-3:00pm

Savannah Gardens / 515 Pennsylvania Ave

3:30-5:30pm

*Last updated: 01/31/2019*

## Find us on the Web, Facebook & Twitter!!!

Find us on the Web:

[www.mpcnaturalresources.org](http://www.mpcnaturalresources.org)

[www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org)

Find us on Facebook:

[MPC Natural Resources](https://www.facebook.com/MPCNaturalResources)

Find us on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/#!/MPCNatResources>

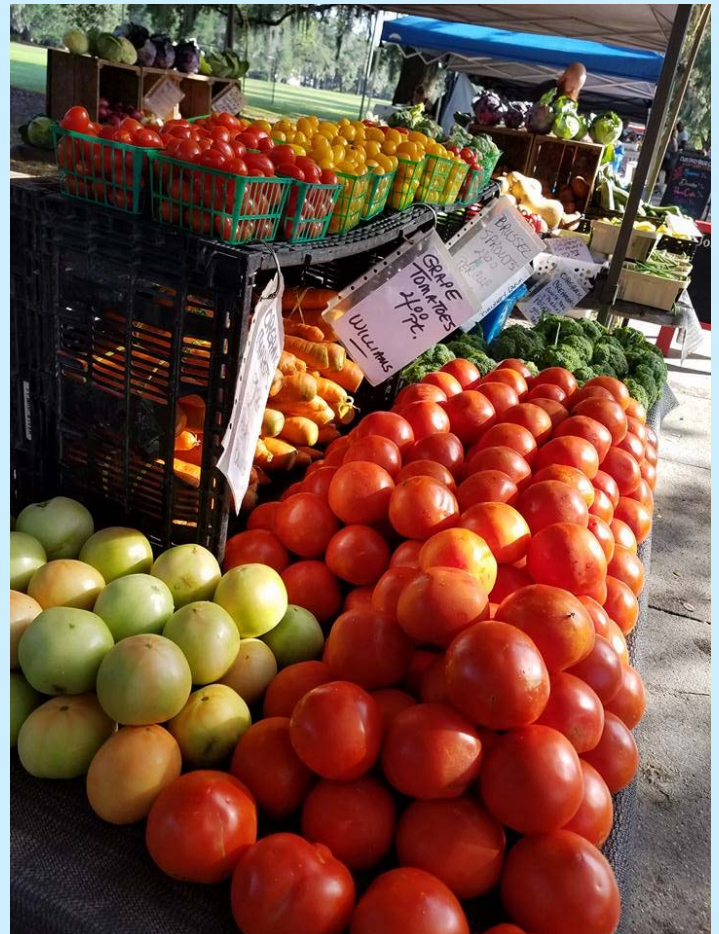


## Forsyth Farmers' Market

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](http://www.forsythfarmersmarket.org)



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

<https://mpcnaturalresources.org/>