

Drainage Easement FAQs

Ownership of the land in a drainage easement is retained by the property owner, yet access rights are granted to Coon Creek Watershed District or the city for repair and maintenance.

If there is an access problem, any obstruction will be removed at the landowner's expense.

Permanent structures, such as garages and fences, are not allowed in a drainage easement.

Some temporary structures are allowed in a drainage easement area; contact Coon Creek Watershed District to learn more.

Also check with your city for any required permits.

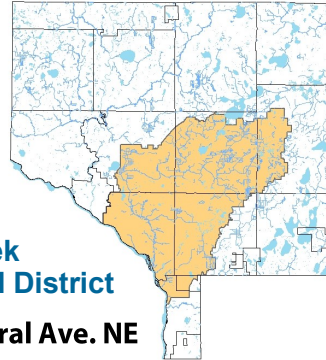
Credits

Plat image: <http://gisdocs.anokacountymn.gov/>

Other photos: Coon Creek Watershed District staff

Water IQ #17

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Coon Creek Watershed District

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763-755-0975

Contact:
Regulatory Affairs Coordinator-
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OR
Operations and Maintenance
Coordinator- Jon Janke
jjanke@cooncreekwd.org

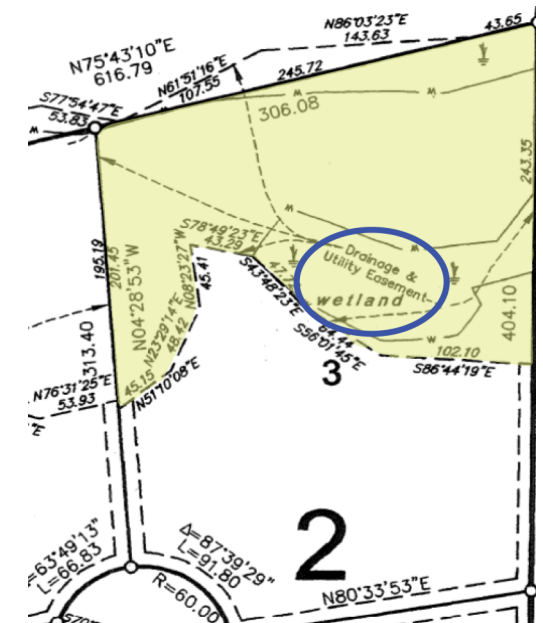
Mission

To manage groundwater and surface water drainage systems to prevent property damage, maintain hydrologic balance, and protect water quality for the safety and enjoyment of citizens, and the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

Coon Creek Watershed District

Water IQ #17

Drainage Easements



Seventeenth in a Water Information Quest (WIQ)
Series by
Coon Creek Watershed District

Tel: 763.755.0975



Drainage Easements

Drainage Easements provide access for maintenance and repair of stormwater structures, including ponds, ditches, storm sewers, and wetlands. Water during rain may take several days to drain in some instances.

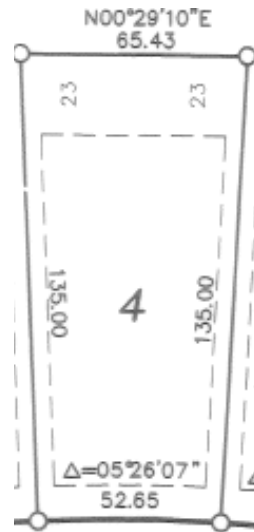
A Drainage Easement within Coon Creek Watershed District:

- May collect water during large rain events.
- Should not drain nearby wetlands into dry uplands.
- Gives Coon Creek Watershed District access only for maintenance and repair activities.

Contact Coon Creek Watershed District if you want to:

- Build a permanent structure in the easement area, such as a shed or playset.
- Dump grass clippings or leaves in the easement area, since they can decompose very slowly and add nutrients to nearby waters.
- Change the grade or slope of the easement area, such as a planting a garden.
- Block access to the easement area, for examples by planting trees or building a shed.

Note: Any project in the easement area may require signing an Encroachment Agreement with the local city or township.




This diagram is an example plat to show possible easements for a landowner. It shows the lot number (4), property boundary (solid line), and Drainage easement (dashed line).

Unsure If You Have a Drainage Easement?

Call Coon Creek Watershed District at

763-755-0975

or log onto www.anokacounty.us

- Click on Find Us + Maps icon 
- Click on GIS Maps
- Click on Mapping Applications
- Click on Search bar, then "Address Search"
- Enter your address, click "Search"
- Click on the box that appears and click on your property



Common Terms

Drainage Easement A legal right granting the local water resource authority access to the easement area for stormwater management purposes.

Utility Easement A legal right granted to utility companies to inspect, maintain, and repair underground or overhead utilities.

Ditch Easement A legal right granted to the local ditch authority for inspections, repair, and maintenance of the public ditch system.

Wetland Easement A reservation of privately owned land for wetland management purposes. The easement area often includes buffer zones and mowing restrictions to prevent degradation of the wetland.

Street Easement A legal right granted to the city or county for the use of private land for a public service such as a road or sidewalk.

Right of Way (ROW) Land acquired or intended for public use, such as a street, sidewalk, trail, or railroad.

Local Government Unit (LGU) A public entity with authority in the area. The entity can differ based on the location or purpose of the activity even within the same region.

Encroachment When a landowner builds, grades or otherwise makes unauthorized changes to an easement area.