



## Stormwater Maintenance Policy

### 1. Definitions:

- 1.1. **Stormwater Drainage System** - Any mode of conveyance within the City that allows or permits the flow of stormwater to waters of the State. The conveyance can be opened or enclosed, public or private, and may contain non-stormwater discharges. The stormwater drainage system includes all the infrastructure and natural drainage designs that are intended to collect, control, and provide a method of conveyance, discharge, and perhaps treatment of stormwater, including but not limited to open channels (ditches, streams, swales), storm drain pipes, drainage boxes (catch basins, drop inlets), detention basins, retention ponds, wetlands, outfalls, and treatment structures.
- 1.2. **Public Stormwater Drainage System** – That portion of the Stormwater Drainage System that is located within the City’s right-of-way or other City-owned land, or outside of the City’s right-of-way or other City-owned land to the extent that: (1) the portion of the system has been legally conveyed to the City as evidenced by the written dedication and acceptance of the same, or (2) as otherwise required by Georgia Law.
- 1.3. **Private Stormwater Drainage System** – That portion of the Stormwater Drainage System located on private property which is not the legal responsibility of the City.

### 2. Maintenance Responsibility:

- 2.1. Public Stormwater Drainage System - The City shall conduct periodic inspections for maintaining that portion of Stormwater Drainage System for which it is legally responsible as set forth in Section 1.2 above. Information collected during these inspections will be utilized in evaluating the condition of the system and in setting priorities for operational and maintenance work as well as capital improvement projects.
- 2.2. Private Stormwater Drainage System - It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the operational characteristics of the Private Stormwater Drainage System located on their property, including but not limited to all easements, channels, detention basins, retention ponds, and other impoundments, so that they continue to operate as they were

originally designed and as more specifically set forth in Sections 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, and 2.2.4 below.

2.2.1. General:

- 2.2.1.1. Routine maintenance should be performed on a regular basis and includes such activities as trash pick-up, mowing and woody debris removal.
- 2.2.1.2. Corrective Maintenance should be performed as-needed to prevent drainage and/or erosion problems and includes such activities as sediment and pollutant removal, repair or replacement of pipes and other structures, and channel stabilization. Corrective maintenance can be a major undertaking and should be performed by a professional.
- 2.2.1.3. Damage or deterioration threatening the structural integrity of any component, conveyance or facility should be repaired as soon as possible.
- 2.2.1.4. Motor oil, antifreeze, or other oil and grease products should never be dumped into a storm inlet.
- 2.2.1.5. Grass clippings, leaves, soil, or trash of any kind should be removed from any stormwater structure. Decomposing leaves and grass encourage the growth of oxygen-demanding bacteria; release nutrients that degrade the water quality of the receiving waters; and can potentially kill aquatic organisms.
- 2.2.1.6. Paints, solvents, and other hazardous substances can kill vegetation and aquatic life and should never be dumped into any stormwater structure.
- 2.2.1.7. Bare areas should be grassed to prevent the creation of sediment runoff.

2.2.2. Private Drainage Easements with Open Channel Flow:

- 2.2.2.1. The property owner should keep the easement free of obstructions in such a way as to assure the maximum designed flow at all times.
- 2.2.2.2. The property owner should not dump yard debris and/or fill an open channel with soils or any other material.
- 2.2.2.3. The property owner should perform routine and corrective maintenance on the open channel as needed to prevent drainage and/or erosion problems.

2.2.3. Private Drainage Easements with Pipe:

- 2.2.3.1. The property owner should keep all pipes and boxes functioning as designed and perform routine and corrective maintenance as needed.
- 2.2.3.2. The property owner should make ensure that all pipe openings and drainage boxes are free of debris, silt and any

other obstruction. Property owners should not block partially or fully the opening of any pipe or drainage box.

**2.2.4. Structural Best Management Practices (BMPs):**

- 2.2.4.1. The property owner should maintain the operational characteristics of all detention basins, retention ponds, and other impoundments, so that they continue to operate as they were originally designed.
- 2.2.4.2. Repair of the outlet structure and removal of silt and debris surrounding the structure should be performed as needed to maintain performance.
- 2.2.4.3. Access drives should be free of any obstructions.
- 2.2.4.4. The facility should be maintained free of obstructions, silt, or debris.
- 2.2.4.5. Trash pick-up, mowing, and debris removal is the responsibility of the property owner.
- 2.2.4.6. The storage capacity or function of any detention basin, retention pond, or other impoundment, whether natural or man-made, should not be removed or diminished.

**2.2.5. Inspection of the Private Stormwater Drainage System:**

- 2.2.5.1. Routine inspections of the Private Stormwater Drainage System located on an owner's property should be conducted by the property owner.
- 2.2.5.2. Inspections of any portion of the Stormwater Drainage System within the City may be conducted by the City to insure proper function. Such inspection, however, shall not constitute acceptance or any indicia of ownership or acceptance of responsibility of that portion of the Stormwater Drainage System on the part of the City.

**3. Emergency Maintenance**

- 3.1 The City may conduct emergency maintenance operations on any portion of the Stormwater Drainage System in order to protect the common good.
- 3.2 Emergency maintenance includes maintenance necessary to remedy a condition which is potentially damaging to life, property, or public roads and right-of-way.
- 3.3 Such emergency maintenance, conducted for the common good, shall not be construed as constituting accepting a continuing maintenance obligation by the City, nor prevent the City from seeking reimbursement for expenses from the property owner(s) of the land that generated the condition.
- 3.4 In cases of emergency maintenance, the City is not obligated to replace structures and/or plantings (trees and shrubs) placed within a drainage easement.

3.5 The City's Public Works Department has personnel on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to emergencies. For any emergency situation citizens should always call **911**. Calls are then forwarded to the Johns Creek Call Center and relayed to the on-call personnel. The Johns Creek Call Center can be reached at **678.512.3200** or online at [www.JohnsCreekGA.gov](http://www.JohnsCreekGA.gov). It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help in **non-emergency** matters. Citizens are encouraged to call this number for all city government related services, including Public Works.

#### **4. Public Education**

4.1 The City shall initiate and carry out a public education program to insure that property owners understand their responsibility and perform their required duties as it relates to this policy.