



DRAINAGE POLICY

The City of Fishers provides, in its ordinances, for certain inspections and controls over drainage ways and structures within the City's jurisdiction.

The City's Unified Development Ordinance and Stormwater Management Ordinances state:

- Swales and ditches not in the right-of-way shall be maintained by the adjacent property owners.
- City owned infrastructure shall be maintained by the City.

Standing water in the rear and side yard is usually the result of:

- silting of the swale creating high and low spots or grade inconsistencies
- poor construction (high and low spots)
- installation of a fence, other construction, or filling of the swale performed by a property owner
- landscaping within the drainage easement
- sump pump discharge eroding the soil causing water to pool
- irrigation line leaks or roof downspouts directed beneath the surface toward the drainage easement that have not been properly daylighted
- sump pumps that are daylighted beneath the surface preventing the water from draining overland to the drainage structure
- subsurface drain tile that is clogged with roots or sediment and needs to be maintained

*** Note that standing water in small swale depressions for less than 48 hours is not necessarily considered a drainage issue.*

Remedies to these problems are the responsibility of the homeowners involved and should be worked out between neighbors. It may also benefit the parties to involve the Homeowner's Association (HOA) for specific problems that are related to common areas owned by the HOA.

Sump pump discharges shall be directed above ground to rear yard swales and/or drainage easements and connected to subsurface drain tile or public storm sewers when available. **Sump pumps are not allowed to discharge to public streets or across sidewalks.** If subsurface drain tile is not present within the easement, it is recommended that it be installed and connected to the nearest rear yard storm drain structure. **Subsurface drain tile taps into the storm system must be approved by the Public Works Department prior to work and inspected before backfill and completion (call 595-3160 to schedule).**

Public storm sewer failures such as a blocked or collapsed pipe, sink holes around an inlet, or missing or broken inlet grates will be repaired by the City. Public storm sewer failures can be reported to the City at 567-5056 or through the stormwater email at stormwater@fishers.in.us.

Regulated drains fall within the jurisdiction of the County Surveyor and the Hamilton County Drainage Board. Please call the Surveyor's Office at 776-8495 with drainage complaints associated with clogged regulated storm sewer systems (Geist Area) or for drainage issues regarding non-annexed properties.