



Addressing Drainage Problems Around Your Home

City of Ilwaco Public Works Department

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While we don't have control over rain, when it falls or how much it falls, we can work to lessen the impact of the problem it causes. The City's Public Works Department maintains and repairs the storm drain system in public areas and along city roads. The system generally includes the underground storm drain system, ditches/creeks and detention ponds. Public Works also performs construction of new storm drain systems and repair. This information has been prepared to help you manage drainage on your private property.

Common causes of drainage problems

- Over irrigation and leakage
- Run-on from adjacent properties
- Groundwater seepage
- Inadequate on-site drainage system
- Needed maintenance of on-site drainage system

Listed below are common questions and concerns related to drainage:

Will the City fix drainage problems that are on my property?

Unless there is a maintenance easement that is dedicated and deeded to the City, the City cannot legally perform maintenance or work on areas within private property. In most cases, the private property owner is responsible for solving localized drainage problems and maintaining the portion of the drainage system that is located on their property. City Staff, however, is available to assess your residential drainage problems and advise possible solutions.

What if there is a natural drainage course through my property?

Maintenance by the City of drainage facilities throughout the City is limited to those facilities that are located within public rights of way, or drainage easements that are deeded to the city. Residents must take it upon themselves to maintain and/or restore the natural drainage course on their property. If there is any portion of surface waters on your property, such as a creek or stream, contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife before doing maintenance or improvements within that water body. Below is contact information for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 902-2200
<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov>

What if I need to construct drainage improvements on my property?

Property owners should consult with an engineer or landscape contractor and apply for the applicable permits, if necessary. A permit may be required for improvements that involve importing or exporting soil or other landscape materials, installing underground pipe or an under sidewalk drain. Contact the City's Planning Department for assistance with permitting.

What if my neighbor's property drains onto my property and causes a nuisance or damage?

Private drainage problems between adjacent private property owners are the responsibility of the property owners. The City is unable to resolve issues on private property that are solely between private property owners.

Does the City have an ordinance addressing drainage?

Many homeowners call looking for help to deter their neighbors from draining stormwater into or on their property. Ilwaco Municipal Code (IMC) Chapter 14.08 discusses requirements for drainage, erosion control and stormwater management.