

## How Can The City Of Raleigh Help?

The Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Program (CIP) addresses drainage concerns across the City of Raleigh. Street and structural flooding are a top priority. Many drainage issues convey public runoff and occur on private property.

The City of Raleigh's Stormwater Drainage Assistance Program can also provide help to citizens for drainage issues primarily occurring on private property, such as structural flooding or severe erosion impacting a structure, that are resulting from a public contribution of runoff. Problems must meet certain eligibility criteria and property owner(s) must be willing to donate the necessary easements to construct the improvements.

### For More Information:

City of Raleigh  
Stormwater Management Division  
919-996-3940  
RaleighStormwater@raleighnc.gov  
www.raleighnc.gov



## Streets And Right-of-way Maintenance Responsibility

The City of Raleigh Transportation Field Services Division maintains the drainage system in the streets and right-of-way designated to be maintained by the City of Raleigh.

To determine if a street or right-of-way is maintained by the City, visit [City of Raleigh Street Data Maps](#) or call 919-996-6446.

Some streets within City limits are maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. If the street is maintained by NCDOT, call 919-733-2191.

If the street is private, it will be the responsibility of the Homeowner or Property Owner Association to address the issue.



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## Stormwater Drainage System



### Ownership Guide And Maintenance Responsibilities

A drainage system consists of various types of inlets, pipes, and ditches which collectively move stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and buildings to the streams and lakes within the City and eventually to the Neuse River.

## What Is...

**Stormwater runoff:** rain or melting snow that is not absorbed into the ground but rather travels across the streets, parking lots, rooftops, lawns and other hard surfaces into the drainage system. It is not treated in any way prior to entering into the creeks, streams and waterways.

**Creeks/Streams/Waterways:** any body of water determined to be jurisdictional: waters of the state, subject to the Neuse Riparian Buffer Regulations. Information regarding the Neuse River Riparian Buffer Regulations can be found at [NCDENR.org](http://NCDENR.org)

**Easement:** a legal right or permission, giving a person or entity limited use of another's property. The easement area is the land subject to this right.

**Ditch:** a small to moderate depression created to channel water, typically not mowable.

**Swale:** a shallow ditch with gentle side slopes, typically mowable.

**Right-of-Way (R-O-W):** publicly owned space for current or future facilities such as highways, streets or trails and above and below ground utilities (water, sanitary sewer, and private utilities). Generally extends 10 to 20 feet beyond the curb into the yard area. Privately installed trees, fences, retaining walls or sprinkler systems should not be built in the R-O-W without obtaining permission through an encroachment agreement.

**Catch Basin/Inlet:** a box structure with openings either on the sides or in the top that allows stormwater runoff to enter into a closed conduit drainage system of pipes.

## Drainage Easements

Easements are designated on the recorded subdivision plat and recorded with the Wake County Register of Deeds at the time the subdivision is created. Private drainage easements are required to identify the intended path of stormwater runoff conveyance, to protect the system from obstruction and to allow access for maintenance.

The City of Raleigh does not maintain drainage easements beyond the street right-of-way unless specifically designated to be a City of Raleigh drainage easement.

Often private drainage easements overlap with City of Raleigh sanitary sewer easements. Although the City of Raleigh Public Utility Department maintains the sewer line located in such an easement, the drainage structure or conveyance is still the responsibility of the property owner.

To check for easements on your property visit [IMaps](#), enter your address, and click on deed icon in the lower right corner of the page; choose Book of Maps.



## Private Property Owners Maintenance Responsibilities

Swales and ditches should be kept free of debris to maintain positive flow. Common causes of drainage problems in swales and ditches are sediment build up, tree roots, yard waste, trash and other debris, all which impede flow.

Vegetation in swales and ditches is critical in reducing erosion and preventing sediment build up. Herbicides should not be sprayed to kill the vegetation on the ditch banks. This leads to erosion and pollution in our waterways.



*Ditch erosion due to herbicides*

Inlets should be checked periodically to ensure they are free and clear of blockages. This will allow the inlet to function more efficiently at capturing stormwater runoff. Common items that block inlets are leaves, pine straw, limbs, and trash.

Property owners need to be pro-active in protecting streams from obstructions. The City of Raleigh is not responsible for the removal of trees along streams on private property, nor can the City of Raleigh control the activities of beavers. If a beaver dam is creating a nuisance on private property, it is up to the owner to address the beaver issue.