

The Lower Rum River Water Management Organization (LRRWMO), which includes all of Ramsey and Anoka, as well as portions of Andover and Coon Rapids, is an organization that seeks to improve and protect lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater and other water sources across municipal boundaries. The LRRWMO member communities are~~Ramsey is~~ located on the Anoka Sand Plain and, as the name implies, is dominated by mostly sandy soils. Sandy soils have low water holding capacity, so water used to irrigate yards moves down through soil and out of the root zone area quickly. Summer lawn watering ~~in Ramsey, especially on sandy soils,~~ increases the amount of water used per day (in Ramsey, water use ~~almost triples water use~~ to over 5 million gallons per day! This, ~~which~~ has contributed to Ramsey being identified as one of the largest users of non-consumptive water in the metro).

As ~~Ramsey's~~ populations continues to grow in the member communities, the demand for water will also grow. ~~Ramsey's~~ Cumulatively, the population of the member communities of the LRRWMO is forecasted to increase by roughly 123,000 people by the year 2020, putting tremendous pressure on the groundwater supply, or aquifer. As demand for water continues to rise, the aquifer, our current source of drinking water, will be depleted more and more. While groundwater is replenished by precipitation, activities such as pumping (wells), increasing impervious surfaces (roads, rooftops, driveways, etc.), and climatic changes alter recharge rates, and potentially diminish the recharge of aquifers. Continued depletion of the aquifers could result in the need for communities to explore alternative options for water, such as drawing from the Mississippi River, which would require the construction of water treatment facility.

Below are a few examples of ~~is a list of~~ quick and easy ideas to reduce water use inside and outside: ~~you can use to reduce water use in your home.~~

#### Ideas for Conserving Water Indoors

- When upgrading appliances, consider air-cooled air conditioners, refrigerators, etc. for significant water savings.
- ~~Place a bucket in the shower or bath tub to collect the water while you wait for the water to get hot. Use this water to flush toilets or water plants and shrubs.~~
- Upgrade older toilets with low-flush (low-flow) models. If your toilet is older than 1995, you can retrofit it with a tank-based displacement device.
- ~~Compare resource savings among washing machines and dishwashers. Selecting the best model that includes load/water settings and only running them when full will help reduce water use.~~
- Obtain FREE dye strips from the City of Ramsey. Put them in your toilet to check for leaks into the toilet bowl. While you're at it, fix that leaky faucet. All those drips add up.
- Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- ~~Toss those used tissues rather than flushing them. Frequent flushers can kick this habit and save up to 600 gallons of water a month.~~
- ~~Water plants or shrubs with old pet water, nutrient rich aquarium waste water when it's cleaning time, and ice cubes you may have dropped on the floor by accident.~~

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### ~~Ideas for Conserving Water Outdoors~~

- ~~• Direct water onto plants and shrubs that need more water. When you wash your car, use a hose nozzle to turn off the water to save more than 100 gallons each washing.~~
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk between rain showers. Just sweep the dirt and spread over your lawn or toss in the trash. Doing this will not only conserve water but will also keep the dirt from entering storm sewers and catch basins.
- A sprinkler timer can be set to shut off your sprinkler after a set amount of time.
- ~~• Let Mother Nature do the watering for you. If you receive an inch or more of rain per week, you can skip your next watering.~~
- ~~• Nothing wastes water like sprinklers in the rain. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.~~
- ~~• A soil aerator an inexpensive tool which will punch holes in your lawn about six inches apart to improve infiltration so that water seeps into the ground around the root zone rather than producing runoff.~~
- Put the water from your downspout to good use by catching it in a mosquito-proof rain barrel. Plants love rainwater because it doesn't contain chlorine and is warmer than tap water.
- ~~• Rain chains are designed to replace a downspout, and channel the water to a specific location, such as a basin or rain barrel. They're pleasing to look at and they slow water down, reducing splashing and erosion.~~
- ~~• Simply replacing a hose washer can often fix a leaking garden hose connection.~~

The City of Ramsey has developed a water conservation tool box that contains information and ideas that can be implemented on residential or commercial properties. The tool box can be found at [www.cityoframsey.com/environment-water-conservation](http://www.cityoframsey.com/environment-water-conservation).