



Stormwater Management and Pollution Prevention Procedures

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Purpose:

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) is located on a regional, interconnected watershed system that spills into the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and joins the Gulf of Mexico. It is imperative to keep our waterways clean to protect the environment and wildlife.

Debris and pollutants picked up by stormwater runoff end up in our lakes and ponds, creeks, rivers, wetlands, and beaches and oceans. Maintaining a clean and debris free stormwater system ensures a healthier environment for people and wildlife.

Unlike city sewer systems that divert water from our homes to a treatment plant – storm drains lead directly to surrounding waterways that form our watershed without any type of treatment. To date at FGCU, 452 storm drains have been mapped with GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude).

One of the stormwater management goals of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) at FGCU is to educate the community with information through venues such as:

- Public service announcements on the campus TV “bumper” and postings in various locations;
- Having a presence at events with educational information for students, faculty, and staff;
- Official training for students, faculty, and staff;
- Information located on the EH&S website

The maintenance of the stormwater drain system for FGCU is separate from that of Lee County. It is FGCU’s responsibility to keep the campus drains clear and free of debris, garbage, and other pollutants. By educating our campus community, the effort is perpetuated to ensure better results.

Authority:

Florida Gulf Coast University is classified as a Phase II MS4 program under the guidance of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Chapters 62-624, F.A.C.

The campus stormwater drains are monitored by the FGCU Grounds Department on a regular basis for maintenance issues and are cleaned of debris as needed by internal or external personnel.

Procedures to Assist in Maintaining FGCU Stormwater Drains:

- Keeping the FGCU campus free of litter and debris.

Daily Trash pickup is conducted Mondays through Saturdays, and after special events (e.g., sporting events). This includes the placement and removal of trash and recycling cans for events. Physical Plant also sponsors campus cleanup events, such as Earth Day, Arbor Day, Campus Beautification Day, etc.

Weather events, such as hurricanes or other high winds, may trigger the need for additional heavier clean-up activity, which is considered a priority.

- FGCU recycles responsibly.

Following the guidelines of Lee County, FGCU has implemented a single stream recycling system. All recyclables can now be placed in the same bin, without threat of waste contamination. In this effort, every floor of every building on campus has a recycling station consisting of a recycling and a waste bin side by side. Recycling and trash containers are placed strategically around campus, FGCU buildings, and for all special events.

- Proper disposal of chemicals and hazardous materials, paint and cleaning solutions.

EH&S regularly collects chemicals and hazardous materials used for research and teaching purposes in the laboratories on campus. Used motor oil can be taken to and recycled at any auto parts store free of charge. Washing cars, golf carts, tractors, and boats is vehemently prohibited on-campus. Car washes located off-campus are recommended to employees and students, where wash water can be properly collected and recycled.

- Call EH&S to report accidents such as oil spills (vehicular issues, dining hall drains overflowing, etc.) or if someone is seen disposing of wastes in a storm drain. Any such incidents require immediate attention for absorption and clean-up.

Construction Sites/Renovations/Building Maintenance:

Construction sites on campus are visited frequently to ensure best management practices have been put in place for erosion and sediment control and the control of waste products (building materials, concrete, chemicals, litter and sanitary waste). Issues with best management practices are addressed immediately with Facilities Planning personnel and the contractor for the construction site.

Buildings undergoing maintenance or renovations receive a site visit from EH&S personnel as well. Best management practices are again required for the control of waste products and runoff from cleaning, painting, or other building beautification procedures.

All construction and renovation sites are closely monitored for impact of water quality. Any issues found are addressed immediately with Physical Plant personnel and contractors.