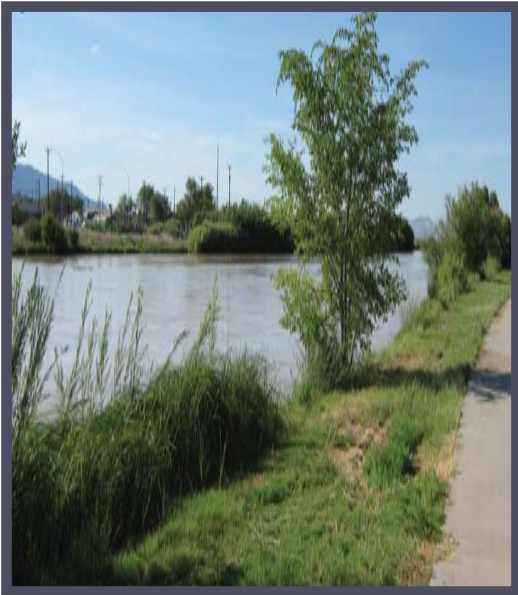


The Rio Grande is Your Drinking Water!

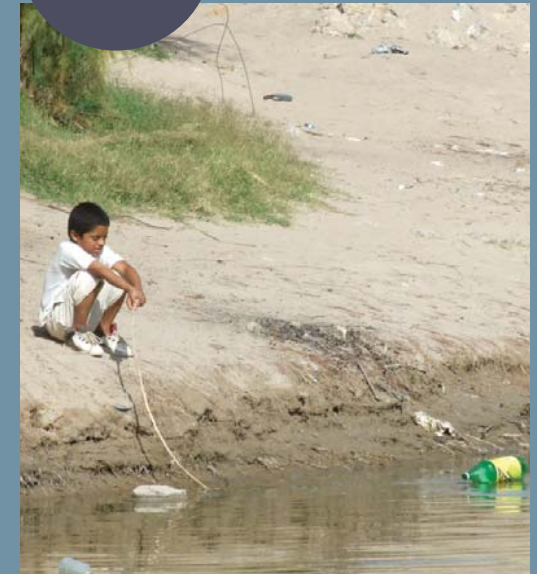
El Paso primarily receives its drinking water from ground water aquifers. As water becomes scarcer during periods of drought, pumping from the aquifers has exceeded recharge rates. As the aquifers decline, clean water from the Rio Grande becomes more and more pertinent. Storm water that flows into the Rio Grande can carry contaminants such as trash bags, fertilizers, pesticides, oils, pet waste, household chemicals and cleaning products. These pollutants can contaminate your drinking water, and lead to public health impacts.



Texas Clean Rivers Program
International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section
<http://www.ibwc.state.gov/CRP/Index.htm>



Do You Know Where Your Drinking Water Comes From?



In addition to supplying El Paso with drinking water, the Rio Grande is home to a variety of wildlife. These species depend on clean water from the Rio Grande to survive.



Chachalaca
Ortalis vetula



Burrowing Owl
Athene cucularia



Spiny Softshell Turtle
Apalone spinifera

How Can You Help Protect and Conserve the Rio Grande and the Water You Drink?

- Limit fertilizer and pesticide use
- Maintain automobiles to prevent oil leaks
- Use nontoxic and natural household cleaning products instead of harsh chemical-based cleaners
- Pick up all pet waste
- Dispose properly and recycle household chemicals
- Take batteries to the drop off center and return lead acid batteries to the place of purchase
- Never dump household chemical waste down the drain
- Do not put cooking oil and grease down the drain
- Do not put any prescription medication down the drain or in the toilet
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets (a leaky faucet can waste up to 50 gallons in one day)
- Don't let water run continuously while brushing teeth, shaving or washing dishes
- Only run dishwashers and washing machines when they are full
- Use your garbage disposal sparingly and compost waste
- Water in the morning on non-windy days to prevent evaporation (visit www.epwu.org for local conservation ordinances)
- Sweep driveways and patios instead of hosing down
- Collect rainwater
- Use covers on pools and spas and check for leaks



<http://www.epa.gov/nps/toolbox/>

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to- conserve/index.php>

<http://www.epwu.org/>