

## **Drainage Concerns Procedure (Continued)**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED DRAINAGE QUESTIONS**

**I have a question about the storm water drainage on my property. Who do I call?**

You may call the Public Works Department at 334.501.3000.

**I have an open ditch located on my property. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the ditch?**

Property owners are responsible for the routine maintenance of all ditches. This includes but is not limited to mowing, removal of sediment and debris, and efforts to minimize erosion. There are some ditches in the City of Auburn that are located within the right of way or drainage easement.

**There are leaves and/or other debris blocking the drain in the street. Who do I call?**

Contact the Public Works Department at 334.501.3000. Maintenance staff will be dispatched to remove the leaves and debris.

**I have a storm water pipe that runs through my property. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the pipe?**

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of pipes not contained in the rights of way of drainage easements. If you have a question or concern about a storm water pipe, please contact the Public Works Department at 334.501.3000.

**Storm water runoff from my neighbor is being directed onto my property. What can the City do to help?**

Matters such as this are typically civil in nature. In some situations the City may act in an advisory capacity to assist you with possible solutions to help with the storm water.

**I would like to add some drains in my yard to help with the storm water. Who do I call?**

Property owners are free to install drains on their property without contacting the City. However, there are some cases where it would be beneficial to connect the drains to the City of Auburn storm drain system or street drainage. If you desire to connect the drains to City infrastructure you will need to contact the Public Works Department at 334.501.3000.



**City of Auburn**

**Public Works**



## **DRAINAGE CONCERNS PROCEDURE**

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**171 North Ross Street  
Auburn, AL 36830  
334.501.3000**

*[www.auburnalabama.org/pw/](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pw/)*

## DRAINAGE CONCERNS PROCEDURES

### City of Auburn Storm Water Management:

Managing storm water runoff is one of the ways the Public Works Department helps to keep the creeks and streams of the City of Auburn clean and free of debris and pollutants. Storm water management is also one of the ways in which the Department is able to assist property owners in protecting their property and that of their neighbors. Residents and business and property owners can play a huge role in this effort by maintaining ditches and streams on their property and by notifying the City when maintenance is needed on the right of way. To help you do this effectively, we are providing you with this description and the accompanying responsibilities of both easements and rights-of-way.

**Easements** – Generally, an easement is a portion of land that has been set aside for a specific public purpose. The land owner agrees to allow the City use of the land to construct and maintain facilities needed by the land owner. Most easements contain utilities, such as sanitary sewer, water, storm sewer, telephone, electric, gas, cable, etc. These are called “utility easements.” An easement that contains a drainage ditch is called a “drainage easement.”

**Utility Easement** – The property owner can use a utility easement for most common uses, such as planting gardens, shrubs, landscaping and constructing fences. Anything that is in the easement when the utility company needs to perform repairs or make modifications to the utility will be removed and the City is not required to replace it. The owner must not place any permanent structure on the easement, including walls and sheds and

barbecues. It is also a good idea not to place expensive trees near utility easements as their roots may be fatally damaged when work is performed in the easement.

**Drainage Easement** – The drainage easement is different than the utility easement in that it is above ground and it requires more care. Drainage easements may serve as channels for storm water to flow. Some carry streams of water while others may serve as holding areas for storm water to keep it from flooding other areas. If the drainage easement that is expected to carry a stream of water is blocked by debris, it could cause flooding in other areas. Property owners are expected to maintain drainage easements by keeping the weeds to a minimum and not allowing saplings to grow in the easement. They should not allow debris (grass clippings, tree limbs, trash, etc.), sediment or erosion to enter the drainage system. If fences are constructed along a drainage easement, the bottom of the fence should be high enough to allow water to pass underneath the boards.

### When calling in a drainage concern, please provide the following information:

- ◆ Location /address of the drainage problem or concern
- ◆ Contact information to be used for questions or coordination
- ◆ Comments regarding the nature of the concern

### FREQUENTLY ASKED DRAINAGE QUESTIONS

#### Who is responsible for the maintenance and operation of detention ponds in the City of Auburn?

The vast majority of detention ponds in the City of Auburn are privately owned and maintained. All detention ponds in the City of Auburn are inspected annually by the Public Works Department.

If you have a question or concern about a detention pond please contact the Public Works Department at 334.501.3000.

#### I have a ditch on my property I would like to pipe. Who do I call?

You may contact the Public Works Department at 334.501.3000 or visit [www.auburnalabama.org/pw/](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pw/). The City of Auburn has a Ditch Piping Policy that a representative of the Public Works Department can review with you and provide additional details.

#### There is water in the crawlspace or basement of my home. What can the City do to help?

Most of the time water in a crawlspace or basement is related to the groundwater. Often times the water problem is exacerbated by such things as cracks in the foundation, a clogged foundation drain, and/or gutter downspouts. The City may act in advisory capacity to help provide solutions to the problems. If you have questions or concerns about water in your crawlspace or basement please contact the Public Works Department at 334.501.3000.

