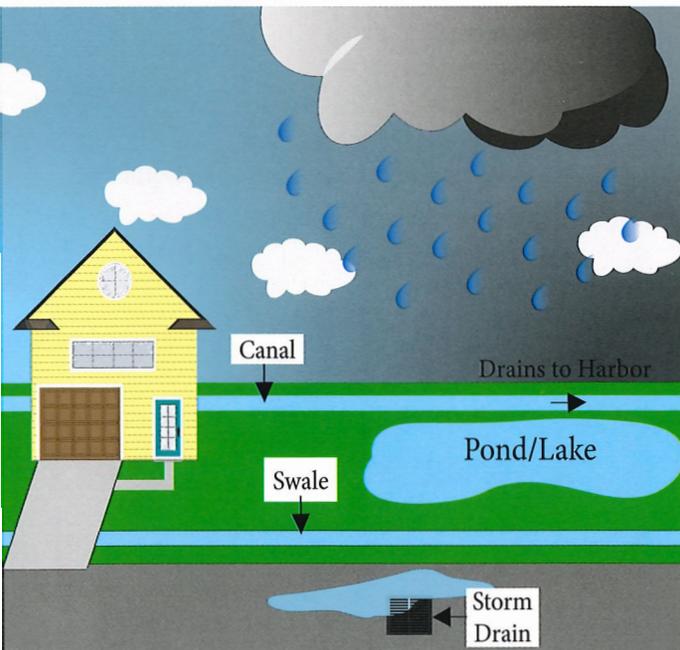


# STORMWATER

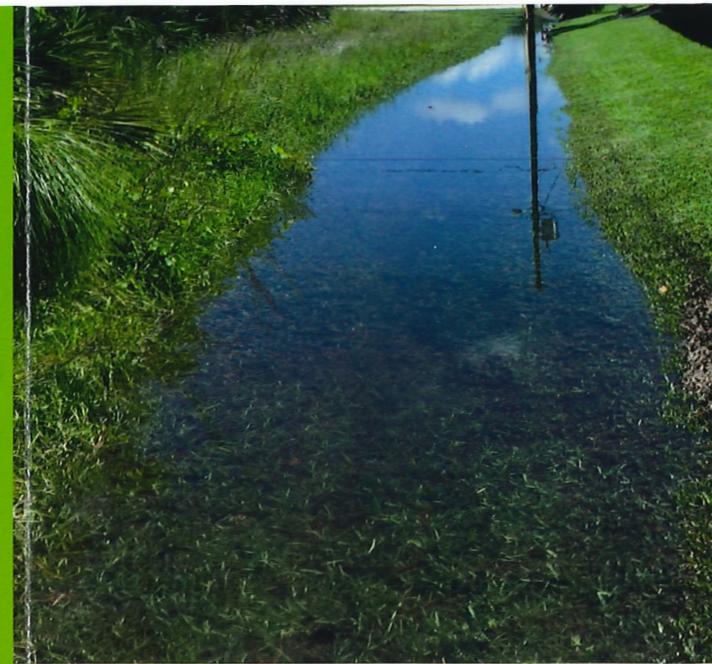
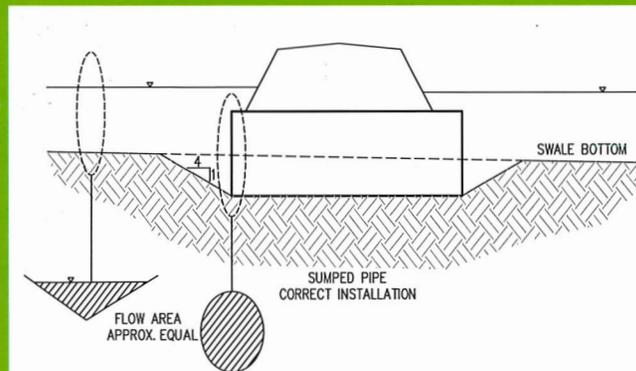
The water that originates from these rain events is known as stormwater. Some of the water does not soak into the soil because it falls onto impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, roofs, buildings, and sidewalks. As this water runs off, it picks up pollutants and carries them into natural surface waters such as rivers, lakes, estuaries, wetlands, and coastal waters. Historically, the primary focus of stormwater was drainage.

Today, the concern is the quality of the water and the conveyance, or drainage, of stormwater. We must limit the amount of pollutants that enter our surface waters (lakes, ponds, rivers...) and groundwater.



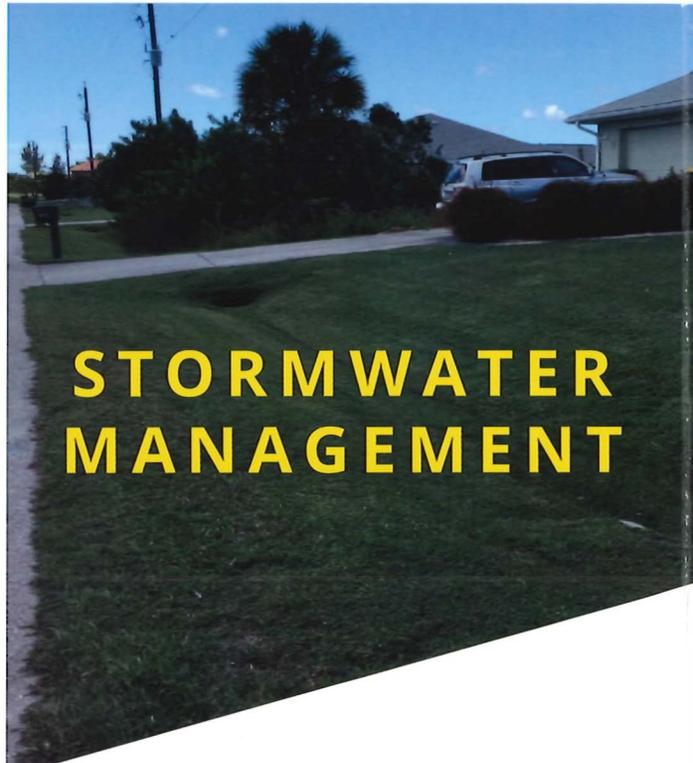
# STORMWATER FACTS

- Charlotte County is relatively flat and stormwater runoff, which collects in our drainage conveyance systems, moves very slowly.
- Standing water, or puddling water, is normal and expected after rain.
- The water table, or the top of the groundwater layer, in many areas may be at the same elevation as the bottom of the swale.
- Each neighborhood has drainage limitations and drains differently.
- Some driveways are considered swaled driveways and will hold water same as a grass swale.
- Driveway pipes are often designed to be below (sumped) the bottom of the swale elevation.



## HELP PROTECT YOUR SWALE

- Make sure your driveway pipe is open and clear of debris.
- Do not use excessive amounts of fertilizers and pesticides near the swales.
- Keep the grass mowed.
- Dethatch Floratam lawns annually.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs in the swale.
- Let the runoff from your house and driveway go onto the lawn before it enters the swale.



## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Charlotte County's drainage system is considered an open swale system. This system is tasked with the amount of water (quantity) that moves through the system and how clean the water (quality) is as it enters other water bodies.

As stormwater travels over land it picks up pollutants and sediments that are not naturally found in our waterways. The path taken by stormwater is the quantity concern. How it is treated while traveling to the receiving water determines its quality.

**Drainage** is a quantity issue and **Stormwater Management** is both a quantity and quality issue.

## WHEN TO CALL

Call Public Works if:

1. Water is threatening to enter personal property (house or garage).
2. Water is on the roads or sidewalk.
3. Water remains in the swale for longer than 72 hours after the last rain event.

Remember, the drainage system is designed to store and direct the water to flow through the system. This slow-moving system is also designed to remove pollutants from entering the ground water, lakes, or harbors. It is not unusual for swales to hold water for several days after heavy rainfall.

Call 941.575.3600

Or Use the

**Charlotte County, FL App!**

Download it from your device's store or visit [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov) and "Get the App" from the Hot Topics list.

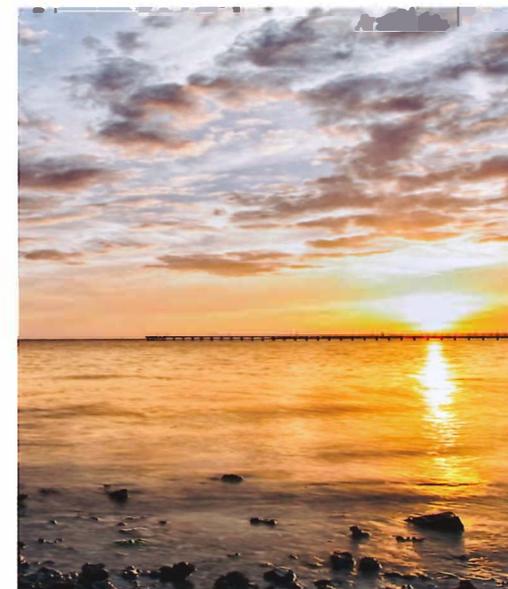
### STORMWATER RESOURCES

- FDEP NPDES Stormwater Program  
[Floridadep.gov/Water/Stormwater](http://Floridadep.gov/Water/Stormwater)
- Southwest Florida Water Management District  
[Swfwmd.state.fl.us](http://Swfwmd.state.fl.us)
- Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Inc.  
[Checflorida.org/](http://Checflorida.org/)

*Revised August 2019*

## WHEN IT RAINS IT DRAINS

Stormwater Management  
in Charlotte County



Public Works  
941.575.3600