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**Informational Tips
From The
Indian River County Stormwater Division**

Long ago, before Florida was developed, it was an area with numerous wetlands. Wetlands help control flooding and help filter out nutrients and sediments collected by stormwater as it runs over the earth's surface.

Development by humans has led to the destruction, filling in and paving over of wetlands. This has increased the danger of flooding and pollutants in stormwater runoff, such as fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil and heavy metals that wash off lawns, sidewalks, roads and parking lots.

Untreated stormwater runoff is now considered the state's leading source of water pollution. Here are a few things you can do to prevent water pollution:

- ✓ Perform routine maintenance on your stormwater pond.
- ✓ Know what types of plants grow in your area to reduce the amount of irrigation, chemicals, and fertilizers used for growth.
- ✓ Use plants to create a buffer zone of five feet or more between your yard and any water bodies.
- ✓ Don't overuse fertilizers and chemicals, especially near the water's edge.
- ✓ Avoid depositing lawn clippings in water bodies and storm drains.

The preceding information was taken from the Neighborhood Guide to Stormwater Systems produced by the St. Johns River Water Management District. For a free copy contact Kelly Alger at (772) 226-1671 or St. Johns River Water Management District at (386) 329-4540.