

 MONCTON	POLICY	Owner Department: Engineering
Drainage Issues on Private Property		
Effective Date: October 3, 2022	Last Reviewed Date: October 3, 2022	City Council Approval Dates:
Approving Authority: Moncton City Council	Replaces No.: N/A	

1. Purpose Statement

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the property owners' and the City of Moncton's role in relation to drainage matters on private property.

The City's approach to handling drainage issues on private property has evolved over the years. Historically, the City would invest Engineering time and resources to assist property owners with private drainage matters by way of topographic surveys and design. Many property owners were unsatisfied as they were expecting financial support from the City for the work on private property, which resulted in cancellation of work after City resources were expended on design and survey. In 2021, the City began a pilot project implementing the following process and principles when dealing with drainage issues on private property.

2. Application

This policy applies to all property owners experiencing poor drainage on their land located within the City of Moncton, whether the property has a Registered Drainage Plan or not.

3. Definitions

Catch Basin: a structure that collects surface water from street, parking lots, etc. and discharges to a sewer system. It is designed to retain matter that would not readily pass through the water.

Combined Sewer: a gravity sewer with a system of pipes, manholes, catch basin and other structures that transports sewage and urban runoff to a treatment plant or disposal site.

Drainage Issues on Private Property

French Drain: a trench filled with gravel or rock, containing a perforated pipe that redirects surface water and groundwater away from an area.

Property Line: the line delineating the boundary between the right-of-way and a parcel of land.

Registered Drainage Plan: a drainage plan, stamped by a professional engineer or by another professional qualified to do such work, providing for drainage and surface water management which will not negatively impact drainage on adjacent properties. These plans are approved by the municipality and registered with Service New Brunswick.

Right-of-way: an allowance of property for the installation, construction and maintenance of infrastructure such as sewers, water mains, underground utilities, streets, road, curbs, ditches, drainage systems, poles, municipal signage, sidewalks, etc.

Storm Sewer: a gravity sewer with a system of pipes, manholes, catch basins and other structures that transports urban runoff to the nearest creek, river, retention pond or other locations deemed appropriate.

Swale: a shallow depression on land used to manage the direction of water runoff.

4. Policy

1. When calls are received regarding poor drainage on private property, all information given by the property owner is recorded in a file. Their property is reviewed digitally by Engineering using the Registered Drainage Plan (if available) and mapping to determine the extent of existing sewer infrastructure in the area. Capacity of existing infrastructure is also reviewed to confirm if a connection to the existing sewer system is appropriate. The Registered Drainage Plan (if available) is submitted to the property owner.
2. Property owners are informed that the City will not perform repairs on private property, and that the responsibility lies with the property owner. If the poor drainage is determined to be caused by a neighboring property, Administration will advise the property owner that the issue is a civil matter which must be resolved between the private parties. The City will not attempt to enforce drainage plans or agreements in a dispute between private property owners.
3. Should the property owner not want to pursue the matter through a civil action, or if the poor drainage is not caused by a neighboring property, Administration will provide the following alternative solution:

Drainage Issues on Private Property

- a. The property owner is advised to direct their drainage to the City's right-of-way, at their own cost.
- b. The method of construction is at the discretion of the property owner; however, a swale or French drain are common techniques for conveying surface drainage.
- c. Following the construction of the new drainage infrastructure by the property owner, the City will make the connection from the property line to the City's sewer system (if required), either by connecting to an existing nearby catch basin, or installation of a new catch basin and connecting this to an existing storm sewer or combined sewer. This connection work on City property (if required), is completed at no cost to the property owner.

5. Administration and Contact

City Clerk's Office

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