



## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

Silverwood Theme Park  
Athol, Idaho  
2004

### Environmental Commitment

Silverwood Theme Park has a good working relationship with various people and regional entities that have an interest in protecting the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, which prompted its continuing support of aquifer education and awareness.

### Pollution Prevention Success

#### Public Outreach

Silverwood Theme Park helps educate its over 480,000 visitors a year about water quality and the importance of protecting the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The aquifer is the main source of drinking water for north Idaho and is threatened by contamination. Silverwood created Aquifer Fun Facts, signs that provide fun and informational facts about the aquifer and highlight the importance of protecting this vital resource. Facts and tips include:

- On peak summer days, the aquifer delivers more than 630 million gallons of water to people in Idaho and Washington.
- A thin layer of soil covers this pristine water source. That means anything that is spilled, dumped, or leaked on the ground can end up contaminating the aquifer.
- Recycling, planting water-friendly crops and shrubs, fixing leaks, and being careful not to over water lawns can save millions of gallons of water.

#### Community Partnerships

Silverwood partners with the local branch of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), inviting DEQ staff to set up educational displays and booths throughout the summer. DEQ staff exhibit ground water models and are available to answer questions about water quality and aquifer protection.

#### Environmental and Science Education

Each May, Silverwood hosts over 3,400 students for Physics and Science Days. One highlight of this event is a session called Aquifer Education, a booth designed to educate students and teachers about water quality, conservation, and protection.

#### Water Conservation

Silverwood incorporates many water conservation techniques into its landscaping and grounds maintenance including:

- Planting drought resistant vegetation to reduce water use.
- Watering by hand in planters and some lawn areas for more efficient application and less runoff.
- Turning yard waste and clippings into mulch for use in park gardens.

## For More Information

For more information on educational programs, contact Meilee Azabache at (208) 683-3400 x126, for general park information, contact Nancy DiGiammarco at (208) 683-3400 x104.

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