

Press Release

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Prevent Flooding By Promoting Drainage Help Keep Culverts and Inlets Clean

Leaves and other debris are the major reason for unnecessary local flooding that occurs in the late fall, winter and early spring. This flooding frequently results from leaves and debris that block drainage culverts and storm water inlets which are located downstream. Blockages in the culverts and inlets can completely block the flow of water and result in flooding.

There are a number of preventative measures that residents can take to limit the amount of unnecessary flooding, ponding, and freezing of storm water in the drainage swales.

- **During fall and spring, rake and remove all leaves and other debris in your parkway or curb-line and dispose of properly.** The annual free fall leaf pick-up service starts Monday, October 5th and will continue each Monday through November 30th. Leaves placed in biodegradable paper yard waste bags or placed loosely in trash containers will not require yard waste stickers during this period.
- **Routinely keep drainage culverts and inlet grates clean and free from significant debris.** Due to their location in landscaped areas, some drainage culverts and inlet grates are prone to blockage. Please clean these areas routinely and ensure that they are clear of debris before, during and after a significant rainfall event.
Although Public Works staff routinely inspects the inlet grates and culverts throughout the Village, there are over 1,000 inlets and 2,400 culverts which makes it very difficult to provide timely attention during a heavy rainfall.
- **If you have a drainage swale in your parkway, routinely inspect the storm water flow and make improvements as necessary.** Silt and mulching of the grass will slowly create a buildup in the drainage swale. If dealt with annually, it should be a small task to keep the water flowing. If you use a landscape contractor, please make them aware of this drainage issue.
- **Do not pile snow where it will block the inlet grate or drainage culvert in your parkway.** The freeze-thaw cycles we frequently experience throughout the winter can create an ice-dam that will block the drainage.

Please remember that although your property may not be directly affected because you are upstream on higher ground, your leaves and debris may travel downstream and have an adverse effect on your neighbors.

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