

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Drainage Ditches:

Who owns the drainage ditches in front or back of my house?

The ditch in front of your house that runs parallel with the paved road is in the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) right-of-way. SCDOT maintains all public roads, adjacent ditches and pipe culverts in the ditch lines, driveway entrances and road crossings.

Who maintains the ditches near my residence?

That depends. If it is the roadway ditch as just described, then it is SCDOT. If it is perpendicular to the road, and in an easement, then whomever the easement is deeded to is responsible for maintaining the ditch. Newer subdivisions should specify who is responsible on the subdivision plat. If it is an older subdivision, there may or may not be an easement and it may not be specified to whom it is deeded.

How can I find out who owns the drainage easement?

First, look at your property plat to see if any easements are marked on the plat. This should say to whom it is deeded. SCDOT easements are also marked on these plats. If it is an older lot or subdivision, they may be recorded at the County Register of Deeds, but may also require additional research to find.

What can I do to reduce the potential for flooding in my area?

The main way to reduce flooding is to help maintain the drainage systems. Do not put anything in the ditches or pipes. Keep the ditches clean of leaves, branches or other debris that can wash downstream and block up the system. Pipes that have been put in the ditch by an individual without approval may be too small for the amount of drainage going through it. Modifying or filling in ditches also can create drainage problems.

What does the City do to reduce drainage problems?

The City sends storm water plans for all new developments to the County for review of compliance with state and County regulations. This process ensures that storm water flow remains the same as or better than before the proposed development is completed.

Why can't the City or SCDOT come out every month and clean the drainage ditches?

Unfortunately, the City just does not have the provisions to perform maintenance of drainage ditches on private property. SCDOT field crews will remove major drainage way impediments, and repair culverts, sink holes and ditches located in the ROW drainage easements, based on the severity of the issue.

Who do I call if I have more questions about drainage problems near my home?

Call the Planning and Development office at 550-9504. Someone should be able to give you more information.