

# FAQs

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## County Drain Maintenance

### ***How do I know if there is a drain on my property?***

Drains can take many forms, including open ditches, natural watercourses, underground pipes, and detention basins. You may call the Drain Office with your specific address to verify the existence of a drain under the jurisdiction of the Wayne County Drain Commissioner.

### ***Who is responsible for maintenance on a drain?***

Generally, the Drain Commissioner has jurisdiction to perform maintenance on a county drain. The landowner is responsible for maintaining his or her property around the drain.

### ***What kind of maintenance can be performed by the Drain Office?***

The Drain Office performs maintenance in order to allow a normal flow of water. Examples include: vegetation management, drain cleanout, erosion and sediment control, catch basin cleaning, pond dredging, tree trimming/removal, and obstruction clearing.

### ***Where can drain maintenance be performed?***

Drain maintenance is typically performed on the actual drain itself and on the land immediately surrounding the drain within the drain easement.

### ***Who pays for drain maintenance?***

Ordinary maintenance is paid for by a drainage district (the landowners and municipalities within the drain's watershed) levied through special assessments that appear on your Winter Tax Bill.

### ***Why is drain maintenance not covered by my other County taxes?***

The Michigan Drain Code, PA 40 of 1956, as amended, requires that all expenses of a county drain be paid for by the members of a drainage district as a special assessment. No County general funds are dedicated specifically for drain maintenance.

### ***Will I be notified if the Drain Office will be performing maintenance on my property?***

If there will be any excavation or tree removal, you will be notified by mail at least 7 days in advance at your property address, unless it is an emergency. However, inspections of the drain may occur in a drain easement without prior notice.

### ***Can the Drain Office perform maintenance on a watercourse that is not an established county drain?***

Generally, no. Please contact the Drain Office for more information.

### ***How can I help?***

You can notify the Drain Office of any significant maintenance concerns. You can also maintain your property around the drain by keeping the area clean and free of overgrowth and other minor debris that could obstruct the flow of the drain.

### ***How can I submit a maintenance request?***

The fastest way to submit a Service Request is online at <http://www.waynecounty.com/doe>. You may also call our maintenance team at (734) 285-7233.

### ***If I submit a Service Request, when can I expect that it will be completed?***

The Drain Office makes every effort to respond Service Requests in a timely fashion. In the event an issue is not in our jurisdiction, we will refer you to the appropriate department or agency who may be able to assist you.

### ***What if my issue is an emergency?***

You may contact our 24-Hour Environmental Hotline at 1-888-223-2363 seven days a week.

### ***How can I get more information?***

Visit us at <http://www.waynecounty.com/doe> or call (313) 224-3620.