

## The Purpose of Ditches

Roadside ditches move storm water runoff from roadways to keep roads passable. The vegetation growing in most ditches helps trap sediment and contaminants carried by storm water before discharging into our waterways. Routine maintenance of these ditches minimizes erosion and flow of sediment into our waterways. Roadside ditches are located within the City's right-of-way, which typically can extend into your front yard.

## What is "Adopt-A-Ditch"?

The "Adopt-A-Ditch" is being promoted and conducted as an entirely voluntary cooperative effort between residents, community groups, business owners, etc. and the City of Green Bay. With guidance from City staff, you will have the opportunities to help minimize flooding, erosion and storm water runoff to our local waterways.

The City's program provides the following:

- Advice and educational materials on how to keep storm water and our waterways clean.



- Ditch cleanup assistance. The City will provide trash pick-up at pre-established locations when arrangements can be made.
- Doing a good job is not always about impressive innovation. Sometimes it is only about doing something with plain dedication.

**Well Done!**



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

## Step 1: The Problem

Roadside ditches are hydrologic networks superimposed onto watersheds. Although ditches are everywhere, their impacts on flooding and water quality have been largely ignored. Debris, grass clippings, leaves and trees/shrubs within the ditch or swale will inhibit the flow of storm water and cause flooding.

## Step 2: Your Help

Make inspecting the ditch a part of your regular property maintenance routine. Remove debris and trash that will impede the flow of storm water runoff. Keep culvert openings clear from accumulated debris to allow the water to flow through the culvert. These small preventative measures by residents will go a long way in preventing a flooding issue. Properly dispose of the trash and debris.

## Step 3: End Result

It's very important that water flow along ditches and not stand in them. Vegetation in ditches is necessary to help keep the soil in place and minimize erosion. Through "Adopt-A-Ditch" committed partners gain a sense of ownership, as they help maintain and implement future improvements of the ditches and swales. "Adopt-A-Ditch" today, and together we can work to improve our community environment.

## Ditch Maintenance

In severe cases and over long periods of time, ditches fill with sediment, erode or function improperly. The City or County's maintenance work returns the ditches/swale to their original depth and slope, thereby restoring their drainage capacities. After the reshaping work is completed, the City or County crews re-seed the work area and stabilize the soil with matting or straw to minimize erosion until the grass is re-established.

## Benefits Of An Open Ditch System

There are many benefits of an open drainage (ditch) system. Primarily:

- ④ Greater storage capacity than a closed pipe system.
- ④ Assists in improving better water quality.
- ④ A flowing ditch reduces health and mosquito issues.



## Common Questions

Who is responsible for roadside ditches?  
Minor maintenance of these ditches is normally the responsibility of the adjoining landowner.

What can I do to prevent drainage problems with the ditch?

Do not distribute grass clippings in the ditch, no landscaping in the ditch, do not fill or alter the ditch and avoid driving and parking in the ditch.

If I have a ditch problem, who should I call?  
Call Department of Public Works at 920.448.3100

## City of Green Bay Department Of Public Works

### Contact Information:

City Hall  
100 North Jefferson Street  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301-5026

Department of Public Works  
Room 300 Phone 920.448.3100  
Website: <http://greenbaywi.gov/>



Other Suggestions For Your Neighborhood...

- "Adopt-A-Storm-Inlet"
- "Storm Inlet Marking"
- "Protecting Our Greenways"
- "Adopt-A-Pond"
- "Adopt-A-Creek"

## "Adopt-A-Ditch"



Help  
Keep Our Community  
Clean and Green



What Touches The Ground  
Enters The Waters