

## From the Tap...

### Watershed Protection Partnership

Our ever-increasing need to access clean, fresh water for drinking and domestic use requires that we protect these precious resources to the best of our ability.

Today, it is a shared goal of the government, water utilities, environmental groups, and many others to protect our waterways.

Fairfax Water, along with other regional drinking water utilities and their governmental counterparts, have formed a Potomac River Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership (Partnership). The Partnership's focus is to give these agencies a stronger voice in watershed protection efforts that are already in-place for the Potomac River Basin.

Fairfax Water uses water from the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers. We test our source waters frequently to



Big Rocky Run, Centreville, Virginia

ensure safety and quality. There are also many environmental groups, colleges, universities and government agencies that constantly monitor local waterways for pollution and quality. Water quality is a national priority and is taken very seriously.

Surface water comes from run-off within a watershed. We all live in watersheds and our activities impact surface water quality. Promptly cleaning up animal wastes and proper disposal of chemicals are easy steps we can take to help keep our streams clean.

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### Should You Buy Bottled Water or Bottle Your Own?



Proper hydration is essential to good health. Do you buy bottled water or bottle your own?

Here are a few thoughts and advantages regarding "bottling your own" with tap water:

- Tap water is routinely tested for safety and quality.
- Using refillable containers reduces waste and expense.
- Refills are available around the clock. No need to go to the store!

## Lawn-Watering Tips



Watering lawns can consume a lot of water. Here are a few practical tips to keep in mind when watering this summer:

- Water late evening or early morning to avoid rapid evaporation. This will ensure that more water reaches the soil where it is most needed.
- Watch for overspray. Set the sprinkler to cast water on the

grass, not onto roadways, sidewalks or driveways. You can adjust the area covered by the sprinkler simply by partially closing the spigot.

- Keep in mind that sprinklers may use between 5 and 10 or more gallons every minute. That could add up to 600 gallons per hour or more.

## Fire Hydrant Use

It is illegal to operate or tamper with fire hydrants without authorization.

A permit is required to use hydrants in Fairfax Water's system. The permit must be present when a hydrant is being used. All use is metered by equipment issued with the permit.

If you need more information or see any suspicious activity involving a hydrant, please call 703-698-5800.



### Other Outdoor Water-Saving Tips

1. If you have an automatic sprinkler system, inspect it regularly for leaks and malfunctioning parts.
2. Avoid using the hose to clean areas that could be swept with a broom.
3. When washing vehicles, run the water only to wet and rinse. Use a container to hold the water used for washing.

## Editor's Note

If you have any comments or suggestions about this publication, let us hear from you.

E-mail us at [jbailey@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:jbailey@fairfaxwater.org) or write us at the address below. If you have questions regarding water service, please call Customer Service at (703) 698-5800.

All other departments call (703) 698-5600; After-hours emergency call (703) 698-5613, TTY (703) 698-7025.

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