

# The Importance of Control Structures in Private Developments

Control Structures come in many different sizes and types.



Control structures function to protect communities from flooding and to decrease the stormwater flow rate in order to recharge aquifers and improve water quality prior to discharge to natural water-bodies.



# “Control” Structures

Control Structures are weirs designed to prevent flooding by controlling the elevation and rate that stormwater is released from your neighborhood. The weir controls the level of water and the timing of water released from ponds.



Structures should be checked regularly especially during the wet season, and cleared of debris. In some cases the structure openings may be under water making regular maintenance difficult but if the small “control” opening is obstructed water must rise higher to the overflow elevation before flowing out.

## Control Structures should not be altered!



Control structures have a small outlet hole whose size and elevation are calculated for each individual stormwater system. This outlet hole is the only path for water to leave the pond. A protective skimmer is missing here, revealing the small outlet hole which can become clogged with trash and debris.

# Well Maintained Control Structures

Control Structures should be clear of debris, sediment and vegetation. They should not have missing, buried or rusted off sections.



Example of a control structure in dry detention



Example of a well maintained control structure

# Control Structures should be maintained!



**There is a control structure buried behind these plants**

**Plants should not be closer than 20 feet from the structure to insure free flow of water.**



# Control Structures should not be altered!

Flow restriction  
feature removed  
from an inlet



Alteration to such  
structures is only  
acceptable with approval  
from the appropriate  
permitting agency.

Inlet restored to  
permitted form

