

The Marion County stormwater drainage system is more than 10,000 miles long, with 6,000 miles on private property. The remaining 4,000 miles of the stormwater drainage system is the responsibility of the City. Residents do have responsibilities to help manage and maintain private systems.

By keeping our stormwater drainage systems in good condition, we can:

- Prevent potholes and poor road surfaces
- Avoid traffic hazards by removing standing water and black ice patches
- Keep septic systems functioning
- Remove insect breeding grounds
- Divert stormwater away from your home

GREEN WAYS TO MANAGE STORMWATER

- Use a rain barrel to collect stormwater runoff from rooftops for later use on your lawn, garden, and potted plants.
- Create a stream side buffer zone, a naturalized area along the stream bank that protects it from pollution and erosion. A naturalized area is created by establishing a “no mow” area (30 feet or wider) and planting trees, shrubs, and long stem grasses.
- Plant a rain garden, a landscaped area planted with wild flowers and other native vegetation that soak up rain water, mainly from the roof of a house or other buildings.

If you are interested in learning about the City’s Rain Garden Program, visit www.Indy.gov/SustainIndy or email raingarden@indy.gov

DPW continues its mission to transform the city through infrastructure improvements by:

- Restoring deteriorating thoroughfares, residential streets, sidewalks, and bridges
- Addressing neighborhood drainage and flooding issues
- Demolishing unsalvageable abandoned homes
- Creating local jobs
- Increasing public safety for neighborhoods and residents

Each of these residential practices may be eligible for a stormwater credit

For more information, please visit:
www.indy.gov/DPW



**Indianapolis Department
of Public Works**



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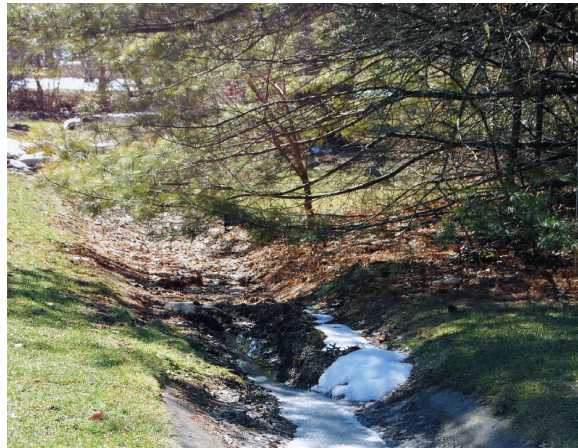
STORM DRAINAGE RESPONSIBILITIES




**THE CITY OF
INDIANAPOLIS**

CITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain stormwater master plan for drainage improvements within Marion County
- Design and construct flood control and stormwater drainage improvement projects
- Maintain cross pipes under City streets
- Remove log jams from major streams on public property
- Establish and maintain approximately 37 miles of flood protection levees
- Inspect private property and ditches for compliance with environmental public nuisance ordinances
- Review, inspect, and issue permits for development and land alteration plans in compliance with the stormwater management and sediment control ordinances
- Administration of the Stormwater Management District
- Maintain the public stormwater system in compliance with state and federal rules



PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work with neighbors to clear brush, debris and other blockages from neighborhood creeks and ditches
- Maintain swales and ditches, including roadside ditches, by mowing grass to eight inches or less, and keep them free of debris. Be sure not to mow when the ground is wet to avoid rutting
- Keep storm inlet grates, driveway culverts and cross pipes in good repair and clear of debris, trash, and leaves
- Not dumping debris/yard waste in or along waterways
- Picking up after pets to avoid pet waste from entering waterways
- Use approved practices for erosion control for creeks that run through private property. To ensure the specific type of practice is permissible in waterways, be sure to check with the Department of Business and Neighborhood Services at (317) 327-8700

Call Citizens Energy Group (CEG), (317) 924-3311 (and press *2), to report flooding on city streets and side walks or illegal dumping in waterways

WHAT IS THE LAW?

Many of the concerns the City inspects across Marion County each year, relate to issues occurring on private property. In most cases, public law prevents spending public funds on private property. However, the City does work to protect the public stormwater infrastructure which can sometimes involve work on adjacent private land.

Property owners should be aware of the two main ordinances related to stormwater drainage and flood control in the Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County:

Environmental Public Nuisances Ordinance gives the Indianapolis Department of Public Works the right to inspect private property to investigate an environmental public nuisance complaint. (Chapter 575)

Drainage and Sediment Control Ordinance defines how and by whom drainage facilities must be maintained. (Chapter 561)

If you have drainage and erosion problems on your private property, the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District (MCSWCD) can assist you by:

- Investigating the site and conducting surveys
- Reviewing soil surveys, infrastructure maps and other information
- Providing recommendations, as needed

To learn more about the information and services the MCSWCD offers, visit:

www.marionswcd.org