



LAUDERTRAC



WATERWAY QUALITY UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

March 2021

IMPROVING OUR WATERWAYS

Waterway Quality Continues To Be a Top Priority

The City Commission met on January 29, 2021 to prioritize the initiatives they would like the City to focus on for 2021. Waterway Quality was one of the identified Top Priorities continuing from 2020 that aligns with Goal 3 of the City's Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan, which is to build a healthy and engaging community.

The primary focus of this initiative in 2021 will be to monitor and improve the quality of Fort Lauderdale's 165 miles of waterways. This goal will be achieved through education on preventing discharges, infrastructure improvements such as swale rehabilitation to improve the quality of stormwater reaching the waterways, and the implementation of pilot and restoration projects to directly address water quality in our waterways. Additional focus will be placed on continuing to monitor waterway quality, exploring options to increase the availability of mobile pumpouts, and collaborating with Broward County and the State of Florida.



Waterway Quality Initiatives

Seven initiatives have been selected to meet the 2021 goal. These initiatives include:

- ▶ Educating and building awareness through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) implementation.
- ▶ Continuing the Waterway Quality Monitoring Program.
- ▶ Implementing stormwater quality improvements.
- ▶ Remediating the impacted water bodies from the 2019 and 2020 wastewater discharges.
- ▶ Researching the feasibility of a program to increase the availability and cost-effectiveness of mobile pumpouts.
- ▶ Continuing the Canal Cleaning Program to remove floating debris.
- ▶ Implementing aeration and the pilot projects from the algal study.

The City has allocated \$214,780 to remove sediment in George English Lake that occurred in late 2019 and 2020 as a result of the sewer force main breaks. The City has contracted with Gator Dredging and work should begin in mid-to-late April.

The restoration of the Tarpon River and Himmarshee Canal will require additional funding. Tarpon River is in the permitting stages with regulatory agencies for sediment removal and a report on the Himmarshee Canal is expected in April once the assessment in this area is completed. The continuation of the Canal Cleaning Program has been fully funded in fiscal year 2021 for \$379,400.

Another initiative is to research the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of a new program to increase the availability of mobile pumpouts. Illicit discharges from pumpouts are a source of bacterial pollution and impairment in our waterways, and this research will explore ways to make it easier and more convenient to access those services.

The implementation of aeration and the pilot projects from the algal study are being considered. The new aeration technology initiative in Lake Melva, Cliff Lake, Tarpon River, and the Himmarshee Canal can increase oxygen concentrations in the water that will break down nutrients to reduce algal blooms and may help with bacterial pollution in our waterways.