

## Water Talk

Get the facts...

## RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES AND FLOOD PROTECTION

### The Lake Worth Drainage District

Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) is a Special District of the State of Florida that manages storm water 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.

### Sharing the Responsibility is



Southern Palm Beach County's geographic makeup of flat, low-lying land and subtropical climate, dictates that we may occasionally experience flooding conditions. Seasonal rainfall between 50 to 60 inches per year requires state and local governments; developers and residential associations to share the responsibility before, during and after the storm.

#### Lake Worth Drainage District

13081 Military Trail  
Delray Beach, FL 33484  
Phone: 561-498-5363  
www.lwdd.net  
email: info@lwdd.net

The most important actions a residential association can take to protect their community from flooding is regular inspection and maintenance of the community's drainage system. This is to ensure the Discharge Control Structures (DCS), swales, drains and outfall pipes have an unobstructed flow. This maintenance may include:

- Exercising the DCS several time a year
- Clearing lawn clippings from drains
- Disposing of trash properly
- Mowing of vegetation from swale area
- Keeping landscaping well maintained



Blockage of vegetation and trash

Inspection and maintenance of the drainage system is the sole responsibility of the residential association, however, LWDD staff is available to assist with any questions you may have and can arrange on-site visits to discuss your community's drainage system.

Most modern day drainage systems do not require any human intervention. Average rainfall will flow into the lake system through swales and drains and over the Discharge Control Structure (DCS) and into LWDD canals. During a severe storm, temporary street flooding is expected for a short time until the natural progression of drainage occurs.

It may be permissible for residential association to open their operable DCS in preparation for a storm event, or after the storm event by requesting authorization from LWDD. Remember if the predicted rainfall is not received, the communi-

ty's lake levels may remain low until additional rainfall occurs.

The residential association must pre-designate, in writing, the individuals who are authorized to act on behalf of the community regarding the maintenance and operation of its DCS. These individuals may be board members, drainage committee members or individuals from a property management company.



Operable Discharge Control Structure

It is the responsibility of the residential association to keep this contact list current by contacting the LWDD office at 561-498-5363. It is suggested that the names be submitted each year even if there are no changes to the list.

LWDD recommends that residential associations establish Storm Teams as follows:

- Storm Teams consisting of residents or property management representatives that are approved by the association's board
- Storm Teams will be responsible for operable Discharge Control Structure (DCS) operation & maintenance. Storm Teams will obtain the required authorization from LWDD before opening any adjustable structure.
- Storm Teams will help educate their community on how their drainage system works.

Quality flood protection requires governments, developers and residential associations sharing the responsibility before during and after the storm.