



Adopt-a-Canal Program

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Introduction

Adopt-a-Canal (AAC) programs operate nationwide and have in some cases reduced Canal litter by 100% on sponsored canals. Acknowledging volunteers and encouraging communities to respect the good work of others in their community can reduce the thoughtless disposal of waste.

Canal adoption involves communities taking a special interest in maintaining the appearance of Canals and ditches in their community through the regular removal of litter.

Local communities and community based groups are encouraged to 'adopt' sections of canals and pledge to keep them clean for a contracted period of time. Large signs shall be erected to acknowledge the efforts of 'adopters' and to remind others that littering is not an acceptable practice.

The proposed City of Fort Myers AAC program is intended to be a practical environmental initiative to increase community awareness of the damaging effect canal litter has on the local environment and civic image.

The program is ultimately designed to increase canal litter collection on the main canals and ditches in the City of Fort Myers.

Aims/Objectives

The aim of the City of Fort Myers Adopt a Canal program is to decrease the amount of litter in the City's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) with community-focused organizations, groups, individuals and businesses that will clean their local roadside canal or ditch environment through a sponsorship arrangement.

The objectives of the Adopt a Canal program are:

- To increase community awareness of the positive effect that litter free canals and ditches have on the environment and the local community image.
- To encourage the community to acknowledge litter as a problem requiring local solutions by involving community groups and organizations in the adoption of sections of canals and ditches

Benefits

Adopt-a-Canal will benefit the community by:

- Identification and reduction of "high incidence" litter areas;
- Care for the local environment;
- Increased awareness of the effects of littering; and
- Improved health, safety and attractiveness.

Proposed Canals for the Program

Canals proposed to be sponsored through the program (and displayed in Figure 1) are:

1. **Billy Creek Upper (Billy Creek Preserve to Veronica Shoemaker)**
Description: 1.37 miles long, walking access mainly available at Billy Creek Preserve to Whitehead Creek Subdivision. Access past these areas is difficult and trespassing on private property is not encouraged.) Moderate urban trash mainly within the creek, minimal on the banks, there are no control structures or collection points at this time.
2. **Billy Creek Lower (Veronica Shoemaker to Caloosahatchee River)**
Description: 1.55 miles long, accessible only by non-motorized boats, which can launch at Shady Oaks Park or Rock Lake Motel. Trash is collected by boat with dumpsters located at the launch areas. Heavy urban trash that is mainly caught within the mangroves and on the creek banks. No control structures or collection points at this time.
3. **Veronica Shoemaker Canal (MLK to Billy Creek)**
Description: 0.88 miles long, roadway runs parallel to roadway with minimal walking required. Heavy urban debris.
4. **Ford St. Canal Lower (Blount St. to Billy Creek)**
Description: 0.76 miles long, accessible mainly by walking but some roadways. Runs through City of Fort Myers Cemetery. Moderate urban debris.
5. **Ford St. Canal Upper (Edison Ave. to Blount St)**
Description: 0.62 miles long, good accessibility walking or vehicle. Roadway runs parallel to the roadway for the majority of the canal. Heavy urban debris, but access is easy as this portion of the canal is not deep or has dry portions.
6. **Manuels Branch Upper (Railroad to US 41)**
Description: 1.0 miles long, good accessibility with a roadway that runs parallel to the canal. Canal runs through an industrial area then to a residential area. Heavy urban debris that is caught mainly at two control structures in canal.
7. **Manuels Branch Lower (US 41 to Caloosahatchee River)**
Description: 0.86 miles long, walking accessibility only through the hospital parking lot and Fort Myers High School walking trail. Moderate urban debris

with the majority concentrated at two control structures by the high school and on the banks.

8. Evan Avenue Ditch (Park Windsor Drive to Hanson Street)

Description: 0.91 miles long, roadway runs parallel to roadway with minimal walking required. Heavy urban debris is easy to collect since water in the ditch is minimal, if at all.

9. Carrell Canal (Ten Mile Canal to US 41)

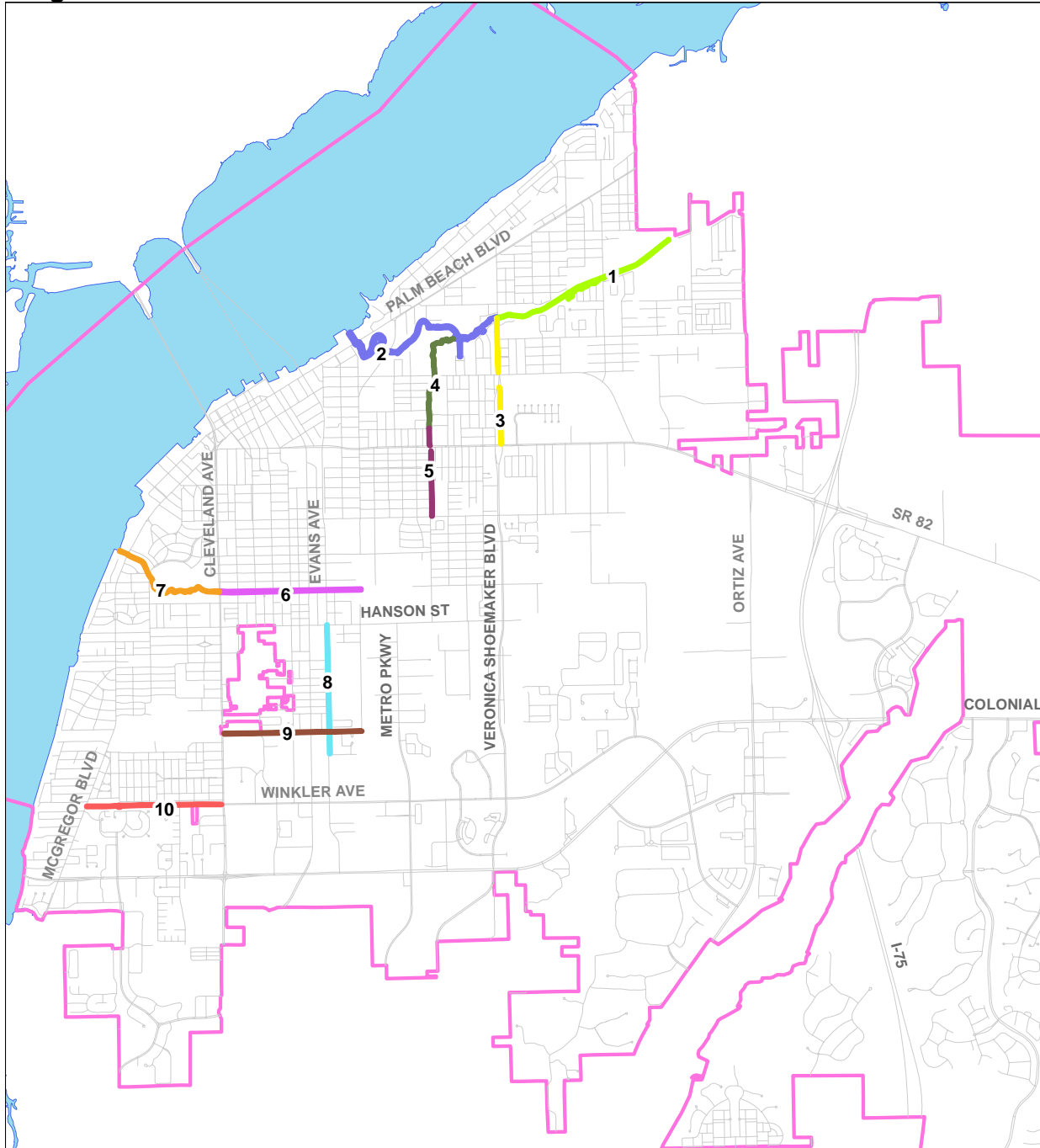
Description: 0.97 miles long, with a roadway that runs parallel to the canal for the majority of the distance making for good vehicle access. Canal has moderate urban debris mainly in the water and on the banks.

10. Winkler Canal (US 41 – McGregor Blvd)

Description: 0.97 miles long, with the canal running behind the rear of a residential neighborhood. Vehicle access is mainly at 5 intersecting cross streets, with the majority of the access being walking. Moderate urban debris coming from the commercial areas west of US 41, with a collection point at a weir located 1000 ft from McGregor.

Other canals may be included in the program at the request of the community or the City Council but it is the intention of the program to be concentrated on these main canals so as to maintain a consistent level of cleanliness.

Figure 1:



Sponsor Selection

The City will call for Expressions of Interest (see appendix A) in adopting selected canals (from those listed in Figure 1 as priority canals) and selections of sponsors will be made based on the following criteria:

- Ability of the applicant to fulfill the commitments of the program.
- A minimum canal length to be adopted of 0.5 miles for all new sponsors.
- Connection between the applicant and the selected canal or ditch section.
- Preference to existing sponsors to continue with their selected canal over new sponsors (if existing).
- Preference to new sponsors over existing sponsors for new canal sections to increase the sponsor base group.

After this process, if more than 1 potential sponsor remains, then discussions will be undertaken to look at sharing or other arrangements to ensure maximum participation in the program.

Safety Requirements

- Prior to the first canal cleanup, a designated group representative should visit the adopted canal section to survey the area and find a safe meeting place.
- Prior to the first cleanup, the designated group leader or the entire group must attend an instruction and safety meeting conducted by the City of Fort Myers. Each cleanup participant must sign a liability release form. The group leader shall be responsible for getting all volunteers to sign liability waivers that are supplied by the City on the day of the clean up. The waivers are to be returned to the City along with other required documentation within ten (10) days after the scheduled clean up.
- Individuals under 18 may participate in a canal cleanup only if supervised by an adult. Groups must provide at least one adult supervisor for every six minors. All participants must be at least 12 years old and able to swim.
- Cleanup participants must wear a bright orange safety vest.
- Cleanups shall be scheduled during daylight hours and during fair weather. Most locations will consist of a 4 hour cleanup time period
- Cleanup participants are encouraged to take breaks, drink fluids and avoid overexertion. Groups should bring plenty of water, cell phone and first aid kit.
- Plastic bags, cups, paper, bottles, small pieces of wood, etc. are just a few of the examples of items to be picked up.

- Cleanup participants should document any hazardous or unsafe materials and large items (i.e. shopping carts, tires, bicycles, lumber, trees etc.), to be picked up at a later time by City staff.
- City of Fort Myers shall provide maps, forms, safety vests, gloves, long handled nets, litter grabbers, and garbage bags.
- The designated group representative must notify the City of Fort Myers one week prior to scheduled cleanup.
- All litter collected will be left in a designated pickup location and the group representative will fill out the appropriate paperwork and collect all the equipment to be used again on the next scheduled cleanup.

City's Commitment

The City is committed to providing the following for the Adopt-a-Canal program:

- Supply canal clean up equipment.
- Install acknowledgement signs suitable to the site including the name and logo, if applicable, of the sponsor. No information on contact details or location will be included.
- Acknowledge the efforts of the sponsors on the City's web site.

Volunteers shall be recognized for their efforts by the City by the following means:

- At the end of one year of service, all groups shall be recognized for their efforts and total volume of trash collected at a public meeting and/or gathering.
- At the end of each group's agreement term, each group shall receive a plaque to recognize the total volume of trash collected and shall be presented by the Mayor at a public meeting and/or gathering.

Sponsor's Commitments

Sponsors of the Adopt-a-Canal program agree to:

- Sign a program agreement form with the City for a 2 year period
- (See appendix B).
- Undertake a mutually agreed number of clean ups per year.

- Notify the City, in a timely manner, of any incidents, potential problems observed and or accidents that may have occurred in undertaking the program.
- Complete the required forms in Appendix C and D for every clean up event.

Cancellation of Sponsorship Agreement

The City reserves the right to cancel any Adopt-a-Canal sponsorship arrangement if the sponsor fails to fulfill their commitment and remove acknowledgement signs.

Disposal of Litter

Disposal of collected debris will be carried out by the City of Fort Myers sanitation department on the following business day.

Canal Clean up Kits

Contents of these kits are:

- City Forms
- Safety Vests (provided once per agreement term, if needed)
- Gardening and or leather gloves (provided once per agreement term and as requested.)
- Long handled nets (provided once per agreement term)
- Grabbers (provided once per agreement term)
- First aid kit (provided once per agreement term)
- Litter bags – plastic

Safety requirement Instructions shall be provided by the City during a Stormwater Education Class.

Appendix A

Expression of Interest Form

Expression of Interest Form

Adopt-a-Canal Program

Expression of Interest

The City of Fort Myers Adopt-a-Canal Program is an attempt at reducing canal litter on its environment and community through partnerships between business, organizations, civic groups and Local Government.

A number of canals and ditches are up for adoption to caring organizations that have the right qualities to ensure canal litter is kept to a minimum for the next 2 years.

If your group and or organization possess the following qualities and would like to be considered as a potential canal adopter please complete the attached application form and send to:

Melanie Grigsby
City of Fort Myers
Drawer 2217
Fort Myers Fl. 33901

Or fax to 239-344-5943

Appropriate canal adopter candidate qualities include:

- A passion to rid the City of Fort Myers of Canal and ditch litter.
- A desire to actively contribute to the cleanliness of the City of Fort Myers.
- Good common sense
- Mental Alertness
- Good physical condition, including sight and hearing
- Must be at least 18 years old. Less than 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult supervisor. No more than 6 minors to a group. (Minimum 12 years of age)
- A belief in the need to present our City in the best possible light, and

- A commitment to ensure litter is controlled on the nominated canals and ditches until the end of the mutually agreed upon period.

Private businesses and community groups are encouraged to participate.

Your commitment will involve a 2 year agreement to care for the nominated canal or ditch.

Your group will be given recognition through attractive signs, and on the City's web site.

All enquires regarding the Adopt-A-Canal program can be made to:

Melanie Grigsby

Telephone No: 239-321-7446

Adopt-a-Canal Program

Expression of Interest Form

Please complete this form and return to the City.

By Fax: 239-344-5943 Attention: Adopt-a-Canal Program

or mail to: **Engineering Dept / Stormwater Management**
 City of Fort Myers
 Drawer 2217, Fort Myers, Fl. 33901

Attention: Adopt-a-Canal Program

Organization/Business Name: _____

Contact: _____ Position: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Which canal do you wish to adopt?

Canal Name: _____ Neighborhood: _____

From: _____ to: _____ Distance: _____ Miles

How often are you prepared to care for and remove litter from the nominated canal?

Every 11 weeks ☐ Every 13 weeks ☐ other, specify _____

(Note: agreements are for 2 years with a minimum of 0.5 miles of canal)

State the reasons why your organization should be considered a suitable adopter of local canals.

Note: The application to adopt a canal is an expression of interest only. Upon receipt of all such expressions of interest, suitable canal adopters will be chosen and allocated a canal corridor in Need of care and attention. Should the nominated canal not be suitable, alternative sites may be Considered.

Thank you for your interest in the City of Fort Myers Adopt-a-Canal Program.

Appendix B

Volunteer Sponsorship Agreement

Volunteer Sponsorship Agreement

Adopt-a-Canal Program
Canal Adoption Agreement
Between
City of Fort Myers
And

Group/Organization/Business:_____

Contact Name:_____

Signature:_____

Date:_____

Signature of City Contact :_____

Portion of canal to be sponsored:_____

Canal Name:_____

From:_____

To:_____

Distance:_____

Conditions of Adoption Agreement

The adopting organization agrees to the following:

1. Carry out canal clean up no less than ____4____ times per year on the Nominated canal for a period of 2 years from the date of this agreement Commencing from _____ 20__ and ending _____ 20__ .
2. Follow the safety requirements as outlined by the City and apply good common sense to the tasks.
3. The group will hold the City of Fort Myers harmless for any claims, made against the City in respect of damage to property, injury to persons or any other claim arising out of the Adopt-a-Canal activity.
4. The group shall designate a group leader with a backup as a point of contact for the City to coordinate clean up efforts with. The group leader shall be responsible for having volunteers sign the Liability Waiver Form, shown in Appendix C, and complete the Clean Up Summary Form, shown in Appendix D, for every clean up event. These forms shall be returned to the City within ten (10) days after the scheduled clean up.
5. Prior to the first cleanup, the designated group leader and/or the entire group must attend an instruction and safety meeting conducted by the City of Fort Myers. The group shall be educated on safety requirements, identification of hazardous material and stormwater pollution.
6. The group leader is to contact the City a minimum of five (5) days prior to the carrying out of any clean up activities to notify when work will be carried out.
7. Groups containing young people under the age of 18 years shall have no less than one (1) adult supervisor per six (6) young people present at all times during clean up operations.
8. _____ will immediately report any incidents that occur during an Adopt-a-Canal activity to the nominated City contact officer via a telephone call to be backed up with a completed Incident Report form.

9. The City agrees to:

- Provide safety vests and signs– as required
- Provide long nets, grabbers and install acknowledgement signs - at execution of agreement
- Supply litter bags and pick-up of litter collected – for every schedule clean up event
- Provide gloves – at execution of agreement and as requested
- Provide recognition on City's website to participating organizations and at an annual public meeting and/or event.

I the undersigned and authorized official of _____ agree to abide by the terms and conditions specified in the City of Fort Myers Adopt-a-Canal program as described above.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

City Contact : _____ Date: _____

Appendix C

Liability Waiver Form



**CITY OF FORT MYERS FLORIDA
ADOPT A CANAL PROGRAM
LIABILITY WAIVER FORM**

Group Name: _____

Date of Scheduled Clean Up: _____

I accept all responsibility for any damages that may occur as a result of this activity. I agree to hold the City of Fort Myers harmless and indemnify the City of Fort Myers, its officers, agents, employees and/or contractors, from lawsuit, damages or injuries. As part of this release and waiver of liability, I understand and accept that the only cleanup allowed is for the canal right of way, and further accept that no power tools, motorized vehicles or similar instruments may be used in such activities.

By signing this form, I understand that I am releasing the City of Fort Myers from any and all liability from my participation in clean up and related activities for the clean up event.

| Print Name | Signature |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
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| 10. | |
| 11. | |
| 12. | |
| 13. | |

Appendix D

Clean Up Summary Form



**CITY OF FORT MYERS FLORIDA
ADOPT A CANAL PROGRAM
CLEAN UP SUMMARY FORM**

Group Name: _____

Date of Scheduled Clean Up: _____

Group Leader Completing Form: _____

VOLUME OF DEBRIS COLLECTED

Number of Trash Bags Collected: _____

Estimated Cubic Yards of Debris Removed From Canal: _____

*****Note that the trash bags issued by the City can hold a maximum volume of two (2) cubic yards of trash, if completely filled. Use this as a unit of measure to estimate the total volume of trash collected.***

OBSERVED OBSTRUCTIONS AND HAZARDS

Describe any large debris or hazardous/unsafe material observed in the canal that was unable to be removed by volunteers. Provide a detail of the material and location in reference to adjacent roadways or home addresses.

PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY CITY STAFF

Estimated Volume of Trash Collected (cu yds) _____

Staff: _____ Date Confirmed: _____