

# Protect your family Protect your family



and

## Our Water Resources

This handout, is one in a series, designed to educate the community in and around the City of Brooksville of our valuable resource – water, and how you can help protect it, thus protecting your family.

### Preventing Water Pollution

You can help conserve and improve the quality of water that enters the stormwater ponds and promote a healthy environment within your community by following the advice provided below.

### Stormwater Systems

A stormwater system is a tool for managing the runoff from rainfall. When rainwater lands on rooftops, parking lots, streets, driveways and other surfaces that water cannot go through, the runoff (called stormwater runoff) flows into grates, swales or ditches located around your neighborhood. These send the water into a stormwater pond specifically designed to help prevent flooding and remove pollutants from the water before it can drain into the ground water — our main source of drinking water — or into streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuaries or the gulf. Your stormwater pond might be located in your backyard, down the street or on nearby property.

Without a stormwater system, the stormwater runoff usually flows into the nearest water body without treatment. The runoff carries pollutants such as litter, motor oil, gasoline, fertilizers, pesticides, pet wastes, sediments and anything else that can float, dissolve or be swept away by moving water.

### Stormwater System Maintenance

If properly maintained, stormwater ponds help prevent flooding and filter out pollutants before they reach streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, ground water, estuaries and, ultimately, the gulf. Following are a few basic maintenance guidelines that can help keep your stormwater system functioning properly:

- Clear or clean inflow/outflow structures.
- Remove nuisance and excess vegetation.
- Repair eroded slopes.
- Clean up trash and yard waste in your yard and gutters and around storm drains.



*You are encouraged to go to the City of Brooksville's web-site, and go to Departments/Public Works/Stormwater Management to learn more about our precious water resources and how you can protect them and your family.*

[www.cityofbrooksville.us](http://www.cityofbrooksville.us)