

Why doesn't the county and/or township maintain these storm water systems?

The County and township road departments use money from road taxes to maintain roads in their jurisdiction. These funds can only be used for storm systems when they lie within the road right-of-way.

What are drainage easements?

A drainage easement is an area of a property that is reserved, first and foremost, for maintenance activities. A drainage easement can be an area over any of the following: tile, retention basin, catch basin, curb inlet, flood route, and 100-year storm level. The size of a drainage easement can depend on the type of drainage structure. The size of the easement is set by the County Engineer, and is part of your deed or plat.

Can anything be planted or built within the easement area?

It depends. It is always okay to plant grass in an easement area. No man-made objects such as fencing, buildings, sheds, and landscaping, should ever be placed in an easement area. Planting trees in an easement area should also be avoided. If objects are placed in an easement area, they can be removed at the landowner's cost and not be replaced. If maintenance activities require the disturbance of a grassed area, the disturbed area will be regraded and seeded or sodded following completion of the maintenance activities.

Who do I contact for information or concerns regarding the Drainage Maintenance Program?

Contact the **Drainage Maintenance Coordinator** at the Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District.

557-A Sunbury Road (US 36-SR 37)
Delaware, OH 43015
(Enter off of Bowtown Rd.)
(740) 368-1921, ext. 5
Fax: (740) 369-8321
milt-link@oh.nacdnet.org

Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District

The Delaware SWCD, founded in 1944, is one of 88 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the State of Ohio. The District is a subdivision of state government and is affiliated with the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources Div. of Soil & Water Conservation, and receives funding from both the State Gov't. and the Delaware Co. Commissioners. The mission of the Delaware SWCD is to bring people, government, and private interests together to manage Delaware County's natural resources and environmental issues. The District is administered by a locally-elected board of supervisors.

District Services: Landuser Conservation Assistance, Soils/Aerial maps & Info; Tree Sales; Backyard Conservation; Erosion Control; Conservation Education; Civic Group Presentations; College Scholarships, and more!

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DELAWARE COUNTY DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



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Delaware County Drainage Maintenance Program

The Drainage Maintenance Program is a cooperative effort between the Delaware County Engineer, the Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Delaware County Commissioners.

The Drainage Maintenance Program, authorized under Chapter 6137 of the Ohio Revised Code, is responsible for the upkeep of drainage improvements within Delaware County. Specifically, the ORC states "The county engineer shall have general charge and supervision of the repair and maintenance of all county and joint county ditches, drains, watercourses, and other drainage improvements within his county..." (post 1957). The ORC further states that "the board of county commissioners with the advice of the county engineer may enter into agreements with local soil and water conservation districts for the purposes of planning, constructing, or maintaining works of improvement..."

In Delaware County, drainage improvements include open ditches, subsurface tile mains, surface drains, and subdivision storm water systems. As of July 1, 1998, all newly constructed subdivision storm water systems in Delaware County must be placed on the County Drainage Maintenance Program.

How is maintenance paid for?

Costs are paid for by landowners (lot owners) through an assessment procedure. Assessments are collected in conjunction with property taxes, and are paid to the County Treasurer. A separate account is created for each subdivision or project, and money collected is dedicated for use only within the subdivision or project area from which it was collected.

Can I pay off my drainage maintenance assessment ahead of time?

No. Since the program is ongoing and assessments vary, assessments cannot be paid ahead of time.

Will assessments for drainage maintenance ever stop being collected?

No, however, Ohio Revised Code states that the maximum unencumbered balance of a maintenance account is 20% of the base cost.

Why is it the landowners' responsibility to pay for drainage maintenance?

Under state law, all the land that drains into a project on a maintenance program is required to share in the cost of the maintenance for that program. The drainage maintenance assessment can be compared to insurance. Maintenance will keep storm water systems functioning at their designed level, and should a failure occur, repairs can be made.

Why is maintenance necessary?

Development causes natural watershed characteristics and drainage patterns to change. To manage this change and make construction possible, developers install storm water drainage systems. These systems are the primary source of flood control within a subdivision. If these systems are not placed on maintenance, they will decay over time to a point where they are no longer functional. The maintenance program exists to ensure that these systems do not fall below an adequate level of functionality. This is accomplished through upkeep and replacement when necessary.

What are typical drainage maintenance activities?

Annual inspections (minimum), minor to major structural repairs, replacements when needed, erosion control, and logjam/obstruction removal. Mowing IS NOT a maintenance activity.

What is actually being maintained?

Basins (retention & detention), selected storm sewers, curb inlets, manholes, open ditches, swales, and floodways.

How is a subdivision placed on maintenance?

A subdivision in Delaware County cannot be platted without being placed on Drainage Maintenance. The developer, prior to platting, petitions the County Commissioners to place the subdivision on Drainage Maintenance. The developer must pay the first year assessment (2%) of the drainage improvement cost up front to start maintenance on that subdivision.

How long does drainage maintenance continue?

Maintenance is an ongoing, continuous upkeep of stormwater systems aimed at keeping them working efficiently. All maintenance projects are reviewed thoroughly every six years. This review is done at an open meeting and public comments are welcomed.