

# 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT STORM WATER MAINTENANCE

## ROADSIDE DITCHES

1

### What role do Roadside Ditches play in flood mitigation?

Roadside Ditches are open channels carved into the ground parallel to roadways that allow water to move away from roads and into the City's stormwater management system. During heavy rainfall open ditches function as small detention basins, storing excess water until discharge is available.

2

### How does the City maintain Roadside Ditches?

HPW Transportation and Drainage Operations division handles the operation and maintenance of the City's ditches and detention systems across a 650 square mile region. The City works to provide regular inspection, clearing and grubbing of ditches, regrading, establishment of flow lines, flushing and culvert repairs, and heavy debris removal.

3

### What conditions are evaluated when a Roadside Ditch is inspected by the City?

During an inspection a ditch is rated one through three—one being good and three being poor—in four categories. These categories being: Capacity and Conveyance, Structural Components, Vegetation, and Integrity.

4

### How can property owners help maintain Roadside Ditches adjacent to their properties?

Property owners with adjacent ditches can assist in keeping these ditches operational by regularly mowing the grass and preventing overgrown vegetation. In addition, removing trash and refraining from constructing unpermitted installations keep ditches from becoming obstructed.

5

### Is standing water in a Roadside Ditch normal?

Yes! Roadside Ditches are designed to divert water into the City's stormwater management system. Following a storm, ditches may temporarily hold water as it attempts to flow downstream. A ditch retaining water does not necessarily mean the ditch needs re-establishment. However, if you observe water standing in a ditch for more than 48 hours, please alert 311.



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