



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 as 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 WPA ditch system rehabilitated and maintained by the City¹.

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 >1" diameter in the bottom of drainage channels that will not lie down during high water flow.
- Replace undersized pipes and/or enlarge drainage channels in the public Right-Of-Way to correct flooding of streets or buildings.
- Clean out catch basins, manholes and pipes in the public Right-Of-Way and on private property.
- 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 thru 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.

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 Stormwater Management.

1. Hazard to the driving public.
2. Hazard to pedestrians.
3. Structural damage to buildings, primarily habitable spaces.
4. All others according to 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.
- Where complaint investigation by Public Works determines:
 - No Problem Found
 - Property Owner Responsibility
- 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.

¹ Spencer, P. E. (1975). *Rehabilitation of WPA Storm Drainage System*. Chattanooga, TN: City of Chattanooga.