



Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers

More frequent and lower dose applications of fertilizers will cause less pollution runoff.

Check with the Seminole County Environmental Services office about pesticide and herbicide use. They may be able to suggest less toxic solutions.



Did you know that when someone pours, blows, or sweeps anything into the street, it will eventually end up in one of the area's beautiful lakes? Many businesses and individuals discard wastewater, pollution, and debris onto the ground and into the storm drains that may cause lake pollution.

A storm drain is part of the stormwater system that collects rainwater from streets, parking lots and rooftops. In most cases, this polluted stormwater runoff drains directly into a lake through the underground storm sewer system.

New Longwood Law Protects Stormwater Systems

On November 3, 2003, the Longwood City Commission passed an ordinance that will greatly improve the city's ability to inspect and maintain the our stormwater system. Individuals and businesses that put pollution or debris into our stormwater system, damage or alter the approved function of stormwater system elements, or negligently allow the condition of their own stormwater systems to adversely effect other systems will be required to immediately remedy the problem and can face civil and criminal penalties.

How You Can Help

Just follow the suggestions outlined in this pamphlet! Most importantly, remember:



- ▶ Don't wash debris or pollution down the storm drains. This can contribute to blockages that increase the chance of flooding as well as releasing damaging chemicals and organic material into our lakes.
- ▶ Maintain ditches, ponds, and inlets on your private property. The city will take care of publicly-owned systems, but if you happen to have a private system, it is up to you to maintain.
- ▶ Don't alter the normal function of stormwater system elements. Stormwater is designed to flow a certain way, so changes to the flow of water in one place can adversely affect another area.

For More Information

LONGWOOD / SEMINOLE COUNTY

City of Longwood Website
www.ci.longwood.fl.us

Seminole County Website
www.co.seminole.fl.us

City of Longwood Community Services
(407) 260-3462

Seminole County Environmental Services
(407) 665-2000

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

St. Johns River
(407) 659-4800
www.sjrwmd.com

South Florida
(407) 858-6100
www.sfwmd.gov

STATE OF FLORIDA

www.myflorida.com/

State Warning Point Spill Hotline
(25 gallons or more)
(800) 320-0519

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Central District (DEP)
(407) 894-7555

Citizen's Guide to Stormwater Pollution

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Community Services Department
174 West Church Ave.
Longwood, FL 32750

Erosion and Sedimentation

Sediment is one of the greatest pollutants by volume entering our lakes and streams and is a product of uncontrolled erosion.

Why control sediment and erosion?

- ▶ Erosion and sedimentation result in loss of fertile topsoil,
- ▶ filling of lakes and streams,
- ▶ increased flooding,
- ▶ endangerment to plant and animal life,
- ▶ damage to streets and roads.
- ▶ Other pollutants such as pesticides, herbicides, and oil can become attached to eroded soils and enter lakes and streams along with the soil.

How can you help?

- ▶ Plant and maintain vegetation on bare and sloped areas.
- ▶ Route roof drainage to lawns, paved driveways, or collection barrels.
- ▶ Preserve existing vegetation

These measures will help curb erosion and sedimentation and will maintain the aesthetics and cleanliness of our lakes and streams.

Federal Law

The Federal Clean Water Act was established in 1972 to protect our waterways. This legislation was passed in response to growing public concern for serious and widespread water pollution. As a result, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was developed, and our nations waterways have shown an increase in quality. Please participate with us in this work by finding ways that you can help.

Leaves and Grass Clippings

Leaves and grass clippings that are able to reach a lake through the storm drain system will decrease the amount of oxygen in the water as they decompose. Released nutrients can cause excessive algal growth which may result in a fish kill.

City street sweepers can barely keep up with the leaves that fall naturally. PLEASE don't add to the burden by raking or blowing leaves and grass into the street.

How can you help?

- ▶ Start a compost pile for leaves and other yard waste
- ▶ Invest in a mulching blade for your lawn mower
- ▶ If you have a lawn service, please be sure they comply with these guidelines.

Data collected has shown that grass clippings and leaves contain high concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorous which are the most common cause of urban lake pollution.



Sanitary Sewer Overflows

When grease or oil from restaurants and households is discharged to the city's sanitary sewer system it mixes with other wastes and becomes solidified. This creates a blockage in sewer pipes, preventing the sewage from flowing and causing it to overflow into streets, buildings, and lakes.

How can you help?

- ▶ Do not put greasy food items down the drain or garbage disposal.
- ▶ Wipe dishes, pots and pans with a paper towel to remove excess grease before washing
- ▶ Clean grease spills with a rag or paper towel, and place grease in a container to solidify and throw away with the garbage
- ▶ Maintain septic systems regularly

The more each citizen does to protect the systems we have, the longer they will be here for our children, and the less they will cost to maintain.

Washing Vehicles

Vehicles washed on paved surfaces causes detergent filled water to run into the streets, the storm water system, and to retention ponds and lakes.

How can you help?

- ▶ Wash vehicles on unpaved areas
- ▶ Use environmentally friendly soap

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES

Do Not Pour oil or any chemicals down any drain or in the street. Dispose of them properly through the Household Hazardous Waste Center (HHWC) at the Landfill.

What can you bring to the HHWC?

- ▶ Banned and unwanted pesticides
- ▶ Oil based paints
- ▶ Paint thinner and stripper
- ▶ Varnishes and stains
- ▶ Household cleaning fluids
- ▶ Chemical drain cleaners
- ▶ Auto and furniture polish
- ▶ Solvents and flammable liquids
- ▶ Pool chemicals
- ▶ Photography chemicals
- ▶ Chemistry sets
- ▶ Brake fluid and antifreeze
- ▶ Unknown chemicals
- ▶ Household, vehicle, and boat batteries
- ▶ Waste oil



Where is the HHWC?

1. The Seminole County Landfill at 1930 Osceola Road, Geneva, FL 32732
2. The Central Transfer Station at 1634 SR 419, Longwood, FL 32750

Questions about HHWC?

Call and ask to speak with Seminole County environmental staff at (407) 665-2000.