

## To Better Our Community

Produced by [Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation](#)

Duration  
**10:01 (cc)**

## STEAM Curriculum Lesson Extension:

*Shedding the Traditional, High School*

### Goal

Students will learn how community planning that includes land conservation can positively impact water quality that comes from storm water runoff.

### Overview

Students will see how one community in Mississippi has used a watershed-based approach to the development of their town to improve the water quality along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. This plan includes the use of land conservation that allows the soil to act as a filter. Students will use information from the video and a Fact Sheet in parallel to explore this solution.

### Connections to EarthX STEAM Curriculum Lesson: *Shedding the Traditional*

Students learn in the STEAM lesson that urban development has created negative effects on watersheds and that alternative materials can help mitigate them. The video and fact sheet, used in combination, describe how land conservation used in urban planning can also help to solve this issue.

### Guiding Questions

- Can you think of one word to describe a watershed? Explain why you chose that word.
- A speaker in the video is quoted as saying, “Change is always uncomfortable.” What positive reasons for change can you use to persuade people to consider the use of land conservation as a tool to improve water quality in a watershed?
- The Health of the Gulf Begins in Your City Limits Fact Sheet states, “It is better to prevent future problems than to be faced with solving them.” Why is being proactive better than being reactive?

### Vocabulary

- City Manager
- Public Works
- Water quality
- Zoning
- Watershed-based approach
- Upstream/downstream
- Infiltration zones
- Land conservation
- Green space
- Storm water management
- Hydrology
- Cluster development
- Riparian

### Standards

#### Next Generation Science

- MS-LS2-2
- MS-LS2-4
- HS-LS2-6
- HS-ESS3-1
- HS-ESS3-4

#### TEKS Science Objectives

- 7.b.8