



Drainage Use of Water Quality Fees

Drainage complaints will be referred to Public Works for evaluation of legitimacy, investigation, design prioritization, and resolution. Complaints determined to be City responsibility will be prioritized for construction as funds are made available.

City responsibility is defined as drainage work in the Right-Of-Way; an easement on private property dedicated to and accepted by the City; an implied easement on private property established by installation, repair, or replacement of drainage structures, pipes, or non-earthen channels by the City; or segment of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) ditch system rehabilitated and maintained by the City^[1].

Water Quality funds will be used for the following:

- Remove debris from drainage channels and culverts to prevent and reduce flooding.
- Remove accumulated sediment from in and around culverts and driveway pipes.
- Remove woody vegetation in the bottom of the channel exceeding 1" in diameter if it impedes the flow. Vegetation on the slopes will be left in place for stabilization.
- Replace undersized pipes and/or enlarge drainage channels in the public Right-Of-Way and on private property as required to facilitate a public drainage project.
- Correct problems created by the City (previous drainage projects, paving, etc.).
- Routine preventive maintenance projects such as stabilizing roadside ditches.
- Sediment removal, repair, or replacement of piped (closed) drainage systems that convey runoff through private property to the extent legally permissible when required to facilitate public drainage projects.
- Purchase of flood-prone properties when the estimated cost for the drainage solution exceeds the value of the properties to be protected.
- Litter pick-up in public Rights-Of-Way.

All drainage work orders will be prioritized according to the following list. These priorities will be disrupted only by bona fide emergencies, as identified by the Water Quality Program.

1. Hazard to the driving public.
2. Hazard to pedestrians.
3. Structural damage to buildings, primarily habitable spaces.
4. All others according to the scope of work and availability of resources.

Stormwater funds will **not** be used for any of the following problems:

- Sediment removal, repair, or replacement of on-site collection systems.
- Removal of sediment from drainage channels, streams, or creeks on private property unless required to facilitate a public drainage project.
- Low spots between homes or properties, and the way in which surface water flows on property.
- Leaking basements and wet crawl spaces caused by groundwater and/or the slope of private property.
- Drainage problems caused by a neighboring property or other third party.
- Drainage problems created by gutters or downspouts.
- Any project for which the sole purpose is to increase individual property value.
- Cutting of vegetation that will lie down during high water flow.
- Litter pick-up on private property.

^[1]Spencer, P. E. (1975). Rehabilitation of WPA Storm Drainage System. Chattanooga, TN: City Of Chattanooga.

Adopted 1998, updated 2006 for clarification and readability

Rev. 1 Oct. 2010 to define City responsibility.

Rev 2 Feb 2021 to provide clarification and update litter program.

Rev 3 Oct 2025 Updated for accuracy and clarity.