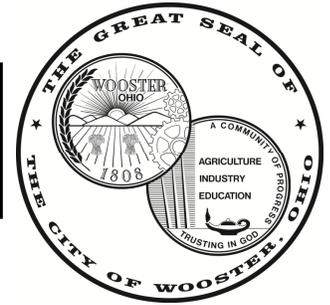




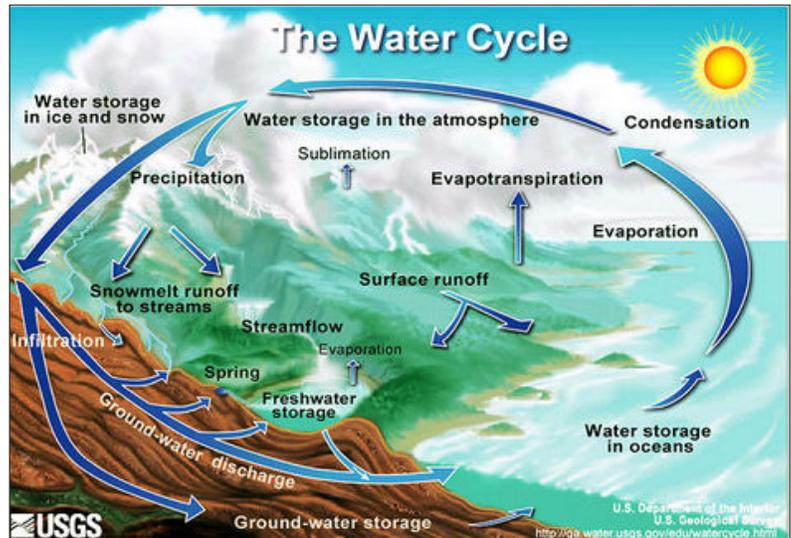
"Safety, Reliability, and Excellence!"

Wooster Water Utilities The Water Cycle



Did you know . . . that Wooster Water Utilities plays a vital role in the water cycle?

"Out of sight, out of mind" is often the attitude many of us resort to when this relates to flushing the toilet, draining the bath tub, or running the dishwasher. The water that drains from your home does go somewhere. In Wooster it flows to a state of the art, modern Water Reclamation Facility. Proper sanitary disposal of human wastes have not always been the standard that we enjoy today. Up until the mid-1800's it was common practice to simply dump chamber pots and garbage into streetside gutters, ditches and cesspits. When Louis Pasteur discovered that microorganisms in raw sewage made people sick, communities began developing sewer systems to divert human wastes away from towns. Even 50 years ago, it was common for communities to directly channel untreated wastes into rivers and lakes. The U.S. Clean Water Act (CWA) was passed in 1972 creating the framework to govern against pollution. The CWA established guidelines to reduce and eliminate the release of toxic substances that pollute bodies of water that are used for recreational purposes. The CWA brought environmental pollution from human and industrial wastes to the attention of all people. People began to understand the connection between human health and the overall health of our surrounding environment. People also began to understand that the polluted water was also a source of drinking water for many communities.



We ALL create Wastewater

Think for a minute how many daily bodily functions, personal hygiene actions, food preparation, and manufacturing processes require the use of water. Now think that every function that uses water also "wastes" water by going down a drain after the water was used. What would happen if you did not have a drain? How would your life change? The water that flows out



of a tap or faucet is clean, potable and safe for drinking. After washing hands, taking a shower, washing dishes, and flushing the toilet; that water is no longer potable as it is now a vessel to remove and "wash away" the dirty or polluted water. In America today, the national average water usage is anywhere from 75 to 110 gallons per person per day. Water used for washing or consumption eventually becomes wastewater, and water is not used up or permanently goes away. When water is used for our desired means, it becomes wastewater—or commonly known as sewage (derived from the Latin word *exaquare* "to drive out water"), either way it is 99% water. All water, in one form or another is recycled—the finite amount of water is used over and over for year and years. Many years ago wastewater was removed and out of site, and it was assumed that it would just disappear and the problem was solved. Our wastewater must be cleaned and treated before it is released to our local rivers and streams. Properly recycled water is a best and only way to maintain sustainable supplies of safe drinking water for future generations.