

# Conservation News

Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne  
Public Works & Utilities Department ~ Environmental Community Outreach Division

## Follow these nine Florida-friendly landscaping principles for a beautiful yard this spring

Irrigation of lawns and landscaping in Florida represents the single largest use of water from our municipal water supplies. This water use has seriously impacted the aquifer, which is a source of our drinking water and water that supports Florida's springs and other ecosystems. In addition, fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns are major sources of pollution in our lakes and rivers.

Whether you are new to Florida or have lived here all of your life, learn how to protect Florida's environment. Get started in your own yard by implementing the nine principles of Florida-friendly landscaping.

### 1) *Right plant, right place:*

Plants selected to suit a specific site will require minimal amounts of water, fertilizers and pesticides.

### 2) *Water efficiently:*

Irrigate only when your lawn needs water. Efficient watering is the key to a healthy yard and conservation of limited resources.

### 3) *Fertilize appropriately:*

Less is often best. Over-use of fertilizers can be hazardous to your yard and the environment.

### 4) *Mulch:*

Maintain two to three inches of mulch to help retain soil moisture, prevent erosion and suppress weeds.



### 5) *Attract wildlife:*

Plants in your yard that provide food, water and shelter can conserve Florida's diverse wildlife.

### 6) *Manage yard pests responsibly:*

Unwise use of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial

organisms, and the environment.

### 7) *Recycle:*

Grass clippings, leaves and yard trimmings composted and recycled on site provide nutrients to the soil and reduce waste disposal.

### 8) *Reduce stormwater runoff:*

Water running off your yard can carry pollutants, such as fertilizer, pesticides, soil, and debris that can harm water quality. Reduction

of this runoff will help prevent pollution.

### 9) *Protect the waterfront:*

Waterfront property, whether on a river, lake, stream, pond, or beach, is very fragile and should be carefully protected to maintain freshwater and marine ecosystems.



City of Melbourne  
Public Works & Utilities  
Dept./  
Environmental Community  
Outreach Division  
2885 Harper Road  
Melbourne, FL 32904  
Phone: (321) 953-6302  
Fax: (321) 674-5765  
E-Mail: jwilster@  
melbourneflorida.org

## Remember the watering rules!

One of the most important ways to help meet our water supply needs for today and in the future is through conservation, which is the efficient and effective use of water. Lawn and landscape irrigation can account for more than half of residential and commercial water use. Watering wisely promotes healthier lawns and landscapes and conserves our water resources.

### *Know the rules:*

Watering is allowed only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. and no more than two days per week. The rules apply to water from private wells, surface water bodies, and City-supplied water. Irrigation with reclaimed water is exempt.

# Storm drain marking program offers pollution prevention reminder



Some residents might be surprised to learn that the water that enters the storm drains leads directly to our rivers, lakes, and streams. Everyone's daily activities can contribute to the deterioration of our water bodies, which in Melbourne include the

Indian River Lagoon, Eau Gallie River, Lake Washington, Horse Creek, and Crane Creek.

Rainwater picks up litter, yard waste, pet waste, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, automotive fluids, and other harmful substances. It takes all this along for a ride in the rainwater that flows into our storm drains causing our water bodies to become polluted.

The City of Melbourne is recharging its storm drain marking program by enlisting the help of volunteers. Individuals or

## City issues water proclamations

Mayor Harry Goode has proclaimed April 2007 Water Conservation Month. National Drinking Water Week, to be held May 6 - May 12, will be proclaimed at the City Council meeting on April 24. At that meeting, local middle school students who participated in the Drop Savers Poster Contest and won first-place from their schools will be receiving certificates and prizes.

## Join annual Trash Bash April 21 to keep Melbourne beautiful



Trash Bash volunteer Karen Smith takes in a big haul at last year's event.

The official Trash Bash event will be held Saturday, April 21. But really, the entire month of April counts for collection totals for this beautification program sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, sponsored locally by Keep Brevard Beautiful.

The official event will be held April 21 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Melbourne check-in sites include:

- \* Melbourne Courthouse, Nieman Avenue
- \* Palm Bay High School, Pirate Lane
- \* Lipscomb Park, Florida Avenue

Volunteers are provided all necessary supplies including latex gloves, safety vests, trash bags, and litter pickers. Participants are encouraged to register. Those who register will receive a free '07 Trash Bash T-shirt. Volunteers will also be supplied with water and snacks. In addition, students can earn needed community service hours for their efforts.

To register and for more information, please call City Trash Bash Coordinator Michelle DeVillo at 953-6302.

groups can take on the challenge of placing special storm drain markers on storm inlet covers. These provide a clear reminder that anything entering the drains will flow untreated into our waters.

Most recently, the 25 members of Boy Scout Troop #542 worked to place 300 markers in the Sarno Road area. In addition, they distributed approximately 600 flyers to area residents.

Installation is easy and fast. The markers are glued on the drain covers and door hangars are distributed to provide the neighborhood with information on this



Boy Scouts from Troop #524 prepare to apply storm drain markers.

important environmental issue. The drain markers are made of durable materials to last a long time on the inlet covers.

The City provides everything needed to begin the program including training, markers, pollution prevention door hangars, reflective vests, a bucket for carrying any needed tools, a whisk broom, and exterior-grade adhesive.

The City of Melbourne also has a stormwater hotline. Call this number to report the following problems occurring near storm drains throughout the City: illegal dumping, trash and debris, foul smells, unusual colors or cloudiness, and spills. The hotline number is 321-953-6241.

## Phone Book Recycling

In Melbourne and surrounding cities you can now place your old phone books in your recycling bins. If you live in unincorporated areas, you will still need to bring them to phone book collection bins. For a listing of locations, call the Brevard County Solid Waste Department at 633-2043.



Some schools have phone book recycling drives that can earn money for the school. For more information, check with your local school.