

## **Stormwater Utility – Wills and Won'ts**

### **What will a Stormwater Utility do?**

1. Construct capital improvements to promote better stormwater management including re-construction of public streets, access routes and alleys.
2. Repair or replace broken storm drainage pipes, inlets, catch basins, headwalls, improved channels, flared end sections inside a storm drainage easement or public right-of-way.
3. Remediate erosion and blockages in ditches, swales, and detention ponds inside a storm drainage easement or public right-of-way collecting and conveying water from public infrastructure.
4. Repair and maintain stormwater detention pond outlet structures and associated piping inside a storm drainage easement or public right-of-way.
5. Clean storm drain pipes, catch basins and culverts inside a storm drainage easement or public right-of-way.
6. Repair sinkholes that occur over drainage pipe systems that are inside a storm drainage easement or public right-of-way.
7. Replace undersized storm drainage pipes or culverts inside a storm drainage easement or public right-of-way.
8. Control severe creek bank erosion when necessary to protect water quality and adjacent properties inside a storm drainage easement or public right-of-way.
9. Remove fallen trees and large debris from creeks, storm drainage pipes or drainage ditches when those obstructions create a qualifying drainage problem if the obstructions are inside a storm drainage easement or public right-of-way.
10. Support specialized engineering or services to better address stormwater problems and make improvements or repairs.
11. Update the City's Geographical Information System (GIS) and work order scheduling system to improve inventorying and data storage of stormwater assets.
12. Maintain the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and other regulatory compliance mandates.
13. Acquire right-of-way and easements needed for stormwater improvements.
14. Regulate and enforce stormwater requirements on new and existing development through plan review and field inspection.
15. Respond to complaints.
16. Provide additional street sweeping.
17. Make stormwater quality improvements through reduction in murky water (suspended solids) and pollution (chemical releases).
18. Master plan undeveloped areas to anticipate issues generated by potential development and ensure remediation steps are in place if development occurs.
19. Promote and sponsor stream cleanup days and other environmental educational activities related to stormwater.
20. Provide emergency response in the case of flooding in a living space to clear pipes, ditches and swales on private property, not used to drain public right-of-ways. (Property owner(s) in these instances may be subject to reimbursement of the utility for such activities.)

***Next Page for the Won'ts!***

## What won't a Stormwater Utility do?

- A. Alter or repair drinking water and sanitary sewer infrastructure as well as any other public or private utility system, unless required to accommodate stormwater improvements.
- B. Remediate or maintain ditches and swales on private property, not used to drain public right-of-way.
- C. Mow or maintain vegetation on private property inside a storm drainage easement.
- D. Mow or maintain vegetation along ditches and swales between private property parcels and the edge of paved surfaces in public right-of-ways.
- E. Remove vegetation, algae, or other microlife (pond scum) from stormwater detention ponds on special service area or private property.
- F. Clean up sticks, leaves or debris left on private property after heavy rain or flooding inside a storm drainage easement.
- G. Repair or replace private property that is damaged by stormwater runoff or flooding. Examples include air conditioners, heating units, fences, gardens, lawns, shrubs, mail boxes, dog houses and storage sheds even if inside a storm drainage easement
- H. Clear out incidental debris from creeks and drainage ditches such as trash, leaves, grass clippings or small tree branches inside a storm drainage easement or public right-of-way.
- I. Clear cut vegetation from creek banks as part of routine maintenance inside a storm drainage easement
- J. Re-grade or re-seed a storm drainage easement after a project's warranty period inside a storm drainage easement
- K. Remediate yard flooding, drainage problems caused by landscaping, concerns caused by roofing or gutter problems, and water standing in a drainage ditch on private property.
- L. Address water that flows from adjoining property, or wet areas due to underground springs or wetlands.
- M. In most cases, the stormwater utility will not repair or maintain stormwater sewers, swales, channels or ditches located on IDOT, County or Township right-of-ways.