

Storm Sewer/Culvert/Ditch Policy

POLICY

The Northfield Township Road District is assigned the care, maintenance and repair of the storm sewer system (includes ditches, culverts and sewer lines in the public right-of-way). The proper operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of individual storm sewer service lines shall be the financial responsibility of the property owner. Under no circumstances shall the Township Road District be responsible for proper operation, repair or replacement of any portion of an individual line due to settlement, collapse, root impaction or any other cause of failure between the main line and the private structure.

Township Road District responsibility for the proper operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of storm sewers shall be limited to main lines (also known as trunks or collectors), culverts and ditches. Such definition shall be construed to include the sewer tap (also known as the service connection wye or tee). Property owners are expected to keep storm sewer grates, storm drainage ditches and culverts, clear of long grass, branches, other vegetation and debris.

Under no circumstances will the Township Road District accept liability for property damage caused by any storm sewer system or service line failure, blockage, surcharging or flooding condition. Such conditions and occurrences are beyond all reasonable ability of the Township Road District to predict or control.

It is in the public interest to regulate the location, design, construction, maintenance and drainage of driveways, through the issuance of permits, for the purpose of economy of maintenance, preservation of proper drainage, and safe and reasonable access.

PURPOSE

To define and ensure consistent administration of practices, policies and procedures which address responsibilities for the proper operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of storm sewer system lines.

Drainage cannot be overemphasized. Water affects the entire serviceability of a road. Water allowed to remain on top of a black-topped road weakens the surface and, combined with traffic, causes potholes and cracking. If improperly channeled, water causes soil erosion and a breakdown of pavement edges.

A good storm sewer drainage system is the best way to lessen water damage on a road. Proper surface drainage prevents water from infiltrating the pavement surface and

removes water from the driving lanes in a constant thin sheet to the side ditches, main lines and culverts, which carry the water away from the roadway.

Except for some water needed for soil compaction, dust control, and vegetation, water is the roads worst enemy.

PROCEDURE

General Guideline:

Full maintenance of all storm sewer collection facilities (main trunk lines including the wye and tee, culverts and ditches in the public right-of-way) shall be, at all times and in all circumstances, the specific responsibility of the Township Road District. Property owners are expected to keep storm sewer grates, storm drainage ditches and culverts clear of long grass, branches, other vegetation and debris.

Main (Trunk Line) Blockages

1. Property owners should always promptly notify the Township Road District of any storm sewer flow difficulties in order for the Township Road District to verify actual field conditions and to determine responsibility.
2. Upon notification of sewer flow difficulties, regardless of the time of day, or day of the week, the Highway Commissioner shall, without delay, cause the current flow status of the Township Road District storm sewer serving the property involved to be investigated. If such investigation reveals a blockage and/or a restriction to flow in the Township Road District storm sewer, such blockage will be immediately cleared by the Township Road District. If the status of the Township Road District storm sewer is verified as functioning and satisfactory, the property owner shall be informed as soon as possible. Corrective action by the homeowner can then begin without delay.

Individual Storm Sewer Service Line

1. Under no circumstances will the Township Road district be responsible for expenses incurred in the rodding, flushing or cutting of an individual storm sewer service line for the purpose of locating or removing an obstruction.
2. Individual storm sewer line deficiencies such as settlement or breakage which occur at the tap (wye or tee connection) to the main trunk line within the public right-of-way or utility easement will be corrected by the Township Road District. In certain instances, the Township Road District may authorize the property owner's contractor to make such repairs, subject to Township Road District inspection.

Sewer Inspections

1. All new individual commercial, industrial and institutional storm sewer service lines from 5-feet outside of the building to the public storm sewers, including the tap, will be inspected by the Foreman or Highway Commissioner. That part of the sewer

inside the building to 5-feet outside of the foundation is inspected by the Cook County Building and Zoning Inspector.

2. All new residential storm sewer service lines from the building to existing or new sewer stubs will be inspected by the Foreman or Highway Commissioner.
3. All private repair work on existing individual storm sewer service lines within the public right-of-way or utility easement will be inspected by the Foreman or Highway Commissioner. In no way shall inspection services be construed to represent any type of express or implied warranty on workmanship or material.

Damage Claims

1. Claims for compensation for damage sustained as a result of sewer flooding shall be denied in writing using the basic form letter attached hereto (Exhibit "A").

Driveway Construction

1. Any property owner constructing a new driveway access shall obtain from the Township Road District a permit.
2. Proper drainage is one of the major concerns in driveway construction. When it comes to road deterioration, water is your number one enemy. Unless properly constructed, driveways can block roadside drainage and hasten roadway deterioration, icy conditions in the winter and create unsafe hydroplaning conditions. Ponding water will seep into the road base, keeping the area soft and saturated and allowing traffic loads to cause pavement breakdown. Culverts or inlets to storm sewer systems may be required at driveways to allow continuous water flow within the roadside ditch to the ditch outlet or into a main trunk line. All new construction on storm sewer lines, whether individual or main trunk lines in the right-of-way or utility easement will be at the cost of the property owner.