

## DITCH ENCLOSURE & PIPING POLICY

The Perry Township Board of Trustees, (hereafter, "Township") upon due consideration, hereby adopts a policy relating to the enclosure of open ditches and watercourses and culvert installation.

WHEREAS, the Township is charged with the responsibility to maintain the township roadways and keep them free from hazards and nuisance conditions, such as those conditions presented by storm water and flooding; and

WHEREAS, the Township is charged with the responsibility of complying with the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II regulations, which requires, among other things, a storm water management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Township encourages clearing or re-grading as alternatives to enclosure, and discourages closing ditches and installing pipe where drainage is manageable without piping.

WHEREAS, the Township makes the following determinations in support of the adoption of the policy established herein.

1. Open channels (roadside ditch, or swales) generally provide for the most efficient means to capture and have the greatest capacity to hold surface storm water.
2. Open channels provide subsurface drainage of the adjacent grounds, whereas piping impedes subsurface drainage.
3. Open channels allow for infiltration of water back into the ground, reducing potential for downstream flooding.
4. Open channels act to filter pollutants, impurities and illicit discharge from surface storm water.
5. Open channels make easier the identification and remediation of illicit discharges.

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NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved the Township adopts the following open ditch and watercourse/culvert installation policy:

- A. The terms and provisions of this policy shall be implemented by the Superintendent of the Road Department, or his designee subject to the discretion of the Board of Trustees.
- B. As an alternative to enclosing or piping an open ditch or watercourse, the Township, upon request of the property owner will, at no cost, clean or re-grade an existing open ditch or watercourse.
- C. The Township, however, reserves the right to refuse to do any act which, in the sole discretion of the Road Superintendent, would adversely affect the existing condition or is contrary to the stated purposes of this policy.
- D. The Township also reserves the right but does not undertake the responsibility to clean, maintain, and/or repair any installation. The Township will maintain open ditches along township roads.
- E. If the depth of the ditch measures from grade to its deepest point to be 28" or greater, such ditch or watercourse may be enclosed only upon the recommendation of the Road Superintendent and approval of the Board of Trustees. In such instances, where the determination is made to install pipe and enclose the ditch, the Township may perform the work. The property owner requesting enclosure is responsible for the cost of the pipe and related fitting, along with topsoil, grading and seeding.
- F. If the depth of the ditch measures less than 28", the following will apply:
  1. Where the property owner wishes to perform installation, it shall be subject to the approval of the Road Superintendent with respect to the methods, materials and procedure, including, but not limited to the installation of the pipe, the connection of downspouts, the effect on upstream and downstream neighboring properties and depth of cover. The following minimum mandatory criteria:
    - a) The ditch will be excavated to permit for
      - i. 12" minimum pipe height or as directed by Road Superintendent.
      - ii. 6" minimum cover and swale over pipe over entire run of pipe or as directed by Road Superintendent.
    - b) The pipe material shall be smooth plastic or galvanized.
    - c) Catch basins (standard No. 2-2-B) shall be installed every 100 feet to allow for cleaning. The grade elevation must be below the existing surface of the pavement.

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2. The property owner will apply for and obtain a permit.
3. The Township may require a bond where the road surface or right-of-way is disturbed or excavated and restoration is needed.
4. Where the property owner prefers the Township to perform the installation, the property owner shall also notify the Township of the existence and location of sprinkler systems and/or “invisible fences” or other underground appurtenances.
5. Upon request, the Township can provide a list of installation contractors or material vendors.
6. Costs shall be paid prior to commencement of work.

Adopted: August 2006