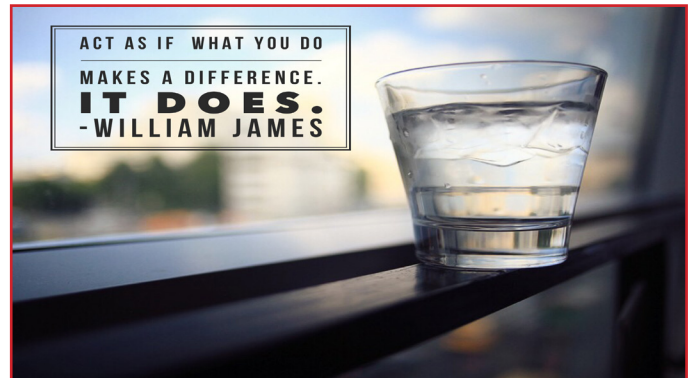


Own It!

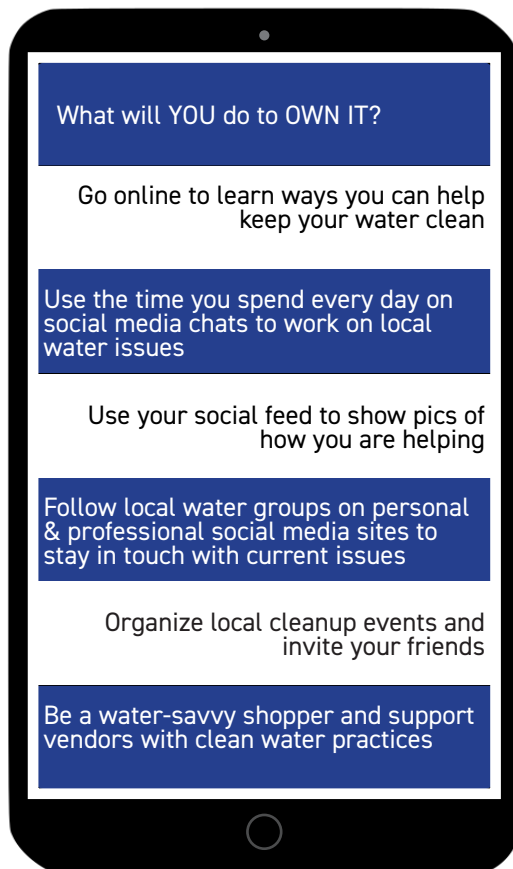
In previous articles, we have discussed stormwater issues - and how they affect our local drinking water supply. Awareness is important, but we cannot stop there. Now let's talk about you.

What you do (or don't do) has an impact on the water supply every day. Will your impact be positive or negative? Clean water starts with YOU! The best thing you can do is to be intentional and decide to become aware of local water issues. Decide to watch over and protect your own water supply. Own it!

It may be tempting to think, "Just let the agencies handle it. They're the experts." Yes, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and various other non-profit organizations do much to keep our water clean. However, these agencies have been forced by limited resources to focus primarily on cleaning up problems that have already occurred - not preventing them from happening. Clean water is not the sole responsibility of the government or local agencies. We have a large influence over our own water quality as citizens.



It is up to individuals to be proactive, and then to work together with others for change. **You are the perfect guardian over your own drinking water, because you will be the most impacted if the water in your area gets polluted.** By becoming aware of your local water issues, and being willing to make simple changes to how you care for your property, you can become an effective water warrior. We know our own neighborhoods. We are where the agencies cannot be. That makes us the perfect watchdogs. We CAN protect our water supply!



Our water is precious. It's in our own best interest to be socially responsible about our water quality. So let's take on that responsibility to keep it safe. Let's own it! WE are the biggest solution to our water quality problems. We are responsible for what happens in our homes and in our neighborhoods; which should include the water we use every day. There are many things you can do as an individual that will truly make a difference. Get your friends and neighbors to join you, and together you can make a BIG difference!

Let your voice be heard!
Clean water starts with YOU!