



Community Development

Washington County Right-of-Way (Culvert) Certification

There are many subdivisions in the unincorporated area of Washington County and as these subdivisions have developed and homes have been built, a number of issues have come to light. Most of these are related to private construction taking place on the public rights-of-way. Some issues include:

1. Filling in of culverts, or “borrow ditches”, alongside the traveled roadway.

In rural areas, the County has used culverts to manage drainage problems as opposed to requiring curb and gutter to be installed. These culverts **must** be kept clear of any obstruction that might inhibit the flow of water during periods of storm runoff. Without these culverts, major flooding often occurs somewhere in the subdivision.

The County requires a minimum of a fifteen (15) inch culvert to be installed for access to each lot. For those culverts that have been filled, it will be necessary for the County to re-grade and open the ditch again. Your cooperation in working with the road department to accomplish this is appreciated.

2. Placing of objects in the County rights-of-way.

Because of the potential liability to the property owner and to the County if an accident should take place, all such items that might be considered obstructions must be removed from the County right-of-way. You should try to determine where your front lot lines are located. (In most cases, they are marked by survey corners that were installed when the subdivision was recorded.) Most County rights-of-way are fifty (50) feet in width with a twenty-eight (28) foot graveled surface within the right-of-way, or in the case of paved roads, a thirty-two (32) foot asphalt width. This may assist you in determining where your property line is located.

Again, the County Road Department is required to remove any obstruction that exists in the right-of-way that has not received a permit prior to construction. Your assistance and cooperation in complying with this request is also appreciate.

Any requests by property owners in subdivisions to do any construction within a County right-of-way, including paving, shall first be reviewed and approved by the County Public Works Department and receive an encroachment permit. Any variance to this requirement must be approved by the County Commission. With continuing development taking place in the County, the above requirements must be met and complied with. If you find that you are not in compliance, your cooperation in making Washington County a safer place in appreciated.

Please sign and date the following:



Community Development

Washington County Right-of-Way (Culvert) Certification

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have received a copy of a letter pertaining to to private construction taking place on public rights-of-way by filling in culverts or “borrow ditches”, alongside the traveled roadway and placing objects in the County right-of-way. Furthermore, I understand that there is to be a fifteen (15) inch culvert installed at property access before final certificate of occupancy is issued.

Date

Landowner / Developer