



TOWN OF MONROE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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www.monroect.org/PublicWorks

Understanding Storm Drainage Easements

What are storm drainage easements?

An easement is a right granted from a property owner to another for a specific use of a portion of the owner's land. Utility operators (gas, electric, sewer, etc.) often have easements for the purpose of installing and maintaining their utility lines and structures. As with most utility easements, storm drainage easements are permanent and run with the land (i.e., survive any sale of the property). They generally require the property owner to give up certain rights, such as building permanent structures (additions, decks, certain types of fences, etc.) within the easement to allow for proper function of the system and unimpeded maintenance access.

Who maintains the storm drainage easement?

Property owners are responsible for routine grounds maintenance such as grass mowing and trash or debris removal, and should ensure that systems are kept free of yard waste such as grass clippings, tree trimmings, and leaves that may block the flow of water. Trees, shrubs and other growth in easements belong to and are maintained by the property owner.

The Town of Monroe maintains the municipal storm drainage system and associated structures that it owns and has accepted for maintenance, such as catch basins, stormwater pipes, headwalls and endwalls within the easement to allow for proper function of the system. Unless otherwise provided for by a recorded easement or other agreement, the property owner is responsible for maintaining the drainage swale, watercourse or other drainage feature located beyond the point where the municipal storm drainage system discharges onto private property.

How do I know if there is a storm drainage easement on my property?

Storm drainage easements may be shown on the map you received when you purchased your home. In addition, easements are recorded in the Town of Monroe Land Records, in the Town Clerks office (203-452-2811).

What are public street rights-of-way?

A public street right-of-way is publicly owned land that contains both the street and a strip of land on either side of the street that holds appurtenant facilities (utilities, snow, storm drains, etc.). For further information or to request maintenance in a right-of-way, please contact Monroe Department of Public Works at 203-452-2814.