



Please Don't Burn Your Leaves

Burning leaves in Peach County ditches is in violation of Georgia law. This practice adds debris and nutrients to our streams, rivers and other bodies of water. In addition burning of leaves near the road is a traffic safety hazard.

Peach County Tax Dollars At Work



Stormwater infrastructure systems need repair and replacing on a regular basis. Peach County has several pipe replacement projects that will benefit all County residents. These are your tax dollars at work

- La Vender Lane Culvert Replacement - Completed Spring 2016:
- Smith Road Culvert Replacement - Presently in the Engineering Phase
- Lakeside Drive and Barrow Road Culvert Replacements - Engineering Complete and construction tentatively scheduled for Dec.

As a designated Phase II *Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System* (MS4), the GA EPD requires Peach County to implement programs and practices to control polluted stormwater runoff. Phase II MS4 communities must:



- * Reduce discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable
- * Protect Water Quality
- * Maintain the Stormwater System
- * Satisfy appropriate Water Quality Requirements of Clean Water Act
- * Educate the public about stormwater and methods to reduce pollution and improve water quality.



Environmental

478-827-3535

Peach County has a 24-Hour Hotline to report environmental concerns such as any dumping, illicit discharges or stormwater pollution. Your message will be recorded and investigated promptly.

By definition an illicit discharge is ANY discharge to storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater.

Stormwater



We Put the Peach in Georgia!

Peach County Stormwater Division

410 Old Macon Road
Fort Valley, GA 31030

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E-mail: peachcounty.net/stormwater
Department

Director / County Engineer: Paul Schwindler,
P. E., CPWM

Stormwater Manager: Becky Cox, EIT, CFM

Q&A

You have
Questions
We have
Answers

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is the portion of rainwater that is unable to soak into the ground.

Stormwater runoff can pick up debris, trash, dirt, grass, clippings, leaves, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers, chemicals, oil, grease, and other contaminants as it runs off of the developed land.

Stormwater runoff eventually flows into county storm drain systems (including ditches) and releases into nearby lakes, rivers, creeks, streams or wetlands.

Anything that enters a storm drain system is released untreated into bodies of water used for swimming, fishing and drinking.



DRAINAGE EASEMENT

A *drainage easement* is the legal right to use land for drainage purposes. The property owner retains ownership of the property, but must ensure that the reserved drainage use is not impaired with structures such as building, fences, etc., or sediment, vegetation, or other blockages. Most easements are defined on a survey plat, deed, or easement document that is recorded with the County Superior Court of Peach County.

Obligations of the Property Owner

Because the land on which the easement is located is owned solely by the property owner, the owner has the obligation to maintain the drainage easement. The area must be kept free of debris so as to not inhibit stormwater runoff flow. Property owners who fail to maintain proper flow of stormwater runoff in drainage easements may be subject to fines and face civil liability in the event of flood damage to surrounding properties.

Obligations of the County

The County has the right to take reasonable steps to maintain the easement for its intended purpose if the owner fails to do so. This means the County may dig up the storm pipes under the easement to repair, replace them or remove blockages or obstructions in ditches or other waterways. The County is under no obligation to replace anything within the easement that must be removed for maintenance purposes. Costs incurred by the County may be charged to the property owner. The only easements the County is responsible to maintain are those easements that the Board of Commissioners has accepted for that purpose.

Helpful ways to help clean stormwater

- ◆ Keep stormwater inlets, structures, and ditches around your property clear of dirt, yard debris and trash. Yard debris and trash in ditches not only result in blocking water flow, but also result in possible flooding and re-rerouting of flow. In addition, blockages and debris are a violation of the Federal and State Clean Water Act.
- ◆ Please do not blow, dump or drain anything into a storm drain, ditch or stream. This includes roadside ditches.
- ◆ Please keep drainage ditches on your property maintained, clear of obstructions and accessible. It is the landowner's responsibility to maintain drainage ways, ditches and drainage structures on their property. Peach County can not enter private property for maintenance unless an emergency exists.
- ◆ Never connect to the County's storm drain pipes, ditches, or structures without obtaining written approval from the Public Works Stormwater Division. Undocumented connections to waterways and ditches are a violation of state law and Peach County Ordinances.

Peach County Stormwater Division thanks you for your help protecting our water resources. Together

**NOTHING BUT Rain
IN OUR Drain**