

Education

From this 2007 plan, it states that public education is key for support of a program, to include the provided pet waste and water quality connection exemplified in the plan. It says that at least three articles a year in the City Beat are related to the stormwater management.

Ordinance Updates

The plan also mentions ***“Existing regulations and management plans included the sanitary code which regulates septic and sewer line installation, a stormwater management plan, erosion control and sedimentation act, and a voluntary tree and landscape ordinance among others”*** and states that section V of the environmental regulations from the State of Georgia had not been adopted yet. Through this discussion we get the mention of a stormwater ordinance. There are many references to this stormwater ordinance listed in existing publications on the City’s Stormwater Division website. These documents mention a slew of references on keeping detention ponds free from litter. While the actual City Code of Ordinance does not match what is listed on the Stormwater Managements Minimum Control Measures (MCM) referenced in attachment M. However, in the MCM-D, the Stormwater Management Program discusses BMPs and mentions the E&S as ***litter*** and referring it to the litter ordinance, specifically mentioning that changes were taking place to the 2006 litter ordinance with regards to construction sites. The litter ordinance is actually referenced many times for enforcement throughout the overall Stormwater Permit and Management Program.

The ordinances referenced in the Stormwater Permit and Management Program attachments G and M, as well as the 2010 Master Stormwater Management Plan, offer more than enough guidance on the importance and legality of keeping commercial property such as parking lots and land border free from trash as well as related detention ponds. Even in the City of Valdosta Land Development Regulations Section 310 for Stormwater, we can find the guidance covering detention ponds and even the enforcement of violations thereof. ***“Section 310-99 Detention Pond Protection Every person owning property, or such person’s lessee, upon which a detention pond, swale, gully, inlet, outlet and/or pipe, being part of said property, will maintain that part within the property free of trash, debris, excessive vegetation, excessive sediment and other obstacles that would pollute, contaminate or significantly retard the flow of water through the watercourse.”*** Also section 310-100 that ***“In the event the violation of any provision of this article constitutes an immediate danger to public health, safety, or welfare, the Director of Utilities is authorized to, to take any and all measures provided by law to abate the violation and/or restore the property. The Director of Utilities is authorized to seek reimbursement for costs of the abatement as outlined in subsection (E).”***

Enforcement Authority

We can depart the detailed publications regarding Stormwater Management itself and now turn to the various related City ordinances that discuss the importance and responsibility of litter control within the City of Valdosta. We could just limit the discussion to [Chapter 82, Solid Waste](#), of the City Code of Ordinances but since the litter control issue has gone on far too long without accountability, let us explore other existing options for enforcement. Chapter 82 ***Solid Waste*** also cross references [Chapter 42 Environment](#) which under Article VII goes into Stormwater Management. If we visit here for a