



City of Roseville

29411 CALAHAN

ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48066

Important facts regarding rear yard drainage in the City of Roseville.

- Roseville is an extremely flat city. Water only flows from high to low spots unless mechanically pumped.
- Most of Roseville sits on heavy clay which does not allow for the absorption of water.
- Many back yards hold water in the spring and usually dry out after the weather warms up.
- Many neighborhoods in Roseville were built in the 50's and 60's and developers installed one back yard drain (catch basin) for every eight subdivision lots.
- Most rear yard flooding is caused by changes that have occurred to the grade along the back property line of resident's lots. These changes include:
 - Planting trees and shrubs which grew on top of the clay base and created high points near the trunks that prohibit water from flowing.
 - Installing a shed or garage along the back property line.
 - Installing a garden or planting bed that raised or changed the original grade.
- The changes noted above could be on your property or on your neighbor's property.
- Property owners are permitted to bring in dirt to level their backyards, fill low spots, or plant gardens. But you are not permitted to raise grade higher than a neighboring property or drain water on to an adjacent property. All water must be directed toward the street where city storm drains accept it.
- Backyards are private property. If your neighbor is directing water into your yard in violation of Roseville City Ordinance 256-10 that is a civil matter between two adjacent property owners. If it is not possible to remediate the matter with the adjacent property owner through discussion it is your responsibility to take legal action if you feel it is necessary. Ordinance as follows:
 - 256-10 Stormwater Discharge on Neighboring Property; The flow of stormwater shall not be unreasonably impeded from a neighboring property and no unreasonable discharge of stormwater shall be permitted upon neighboring property. Provisions of this section are not intended to modify or abridge any rights of adjoining property owners as may exist otherwise with respect to stormwater drainage pursuant to applicable laws, contractual agreement and the common law.

- The city requires all new development to submit plans that do not negatively impact existing drainage. Construction sights are regularly inspected and final approval is not granted until the city is satisfied that all requirements are met.
- As a resident you can do the following things to ensure proper drainage:
 - If you have a catch basin in your yard do not change the grade in a manner to impede flow to it
 - If you have a sprinkler system, make sure it is not leaking
 - Install a water diversion system that either drains your water to the street through a pop up in your front yard or directly connects to the city storm system. Pop up drains must be 5 feet from sidewalk and driveway. Connection to city storm system requires a permit and inspection.
 - Sump pumps from the house must be connected to the city storm system
- If you have questions a city engineering representative can come to your home and offer recommendations on how to fix the flooding issues. Our engineering department can be reached at (586) 445-5445.
- If there is standing water on private property a complaint can be made through the building department. A representative will cite any violation to our ordinance regarding nuisance stagnant water. Our building department can be reached at (586) 445-5450.

