

Storm Drainage Easements

What are storm drainage easements?

An easement is a right granted from a property owner to another for a specific use of a portion of the owner's land. Utility operators (gas, electric, sewer, etc.) often have easements for the purpose of installing and maintaining their utility lines and structures. As with most utility easements, storm drainage easements are permanent and run with the land (i.e. survive any sale of the property). They generally require the property owner to give up certain rights such as building permanent structures (additions, decks, certain types of fences, etc.) within the easement to allow for proper function of the system and unimpeded maintenance access.

Who maintains the storm drainage easement?

Property owners are responsible for routine grounds maintenance such as grass mowing and trash or debris removal, and should ensure that systems are kept free of yard waste such as grass clippings, tree trimmings and leaves that may block the flow of water. Trees, shrubs, and other growth in easements belong to and are maintained by the property owner. The parish maintains the drainage system and structures within the easement to allow for proper function of the system.