

“Hoping for a Future in the South”

The biggest question I've ever had has been on my mind excessively lately. It's actually quite scary if you really think about it. I love everything about where I live. The food, the heritage, and the people are just a few of the reasons I love it here. However, with coastal erosion and water pollution at their highest, will I be able to raise my family in South Louisiana? With the way coastal erosion is destroying our land day by day, who knows how much longer the heart of the south will be above water. If we want to be able to raise our families in this beautiful area, we must protect and conserve in order to enjoy!

Remember the last time you simply tossed a sliver of paper onto the ground and thought it wouldn't matter? That scrap of trash eventually ends up in our water system by the natural process called runoff. This type of pollution causes more problems than you might think. Every time a pollutant is tossed into, or ends up in the water, the risk of losing safe drinking water increases. By throwing away our trash in the proper disposal containers, we lengthen marine life, keep waters drinkable, and increase our time here in the bayou land. By planting strong standing plants along our coast we can help protect our land from coastal erosion, for even just a few weeks. Every day counts.

Louisiana's waters do so much for us. They provide us with the sunny beaches, beautiful lakes to enjoy, and also drinking water. The least we can do is conserve it. By turning off the water when brushing our teeth we can save the slightest amount of water. Showering, rather than bathing, is another way we can conserve our state's waters. Wasting water is not doing any good, especially to those who want our land to last. Another way to conserve water is putting nozzles on our hosepipes. This will prevent excess water from escaping. Also, rather than letting your sprinkler run for hours, we can simply water our plants and lawns by hand.

Enjoying the beautiful water Louisiana provides us with is something that is strongly encouraged. Tubing on the waters of Lake Verret, or catching rays and waves on the beach in Grand Isle, are two local favorites. Although hosepipe wars and water balloon fights are great fun, they should be done in moderation, for Louisiana has a great risk of losing our coastline to erosion and pollution.

While enjoying the water seems to be simple with no guidelines, we do have some precautions to take. If we really want to raise our families here, and allow our great grandchildren to be able to enjoy this beautiful land, we must protect, conserve, but also enjoy the beautiful, natural waters of South Louisiana.

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