

Drainage System Maintenance - How **You** Can Help

The Village drainage system includes not only the storm structures and pipes, but also ditches, creeks, ponds, and dry detention basins, many of which are located on private property. As simple as it may sound, simply keeping smaller ditches, creeks, and storm sewer lids around your property free of debris can dramatically improve the run-off capacity, as well as greatly reduce blockages that significantly contribute to flooding.

While the Public Works Department tries to regularly maintain all Village rights-of-ways and other Village owned and maintained areas, it takes an effort from all of us - public entities, private property owners, and the general public - to protect our town from flooding. Some things you can do:

- **Do not dump anything** into the ditches or creeks. Any debris, including grass clippings, leaves, branches, and logs can get collect at culverts and underpasses, potentially backing up water into upstream properties. It also in violation of Village of Downers Grove Code Section 13.7.(d). If you see someone in the act of dumping or see debris in one of our drainage systems, please contact the Community Response Center at [630-434-2255](tel:630-434-2255).
- **Report construction or filling without a Village permit posted.** Report this to the Community Response Center at [630-434-2255](tel:630-434-2255).
- **Watch the behavior of drainage systems around you.** If you observe a storm structure or a detention basin not draining as fast as it used to, call Public Works at 630-434-5460, or submit a work request using our [DG CRC](#) app, to help determine if there is a problem. **PLEASE NOTE:** crews are extremely busy during heavy rain events. They may not be able to address the problem immediately if you call during a rainstorm.
- **Inform Public Works** after the fact if you experienced flooding during a large rain event. The Village keeps records of flooding issues in town to determine the severity and frequency of problems. This will provide data for future stormwater improvements.

Will the Village pump my basement if it floods?

The Village **does not** pump water from basements. However, the Village **may** pump a private yard in the event a primary residential structure (i.e. a house, not a garage) is in imminent danger from rising floodwaters, per Village Council Resolution 2009-91. In this event, call Public Works at 630-434-5460.