

MARYVILLE DRAINAGE PROJECT POLICY



**CITY OF MARYVILLE
MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE**

The purpose of this document is to help clarify the City of Maryville drainage policy as it pertains to stormwater projects and drainage system maintenance.

The City of Maryville is not responsible for the maintenance or repair of privately owned property. With the purchase of property in the City of Maryville, it is implied that the property owner is responsible for the general maintenance and upkeep of their property, including any easements. Property with natural drainage features such as creeks, streams, swales, or wet weather conveyances will carry increased amounts of stormwater runoff during rainy periods, and consequently will have higher maintenance requirements than other properties, as well as a greater potential for flooding. Prospective property owners should be aware of this fact before committing to purchase property with these types of features.

The purpose of a platted drainage easement is to control the flow of stormwater within a designated area and allow City of Maryville staff right of access for repair as needed for structures such as pipes, culverts, etc., that drain public property into the easement. The City's responsibility, as it relates to the drainage easement, is to maintain positive flow from public use property within the easement to ensure that the easement does not contribute to flooding of roadways or homes on adjacent properties, and to ensure that the water is contained within the dedicated easement. All other general maintenance and repair of the easement is the responsibility of the property owner.

The City of Maryville receives many requests for drainage improvements by its citizens, and the need for drainage improvements and maintenance may sometimes necessitate that the City work on private property. However, it can not be inferred from this that the City will correct drainage problems on private property. In order for a drainage request to be considered, the following criteria must be met:

- The project must involve drainage discharging directly from a public street or right of way.
- If the project does not lie within a public right of way it must involve a platted drainage easement. Drainage easements which run from the rear lot line to the street, or between houses or lots, will be reviewed by the Stormwater Department for eligibility on a case by case basis. Projects may be performed without specific easements where conditions constitute an emergency.
- All necessary easements (temporary or permanent) must be provided to the City of Maryville, by all affected property owners, at no acquisition cost to the City, prior to any construction activity.
- Projects must meet current engineering design standards as interpreted by the Stormwater Department.

Typical stormwater projects include, but are not limited to:

- Repair of clogged, or collapsed, road culverts.
- Work on roadside ditches that need to be redefined.
- Severe erosion that threatens roadways, utilities, or streams.
- Cleaning and replacement of closed storm systems within City of Maryville right of way.

The City of Maryville will **not** perform drainage projects:

- To improve aesthetics, or to aid in property development.
- To provide routine maintenance such as grass mowing, brush or tree clearing, of swales or ditches.
- To perform any maintenance or repair on any stream, ditch, or swale that exists on private property.
- To perform any maintenance or repair on any closed system on private property that exists solely to drain that property.
- To retain runoff.
- To deal with water that flows from one private property to another, underground springs, or wetlands.
- To alleviate flooding in close proximity to a floodplain or a closed contour depression (sinkhole).

- To alleviate water standing in a ditch or yard.
- To correct drainage problems caused by landscaping, swimming pools, or roof gutter problems.
- To correct drainage problems caused by infrequent major storm events greater than a 10 year recurrence interval.
- To eradicate mosquitoes.
- To pipe road side ditches to make mowing easier.

To be consistent with NPDES stormwater best management practices, the City of Maryville discourages any unnecessary piping of drainage ways. Routing stormwater through grassed swales and channels allows the water to infiltrate back into the ground and provides a means of natural pollutant filtration. At times property owners take it upon themselves to install pipes in road side ditches within the City of Maryville right of way without permission from the City. This is done for many reasons such as ease of mowing, on street parking, etc. The city does not generally allow piping of roadside ditches by private property owners. The ditches exist to provide drainage for the street and installing pipe without appropriate curbing and catch basins to direct water into the pipe can, and often does, lead to drainage problems such as street flooding and flooding of private property. The city has the right to remove any unauthorized pipe from ditches located within right of way, and is not obligated to reimburse the installer of the pipe.

If the above criteria are met, the following policy may apply. The total amount to be spent for drainage projects will be determined by the Stormwater Department during budget preparations each year. Contingent upon funds available, the City may utilize either City of Maryville staff and resources, or private contractors. In either situation, the City of Maryville will be responsible for the drainage investigation and survey, engineering design, installation of materials, and labor associated with the drainage modification. Requests for stormwater service will generally be handled on a first-come basis. However, maintenance activities that address health and safety will take priority. After consideration of health and safety concerns, service requests will be scored using the Stormwater Project Prioritization Form. Generally, higher scoring projects receive priority consideration, although a more expensive higher scoring project may be passed over for a less expensive lower scoring project based on availability of funds, difficulty of project execution, available resources, or any number of other factors. The City of Maryville will generally not be responsible for replacing yard features placed in a drainage easement that have to be removed for maintaining or constructing stormwater drainage systems. Yard features include, but are not limited to, trees shrubs, gardens, driveways, patios, fences, sheds, mailboxes and light fixtures.

THE CITY OF MARYVILLE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DEVIATE FROM THIS POLICY FOR THE HEALTH, WELFARE, AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY.