

## **What is Watershed Conservation?**

Conservation is the protection, preservation, management, or restoration of wildlife and of natural resources such as forests, soil, and water.

### **Why is conservation important to the watershed?**

Conservation is important to the watershed, because:

- 1) Parts of the watershed (called recharge areas) collect freshwater that people use for drinking, cleaning, and bathing. If these areas were completely covered up by cement, then rain water would never be able to penetrate through these coverings and into the ground; this source of freshwater collects underneath the ground and is stored in an aquifer. Collecting rain water for human consumption is vital to preventing the depletion of our freshwater supply. 3% of the entire Earth's water supply consists of freshwater, but only 1% of this water is accessible in our lifetimes. 1% is a small amount for over 4.6 billion people, plants, and animals to all share. The other 2% of our freshwater supply is locked away in polar ice caps and remains out of our reach.
- 2) Pollution that enters the watershed may contaminate our small supply of freshwater and surrounding rivers, lakes, and oceans. Not only can this water be hazardous to drink, but it can also be hazardous for consumption too. Animals can choke on particles of trash and may even starve to death if they eat too many non-digestible items.
- 3) Areas of the watershed provide a habitat for plants and animals that may contain chemical compounds which are currently being used to generate new medicines for diseases. If we destroy these habitats in the watershed, then we may be eliminating our chance to find a cure for many existing diseases.

### **What can kids do to save the watershed?**

#### **Put Trash in Its Place**

Pick up any trash items that you find (even if you didn't place it there) and properly place them in the designated areas.

#### **Clean Up Pollution**

Organize a trash clean up in your front yard, on your street, in your neighborhood, at a park, at your school, or in your local community, so that this trash will not pollute our watershed. You can contact your city for more information about local clean up days or on adopt-a-park or adopt-a-beach programs.

#### **Recycle Items**

Reduce the amount of trash that your family produces by collecting aluminum, glass, paper, or plastic items and recycling them. By doing this you will also be saving the lives of trees and allowing more plants to produce oxygen. You can sell your recycled items and get money.



## **Save Water**

Limit your water use. Take shorter showers, turn the faucet off when brushing your teeth, and tell adults about any leaky faucets you see.

### **Top 10 Conservation List** **How We Can all be Stewards of the Ocean**

1. Choose reusable shopping bags instead of plastic ones.
2. Recycle.
3. Eat sustainable seafood.
4. Do not purchase or collect corals and other marine souvenirs. They are living animals.
5. Keep trash and run off out of storm drains, which empty into the ocean.
6. Explore nature. Appreciation grows with such experiences.
7. Educate yourself about the ocean and get involved.
8. Dispose of your pet waste properly.
9. Water gardens during the evening when less of the water will evaporate in the sun.
10. Use less water and energy.

This list just touches the surface. Please visit [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org) to learn more about what you can do to make a difference for the ocean and the planet.