

Protecting Our Water Quality

Only rainwater is allowed in storm drains, everything else is considered an illicit discharge and is not allowed in any public drainage system. One of the greatest sources of water pollution is caused by polluted stormwater runoff and illicit discharges.



Grass Clippings - An Illicit Discharge Into A Storm Drain

Stormwater Management is responsible for ensuring that our stormwater runoff and discharges do not pollute the waters of the United States. The Division enforces the County's ordinance which prohibits illicit discharges entering into the County's storm drainage system.

Along with protecting the quality of our water, Stormwater Management is responsible for meeting requirements mandated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) which is part of the Federal Clean Water Act for reducing stormwater pollutants in our waterbodies.

Pasco County holds a NPDES permit which was initially issued to Pasco County by the United States Environmental Protection Agency but now is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency.



**Stormwater Management Division
Protecting Pasco County's Waterways**

For More Information on:

- Stormwater Pollution Prevention
- Best Management Practices
- Stormwater Structures
- Stormwater Utility
- Illicit Discharges
- Drainage Issues
- Flood Prevention
- Water Quality

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Pasco County Stormwater Management Division



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Our Mission

Stormwater Management Division's mission is to focus on reducing the potential loss of life and property damage due to flooding, improving Pasco County's storm drainage system, protecting the County's waters from stormwater pollution and maintaining water quality standards.

Services

The Division is responsible for Pasco County's stormwater management programs and maintains the County's stormwater drainage system. A major service provided by Stormwater Management is managing and maintaining Pasco County's 19 major watersheds. An important function of Stormwater Management is to proactively respond to and assist in resolving citizens' stormwater and flooding issues.

Another activity of the Division is providing educational programs to educate citizens about stormwater pollution prevention and the effects of illicit discharges in our waterways.

Managing The Stormwater Utility

The Division administers the Stormwater Utility. These funds are exclusively dedicated for managing and maintaining Pasco County's stormwater management programs. The Utility enables the Division to provide better services to citizens with issues concerning drainage problems and flooding conditions.

Through funds provided by the Utility, Stormwater Management collects and maintains data on stormwater structures such as curb inlets, piping, ditches and ponds. The Division maintains this data in a Geographic Information System (GIS). GIS is a computer-based, database management system for efficient storage and retrieval of data. This data is used for maintenance planning and in developing new stormwater runoff models for the various watersheds.

The Stormwater Utility enables the County to meet both state and national requirements for preventing stormwater pollution and protecting the quality of our water.

Funding Improvement Projects

The Division partners with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) through their cooperative funding program to maximize Stormwater Utility funds. Under this program projects are funded 50 percent by the County and 50 percent by the SWFWMD. In addition to the SWFWMD funds, the Division utilizes other grant and state and federal funding sources.

Geiger pond is a 70 acre, regional flood control project which utilized funding from the County, the state, the SWFWMD and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.



Geiger Pond
70 Acre Regional Flood Control Project

In 2003 computer models were developed to show how stormwater flows throughout the County. These computer models are used to assist in permitting development and to develop updated flood insurance rate maps.

This process will never be completed. Each year updates are incorporated into the models which take into account changes due to development. This ongoing effort is also cooperatively funded with the SWFWMD.

Improving Our Storm Drainage System

Stormwater is water produced by rain which becomes stormwater runoff as the water runs off the land. Pasco County's storm drainage system is designed to carry this stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff problems can cause pollution of waterbodies, soil erosion and flooding. A major goal of the Division is to resolve existing stormwater runoff control problems and prevent new problems from occurring.

The County designs and constructs new stormwater runoff controls and drainage improvement projects to reduce flooding and improve water quality.

Stormwater Management is responsible for inspecting and maintaining existing stormwater facilities such as public ponds, ditches and culverts. Along with these services the Division also provides routine cleaning and repair to ensure Pasco County's stormwater system is in optimal working condition.

Supporting Best Management Practices

Builders and developers are required by the County, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency to follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) on construction sites. These practices were developed to control polluted discharges from leaving the construction site. Construction sediment and debris entering our waterbodies is a major source of water pollution.

The Division is responsible for educating the construction community and enforcing the usage of BMPs on construction sites.