



CITY OF MARYSVILLE STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS REGARDING STORM WATER DRAINAGE.

Storm water drainage issues are one of the most common complaints received by city and county agencies from private property owners.

Local government agencies are responsible for reviewing development and building plans to assure that proper drainage does exist. However, once the property owner receives the final Certificate of Occupancy, the authority of the government agencies ends. If a neighbor changes the landscaping and reroutes the storm water runoff in a way that could damage your property, it becomes a civil matter between neighbors. Storm water runoff is defined as precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground.

Problems can be avoided if the property owners are aware of how their property was designed to drain. Owners must also be aware of any drainage easements on their property.

If you are downstream of any storm water flow, Ohio law states that you must accept the water flowing from the higher ground through a natural drainage channel. Good rules to follow are listed below.

- Do not increase the rate of flow or volume of runoff.
- Do not redirect or concentrate the flow of runoff. When adding features to your property, make certain that you or your contractor consider the flow or runoff.
- Do not block a drainage channel or change the direction of the flow. You may be responsible and liable for damage caused on another property.
- Do not enclose a drainage swale into a pipe without consulting the Engineering Department or Public Service Center. Properly sized pipe can prevent concentration of the flow, which may cause damage to your neighbor's property. Open swales are the best environmental solution to storm water, when the storm water infiltrates or drains within 24 hours.

Preventing flow restrictions in drainage channels is important to ensure proper drainage. Some best management practices are listed below.

- Keep the swale clear of brush and logs. Never put grass clippings in or near a stream or swale.
- Never plant trees in a swale.
- Maintain and control vegetation in the swale.
- Do not erect any structures or fences near the swale which may restrict the storm water flow.

Anything that enters the storm water system is discharged untreated into water bodies that we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Some pollution control guidelines are listed below.

- If you live adjacent to a stream or water source, plant a vegetative buffer zone with native plants. The plants will filter pollutants from the storm water runoff before it enters the stream.
- Consider installing a rain garden. Rain gardens slow the rate of runoff and increases the amount of water that infiltrates into the ground, thereby recharging local and regional aquifers.



- Consider installing rain barrels. Rain barrels collect a portion of the runoff from the roof of your house. This water should not be used for drinking, but can be used for watering plants. It is free, and contains no chlorine.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly. Don't fertilize before a rainstorm. Rain water can wash the fertilizer into the storm sewers, which empty into our waterways.
- If you wash your car at home, wash it in the grass. The grass and soil will filter out pollutants. Washing on an impervious surface allows pollutants to flow directly into the storm sewers and into our waterways.
- Pick up after your pets. Animal waste contributes harmful bacterial to local waters. Three billion fecal coliform bacteria are produced by an average sized dog dropping.
- Mechanical maintenance can result in oil and other fluid spills. Clean up any spills with absorbent material. Use as little water as possible. Never pour waste oil on top the ground or in the storm sewer. A single quart of motor oil dumped down the storm sewer creates an oil slick covering two acres.