

How YOU Can Help...

- Let water pond. Runoff should remain in the swale for 24 to 36 hours. (Ponding must last more than 72 hours before mosquitoes begin to breed.)
- Allow grass to grow in the swale, but keep it mowed.
- Do not allow leaves and grass clippings to accumulate in the swale.
- Do not pile garbage or lawn and garden waste in the swale.
- Do not pave the swale. This prevents infiltration.
- Do not park vehicles in the swale. This compacts the soil inhibiting runoff from soaking in.
- If you observe an obstruction at your trench drain, please remove it immediately. If it is too large for easy removal, call the City and report it as soon as possible.
- Understand that the City may have to re-dig the swales occasionally to reestablish their shape and performance.

*Be Part of the Solution
Help the City Reduce Pollution*

In addition to managing stormwater ponding and flooding, swales filter runoff and reduce the amount of pollutants entering the Intracoastal Waterway.

Maintaining your swale preserves these vital functions.



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Save The SWALES



Protect Florida's Water

and

Reduce Flooding



What is a SWALE?

A swale is a shallow depression shaped to allow water to be quickly absorbed into the ground or to flow to other waterways. Swales hold water during and immediately after a storm but are generally dry. Swales are a commonly used stormwater control practice, especially here in Flagler Beach.

When land is converted from its natural state to build roads, houses, and shopping centers, impervious surfaces are created, which do not allow water to soak through.

Rain that does not soak into the ground is called “stormwater runoff.” It collects in low lying areas, often at the dip in a driveway or the curb of a street. A high intensity rainfall event could result in flooding.



A common misconception is that stormwater flows into a sewage treatment plant where it will be cleaned. It does not. Stormwater receives no treatment, and runs off lawns, streets, and parking lots, picking up pollutants along the way.

Pollutants may include toxic chemicals, such as oil and grease from motor vehicles, or fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and gardens. Unmaintained septic tanks and pet waste that is not picked up contribute harmful bacteria and viruses. Sediment carries these contaminants along, turning water turbid and degrading water quality.



Did you know that...

Because of impervious surfaces like pavement and rooftops, a typical city block generates 5 times more runoff than a vacant lot with its natural vegetation still intact.

A swale slows the flow of stormwater, allowing pollutants to settle out of the water. Some of the water seeps into the ground, and some is lost to evaporation. The remainder passes through swales and trench drains beneath driveways, into outfall pipes to various canals and the Intracoastal Waterway.



A City outfall pipe on a canal.

