



## World Water Day

The United Nations designated **March 22, 1993** as the first **World Water Day**, bringing attention to the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. This year's theme is Water and Food Security.

### Some facts about water

- The UN estimates it would cost \$30 billion to provide access to safe water to the entire planet. That's a third of what the world spends annually on bottled water.
- **97.5% of all water on earth is salt water** and **less than 1% of the world's fresh water** is regularly renewed by rain and snowfall. This means very little water is available on a sustainable basis.
- We drink the same water the dinosaurs did. There is no new water.

### Where does our limited supply of water go?

- It takes 5 liters of water to make 1 liter of bottled water.
- It takes 10 liters of water to make a single sheet of copy paper.
- It takes 40 liters of water to make a slice of bread.
- It takes 75 liters of water to make a pint of beer.
- It takes 170 to 310 liters for a bottle of soda pop.
- It takes 2400 liters of water to make one hamburger (just the meat).

### We are very fortunate!

**Portland has excellent drinking water.** Compared to many people around the world who walk miles for clean water, most of us are approximately 20 feet from a water source that is abundant, uncontaminated, economical and well managed.

### Get involved

**Walk for Water**, this Saturday, March 24 is Portland's only event celebrating UN World Water Day. The walk is 3.1 miles around the Willamette River, which is the average distance nearly 1 billion people walk to get water every day in the developing world. Register **online** or at OMSI for this fun, educational opportunity for the entire family.

### Make every drop count!

Here are a few ways you can be more mindful of your water usage:

- **Audit** your water use.
- **Calculate** your water footprint.
- **Know** how You Can Help Protect Groundwater.
- **Learn** simple and effective ways to be more efficient.

*When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.*  
— Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac, 1746