WHY DRAINAGE MATTERS

Every residential yard is part of a larger watershed. When heavy rains fall, water must safely flow away from your home's foundation to prevent structural damage, mold, and soil erosion.



KEY BENEFITS OF MAINTENANCE

Foundation Protection: Directs pooling water away from basements and crawlspaces.

Mosquito Control: Eliminates stagnant standing water where pests breed.

Property Value: Prevents muddy patches and preserves your lawn and landscaping investments.



LOCAL SUPPORT & RESOURCES

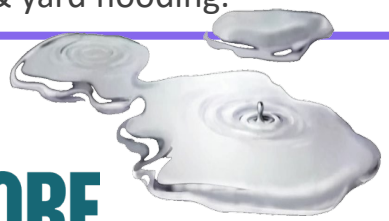
Managing stormwater is a community effort. For regional guidelines, permits, or technical assistance regarding major drainage changes, consult your local resources:

Claremore Stormwater
(918) 341-0457 x285
stormwater@claremore.com

OSU Extension in Rogers County
(918) 923-4958

PRO TIP!

Never dump grass clippings, leaves, motor oil, or trash into drainage ditches or storm drains. Clogged paths cause localized street & yard flooding.



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STORMWATER

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HEALTHY YARDS, CLEAR WATER

A Homeowner's Guide to Maintaining Drainage Ways

Protect your property, prevent flooding, and preserve local waterways through simple, proactive yard maintenance.

Understanding Your Drainage System

Know Your Flow!

Before picking up tools, map how water moves across your property during a heavy storm. Identify the key elements of your yard's infrastructure:

Common Drainage Structures:

Swales and Ditches: Shallow, sloped channels designed to direct surface runoff safely toward larger storm channels.

French Drains: Underground perforated pipes surrounded by gravel that collect and redirect subterranean water.

Catch Basins & Taps: Grated boxes that capture surface water and pipe it directly to municipal storm lines.



Warning Signs: Keep an eye out for severe soil gouging, persistent muddy areas that last more than 48 hours, or water flowing toward your foundation instead of away from it.

Routine Maintenance Checklist

Seasonal Upkeep Basics

Regular checks ensure your drainage channels operate at peak performance when unexpected storms hit. Follow this maintenance timeline:

Spring & Fall Cleanout

- ❑ **Clear Debris:** Remove accumulated leaves, twigs, trash, and thick mats of dead grass from swales and grates.
- ❑ **Mow Smart:** Keep swales mowed, but do not cut the grass too short. Taller grass helps stabilize the soil and filter out pollutants.
- ❑ **Clear Obstructions:** Check for and remove overgrown woody brush or invasive plants that slow down water flow.



Post-Storm Inspection:

Walk your yard after heavy rain. Inspect culverts and pipe outlets for blockages, and check if any soil has washed away, exposing buried pipes.

Eco-Friendly Solutions & Upgrades

Enhance Your Landscape

If you have an area where water naturally pools, you can turn a drainage challenge into an attractive landscape feature.

Rain Gardens:

Dig a shallow 4-to-8-inch depression in a low spot of your yard. Amend the soil with compost to maximize filtration, and plant water-tolerant native perennials. This naturally filters runoff back into the ground.

Dry Creek Beds:

Line a natural swale with a mix of river rock and larger boulders. This prevents soil erosion during fast-moving storms while adding visual interest.

Permeable Walkways:

Replace solid concrete paths with gravel, interlocking pavers, or stepping stones to let rainwater sink directly into the soil.