



# CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

## MELROSE PARK DRAINAGE DITCH MAINTENANCE UPDATE

DECEMBER 2022

### Introduction

The stormwater management system in Melrose Park was designed and built by Broward County at the turn of the century. The City took over maintenance and operation of the system when Fort Lauderdale annexed the neighborhood from Broward County in 2002. The neighborhood's 2.5-mile drainage ditch is a major component of its stormwater management system, serving as a collection point for discharge from approximately 30% of the neighborhood. The ditch was thoroughly cleaned and rehabilitated in early 2021 following Tropical Storm Eta.

Since then, regular inspections, maintenance, and repairs have been performed while the new soils settled and the grass became established. The newly revamped stormwater management system has provided effective flood protection for the neighborhood this year during the 10-inch rainfall from Potential Tropical Cyclone #1 in June, the 5-inch rainfall associated with Hurricane Ian in September, and the 3-inch rainfall associated with Hurricane Nicole in early November.

### What's New - Expanded Services

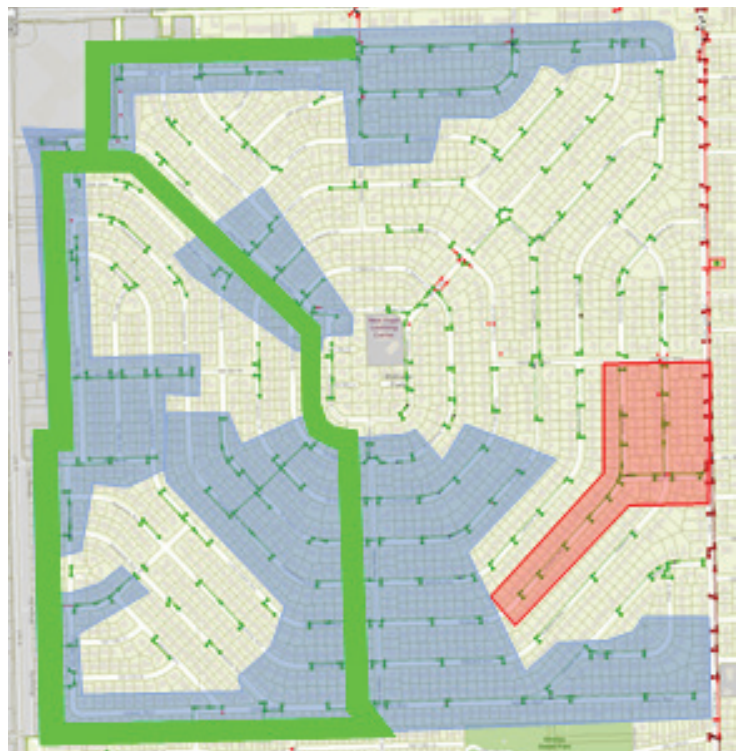
The City of Fort Lauderdale has selected a new vendor to perform maintenance services within the drainage ditch. Beginning in December 2022, crews from Aquatic Control Group will perform the following:

- Mowing and line trimming
- Application of herbicides for weed control
- Removal of litter and debris
- Tree trimming and removal

These enhancements to the regular maintenance will help the ditch function as designed while also improving its aesthetics in order to ensure that stormwater in Melrose Park is properly collected and distributed. All maintenance activities will be monitored and inspected by the City.

Maintenance activities within the drainage ditch are expected to take place between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Crews from Aquatic Control Group will wear a uniform consisting of a company shirt, cap, and safety vest. Access to private property will not be needed for any maintenance activities.

[See reverse for more information.](#)



**Melrose Park Stormwater Management System** - Small dark green squares and lines represent storm drains, pipes, and exfiltration trenches. The neon green area is the drainage ditch. Blue areas drain to the ditch and ultimately to the north under Broward Blvd. Stormwater in the red area flows east into a storm pipe under NW 31 Ave. In the remaining areas, runoff flows to exfiltration trenches for percolation into the groundwater.



## Mowing and Line Trimming

The frequency of mowing and line trimming has been increased from five to eight times per year during the following months:

- January
- March
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- November

Aquatic Control Group will mow all grass to a height of three inches and line trim around all signs, fences, poles, trees in order to maintain a neat appearance. The contractor will remove all invasive plants and stray/volunteer trees within the mowing service area.

## Application of Herbicides for Weed Control

On a quarterly basis, Aquatic Control Group will apply herbicides that are safe for aquatic application. Areas to be treated include where the ditch meets roadways and between the City's fence and privately owned fences along the ditch. The contractor will ensure that herbicide is applied only to City-owned property and application activities do not impact nearby property. Signage will be placed in the area while treatment is taking place.



## Removal of Litter and Debris

Aquatic Control Group will perform an inspection of the entire drainage ditch at least once monthly and remove litter and debris. Any illegally dumped items that require special handling will be reported to the City for removal. Neighbors who witness illegal dumping are asked to contact 954-828-8000.

## Tree Trimming and Removal

Trees and overgrowth will be trimmed twice annually, as directed by the City, in order to ensure clearance and access necessary for proper ditch operation and maintenance. Starting in early 2023, Aquatic Control Group will remove approximately 90 trees that are affecting the proper function of the ditch. The trees will be cut as close to the ground as possible and stumps will be treated with herbicide to prevent regrowth.



## For Additional Information

We look forward to continued effective stormwater management within the Melrose Park drainage ditch and appreciate your patience while these maintenance activities are underway. Neighbors with questions may contact the City's 24/7 Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000.