



LAUDERTRAC

WATERWAY QUALITY UPDATE FORT LAUDERDALE

Tracking Progress on Commission Priorities for 2020



June 2020

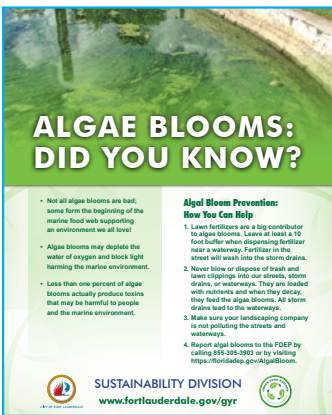
IMPROVING OUR WATERWAYS

Waterway quality was identified as one of the top priorities for the City Commission in 2020. The priority aligns with the City's Five-Year Strategic Plan to build a healthy and engaging community by taking steps to improve our waterways and protect and preserve our natural environment.



Construction Site Inspections Help Prevent Pollution

The City of Fort Lauderdale participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. Created in 1972 by the Clean Water Act, the program is designed to help keep our waterways clean through regulations that address potential sources of pollution. As part of the initiative, the City operates an aggressive erosion and sediment control program. Construction sites are regularly inspected for compliance with the stormwater pollution prevention plan, which includes implementing appropriate dewatering measures, best management practices for construction residue, and ensuring that storm drains and catch basins are protected with proper coverings or filters to prevent sediments from entering the storm drain system and washing into the waterways. Failure to comply may result in fines being issued or construction permits being revoked.



Do Your Part to Help Prevent Algal Blooms

The City's Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Program monitors algae blooms through monthly inspections of our waterways during the rainy season. As part of the program, a pilot project is being implemented to evaluate various algal mitigation technologies. Algae blooms are most commonly seen during the summer and early fall with high temperatures, abundant sunlight, and heavy rains that bring more nutrients into the waterways due to stormwater runoff. We can help prevent algae blooms by reducing stormwater runoff. Remember, everything that reaches the City's storm drain system flows directly into our waterways without being treated. To that end, never blow or dispose of trash, litter, yard or lawn clippings in streets, storm drains, or waterways. These items are loaded with nutrients and when they decay, feed the algae blooms. When applying fertilizer near a waterway leave a buffer of at least a 10 feet, and never leave fertilizer in the street as it will wash into the storm drains. Report algal blooms to the FDEP by calling 855-305-3903 or visiting bit.ly/3fyCu8D. For more details, visit bit.ly/2zmOUTI.



Fertilizer Use Prohibited June 1 - September 30

Fort Lauderdale has revised its [ordinance](#) (Section 28-4) regarding standards for Florida-friendly fertilizer use on urban landscapes. To protect the environment, limit stormwater runoff, reduce the potential for algal blooms, and improve the quality of waterways, the application and use of fertilizer is prohibited during the rainy season from June 1 to September 30. One of the main causes of algal blooms is excess nutrients in our waterways. During the rainy season, fertilizer containing these nutrients will run off into our waterways due to the frequency and severity of rainfall. The revised ordinance prohibits the application of fertilizer with nitrogen and phosphorus during the rainy season as an additional measure to help keep our waterways clean. For more details, visit bit.ly/3dRRbTA.

NEWS AND NOTES

WATERWAY RESTORATION PROGRESSING



George English Lake

Wood Environmental & Infrastructure continues to make progress evaluating the area in George English Lake impacted by sewer line breaks that occurred in January and February 2020, and developing a work plan for sediment and debris removal. The company has completed numerous tasks including but not limited to: initial assessment of conditions in George English Lake; initial collection and analysis of water and sediment samples; discussions regarding permitting requirements with regulatory agencies including Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE); and data collection required for permit submittals. The project recently received permit approval from the Army Corps of Engineers, and work continues on securing additional permits. To view the Tentative Restoration Schedule for George English Lake, please visit bit.ly/30qMvQR. For more details about the restoration, visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/waterwayrestoration.



Tarpon River

E-Sciences continues to make progress evaluating waterway conditions in the area of the Tarpon River impacted by sewer line breaks that occurred in December 2019, and preparing a sediment removal plan. The company has completed work that includes but is not limited to: a desktop review of regulated environmental resources documented in the Tarpon River; a survey of the current conditions of the Tarpon River; a review of background data and past water quality testing; and a flow study to measure and analyze the impact of tides and currents on waterway movement. The company has met with the appropriate county, state, and federal regulatory agencies for input and feedback on permitting requirements. E-Sciences is finalizing a work plan for the sediment management and coordinating permit application submittals. Once the permits are obtained and the City has engaged a contractor, the sediment will be managed per the permit conditions. To view the Tentative Restoration Schedule for the Tarpon River, please visit bit.ly/2zr1kYE. For more details about the restoration, visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/waterwayrestoration.

GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES



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