



**CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

Meeting Date: July 21, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: B. Francis, City Manager

Subject: Maintenance of Swales

Background: Over the past years many of the drainage swales that were constructed are failing in that they are not channeling water to the drainage basins or not allowing storm water to percolate into the ground. Most of the reason for this is that adjacent property owners have allowed their swales to become overgrown to the point that the grass now acts as a dam to retain water in driveway aprons. Property owners have also installed irrigation in the swales (City ROW) which adds to the problem. Also if a swale is to work properly, it should have an underdrain that collects water that seeps into the swale and then is run via the drain pipe to a storm basin. Many of the swales were constructed without this underdrain further causing the flooding problems. The swale problem is not localized to one area. We see this problem in all City districts. With every rainstorm we now have, a resident is calling stating that their driveway is flooded or the swale has standing water in it for days.

Staff Recommendation: Consider having property owners responsible for the maintenance and proper drainage of swales. There are several places in the BIMC where this may be covered: Section 10-152 (c), (d), or (e), or Section 10-153.

Suggested Motion: **None at this time but Council should provide direction to the staff on this issue.**

Alternatives: Have the City continue to be responsible for the maintenance of swales.

Fiscal Impact: TBD

Attachments: Photos of overgrown swales