

DOS AND DON'Ts WITHIN TOWN DRAINAGE EASEMENTS

An easement on a portion of your property* has been conveyed to the Town of Lancaster for drainage purposes. However, the ownership and routine maintenance of this easement area rests with you – the property owner. It is expected that this area will be maintained as you maintain the rest of your lawn. The following are some of the things you should and should not do relative to a Town drainage easement:

DO

1. **MAINTAIN** the drainage easement as your lawn as much as practical. During wet times it may not be possible to mow. However, mowing and weed-whacking should be performed as field conditions allow.
2. **NOTIFY** The Town Building Department if you observe anyone filling, obstructing or otherwise blocking or altering the land in a Town drainage easement.
3. **CONSTRUCT A SILT FENCE** (or similar device) along the drainage easement line if you are doing work near the easement involving soil disturbance. This will help to reduce sediment and other erosion materials from entering the drainage system.

DO NOT

1. **FILL, OBSTRUCT, BLOCK OR MATERIALLY ALTER** the Town drainage easement or permit an impediment in the drainage easement to remain.
2. **CONSTRUCT OR PLACE** improvements such as pools, fences, sheds, or other structures in the Town drainage easement. Also, do not install temporary obstacles which cannot be easily moved such as play stations, swing sets, etc. These may impede the flow of water within the easement.
3. **MODIFY** the existing topography of the easement; **MATERIALLY IMPAIR** the use or **RESTRICT** the flow of stormwater within the drainage easement.
4. **DISPOSE** of brush, grass clippings, leaves, or other such materials within the Town drainage easement.

TOWN OF LANCASTER RESPONSIBILITY

*The Town of Lancaster will occasionally perform drainage maintenance in the easement but **WILL NOT REMOVE** grass clippings, brush, leaves or other obstructions which are **caused by actions of the property owner(s)**. These types of obstructions may result in a notice to the owner of a violation of the Town's rights in the drainage which will need to be rectified. In addition, a property owner who violates the easement may be liable for water damage caused to adjoining property owners.*

Please contact the following offices for:

- General Information/Compliance Building Department (716)684-4171
- Cleaning/Grading of easement Highway Department (716)683-3426

*You can determine whether your property contains a drainage easement by studying your property survey.