

# Water Talk

Get the facts...

## KEEPING THE CANAL RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEAR

### The Lake Worth Drainage District

Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) is a Special District of the State of Florida that manages flood control for 200 square miles in southeastern Palm Beach County. It is one of the largest water control districts in the state with over 500 miles of drainage canals and associated rights-of-way.

In addition LWDD provides water supply to several municipal well fields.

LWDD was created in 1915 for the purpose of reclaiming the lands within its boundaries and for the further purpose of providing water control and water supply for settlement and agriculture.

### Safety Is Key!



Flood control in your neighborhood depends on well maintained canals and rights-of-way. This requires the periodic rehabilitation of canals and banks.

Some property enhancements may be permissible, but depend on the location and size of the canal and if there is adequate right-of-way for maintenance and emergency response.

Lake Worth Drainage District

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The Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) mission is to provide flood control and water supply to our residents. Managing over 500 miles of drainage canals and associated rights-of-way is a monumental task. It requires over 90 employees working daily to maintain the free flow of water and unencumbered access along our canals. Property enhancements and/or encroachments located on LWDD rights-of-way may become obstructions to the proper flow of storm water as well as interfere with emergency response by LWDD personnel.

Many people in Western Palm Beach County live along an LWDD canal. In order to enhance their landscapes or properties, residents often plant vegetation or place other encroachments such as swing-sets, fences and patio furniture on the LWDD canal rights-of-way. Unauthorized enhancements can severely hamper the ability of the LWDD to keep you and your family safe during severe storms.



Fence and vegetation located on LWDD right-of-way

Since the majority of the land in our region is low and flat, proper drainage depends on a sophisticated network of canals to remove excess storm water after major rainfall events, including tropical storms and hurricanes. A well maintained and operating canal system

is your best defense against possible flooding. Vegetation and other structures along the canal right-of-way may cause blockages, slow the progression of drainage and reduce response time during emergency situations. The health, safety and welfare of you and those around you are paramount. Unauthorized property enhancement can threaten the welfare of residents many miles away.



Removal cost of downed tree \$20,000

LWDD canals and rights-of-way vary in width throughout the service area. Some property enhancements may be permissible, but depend on the location and size of the canal and if there is adequate right-of-way for maintenance and emergency response.

Specific improvements, such as fences or docks, will be allowed to encroach into the canal right-of-way pursuant to LWDD Operating Policies. All allowable improvements must be permitted or licensed by LWDD.

On a case-by-case situation, and as determined by LWDD, limited encroachments including native trees and vegetation may be allowed as long as these encroachments do not interfere with the maintenance operations or emergency response of LWDD. For more information contact the LWDD office.