

Water, Soil and Conservation Quotes

"No one has the right to use America's rivers and America's waterways that belong to all the people, as a sewer. The banks of a river may belong to one man or one industry or one state, but the waters which flow between the banks should belong to all the people."

— **President Lyndon B. Johnson**, upon signing the *Clean Water Act of 1965*

"Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans."

— **Jacques Cousteau**

"We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one." — **Jacques Cousteau**

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not."

— **Dr. Seuss**, from *The Lorax*

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." — **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

"Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence." — **Hal Borland**

"Life is a tapestry woven by the decisions we make." — **Sherrilyn Kenyon**

"Essentially, all life depends upon the soil ... There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together." — **Charles E. Kellogg**, *USDA Yearbook of Agriculture, 1938*

"We are part of the earth and it is part of us ... What befalls the earth befalls all the sons of the earth." — **Chief Seattle, 1852**

"To see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wildflower."

— **William Blake**, *Auguries of Innocence*

"Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get." — **Mark Twain**

"We must come to understand our past, our history, in terms of the soil and water and forests and grasses that have made it what it is." — **William Vogt**, *Road to Survival, 1948*

"Soil erosion is as old as agriculture. It began when the first heavy rain struck the first furrow turned by a crude implement of tillage in the hands of prehistoric man. It has been going on ever since, wherever man's culture of the earth has bared the soil to rain and wind."

— **Hugh H. Bennett and W.C. Lowdermilk**, circa 1930's

"How can I stand on the ground every day and not feel its power? How can I live my life stepping on this stuff and not wonder at it?" — **William Bryant Logan** from *Dirt-The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*

“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

– **Aldo Leopold, 1949. A Sand County almanac.**

“The greater number of landscapes I explored, the more it seemed that they had traits in common and that the essence of each was not its uniqueness but its similarity to others.”

– **J. B. Jackson, Concluding with the Landscapes, 1984**

“Beautiful rocks - beautiful grass - Beautiful soil where they both combine - Beautiful river - covering sky - Never thought of possession, but all this was mine.” – **Bruce Cockburn, in A Dream Like Mine, 1991**

“For all things come from earth, and all things end by becoming earth.” – **Xenophanes of 580 B.C.**

“There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” – **Aldo Leopold**

“Character develops itself in the stream of life.” – **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

“We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass – grow in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls.” – **Mother Teresa**

“I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do.”
– **Willa Cather**

“From every conceivable angle—economic, social, cultural, public health, national defense—conservation of natural resources is an objective on which all should agree.” – **Hugh Hammond Bennett**

“If you will take the trouble to ascertain the facts about our farmland—and other natural resources—and then lend your support to our conservation program we will get results and hold on to them. To stand by silently will not help.” – **Hugh Hammond Bennett**

“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.” – **W. H. Auden**

“We're like a gardener with a hose and our attention is water - we can water flowers or we can water weeds.” – **Josh Radnor**

“For many of us, clean water is so plentiful and readily available that we rarely, if ever, pause to consider what life would be like without it.” – **Marcus Samuelsson**

“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”
– **Robert Louis Stevenson**

“The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer.” – **Will Rogers**

“I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own.”
– **Andy Warhol**

"In the name of the bee
And of the butterfly
And of the breeze, amen!"
– **Emily Dickinson**

"Show me a healthy community with a healthy economy and I will show you a community that has its green infrastructure in order and understands the relationship between the built and the unbuilt environment." – **Will Rogers, Trust for Public Land**

"Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us." – **Theodore Roosevelt**

"Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest." – **Aldo Leopold**

"Civilization exists by geological consent, subject to change without notice." – **Will Durant**

"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in." – **George Washington Carver**

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." – **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"Don't blow it - good planets are hard to find." – **Quoted in Time**

"So bleak is the picture...that the bulldozer and not the atomic bomb may turn out to be the most destructive invention of the 20th century." – **Philip Shabecoff, New York Times Magazine, 4 June 1978**

"When you defile the pleasant streams
And the wild bird's abiding place,
You massacre a million dreams
And cast your spittle in God's face."
– **John Drinkwater**

"Nature is my medicine." – **Sara Moss-Wolfe**

"Man plans, God laughs." – **Yiddish Proverb**

"Earth laughs in flowers." – **Ralph Waldo Emerson**