

HOW CAN I HELP MY SWALE?



 **Let Water Pond.** Water level may take up to 72 hours to lower.

 **Mow.** Every other time you mow your yard. Good grass growth is essential.

 **Remove Debris.** Keep leaves, grass clippings, and garbage out.

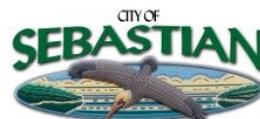
 **Use Less Chemicals.** Fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides threaten groundwater health.

 **Park On Cement.** Parking on the ground compacts the soil, decreasing infiltration, and increasing runoff.

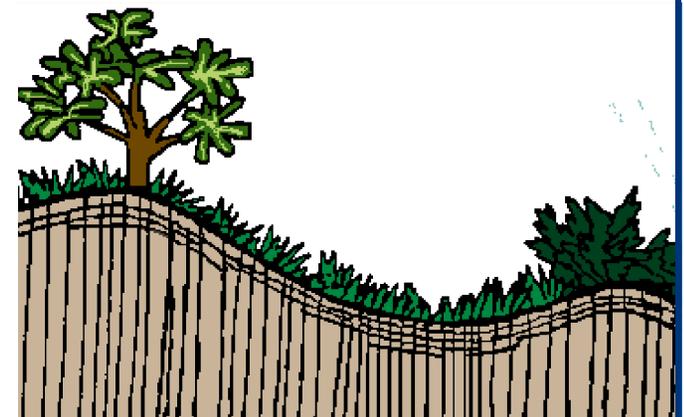
 **Maintain.** Occasionally, swales need dug out to re-establish their shape.

For Questions or Concerns about Storm Water Please Call:
Citizen Request Line
(772) 581-0111

SAVE THE SWALES



HOME OF PELICAN ISLAND
1225 Main Street
Sebastian, FL 32958



WHAT IS STORM WATER?

When natural land is converted into roads, homes, and stores, **impervious** surfaces are created.

These surfaces prevent the **infiltration**, or the “soaking-in” of the rain water into the ground.

As it travels across and away from these impervious surfaces, rain water becomes **storm water**.



Storm water collects sediments and pollutants as it travels across impervious surfaces. The water that leaves these surfaces is known as **runoff**.

WHAT IS A SWALE?

A **swale** is one of the most common storm water management practices. It is utilized to catch, hold, and filter out runoff and its pollutants.

Swales slow down the rapid flow of storm water runoff by **ponding** water between its sloping sides, or **berms**.

The ponding process slows the movement of the storm water and allows for sediments and pollutants to settle out.

As the swale fills, the cleaner surface water will spill over the berm and eventually travel to a **storm water pond**, or a **ditch** before entering a local waterbody.

