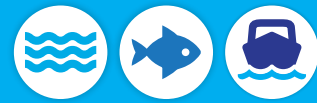




LAUDERTRAC

WATERWAY QUALITY UPDATE FORT LAUDERDALE

Tracking Progress on Commission Priorities for 2020



September/October 2020

IMPROVING OUR WATERWAYS

City Taking Proactive Steps to Keep Our Waterways Clean

The City's Stormwater Operations Division is committed to reducing nonpoint-source (NPS) pollution, or what is more commonly referred to as stormwater runoff.

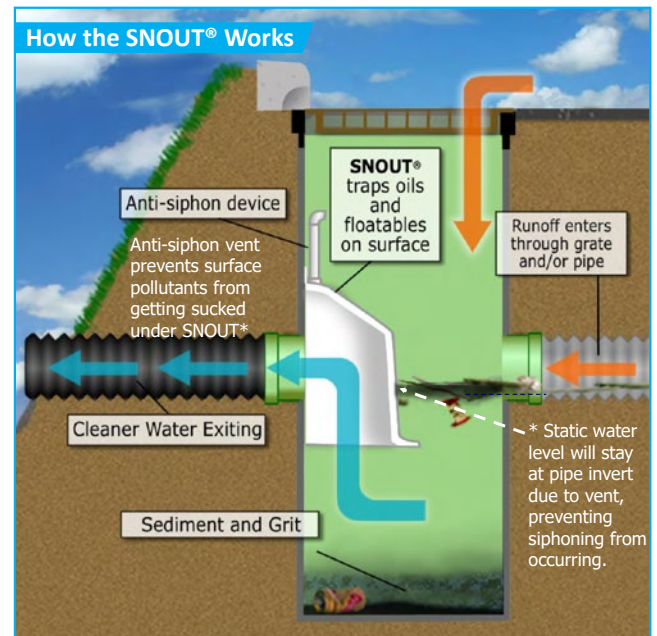
When it rains, water that does not evaporate or soak into the ground, but instead, flows across land and over surfaces into the nearest waterway is considered stormwater runoff. As stormwater flows across streets, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and land, it can pick up harmful pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, oil, pet waste, lawn clippings, detergents and other contaminants. When these pollutants reach our storm drain system, they are pushed directly into our waterways without being treated.

In contrast to point source pollution, which comes from a pipe or other recognized source, NPS pollution is harder to identify and more difficult to address since it is released from and into a wide area. While the amount of pollutants washed from a single block might seem small, when you consider the miles of pavement throughout the City, it can add up quickly. For example, from January through July, more than 34 tons of debris were removed from the City's waterways by canal cleaning crews, which is more debris than was removed during the entire previous year.

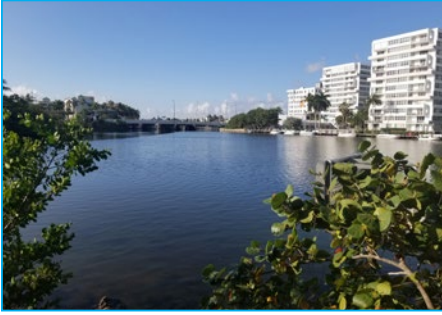
The City of Fort Lauderdale participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. Created in 1972 by the Clean Water Act, the program is designed to help keep our waterways clean through regulations that address potential sources of pollution. As part of its participation, the City provides updates on activities being implemented to prevent pollutants from reaching our waterways.

One of the City's exciting new initiatives is the installation of 57 SNOUT® pollution prevention devices. The Snouts are inserted into existing catch basins, where they act as a filter for trash, sediment, leaves, and other debris. The device is designed to keep oil and trash on the surface of the water, while heavy sediment sinks to the bottom, letting cleaner water flow through the outlet (see diagram at left). The low-cost equipment is designed to remove up to 75 percent of stormwater pollutants and prevent them from entering the waterways.

The Snouts will be initially installed in catch basins with tidal valves and select catch basins without pollution prevention devices. Installation is expected to begin toward the end of 2020 and will be another infrastructure improvement to help reduce NPS pollution into our waterways.



NEWS AND NOTES



George English Lake

Wood Environmental & Infrastructure continues restoration activities in George English Lake. The company has secured all applicable permits for sediment removal from the appropriate regulatory agencies. The City, Wood Environmental, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) are currently in discussions to finalize a permit condition that will apply to dewatering procedures once the sediment removal work begins. Once the permit condition is addressed, Ashbritt Environmental, the City's sediment removal contractor will provide an updated scope of work incorporating the FDEP recommendations.



Tarpon River

E-Sciences has completed an assessment of the point of entry of the Tarpon River that was impacted by sewer line breaks in December 2019. According to the assessment results, a visual layer of sediment was not observed in the core samples taken by E-Sciences, and there did not appear to be visual evidence of an area of impact associated with the December 2019 event. This could be due to flushing from tidal activity in the river coupled with the breakdown of organics over time. Additional laboratory tests revealed the presence of sucralose and caffeine in the sediment near the point of entry. These "indicator parameters" were used to delineate the impact area. Based on test results and analysis, E-Sciences estimates that the impacted area of the Tarpon River is located east of the SE 9 Avenue bridge, encompassing approximately 400 linear feet at a depth of 6 inches with an estimated volume of 520 cubic yards. The City, in consultation with regulatory agencies, is currently evaluating next steps.

Expanded Waterway Testing

City staff continues to work with Miami Waterkeepers on a scope of work for an expanded waterway testing program. Funding for the program was approved by the City Commission as part of the budget for Fiscal Year 2021 which will begin on October 1. With funding approved, staff is moving forward as quickly as possible on program development and subsequent implementation. Look for more updates in future issues of the Waterway Quality newsletter.

For more details about the restoration of George English Lake and the Tarpon River, visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/waterwayrestoration.

GET INFORMATION AND UPDATES



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