



Swales and Stormwater Pollution Prevention



City of Fort Lauderdale
Environmental Services Division
954-828-8000/www.fortlauderdale.gov



Swale Maintenance

A properly maintained swale helps prevent stormwater pollution and flooding. Swales are designed to collect rainwater, filter pollutants, control flooding, prevent erosion, and provide a drainage area for stormwater. The following information will assist you with ensuring your swale area manages stormwater runoff efficiently.

- ◆ Mow and maintain swale areas to promote healthy grass growth.
- ◆ Minimize the use of lawn and garden chemicals.
- ◆ Avoid over watering the swale area. If water is standing in the swale when it has not rained, reduce irrigation.
- ◆ Keep swales free of litter, branches, leaves and limbs so water can soak into the ground.
- ◆ Avoid parking cars on swales. This compacts the soil and prevents stormwater from soaking into the ground.
- ◆ Swales located in or partially in the City of Fort Lauderdale's Right of Way may not be altered by regrading or filling with concrete, rock, dirt, landscaping, trees or anything other than grass unless a City permit has been obtained. *
- ◆ Altering a swale may disrupt its natural drainage features, causing flooding and stormwater pollution.

Report illegal dumping into the storm drain or sanitary sewer system, clogged storm drains, or overflowing manholes by calling the 24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000.

** As per Section 25-100 of the Code of Ordinances, property owners that propose changes to the swale area, other than planting grass, are required to obtain a City engineering permit. If unauthorized changes are made, owners may be required to restore the swale to its original state. For more information call 954-828-5123.*

If you would like this document in an alternate format, please call 954-828-4746 or e-mail webmaster@fortlauderdale.gov.