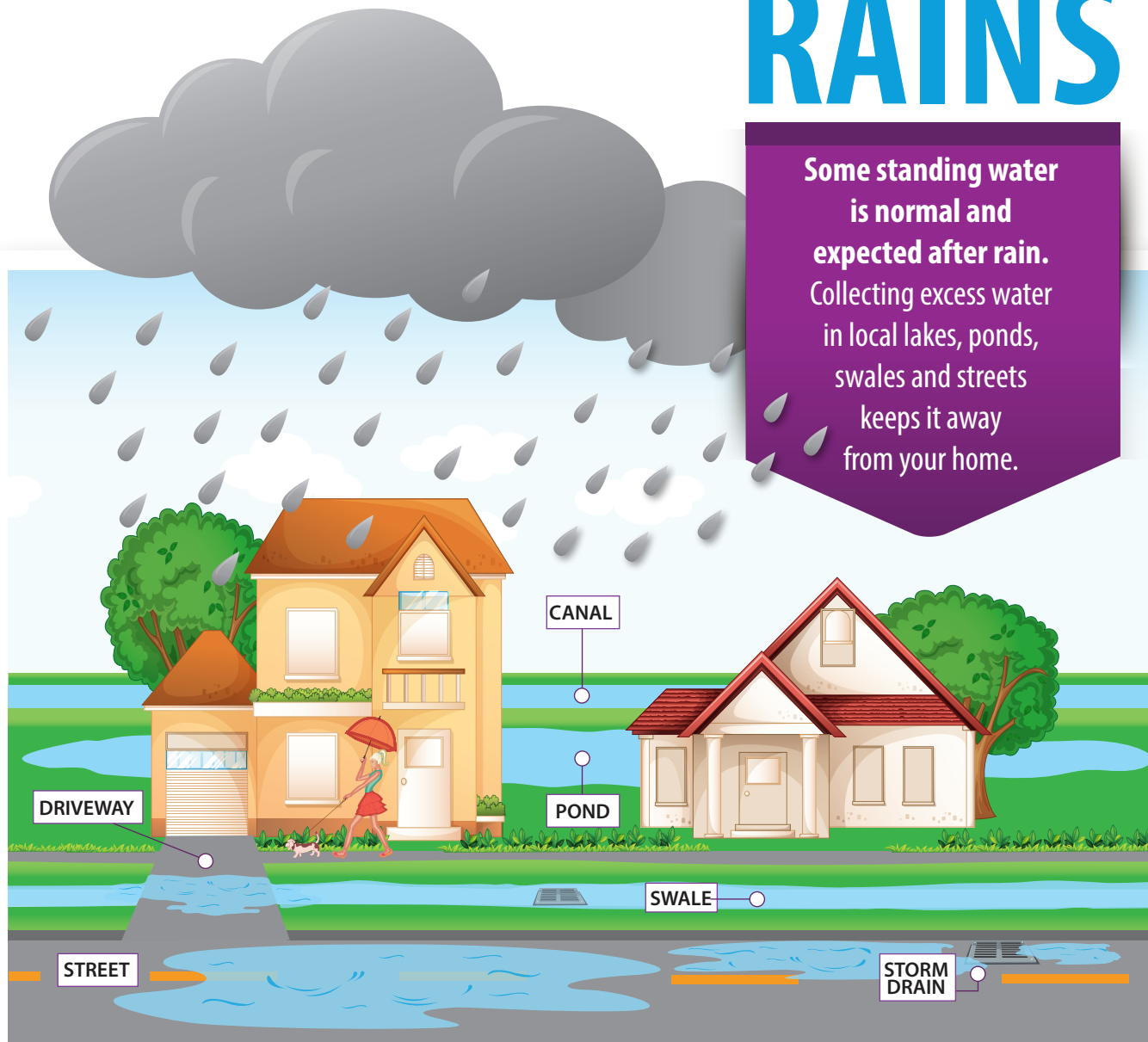




# What to expect when it RAINS

Some standing water is normal and expected after rain. Collecting excess water in local lakes, ponds, swales and streets keeps it away from your home.



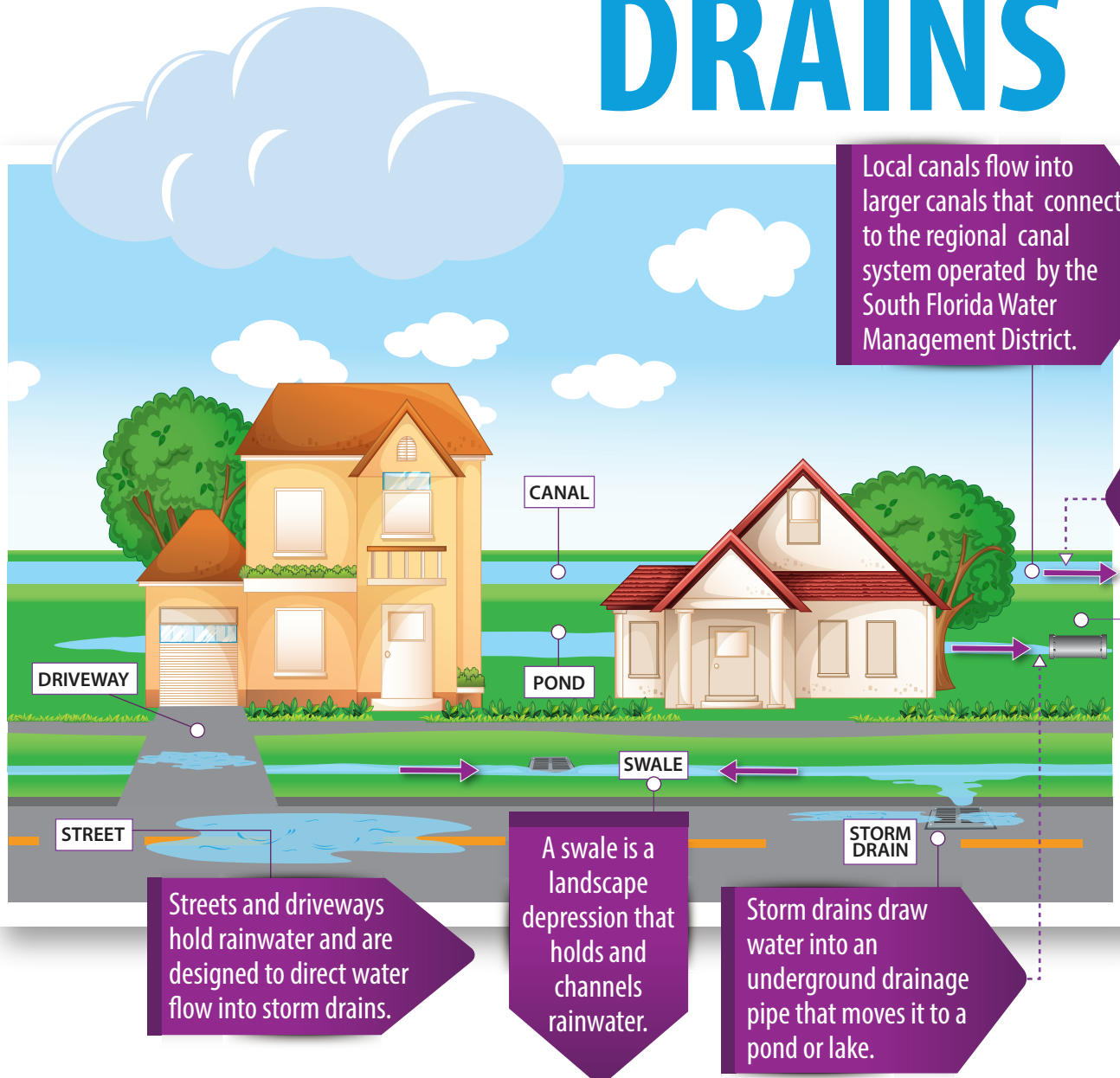
## Rainy Season CHECKLIST

- Recognize that flood control is a shared responsibility.
- Know the agency responsible for managing nearby canals.
- Understand YOUR neighborhood drainage limitations. Every neighborhood drains differently.
- If you are part of a homeowners association (HOA), identify the HOA representative responsible to maintain the water control structures for your community.
- Check for any structure, storm drain or canal blockages – remove debris and/or report any issues.
- Be aware that extreme rain can overwhelm drainage systems and result in temporary flooding.

Learn more at  
[sfwmd.gov/rainyseason](http://sfwmd.gov/rainyseason)



# How excess rainwater DRAINS



## What can slow THE FLOW?

- ▶ **Intensity of rainfall.**  
If the ground is already saturated and community lakes and canals are high from previous rains, water will take longer to recede.
- ▶ **Extent of rainfall.**  
If other neighborhoods are experiencing heavy rains, local and regional canals may not be able to accept all inflows at once.
- ▶ **Poorly maintained facilities.**  
Clogged or damaged facilities can prevent neighborhood water from draining properly. Also, there are some low-lying neighborhoods that are more prone to flooding.

Learn more at [sfwmd.gov/rainyseason](http://sfwmd.gov/rainyseason)



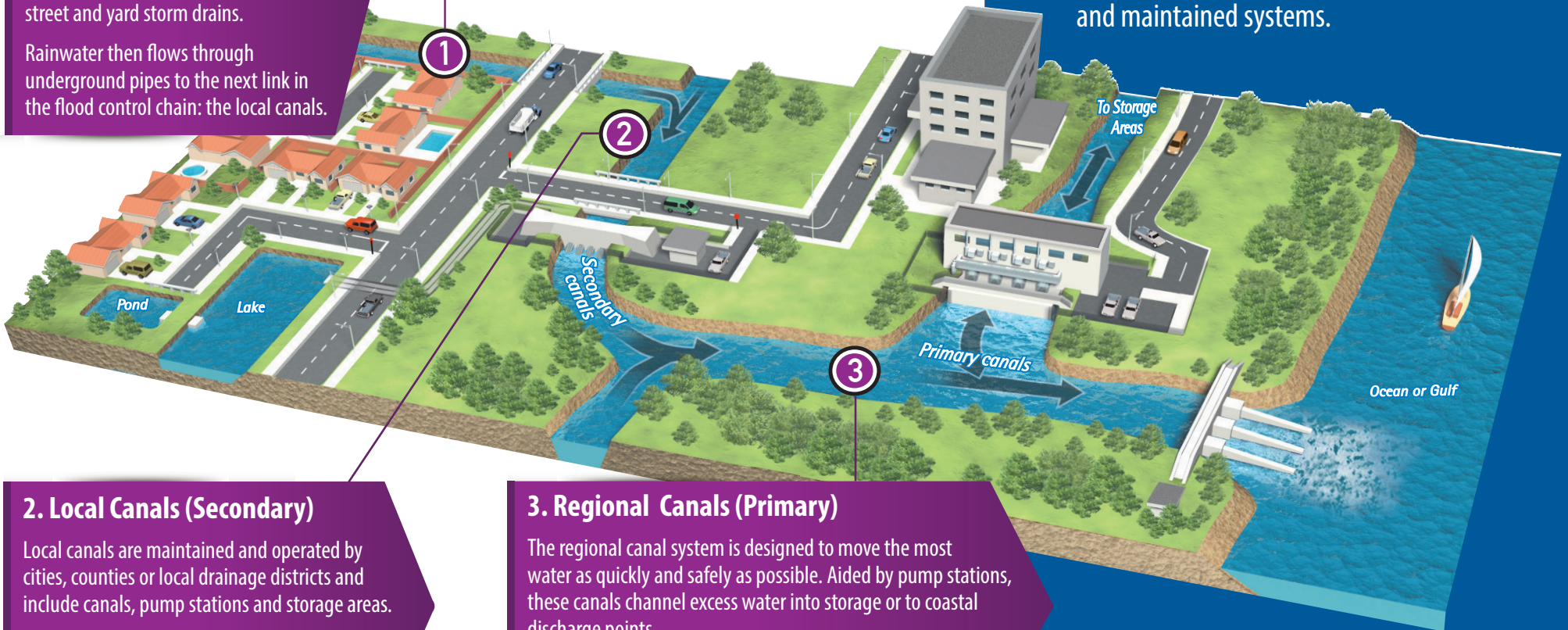
# Where the water FLOWS after it leaves your neighborhood

## 1. Neighborhood Canals

Community drainage systems store excess water in local lakes, ponds, swales and streets. Some standing water is expected after heavy rains.

Excess water slowly drains to community lakes or ponds through street and yard storm drains.

Rainwater then flows through underground pipes to the next link in the flood control chain: the local canals.



## 2. Local Canals (Secondary)

Local canals are maintained and operated by cities, counties or local drainage districts and include canals, pump stations and storage areas.

These canals receive water from neighborhoods and store excess water or move it to the larger-capacity regional flood control system.

## 3. Regional Canals (Primary)

The regional canal system is designed to move the most water as quickly and safely as possible. Aided by pump stations, these canals channel excess water into storage or to coastal discharge points.

In areas not served by the water management system, natural rivers and other waterways serve as drainage outlets.

The South Florida Water Management District operates the regional water management system of canals, levees, water control structures and storage areas. The system connects to local drainage districts & thousands of neighborhood systems. These interconnected systems must work together to achieve maximum drainage of excess rainwater.

- ▶ Heavy rainfall in a short period of time may result in flooding, even with well-engineered and maintained systems.

Learn more at  
[sfwmd.gov/rainyseason](https://sfwmd.gov/rainyseason)