

Sump Pump Connection Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on property owners' and the County's responsibilities for the maintenance and construction of connections from private sump pumps to the County's public storm water management system.

Background

When most of Arlington County was developed, standards for drainage infrastructure were relatively lax compared to today's requirements. As a result, there are gaps in the public storm water system where previous developers were not required to construct storm sewers. It is common for there to be no collection system other than curb and gutter for a block or more.

As a result of these gaps, many property owners do not have an appropriate place for their sump pump to discharge. Inappropriate water discharge, together with increased impervious areas caused by redevelopment, can result in significant safety and quality of life issues, such as ice on sidewalks and in the street and water ponding on private property.

DES has, however, initiated multiple types of neighborhood drainage projects in an attempt to address the issue:

- Construction of sump pump underdrains
- Local storm sewer system analysis, design and construction
- Retrofits of existing systems with additional inlets

The requirements in this policy will further assist property owners and the County in avoiding the hazards of inappropriate sump pump drainage.

Construction and Maintenance of Sump Pump Systems

The discharge from a new or existing sump pump must not create a safety hazard or a nuisance in the public right of way. See Arlington County Code § 17-6. Obstructing or Littering Streets and Other Public Places.

If a sump pump creates a hazard or a nuisance in the public right of way, the property owner should reroute the sump pump discharge to a location that meets applicable ordinances and construction standards and does not create a hazard or a nuisance.

The most effective means of ensuring that a sump pump system does not create a hazard or a nuisance is to connect the sump pump system to the public storm drainage system

whenever a public storm drainage system is available, either in a storm drainage easement on the property or in the public right of way adjacent to the property.¹

The property owner owns and is responsible for the maintenance of connections from a private sump pump or other private storm water drainage system to the public storm sewer system, unless a written agreement with the County specifically provides otherwise.

Without legal obligation and authority, the County will not enter private property to repair a drainage facility; nor will the County repair a privately owned drainage system in the public right of way.

For details on the maintenance of connections to the public storm water system, see Arlington County Construction Standards and Specifications, Section 02505 Storm Sewers and Appurtenances, 3.5 Private Connections.

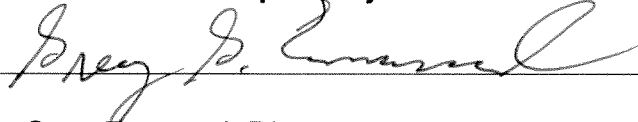
New Storm Sewer Connections as Part of DES Projects

DES may determine that a new County storm sewer / underdrain project is justified to address safety issues in the public right of way that are caused by private sump pump systems.

Maintenance of new storm sewers or underdrains built in the public right of way or in a storm drainage easement is the responsibility of DES. But ownership and maintenance of discharge lines and connections from private sump pump systems, surface drains and underdrains to the new public system are, as detailed above, the responsibility of the individual property owner.

When a new connection is built as part of a DES project, the property owner's obligations are specified in a recorded document that memorializes the agreement of the parties and puts subsequent purchasers of the property on notice of the agreement. (See sample agreement attached as Exhibit A.)

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Approved:  15 Apr 16
Greg Emanuel, Director Date
Department of Environmental Services

¹ Note that sump pumps should not be tied to stormwater discharge lines before tying into the storm sewer unless the stormwater has been filtered to remove solids.

Sump Pump Connection Policy

The following pictures illustrate some of the types of drainage issues that this policy addresses:



Ice from a sump pump discharging near a property line.



Accumulated ice in the gutter