CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Service Guide



Enhancing the quality of life in Charlotte County.



OUR VISION

OUR VALUES

Delivering exceptional service.

Preserve and enrich our community's quality of life for those who live, work, and play in our paradise.

Charlotte CARES: Committed, Accountable, Resourceful, Energetic, Supportive

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To learn more about your property and local events, scan the QR Code above and use our new website feature My Neighborhood by typing your address in the search field.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



If you are reading this brochure, we hope you have either decided or are contemplating making Charlotte County a place to call home. I am John Elias, the Public Works Director, and have called Charlotte County my home since 1983. We consider this portion of Southwest Florida to be a paradise with numerous resources to enjoy. There are a myriad of hidden treasures to be discovered from our gulf beaches to our inland prairies.

I am excited to take this opportunity to inform you about Charlotte County Public Works. We are a dedicated team of professionals that have an enormous scope

of responsibilities as this guide details. Southwest Florida has many unique attributes, from its proximity to the ocean to the annual rainfall that often spawns questions for those new to our area.

Besides ensuring that traffic moves efficiently, to constructing new roadways and bridges, our Engineering division is responsible for many other functions: right-of-way permits, design standards, mining operations, dredging and stormwater conveyance, as well as countless other responsibilities.

Our Maintenance and Operations team has the herculean responsibility for the maintenance of new projects, and over 2,600 miles of roadways (comprising approximately 2,200 MSBU roads and around 400 Road & Bridge segments) along with their associated swales. This is the eighth largest road network in the state of Florida. Our open swale system allows for the most environmentally friendly way to convey the copious amounts of rainfall we receive annually. Please note this guide outlines in detail how our drainage systems work.

Our Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control division play a critical role in ensuring our waterways flow which in turns helps to control the mosquitoes that are prevalent in Florida. There is a lot of information that homeowners can follow to help reduce mosquitoes around their homes. It is not the mission of this division to eliminate mosquitoes, only to control them. This ensures we can cohabitate in our fragile ecosystem without negative impacts.

Our Solid Waste division is responsible for the high level of service we provide to our residents and businesses. We typically provide residential curbside services that pick up once a week and offer a wide range of services that are included in your sanitation assessment. We are also proud to say that with our residents' support, we lead Florida in recycling efforts, which is not only good for the environment but also extends the life of our landfill.

Again, if you have decided or are considering moving to Charlotte County, we feel our area has so much to offer. If you have any questions after reading this guide, please do not hesitate to call one the professionals that proudly serve our citizens, and strive to exceed expectations in the delivery of public services.

John Elias



Charlotte County Public Works is an APWA accredited organization.

"Accreditation affirms that Charlotte County operates at the highest level and benchmarks our practices against organizations throughout the country. I could not be more proud of our Public Works team and the way we deliver exceptional services." -John Elias

ENGINEERING

The Engineering division manages the design and construction of Charlotte County's infrastructure, including roadways, bridges, and sidewalks. The Engineering division also oversees the paving program, coastal projects, excavations, survey & mapping, and stormwater management.





ROADWAYS

Charlotte County Public Works Engineering division, manages capital roadway projects from initiation and design through construction and turnover. As project needs are identified, the Engineering division will construct new roadways, widen existing ones, add turn lanes, incorporate shoulders, and create intersection improvements. In addition, access management and traffic studies are performed to assist with the process.



BRIDGES

Within the county, there are approximately 150 bridges as part of the infrastructure. Public Works Engineering is responsible for the bridge asset maintenance and budget preparation for all Road and Bridge and MSBU bridges. In addition, Engineering prepares for the design and construction of various bridge projects, whether it is a repair, rehabilitation, replacement, or new construction.



PAVING PROGRAM

Charlotte County maintains more than 2,600 miles of MSBU and Road & Bridge roads. The purpose of this is to ensure the safety of Charlotte County's motoring public and taxpaying citizens. This is handled through the Charlotte County Annual Paving Programs.



SIDEWALKS

Charlotte County Public Works Engineering division works with the MSBUs and MSTUs at their request to design and construct projects within their communities. These projects include sidewalks, multi-use pathways, decorative lighting, and community entry sign features. They also design and construct Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) sidewalk and pathway projects for the Penny Sales tax extension, Safe Routes to Schools mandate (HB41), and multi-use trails and on-road bicycle ancillaries.



TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING

Transportation Engineering is responsible for operational studies, such as traffic volume, speed studies, crash analysis, and traffic safety studies. Transportation Engineering is also responsible for traffic signals and the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), where the Traffic Management Center (TMC) adjusts signal timing to ease congestion caused by rush hour traffic or accidents. The main goal is to provide the public with a safe and efficient travel experience.

Information on the status of current engineering projects can be found at CharlotteCountyFL.gov/projects.

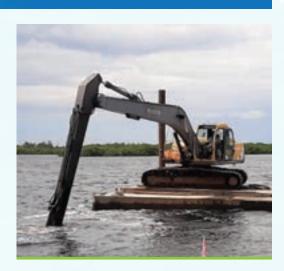
For more information, please call the Public Works Engineering division at 941.575.3632



DREDGING

Dredging is the removal of sediments from the bottom of canals, harbors, and other water bodies. It is a routine necessity in waterways around the world because sedimentation—the natural process of sand and silt washing downstream—gradually fills channels and harbors.

Dredging often is focused on maintaining or increasing the depth of navigation channels and canals, to ensure the safe passage of boats. Vessels require a certain amount of water in order to float and not touch the bottom.





COASTAL PROJECTS

The skilled and professional staff of the Public Works department provide full life cycle management of the County's coastal resources. This encompasses design, construction, implementation of programs and preventative maintenance to enhance existing navigable waterways and beaches.





STORMWATER

Stormwater Management

Managing stormwater is vital to the health of Charlotte Harbor. Some of the water that falls in the watershed reaches the harbor through the ground, but most of it is carried by canals and rivers via stormwater runoff. Without a stormwater system such as a swale or detention pond, the stormwater would runoff into the nearest water body without treatment. This runoff carries pollutants such as litter, motor oil, gasoline, fertilizers, pesticides, pet wastes, sediments and anything else that can float, dissolve or be swept away by moving water. Stormwater management works with the existing drainage systems and provide guidance for new systems that will be constructed.

Stormwater Drainage System

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

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.

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 and groundwater.

WHEN IT RAINS IT DRAINS

TO THE GULF OF MEXICO

There are many ways that water flows through the watershed to reach the Gulf.

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Public Works Maintenance & Operations (M&O) division is dedicated to sustaining Charlotte County's roadways and right-of-ways. This division is responsible for maintaining drainage to include swales, stormwater pipes and drainage systems, asphalt roadways, non-paved roadways, right-of-way mowing, brush control within the right-of-way, sidewalk maintenance, street sweeping, boat lock operations, Tom Adams bridge operations, landscape installation and maintenance within County right-of-way, and County owned cemetery operations.





DRAINAGE

The Maintenance & Operations (M&O) division is responsible for ensuring the County's drainage systems are working as efficiently as possible. The large amount of rainfall, flat terrain, and proximity to sea level create unique challenges in ensuring drainage systems are effective.

As stormwater flows through the drainage system, the swales filter out pollutants and sediments. These can build up in the swales and slow the flow. When this happens, M&O may perform line and grade, only when the swales no longer meet the design standards.

There are thousands of drainage pipes located in the county's right of ways that we maintain. These includes driveway, roadway, and outfall pipes. The pipes can become clogged and M&O will come clean out these pipes, others may be replaced due to the age of the pipe or any structural damage.

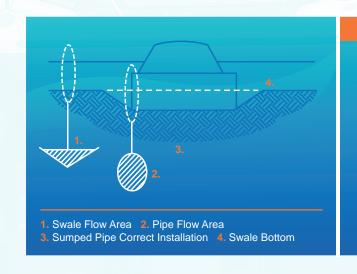
Protect Your Swale

- 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.



DRAINAGE 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.



Report Drainage Issues | 941.575.3600

Water can take up to 72 hours without additional rain to flow through a drainage system. The slow drainage helps prevent pollutants from entering our waterways. Your swale may still have water in it after this time frame, but if it is lower, this means the system is working!

If there is a substantial amount in your swale after 72-hours or if water is threatening your home, contact Public Works Maintenance & Operations division. Drainage requests are prioritized based on the following factors:

- Stormwater threatening personal property (flooding homes)
- Stormwater over the road and/or sidewalk
- Stormwater in a drainage swale



RIGHT-OF-WAY

Right-of-way Reclamation

Right-of-way reclamation is a contracted program throughout Charlotte County that trims and mulches vegetation along roadways.

Right-of-way Mowing

Right-of-way mowing is a contracted service that includes unimproved right-of-ways throughout Charlotte County. This type of safety mowing is for motor vehicle visibility and occurs approximately 5-7 times per year.





VEGETATION

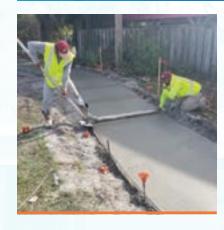
Maintenance & Operations division is responsible for ensuring the County's right-of-ways are clear of brush, tall grass, or any other items that could be deemed as a hazard. Southwest Florida's subtropical climate is conducive to extreme vegetation growth. This vegetation control issue is exacerbated by exotic invasive plants like the Brazilian Pepper Tree which can see growth rates of 6-8 feet per year.



The Maintenance & Operations division considers line of sight issues and brush in roadways as the highest brush control priority.



SIDEWALKS & ROADWAYS







Sidewalks

Public Works ensures the county's sidewalks are maintained properly.

Roadways

Maintenance & Operations is responsible for ensuring the roadways are clear of debris and safety issues. There is 2,600 miles of roadway in Charlotte County and the task of maintaining these roadways is a huge responsibility.

Roadway maintenance includes:

Potholes, edge of pavement/shoulder repair, radius repairs, guardrails, and debris removal.

After Hurricanes, Maintenance & Operations clear all the major roadways to provide access for emergency responders and residents.

Street Sweeping

Regular sweeping is a contracted service that is performed on roads with a curb and gutter stormwater drainage systems. This service assists in the prevention of roadway pollution in our Stormwater Management system.



BRIDGE AND LOCK

Our bridge tenders operate the Tom Adams Bridge 24/7, 365 days a year to ensure that boats make safe passage through the Intracoastal Waterway.

The Maintenance & Operations division maintains the operations of the South Gulf Cove Lock.



To report any issues:

Please call the Maintenance & Operations division at 941.575.3600 For emergencies please call 941.474.1889



MARINE NAVIGATION

The Maintenance & Operations division is responsible for maintaining marine navigational signs within Charlotte County Waterways.

Traffic, Signing & Marking (TSM) is responsible for maintaining approximately 2,000 individual items, such as pilings, day boards, solar light beacons, slow-speed zones, and buoys, within the local waterways. These items are maintained according to the guidelines established by the US Coast Guard and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to ensure safe vessel navigation within the area. There are four entities responsible for aids to navigation in this region, including the US Coast Guard, FWC, local authorities, and the City of Punta Gorda. Each of these organizations oversees different areas in the region. If you encounter an issue with an aid to navigation and are unsure whom to contact, please inform us. We will assist in directing your report to the appropriate agency if it falls outside of our jurisdiction.

For more information:

Please call the Maintenance and Operations division at 941.575.3600



ROADWAY MARKINGS

The Traffic, Signing & Marking (TSM) team maintains the road markings on County maintained roadways. Roadway markings consist of lane striping, stop bars, crosswalks, turn arrows, school crossings and all other roadway legends, etc. Signing & Marking also maintains the raised pavement markers and rumble strips on county maintained roadways.



TRAFFIC SIGNS

TSM is responsible for maintaining approximately 85,000 traffic control signs throughout Charlotte County on County maintained roadways which include: Stop, Yield, Do Not Enter, Street Name, One-Way, No Parking, etc. New signs are manufactured in the TSM's Sign Shop or ordered though vendors. Sign Technicians install these newly fabricated signs at new locations or for replacement of faded or damaged signs. TSM does not maintain signs on Florida Department of Transportation roadways in Charlotte County which includes US41, SR776 (S McCall Rd), SR31, US17 or I-75.

We do not maintain signs on private roadways, driveways or parking lots which come out from businesses onto County roads or dedicated but not accepted roadways. These are maintained by the property owners.

TSM installs special signage on an as needed basis. Examples of this signage are shelter signs, road under water signs for roadways that are impacted by water, or even road closures due to flooding or other emergency situations. TSM is responsible for installing driver feedback signage. These are solar powered units that let motorists know the speed they are traveling. These signs give feedback to the driver letting them know if they are operating their vehicles over the speed limit. These units also collect data about the vehicles that travel by such as the amount of vehicles, their speed, time a vehicle passed by, the classification of the vehicle (example; passenger car, truck, bus, semi, etc.). All this information is used by the Transportation Engineer to set speed limits, request the Sheriff's Office for enforcement or other traffic calming solutions.

MSBUs and MSTUs

MSBUs and MSTUs are units within the county, created by ordinance and delineated by specific boundaries, through which services are provided. Units managed by the Public Works department are responsible for road and drainage maintenance and improvements and waterway maintenance and dredging.

MSBU - Municipal Services Benefit Unit

Revenue is derived by non-ad valorem assessments. The cost of the annual work program is divided by the total number of assessment units, also known as Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs), within the MSBU. This leads to the calculation of an assessment for each ERU, with a common practice being to designate a single residential lot as equivalent to one ERU.

MSTU - Municipal Services Taxing Unit

Revenue is derived by ad valorem taxes. The millage rate is determined by allocating the cost of the annual work program among the taxable value of all property within the unit. In both MSBUs and MSTUs, the annual budget is based on the cost of the adopted work program.

PURPOSE

Street and Drainage units are created for the purpose of maintaining or improving the infrastructure. Typical components of infrastructure within a unit are roads, drainage swales, stormwater pipes, control structures, sidewalks and bike paths. Along with bridge maintenance and repair, road striping, traffic signs, and brush removal to keep lines-of-sight clear are other associated maintenance activities.

Waterway units are created for the purpose of maintaining navigable waterways. This includes dredging, trimming, signage for safe navigation and lock maintenance.

METHODS OF CALCULATING ASSESSMENTS/TAXES

The method may vary from one unit to another and can be by front footage, lots, acreage or value. The method used for each unit is defined in the ordinance or the resolution levying the assessment or tax.

Assessments collected stay within the Unit and are not distributed to other Units.

BENEFIT

Benefits to assessed properties are achieved through the annual work program within the boundaries of the unit. Benefits are not calculated for each property, but rather for the entire unit.

TERMS

Ad Valorem Tax

A tax based on the assessed value of property. The term property tax is interchangeable with ad valorem tax.

ERU

Equivalent rate per unit. Each platted lot or parcel of property is designated by a land use code.

Non-Ad Valorem Assessments

Assessments on your tax bill determined by a local government and certified to the tax collector for collection. Examples include garbage collection, street lighting, stormwater, road paving, and more.

Tax Notice

The bill sent to taxpayers for payment of taxes or special assessments.

MOSQUITO & AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

Public Works Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control preserves the public's health, welfare, and quality of life through effective, efficient, fiscally and environmentally responsible management of the County's mosquito populations and aquatic/exotic vegetation in accordance with Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code, and Best Management Practices.

For more information, please call the Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control Division at 941.764.4370





MOSQUITO CONTROL

Charlotte County Mosquito Control strives to control the mosquito populations through an integrated pest management (IPM) approach consistent with applicable laws and justified by principles of public health, vector control, environmental safety, and fiscal responsibility.

Common Mosquitoes

Charlotte County has at least 40 different species of mosquitoes! Each species is unique in the way they look, their breeding preference, host preference, and even period of activity. Below are some of our most common mosquitoes along with a brief description of each. Use this as a guide to help determine what species are bothering you and where they may be coming from!



nigripalpus



















lansonia dyari 8

Psorophora

Psorophora

Aedes atlanticus

infirmatus

solicitans

MOSQUITO CONTROL AT HOME

Remember the 3 D's of Mosquito Bite Prevention



DRAIN Empty out containers around the yard at least once a week! Put holes into containers that regularly hold water to allow them to drain. Check and clean out gutters. Flush out or treat birdbaths and bromeliads.



DRESS Wear appropriate clothing during mosquito season and at the peak hours of dawn and dusk. Long sleeves and long pants are recommended, as well as wearing light-colored clothing which is less likely to attract mosquitoes than darker colors.



D E F E N D Wear an EPA approved repellent and reapply according to the label. Approved repellents include those containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

Personal Protection

To prevent mosquitoes from coming into your home:

- Be sure all window and door screens are in good repair with no holes or tears.
- Equip the doors, especially screened doors, with a selfclosing apparatus.
- Encourage "good" bugs to hang out in your yard by avoiding bug zappers and similar gadgets. They kill the beneficial bugs and attract mosquitoes to your yard.

To prevent mosquitoes from biting you:

- Stay indoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. If you must be out, wear long sleeves and long pants with socks.
- Use mosquito repellent if you are going out during mosquito peak hours. Avoid wearing perfume, cologne, or scented lotions as they may attract mosquitoes.
- Try using various repellent plants, candles, coils, and area repellents outdoors to help around pools, porches, or patios where there is little air movement. These should not, however, be used indoors.
- Use a fan in outdoor seating areas to help keep mosquitoes off you.



You can add to our efforts to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne illness by maintaining items in your yard that collect water. By eliminating breeding sites around your house and property, you can play a role in mosquito control by helping to reduce the local mosquito population. Some species of mosquitoes can breed in as little as ½ inch of standing water!

Here is a list of places to look for around your property:

- Potted plants
- Pet dishes
- Old tires
- Garbage
- Children's toys
- Boats on trailers, dry docked or unused
- Birdbaths and other ornamental objects
- Leaky spigot or irrigation equipment
- Uncovered trash cans
 - Unused or poorly maintained pools
 - Roof gutters
 - Rain or irrigation barrels
- Water gardens
- Open septic tanks
- Watering troughs



MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

Mosquito surveillance is done in a couple of ways. The most common forms of surveillance are done by trapping and landing rate counts. According to Florida Statute (FS 5E-13), a certain threshold of mosquitoes must be met or exceeded before spraying can occur. As a result, there is no set spraying schedule. Areas are scheduled for spray based on the results of our surveillance methods.

Trapping is primarily done using CDC-light traps, which are unbaited. Mosquitoes are attracted to a light and get sucked into a net by a fan. The traps are set bi-weekly and collected the following day. The trapped mosquitoes are brought back to the lab and frozen, where they will then be sorted, identified, and logged. Charlotte County has logged at least 40 different species of mosquitoes! Each species has unique characteristics, including breeding site preferences and disease vectoring capabilities (or lack thereof). Therefore, knowing what species are in the county is extremely important.

Landing rate counts are done in the morning at set locations around the county. Specialists will stand at these locations for one minute and count how many mosquitoes land on them from the waist down. This form of surveillance gives us a quick idea of what the mosquito population is like in each area.

Mosquitofish Program

Charlotte County Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control has been providing Gambusia holbrooki (commonly called mosquitofish) free of charge to citizens for over a decade. We keep three tanks stocked with mosquitofish for the purpose of distribution to citizens with ornamental ponds, rain barrels, or other areas that hold water for long periods of time. Mosquito Control personnel have even used them as part of a biological control effort, releasing them into flooded woods, ditches, and even abandoned swimming pools. Related to a guppy, they are surface feeders and are very efficient at eating mosquito larvae and pupae that hang at the surface of the water to breathe. These fish are native to Florida and can be seen in abundance in ditches and along pond margins. They stay relatively small, with females only reaching 2-3" in length, and can rapidly reproduce.

A biological specialist will first have to inspect the area where they are to be released before dispersing them.

RESISTANCE TESTING

Resistance testing is an important way of being able to tell if the mosquito population is still susceptible to the treatment chemical being used. If the same chemical is used over and over, mosquito offspring will eventually become naturally resistant to the active ingredient in the formulation and it may lose its effectiveness.



A simple quick test, called "cage-testing", can be used by collecting live adult mosquitoes from the wild and putting them inside a small screened cage. This cage is set in an area to be sprayed and collected a short time after treatment by truck or helicopter. If the treatment was effective, most of the mosquitoes inside the cage should have succumbed to the material within a standard time period.

Another reliable test that can be done to measure resistance or the effectiveness of a treatment material is called a bottle bioassay. Mosquitoes can be lab-reared from wild larvae or collected in the field as flying adults. A very dilute formulation of the chemical is made and the insides of the bottles are coated with it, except for one bottle that serves as a control. Adult mosquitoes are then placed in each bottle where they come into contact with the chemical. 100% mortality should be achieved within a specified time period (usually 30-45 minutes), except for the control bottle where the mosquitoes are expected to still be thriving. Such a test allows the biologists to determine the efficacy of the treatment chemical being used.



Sentinel Chicken Program

Charlotte County currently maintains seven sentinel chicken flocks placed around the county. These chickens are tested weekly for the presence of antibodies produced in the blood if the chicken is exposed to West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, or Highlands jay virus. A small blood sample is taken from the wing and then prepped in the lab and transported to the Department of Health Virology Laboratory in Tampa where the blood serum is tested. If any of the sentinel chickens test positive, Mosquito Control responds by treating the corresponding area to ensure none of these diseases are passed on to humans or horses.

Once a chicken tests positive and the test is confirmed, she gets to retire from the program and is immediately replaced by a new chicken from our home flock of "sterile" chickens. The birds that test positive do not pose a threat to humans or animals, as they are known as a "dead end host" and the virus can no longer be passed on. We donate our retired chickens to local farms and 4-H groups.

Every year a new batch of day-old chicks are raised inside a mosquito-free screened in coop. Once they are big enough fresh flocks are taken and placed out around the county to become our new sentinel chickens of the season.







AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

Florida has uniquely productive water bodies due to its warm climate, increased amounts of nitrogen from fertilizer runoff, and naturally occurring phosphate deposits found in the soil. Nitrogen and phosphate are usually limiting nutrients for plant growth, but they are abundant in Florida's water bodies causing aquatic plants to grow rapidly. This rapid growth leads to the occurrence of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are native or invasive plants that have been designated by government officials as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property. Aquatic weed control works to contain or destroy these weeds and limit their spread.

Aquatic weed control is important for several reasons. An overgrowth of vegetation can interfere with some aquatic animal populations, and it can also negatively affect water flow through our urban waterways. Many of our urban waterways or canals convey water away from residential areas during high precipitation events. If the canals are not clear, flooding and damage can be done to roadways and residential homes. It is important to keep invasive and noxious weeds at bay so that Florida's native vegetation is not overcome ultimately leading to their disappearance and ecological imbalance. Controlling aquatic weeds can also contribute to mosquito control, as some mosquito species use aquatic plants for breeding. Mosquitoes that breed on aquatic plants can lead to issues at any time of the year, as they do not rely on rain events for increasing their population.



COMMON AQUATIC PLANTS

Native Aquatic Plants: There are several beneficial native aquatic plants found in Charlotte County. Very rarely do they need to be controlled unless they begin taking over a waterway.



Arrowhead (Sagittaria latifolio)



Red Ludwigia Ludwigia



spp.)

Bacopa (Bacopa

Lemon

caroliniana)



weed (Pontedaria cordata)

Pickerel



Invasive or Noxious Plants: Several invasive aquatic plants are in Charlotte County and can guickly overtake a water body if not properly controlled. All have been imported, some from the aquarium trade and others as introduced ornamentals.



Water hyacinth (Eichornia crassipes)

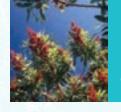


Melaleuca (Melaleuca



Hydrilla (Hydrilla

verticillata)



Brazilian epper Tree



Torpedograss (Panicum

Lettuce (Pistia stratiotes)

SOLID WASTE

Residential Curbside Service We are proud to work alongside Waste Management to serve your waste and recycling needs. Together with your help, we have made Charlotte County one of the top recycling counties in the state!

Single-family residences receive:

- One 95 or 65 gallon garbage cart (Additional cart can be leased)
- One recycling cart

Carts stay at the residential location!



SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING PROGRAM

Charlotte County provides a curbside single-stream recycling program. All programmed recycling materials can be "commingled" or mixed together in your recycling cart.

Allowed Items in Cart



Dairy & Juice Cartons



Plastics Labels 1-7





Aluminum, Tin & Steel Cans



Glass Bottles & Jars



Also prohibited:

boxes, pool covers

batteries, aerosol cans, paint cans, propane/pressurized tanks,

household hazardous waste. greasy/cheese covered pizza

any types of hoses, buckets

yard trimmings, electronic waste

Cardboard

Prohibited Items in Cart



No Food



No Plastic



No Foam Cups or



No Hypodermic Syringes*

*Never place hypodermic needles or sharps containers in your waste or recycling carts. See Sharps Container Drop off & Pick up Locations on Pg. 29.





BULK ITEM PICKUP

Think Green,

We run on clean burning natural gas.

Residential improved properties are allowed four cubic yards of household bulky material or yard trimmings per week. The items must originate from the improved property that is assessed an annual sanitation fee and placed in front of the property. Request not required.

Allowed Items

- Objects cannot exceed 4 cubic yards (bulky items or unbundled yard trimmings)
- Additional 10 properly bundled, bagged, or containerized yard trimmings. (See yard trimmings)



Prohibited Items

- Construction debris from renovation or home improvement
- Any waste in excess of 4 cubic yards
- Debris placed on property adjacent or across the street



Yard Trimmings

- Residents are allowed up to 10 paper lawn, leaf bags, or bundles per week that should not exceed 40 pounds each.
- Place your yard trimmings in a separate garbage can five feet away from waste and recycling carts.
- Limbs cannot be more than 6 feet in length and 10 inches in diameter.
- Yard trimmings in plastic bags will NOT be picked up at the curb

COLLECTIONS ARE ONCE A WEEK:

- Up to 4 cubic yards of yard trimmings or household bulky material per week (no request needed)
- Collection of up to four appliances (white goods) per fiscal year (Oct-Sept)
- Collection of up to four electronic waste items per fiscal year (Oct-Sept)
- Additional yard trimming collection is also provided (see Page 25, Yard Trimmings)
- Tires smaller than 22" with or without rims (limited to 6 per
- Collection of motor oil/filters and non-leaking lead acid batteries (oil must be in clear screw-top container)



ELECTRONICS (E-WASTE)

Residents can schedule an electronic waste collection up to four items per year by calling Waste Management or visiting the website below at least two days prior to their normal service date. Once service has been confirmed, electronic waste recyclables can be placed curbside at least five feet away from residential recycling carts the night before your collection.

Recycle these electronics:

To schedule an E-Waste pickup, call two days prior to your scheduled pickup day. Waste Management at **941.629.1106** or **941.697.0012** (Englewood area)

- Computers/Laptops
- Monitors/Keyboards/ Accessories
- Printers
- Television Sets
- Video and Stereo Equipment
- Microwave Ovens
- Telephones/Cell Phones





HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

How do You Know if a Product is Hazardous? A product is considered hazardous if it is corrosive, toxic, flammable, or reacts or explodes when mixed with other substances. Watch out for signal words on labels such as poison, danger, warning, and caution.



How do You Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste?

The Charlotte County Solid Waste division offers year round household hazardous waste collection at our recycling facilities in Port Charlotte and Englewood. Proof of residency is required to use the county facilities.

Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility 19765 Kenilworth Blvd, Port Charlotte Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. West Charlotte Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility 7070 Environmental Way, Englewood Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

MINI-TRANSFER & RECYCLING FACILITIES



Hours of Operation:

Tuesday - Saturday, Gates open at 9 a.m., Gates close at 3:45 p.m. All unloading must be completed by 4 p.m., no exceptions. Closed for County-recognized holidays.

Public Works Solid Waste division is committed to the protection and preservation of our natural environment by providing two conveniently located facilities to safely dispose of items.

Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility

19765 Kenilworth Blvd, Port Charlotte Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

- No Commercial/Business Waste and/or Landscapers, Contractors
- No Commercial Or "For Hire" Haulers

West Charlotte Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility

7070 Environmental Way, Englewood Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

- No Commercial vehicles hauling materials presumed to be related to the business
- No Trailers longer than 12 feet long and wider than 6 feet

WHAT TO BRING TO MINI-TRANSFER & RECYCLING FACILITIES

Proof of county residency required

A valid form of identification to include name, photo, and local address. Photo identification from other areas must be accompanied by a current utility bill or document showing proof of residency at a Charlotte County residential address. P.O. Box addresses are not accepted as proof of residency.

Unlimited Allowable Items

Recycling Materials











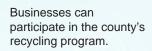








Herbicides



Special Waste





Cooking

















Pool Chemicals

Limited Allowable Items

Limited Waste



Includes furniture, toys, swing sets, lawn furniture, etc.



- 12 times per fiscal year*
- No more than 18 cubic yards per fiscal year*



Cabinets must be broken down

No items longer than 8'



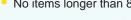
No more than 6 cubic

yards per fiscal year*

Construction and

Demolition (C&D)

Debris





22" maximum



Tires with or

without rims



yard trimmings

Residential

Up to 20" in diameter

• 6' to 8' lengths

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Business or commercial waste
- Electronic waste
- Tires larger than 22"
- Propane tanks larger than 80 lb. capacity
- Leaking or unsealed containers

- Waste from unimproved property
- Land clearing debris from vacant lots
- Firearms
- Combustible engines
- Junk cars, boats, tractors, trailers

- Reroofing material
- 55 gal drums (containing) liquid)
- Putrescible waste /household garbage

^{*}Container must be approved. **Household Reuse Center - Pick up household product reuse items or free at the Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility inside C.A.R.E. Any items picked up will require a signed waiver.

^{*}Fiscal Year = October 1 to September 30

SHARPS CONTAINER DROP OFF & PICK UP



How to use your sharps container:

- Do not clip the needle.
- Do not recap the needle.
- Place hypodermic needle in the red sharps container.
- When filled, secure the lid. Do not overfill.
- Take the full sharps container to one of the listed facilities and you will be given a free replacement container.

If you are physically unable to exchange your sharps container for medical reasons, call Charlotte County to request a pickup and exchange 941.764.4360.

Never place hypodermic needles or sharps containers in your waste or recycling carts.

SHARPS CONTAINER DROP OFF & PICK UP LOCATIONS

Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility

19765 Kenilworth Blvd, Port Charlotte Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. West Charlotte Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility

7070 Environmental Way, Englewood Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Punta Gorda Public Safety Building

1410 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

C.A.R.E. PROJECT REUSE



C.A.R.E. Project Reuse – C.A.R.E.

(Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.) sells discarded, useable household items at both facilities. Donate, rather than discard usable items to C.A.R.E. Proceeds from the sale of reusable items help victims in Charlotte County.

Call 941.624.3488 (Mid-County) for more information or to volunteer with C.A.R.E.

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCT REUSE SHOP







Visit the County's Chemical Reuse Shop at Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility and take home anything from motor oil, furniture polish, to house paint for FREE. The Reuse Shop is located inside C.A.R.E. and residents must sign a waiver of liability to receive the products. These products are limited to availability and on a first come basis.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN, GREEN, AND BEAUTIFUL!



Keep Charlotte Beautiful (KCB) is an environmental nonprofit that is part of Charlotte County Public Works Keep Charlotte Beautiful Solid Waste division. KCB is a 501 c3 organization that is one of 700 Keep

America Beautiful Network affiliates. KCB's mission is to inspire and educate people to take action every day to improve and beautify Charlotte County. We work to reduce waste, promote effective recycling, end litter, and support community greening!

We can accomplish our mission through education, volunteering, and community partnerships. Education is the key to creating long term change. Volunteers, like you, are the heartbeat of our organization. We collaborate with organizations whose goals and missions overlap with our own. Each of these efforts makes our community stronger and more resilient. We could not achieve our goals without your support. We are "Better Together."



OUR PROGRAMS

- KAB Great American Cleanup
- Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup
- Adoption Programs: Road, Shore, and Cemetery
- Waste In Place in schools
- Lettuce Learn Home School Classes in the Garden of Eatin'
- Recycle Bowl
- Student Environmental Art Calendar Contest
- High School and College Service Learning
- Mini Grants for Community or School Greening

YOU CAN HELP

- Become a volunteer
- Like and follow us on Facebook
- Support our programs
- Visit our website

Connect With Us

KeepCharlotteBeautiful.org

@KeepCharlotteBeautifulFlorida



(O) @kcbfl

FROM HOUSE TO HARBOR, WE ARE ONE CHARLOTTE, ONE WATER



One Charlotte, One Water is a collaborative effort between the Charlotte County government, regional agencies, private interests, and residents aimed at assuring Charlotte County's One Charlotte, interests, and residents aimed at accommod policies and practices contribute to the long-term health, One Water enjoyment, and availability of our water.

The program's initiative include a water quality monitoring program to track the health of Charlotte County's waterways, and development of a comprehensive water quality improvement and protection plan designed to help chart the county's path forward in identifying pollution concerns and preserving our aquatic resources.

One Charlotte, One Water is a holistic approach to water quality in Charlotte County, Florida. It treats all water – our harbor, rivers, bays, canals, creeks, potable water, wastewater, stormwater, reclaimed water – as one water. Learn more at www.charlottecountyfl.gov/one-charlotte-one-water

Charlotte County Public Works welcomes everyone to our community. Our goal is to deliver exceptional service for all our citizens.

If you have any questions or concerns with any of our service please call us at 941.575.3600



Charlotte County Public Works

7000 Florida St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950 941.575.3600