THE CITY OF Doraville

Diversity, Vitality, Community

Extent of Service Policy

for

Stormwater Infrastructure System Inspection and Maintenance

November 15, 2023

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DEFINITIONS

Closed Conveyance: pipes and culverts that convey stormwater runoff and may also carry streamflow. Pipes are typically part of a closed system connected by structural stormwater controls, while culverts transport stormflow and streams under roadways, driveways, or other crossings. For simplicity, closed conveyances are referred to as pipes throughout this document.

Driveway Apron: The portion of any driveway, parking lot, or another hard surface, whether paved, poured, laid, or otherwise constituted, which extends from private property onto the traveled portion of the public roadway.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): The NPDES is a federally mandated permit program designed to address water pollution by regulating both point and nonpoint sources that discharge pollutants to waters of the State.

Open Channel: Any river, stream, flume, swale, or ditch where water flow is open to the atmosphere. Open channels may be natural or constructed and as such, may have natural surfaces for the side and bottoms or constructed surfaces such as concrete for the sides and bottom.

Right-of-Way (ROW): The entire area of a public road including the traveled portions, banks, ditches, shoulders, and medians of a roadway, that is not privately owned.

Stormwater Storage Facility: a device constructed or installed to control stormwater runoff's quantity and/or quality. Examples include wet ponds, detention basins, retention basins, or underground storage vaults.

Stormwater Infrastructure System: consists of pipes, open channels, stormwater storage facilities, and structure stormwater controls. It includes various devices used in collecting, conveying, or treating surface drainage waters, including all human-made structures or natural watercourses that convey or transport runoff. Such devices may include:

- Detention areas, berms, swales, improved watercourses, open channels, bridges, streams, flumes, culverts, gutters, pipes, ditches, siphons, catch basins, junction boxes and street facilities.
- All inlets.
- Collection, drainage or disposal lines.
- Outfall sewers.
- All pumping, power, and other equipment and appurtenances.
- All extension, improvements, additions, and alterations thereof.
- Any and all rights or interests in such stormwater facilities.

Stormwater Drainage System: Any mode of conveyance within the City that allows or permits stormwater flow to State waters. The infrastructure can be opened or enclosed, public or private, and may contain non-stormwater discharges. The stormwater drainage system includes all the infrastructure and natural drainage designs that are intended to collect,

control, and provide a method of conveyance, discharge, and perhaps treatment of stormwater, including but not limited to open channels (ditches, streams, swales), storm drain pipes, drainage boxes (catch basins, drop inlets), detention basins, retention ponds, wetlands, outfalls, and treatment structures.

Stormwater Management System: The entire set of non-structural site design features and structural BMPs for collection, conveyance, storage, infiltration, treatment, and disposal of stormwater runoff in a manner designed to prevent increased flood damage, streambank channel erosion, habitat degradation, and water quality degradation, and to enhance and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Structural Stormwater Control: facility or device that controls stormwater runoff and changes the characteristics of that runoff, including, but not limited to the direction, quality, quantity, period of release, or flow velocity of such runoff. Structural Stormwater Controls include but are not limited to catch basins, junction boxes, headwalls, weirs, water quality devices, and outlet control structures.

Public Stormwater Drainage System: That portion of the Stormwater Drainage System that is located within the City's right-of-way or other City-owned land or outside of the City's right-of-way or other City-owned land to the extent that (1) the portion of the system has been legally conveyed to the City as evidenced by the written dedication and acceptance of the same, (2) as otherwise required by Georgia Law.

Private Stormwater Drainage System: a portion of the Stormwater Drainage System located on private property, which is not the City's legal responsibility.

Drainage Easement: An easement appurtenant or attached to a tract or parcel of land allowing the owner of adjacent tracts or other persons to discharge stormwater runoff onto the tract or parcel of land subject to the drainage easement.

Easement: is a recorded authorization for a specified purpose by a property owner to use any designated part of the real property by another entity.

Stormwater Assets: Typically accounts for stormwater management systems such as detention or retention basins; structures such as catch basins, headwalls, and inlets; and conveyances such as ditches, pipes and culverts.

BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, AND AUTHORITY

The purpose of the Extent of Service Policy is to define the responsibilities of the City of Doraville (City) for maintaining the water quantity and quality functions of the public stormwater drainage system. This policy is also written to support City staff in making maintenance and capital improvement project decisions related to the public stormwater drainage system.

PUBLIC STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

The City operates, inspects, and maintains the stormwater drainage system located within City-owned properties, City ROW, and established easements/drainage easements that have been dedicated to the City.

City ROW does not include ROW dedicated to or operated by other public entities or utilities (e.g., Dekalb County Watershed Management, Georgia Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) and does not maintain stormwater drainage systems located within these areas.

The City does not maintain stormwater drainage systems located on property owned by other public entities (e.g., Dekalb County Board of Education).

The City only inspects and maintains stormwater storage facilities (e.g., detention/retention ponds) that are located on City-owned property or within City ROW. The inspection and maintenance of all other stormwater storage facilities is the responsibility of the owner of the property the stormwater storage facility services or is located on.

Residential Areas

For residential properties, the City's policy is to maintain all approved stormwater infrastructure that is structurally attached to stormwater infrastructure systems on City-owned properties and City ROW.

The City's maintenance policy does not extend to stormwater drainage systems within gated residential communities or within single family residential communities with privately maintained roads. Additionally, stormwater assets located on multi-family residential properties (i.e., apartments, condominiums, townhomes, etc.) are the responsibility of the owner/operator(s) of the property. **Figure 1** provides a diagram demonstrating how the City's stormwater extent of service policy is applied in residential areas.

Non-Residential Areas

The City does not maintain stormwater infrastructure systems located on non-residential (e.g., commercial, industrial) properties regardless of connection to City ROW or the public stormwater drainage system. **Figure 2** provides a diagram demonstrating how the City's stormwater extent of service policy is applied in non-residential areas.

City Inspection Program

The City performs routine inspections of the public stormwater drainage system in accordance with the NPDES permit issued to the City by the EPD. The City may also inspect any portion of the stormwater drainage system in response to citizen requests, complaints, or joint investigation with local, state, and federal agencies of a potential environmental violation. The City will not involve itself in private property disputes or other legal actions between property owners.

Prioritizing Project Requests

There are currently more projects than the City can address at one time. For this reason, the City prioritizes projects and project requests to determine the order of response. Requests for projects will be prioritized as:

- **High:** Conditions present an immediate danger or threat to public safety.
- **Medium:** Poor conditions exist that create a concern for public safety, capacity, structural integrity, flooding, and/or water quality.
- **Low:** Routine maintenance or cosmetic repair.

Projects classified as High will receive priority. City Public Works staff will review project requests and will perform the initial project prioritization. Public Works staff will periodically monitor the conditions at the project location prior to repair/maintenance and will modify the priority classification when needed.

PRIVATE STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Any stormwater assets that are not eligible for maintenance by the City as described above is classified as privately-owned. The routine inspection, maintenance, and repair or replacement of privately-owned stormwater assets is the responsibility of the owner of the property that the private stormwater drainage system services or is located on.

Open Channel Maintenance

Both residential and non-residential property owners shall be responsible for maintaining open channel(s) that are not within the City ROW. Private responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, maintenance of normal, unobstructed flow of any open channel(s) on their private property.

Property owners are not allowed to dump yard debris and/or fill open channels with soils or any other material. Property owners need to perform routine and corrective maintenance on open channels as needed to prevent drainage and/or erosion problems on their respective properties.

Private Driveways

Isolated pipes at driveways that provide access to private property shall be privately maintained by the owner(s) of the property or properties made accessible by the driveway(s) owner regardless of the system's location. A driveway pipe is considered isolated when the pipe is not structurally connected to the City's public stormwater drainage system. This policy includes isolated driveway pipes located in the City ROW.

The City is not responsible for installing or providing driveway pipes for new construction or existing driveways. Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of all portions of their private driveways, including any associated curb cuts, aprons, and transitions. The property owner shall maintain and repair private driveway aprons that interfere with curb drainage or other aspects of the stormwater drainage system located in the City ROW.

If stormwater runoff goes down a driveway and causes a flooding issue on private property, it is the driveway owner's responsibility to resolve the issue. The City will not raise a driveway to prevent stormwater runoff from flowing down it. At the homeowner's request and the City's discretion, the City may install measures on the street to help reduce the runoff that enters a private driveway from the edge of City-maintained roads.

Extensions to City Maintenance Responsibility

Extensions to the stated city maintenance responsibility shall only be made when a permanent maintenance agreement exists between the City and a private property owner or in situations where the City has demonstrated legal drainage maintenance responsibility. Maintenance agreements made between private property owners and other public entities do not create any obligation for the City to accept maintenance responsibility.

Emergency Maintenance

The City may implement emergency powers to act, as may be necessary to protect public health, safety, and general welfare, to inspect, maintain, or repair portions of the stormwater drainage system that is designated as privately maintained.

Emergency maintenance conducted by the City does not constitute an ongoing maintenance obligation or prevent the City from seeking reimbursement for expenses from the property owner(s) of the land that generated the condition. In cases of emergency maintenance, the City is not obligated to replace structures and/or plantings (trees and shrubs) placed within a drainage area.

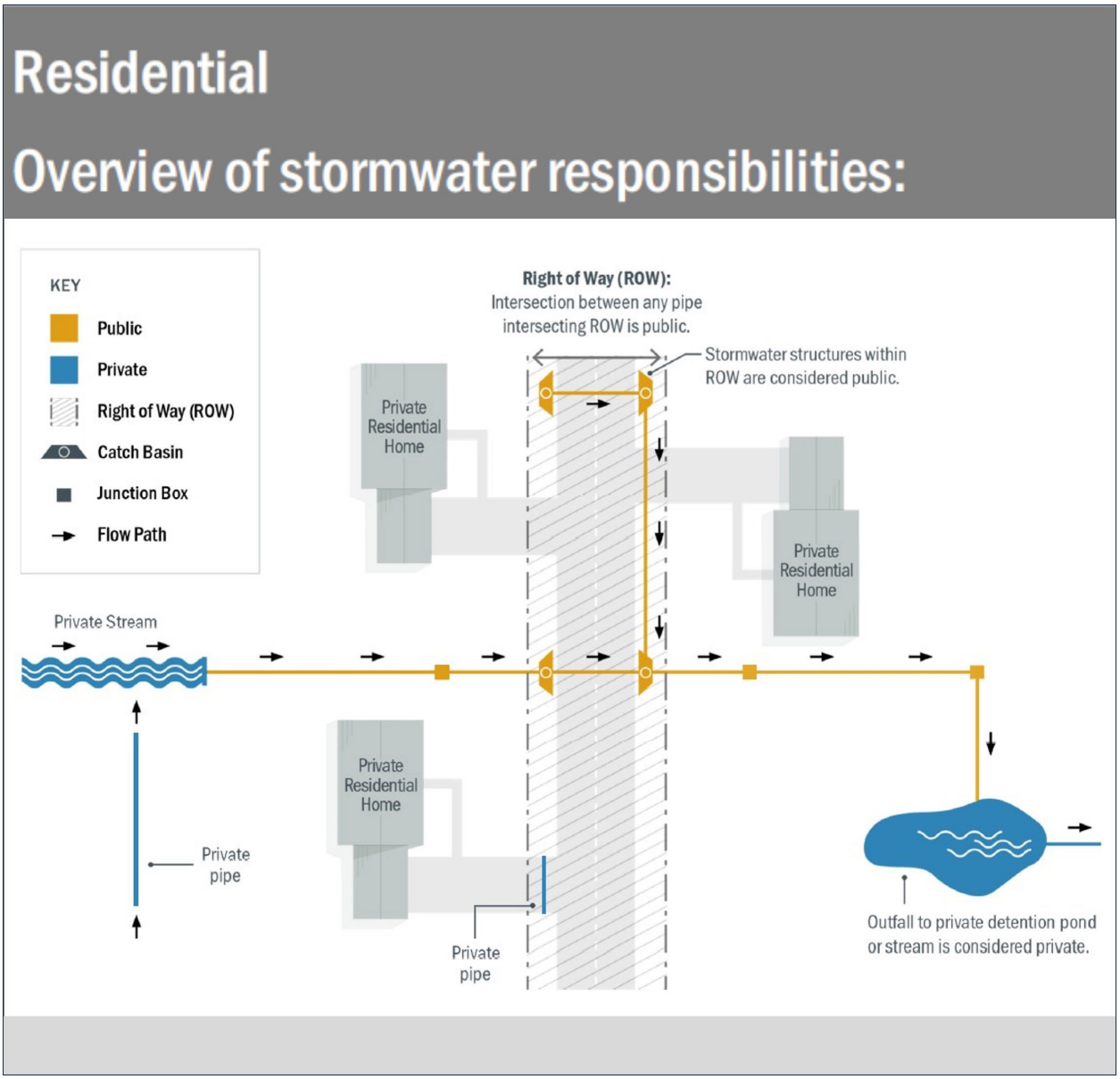


Figure 1 – City of Doraville Stormwater Extent of Service Policy (Residential Areas)

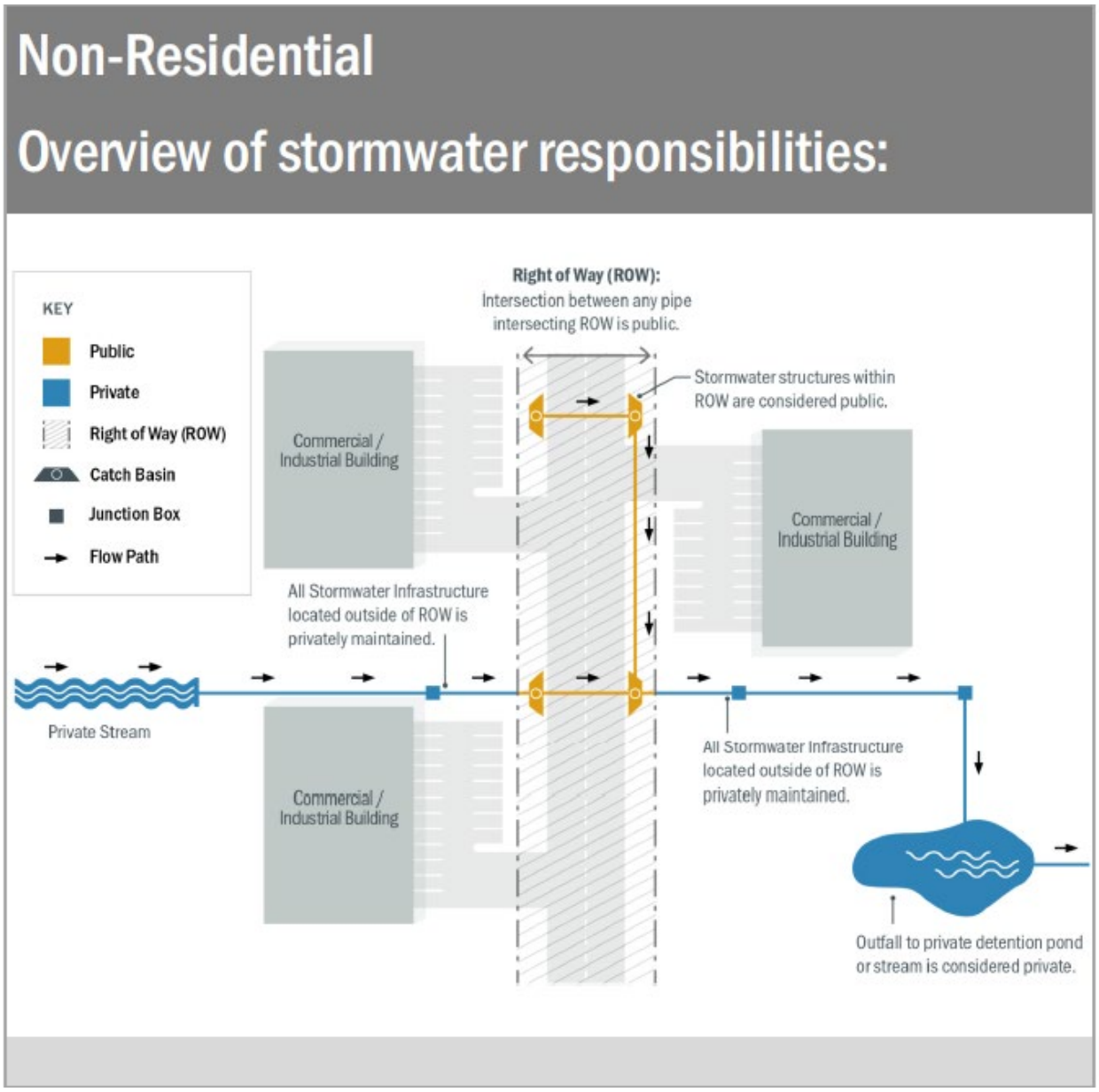


Figure 2 – City of Doraville Stormwater Extent of Service Policy (Non-Residential Areas)