

WHAT PROBLEMS DOES STORMWATER CAUSE?

The most obvious problem is flooding caused by heavy rains. Proper maintenance of the stormwater drainage system is essential to control street and property flooding.

As the stormwater flows into our canals, rivers, wetlands and underground water storage areas, it takes along contaminants, sediments, debris, animal feces, pesticides, fertilizers, oils and greases from lawns, streets and parking lots.

WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS?

Port St. Lucie's location allows access to too many recreational and sporting activities. Proper maintenance of our Stormwater Drainage System will help to eliminate the potential pollution of our natural resources.

Our City is located in a subtropical region, which receives an average of 53 inches of rainfall each year.

WHERE DO THE FUNDS COME FROM?

The Stormwater Fee generates its revenue through an annual assessment. These fees are based on the amount of stormwater runoff your property contributes to the total Stormwater System. Everyone who owns land is responsible for paying a Stormwater Fee. Since rain

falls on all property, all property owners pay. Assessment fees are based on property lot size.

Prior to instituting the Stormwater Fee, funding for maintenance of the Drainage System came from property taxes.

WHAT KIND OF BENEFITS AND IMPROVEMENTS WILL I SEE?

Our City has more than 1,600 miles of swales that are designed to collect stormwater and remove this water from City streets and all property.

Swales convey this stormwater into Drainage Right-of-Ways (DROWs), which delivers the runoff to canals, waterways and rivers.

Maintenance of the swale system is vital to the City's drainage system. Proper maintenance of our swales protects our streets from damage and our homes from possible flooding.

The funds collected from the Stormwater Fee pay for the purchasing and maintenance of equipment, materials, and the hiring of personnel in order to maintain and improve our drainage system.

DRAINAGE RIGHTS-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

The Stormwater Fees also provide funds to purchase specialized equipment to maintain the 160 miles of DROW and canals within our City.

CANAL AND WATERWAY MAINTENANCE

The City has a system of canals and waterways that moves the stormwater runoff from the DROWs to our rivers.

When extensive maintenance is required in larger, deeper DROWs, the City contracts for this work to be done including regularly scheduled aquatic maintenance.

RESPONDING TO "REQUESTS FOR SERVICES"

The Public Works Department Customer Service Division receives calls from residents reporting problems they may be experiencing regarding our drainage system.

Requests for Service, along with other drainage work and stormwater improvements, are inspected and assigned work order status. Some work orders require immediate attention, such as culvert failures and washouts. All other work orders are put on a schedule determined by the date the request for service is received by the Public Works Department. Schedules (work orders) are monitored and updated as work progresses.

There are more than 1,600 miles of swales, 160 miles of DROWs and approximately 4,000 culverts located throughout the City's 115 square miles. Maintaining the City's Stormwater System is an ongoing process.

CLEANER CANALS, WATERWAYS AND RIVERS

As the City grows, so does the potential for pollution of our natural resources from stormwater runoff. The future of our environment may be affected as more homes are built in our community. The Stormwater Fee funds future work necessary to maintain our clean waters; which enhances the quality of life in the City of Port St. Lucie.

WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO PAY?

The Stormwater Fee is a City user fee that property owners in the City support. Since all stormwater runoff comes from real property, each property owner in the City pays their "fair share" to plan, construct, maintain, test for pollutants, and operate the citywide Stormwater System.

The Stormwater Drainage System is designed for the entire City, from swales, Drainage Right-of-Ways, canals, retention ponds, lakes and waterways.

Everyone who lives in the City of Port St. Lucie benefits when the Stormwater System is well managed.

The entire system is constructed and maintained for the benefit of all Port St. Lucie residents. You may not have a problem on your property or in your neighborhood, but the runoff from your property and your neighbor's property contributes to the City's overall Stormwater System.

WHERE DOES OUR STORM WATER FEE GO?

The City currently has a population of over 157,000 residents. Approximately 60,350 homes exist; however there are over 87,000 total lots in the City. A large portion of our budget is supported by the Stormwater Fee. Commercial lot owners also contribute to the fund.

The City uses these funds to provide:

- Capital improvements, which include major improvements to Drainage Right-of-Way systems, including culvert replacements.
- The maintenance cleaning and repair of all canals within the City.
- The cost of installation of new swale liner within the City, including the maintenance of the existing swale liner.
- Administrative operational costs.
- Engineering and design.
- Debt service.

Other activities associated with the Stormwater Program are:

- The mowing of the embankments and maintenance of waterways and canals.
- Maintenance of 96 water control structures and 2 stormwater pump stations.
- Aquatic maintenance of Drainage Right-of-Ways, waterways and canals.
- The mowing maintenance of City Road Right-of-Ways.

Our current work order schedule for swale liner installation is approximately 5 years. The City makes an impact on this backlog by installing 25-30 miles of new swale liner on an annual basis

WHAT IS THE CITY DOING ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS?

Before the Stormwater Fee was established by an Ordinance in 1986, all Stormwater Drainage Funds came from the General Property Tax budget.

Since this source of funds was no longer considered adequate for the long term, the Stormwater Assessment Fee was established. The revenue from this fee may need to be adjusted to meet the substantial task that must be accomplished.

The Stormwater Fee funds:

- All of the Drainage Division.
- A portion of other divisions within the Public Works Department.
- A portion of the Engineering Department.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Please report any drainage system failures you see to our Customer Service Division at 871-5100. These reports may include washouts, culvert failures and swale obstructions.

Help us maintain the Stormwater Drainage System by keeping the flow line in your swale free from obstructions by cleaning the plastic swale liner. Remember, the dumping of grass clippings and other debris into the drainage system, swales and Drainage Right-of-Ways cause erosion and failure of the entire system.

If you observe stormwater runoff pollution occurring, such as dirty water leaving a construction site, dumping trash or chemicals into our drainage system, raw sewage discharges or other environmental concerns, please call the **Stormwater Hotline at 344-4319.**

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Call 871-5100

E-mail: PublicWorks@cityofpsl.com
or www.cityofpsl.com

Mayor & City Council

Mayor Patricia Christensen
Vice Mayor Jack Kelly, District IV
Linda Bartz, District I
Michelle Lee Berger, District II
Christopher Cooper, District III

City Manager & Assistant City Manager

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Jerry Bentrrott, City Manager
Greg Oravec, Assistant City Manager

OTHER IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Questions regarding the C-23 and C-24 canals call the South Florida Water Management District at 1-800-432-2045.

Questions regarding the Saint Lucie Buffer Preserve/Savannah State Preserve call 340-7530.
To contact Department of Environmental Protection call 398-2806.

Glossary:

- **Stormwater:** The flow of water that results from precipitation and which occurs immediately following rainfall.
- **Drainage Right-of-Way:** The lands required for the installation of stormwater inlets and/ or drainage ditches. These are installed along a natural street or water course for preserving the channel and providing for the flow of water to safeguard the public against flood damage.
- **Swale:** A trough-like depression in the Right-of-Way that carries water mainly during rain storms.
- **Culvert:** A drain running under a road or embankment that transports stormwater.
- **Assessment:** The amount of special payment required to fund municipal projects.

City of Port St. Lucie



STORMWATER FUND