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News Release

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Share! #Durham ask residents to imagine a day without water to raise awareness about infrastructure investment;
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Durham Asks Residents to Imagine a Day Without Water

National Effort to Raise Awareness About Challenges Facing Water Infrastructure & Resources and Need for Investment

DURHAM, N.C. – Can you imagine a day without water? Imagine not having fresh water to drink, cook or bathe.

The City of Durham is urging residents to do just that, with Mayor William V. “Bill” Bell proclaiming October 6 as [*Imagine a Day Without Water*](#) in Durham. Across the country, organizations, elected officials, corporations, environmental advocates, water utilities, and others are joining together to educate the public about the challenges facing the nation’s essential water and wastewater systems, and the need for investment in infrastructure.

Many people take water service for granted. Clean, safe, reliable, and affordable water comes out of the tap and flows down the drain without a second thought. But the massive infrastructure which transports and treats water, both above and below ground, is aging.

“Water Management staff takes great pride in delivering water and wastewater services 7 days a week, 365 days a year,” said Don Greeley, director of the City’s Water Management Department. “However, many parts of our system are older than customers realize, either because they are located underground or are in out-of-the-way locations. Treatment facilities, such as the [Williams Water Treatment Plant](#), date back to the early 1900s. The [Downtown Loop Project](#) is replacing pipelines that are also close to 100 years old. We hope our participation in

the *Imagine a Day Without Water* activity will raise awareness among our customers about the need to invest in our aging infrastructure.”

To help residents think about this vital resources, City staff took to the streets to ask people what they would miss the most if they had to imagine a day without water. Responses varied from drinking, to showering, to flushing the toilet. To see the results of these interviews, visit the department’s [Web page](#), like on [Facebook](#), and follow on [Twitter](#).

“We are thrilled that Durham is joining *Imagine a Day Without Water*. The truth is, of course, we can’t go a day without water. For homes, that would mean no water to take a shower, make coffee, clean, do laundry, or flush the toilet. For businesses, ranging from restaurants to manufacturing plants, water is essential to daily operations,” said Radhika Fox, director of the [Value of Water Coalition](#). “During *Imagine a Day Without Water*, we’re speaking with one voice across the nation about how water is essential, invaluable, and needs investment.”

About the Water Management Department

The [Water Management Department](#) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Durham's water supply, water treatment and water reclamation (wastewater treatment) facilities, the collection and distribution systems (including meter reading), and customer billing services. The department has a wide variety of support divisions and programs to maintain the existing infrastructure that provide these integral services and strive to be a responsible steward of the City's physical assets. For information, visit the [Web page](#), like on [Facebook](#), and follow on [Twitter](#).

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