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Cobb County Winner and District-wide Runner-Up

For the Fish

“Hotdogs, check! Buns, check! Ice cold drink, check!” It might sound like I am going to sit down and eat a hotdog lunch, but I’m not. I’m on my way to Lost Mountain Park to fish. I hope the catfish are hungry today. Fishing is one of my favorite things to do during the summer and when the fish are happy and biting, I’m happy, too. But what doesn’t make me or the fish happy is when the water is polluted.

At my favorite fishing hole, you will see turtles and ducks swimming happily and you will also see that there are a lot of weeds and no lush grass. You might be thinking, “Well that’s not good, because it’s a park and parks usually have lush green grass,” but really it is good. Did you know that the fertilizers that promote lush grass are actually bad for the environment? They are bad because they contain Nitrogen and Phosphorus. When those chemicals enter waterways, they can cause algae blooms. Algae blooms kill fish because they lower the oxygen in the water and also raises the pH of the water. No fish equals no fishing, and that’s no fun.

Helping spread the word about protecting our environment from dangerous runoff is the most important thing I can do if I want to protect the water system and continue to enjoy fishing. Did you know 40% of rain flows downhill and on its way picks up dangerous chemicals that end up in ponds, lakes, and streams. The choices we make will determine the health of our bodies of water and the health of our bodies of water will determine the health of the fish and other wildlife.

I don’t know about you, but I’m definitely going to get involved in my community, for the fish.