

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH STORMWATER?

The first and most obvious issue is flooding. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, one inch of rain falling on one square mile of land equates to 17,378,560 gallons of water.

Of environmental concern is the pollution all of this water picks up as it rushes into storm drains and heads to the receiving water body. In Melbourne, most of the runoff water goes to the Indian River Lagoon and deposits the pollutants there.



The City of Melbourne has recently completed a project to install 1,500 emblems on storm drain culverts as a reminder that whatever goes into the storm

drain system will flow directly into the lagoon. In fact, stormwater runoff is the number one pollution problem in the Indian River Lagoon and in other waterways across the country. When it rains, the water carries with it dirt, discarded trash, nutrient-rich fertilizers, grass clippings left on the curbside, pet waste, insecticides, motor oils, brake dust, tire fragments, and toxic chemicals from the road.

The good news is that corrective action can be taken. The City of Melbourne is taking strong action to fight the problem of stormwater pollution, measures that will also help alleviate potential flooding problems. There are also many things residents can do to fight the problem and keep our waterways clean and safe so we can enjoy sailing, motor boating, fishing, kayaking, jet skiing, swimming, nature watching.



What can I do?

Always...

Sweep up leaves accumulate on



walk or in the using a blower, blow them back into your yard, never into a storm drain.

or grass clippings that your driveway, sidewalk or in the street. If you are

Pick up pet waste and dispose of it by flushing it down the toilet or by burial.



Redirect roof down spouts from paved areas to grassy areas.



Wash your car on the lawn rather than on the driveway. The nutrient-rich soapy water is good fertilizer for the grass but can lead to algae blooms if it enters the Indian River Lagoon system.

Plant native landscaping and reduce your amount of sodded areas. Native plants require less irrigation, maintenance, fertilizers and pesticides.

Dispose of used motor oil, other household hazardous



paint and waste at a designated collection center. The collection center at the Sarno Landfill is open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 633-7112 for information.

Never...

Never throw trash or butts out the window enter the stormwater



cigarette where they can enter the stormwater system.

Don't overuse fertilizers or pesticides. The chemicals in these can be toxic and the nutrients released into the water can cause algae blooms and kill wildlife.

Never fertilize before rain is expected. Use pesticides sparingly and only on problem areas.

Melbourne's Stormwater Utility



Working together to improve water quality and protect your property

What is the City of Melbourne doing about this problem?

STORMWATER UTILITY CREATED TO FUND SOLUTIONS

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implemented Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (NPDES) in 1999. Melbourne is in the process of complying with the mandates of this program and will be required to submit an application for an NPDES permit. The permit will establish strategies for reducing pollutants in the City's stormwater runoff and for improving water quality. It will also establish schedules for compliance and annual reporting to EPA.

Effective October 1999, City Council established a Stormwater Utility Fund supported by an assessment of \$18 per year for the typical residential property. The charge to large, multi-unit properties as well as commercial and industrial properties is based on the size of each property. It is also based on the amount of impervious area that does not absorb runoff, including asphalt and concrete as well as structures. The program generates about \$750,000 per year for projects to prevent localized flooding and to address environmental issues related to stormwater runoff.

The City has contracted with Brevard County's Surface Water Improvement Program to administer the program. This has allowed Melbourne to utilize the County's existing program which has resulted in a savings to the City of approximately \$200,000 in start-up costs and a savings of approximately \$60,000 per year in administration costs. In addition, this contractual arrangement has resulted in a \$120,000 grant to assist with the funding of construction of the Dove Street stormwater treatment pond. The City has

obtained another \$40,000 in grant funding from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) for installation of baffle boxes at various locations.

Efforts undertaken so far have been very successful and are providing a big impact toward the program's goals.

MAJOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE TO REDUCE FLOODING AND POLLUTANTS

Two major pieces of heavy equipment have been purchased using Stormwater Utility funds that are proving to be very successful at combatting both flooding risks and pollution associated with stormwater runoff.



Most recently, a stormwater line cleaning truck was purchased for \$198,000. The truck is equipped with a vacuum system that pulls debris from stormwater lines and captures it into a nine-cubic-yard debris tank.

By cleaning the lines, the result is more efficient drainage to help prevent flooding and keep the Indian River Lagoon cleaner.



Last year, the utility funded the purchase of a \$140,000 Elgin Geo Vac, which is a combination street sweeper and vacuum truck. Different from a traditional street sweeper, this equipment also quietly vacuums what is swept and is much more efficient at collecting dirt and other debris.

The truck is also being used to clean the thousands of stormwater drainage catch basins throughout Melbourne, in addition to baffle boxes which trap sediment to prevent it from entering the lagoon.

In the next few years, plans are to purchase another vacuum-type street sweeper and a camera truck that will inspect the condition of the underground drainage pipes.

MAJOR STORMWATER PROJECTS

A number of major projects have been completed using Stormwater Utility funding, and more are planned for 2002 and beyond. These projects include:

- Replace two metal storm pipes on Sarno Road.....\$ 300,000
- Garfield Street outflow\$ 65,000
- Dove Street treatment pond.....\$ 170,000
- Parkway Drive treatment pond\$250,000 (City's share)

PROPOSED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001-02

- Replace storm pipe on Sherwood Dr. & Charles Ave.\$260,000
- Spain Street - new drain pipes\$150,000
- NDP Park stormwater treatment pond\$250,000

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