

ABOUT US



Improvement is our Middle Name

We manage the flood protection levees that protect Longview and maintain the network of natural and manmade ditches, drains and sloughs that convey stormwater away from your homes. Keeping our drainage ways clean and flowing properly reduces your risk of flooding during heavy rain events. Please help us keep our system working by keeping grass clippings and waste away from the ditch, and contact us before putting anything along the ditch that might become an obstacle for our mowers and equipment. We like all of our neighbors, but nobody likes surprises!

9 Ways you can help.....

Give us a hand! Here are some of the ways you can help us improve stormwater quality and keep our drainage system working the way it should.

- 1 Don't dump grass clippings in the ditch
- 2 Compost yard clippings
- 3 Use a mulching lawn mower
- 4 Use herbicides and fertilizers sparingly
- 5 Pull weeds instead of spraying
- 6 Don't apply fertilizer before a rain
- 7 Practice organic gardening
- 8 Avoid overwatering
- 9 Never apply fertilizer near ditch or drain

It's just grass. What's the big deal?

Please, please, please don't dump grass clippings and tree trimmings in or along the ditch. Pick it up or rake it out! Piles of lawn debris actually impact stormwater quality and make the ditch more difficult to maintain. Here's why:

- Kills sod cover that stabilizes the ditch bank
- Piles of clippings contribute to thatch
- Holds moisture that leads to sloughing
- Creates habitat and cover for rodents
- Invites mosquito problems
- Plugs downstream culverts and pumps
- Increases nutrient load in the ditch
- Promotes growth of aquatic weeds
- Reduces dissolved oxygen content

Who can I call with questions?

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When will you mow the ditch behind my house?

This is a great question that is tough to answer! Weather depending, we start in April with the goal of mowing two times before late fall. We start in west Longview and spiral outward, and hire outside help to tackle areas we can't get to with our equipment. We do our very best to keep up, but cannot accommodate individual mowing requests. Be patient and we'll get to it!



FUN FACT: Grass clippings make a great natural green dye color for Easter eggs and fabrics.

- Combine four cups of grass clippings to four cups of water.
- Bring to a boil, then turn down the heat and simmer for 60 minutes.
- Allow to cool before straining the liquid into a glass jar or bowl.
- Add one tablespoon of vinegar for each cup of dye liquid.
- For a darker green, replace water with a strongly brewed hibiscus tea.

Wait, don't you know it's spring nesting season?



Our ditches are home to mallards, pintails, wood ducks and more. They carefully choose nesting spots that are hidden in a tree (cavity nesters), tall grass (upland nesters) or cattails (overwater nesters). Mowing can disturb early nesters, so we mow just the flats the first time, not over the bank. We also keep an eye out and mow slowly to give the hens time to escape so they can re-nest.

How do I report a problem?

We want to hear from you! With 35 miles of ditches and 19 miles of levee to keep an eye on, we have a lot of ground to cover. Please let us know if you see any accidental spills, dumping, beaver dams, nutria or any other problems in the ditch. You can call or email our main office, or submit an online service request on our website at www.cdid1.org.



Do I need to get a permit?

If you live along a ditch, chances are CDID#1 has an easement on your property. Before you build something that might obstruct our access to the ditch, please call us to ask! Permits are free and the process is simple and fast. Typical residential projects that may need a permit include:

- 1 Fences
- 2 Chicken coops and rabbit hutches
- 3 Gardens and raised flower beds
- 4 Playground equipment
- 5 Portable carport or shelter
- 6 Trees, shrubs and privacy hedges
- 7 Above ground swimming pools

Do you take broken concrete?

Yes! We recycle concrete rubble that would otherwise go to the landfill. We accept clean concrete at no charge and use it to improve the banks of our ditches. Must be free of rebar.



Where is my property line?

*If you aren't sure where your property lines are along the ditch, or whether CDID#1 has an easement, give us a call and we'll help you figure it out. Please call **before** you build that fence! We can also help determine who is responsible for trees that may need to be pruned back, limbed or taken out.*

Why did you take out all those trees?

Working in beautiful, Tree City USA means we also help manage an urban forest. We remove trees for a number of reasons. Trees that are too close to the edge can become dangerous when they start to lean heavily. Trees growing close to the water can develop crown rot and become unstable. Other times, toothy beaver love a nice soft cottonwood and will chew through them in a big hurry, leaving several very tall trees in their wake. We love trees and do a lot of trimming where we can, but the time spent picking up debris that falls in wind storms and blocks our ditches can be better spent elsewhere.



FUN FACT: All that glitters..... isn't necessarily pollution. Iron bacteria can also cause a natural sheen.

A simple rock test is an easy way to tell if an oil sheen is caused by pollution or organic decay. A petroleum sheen will quickly reform when disturbed whereas a bacterial sheen will break into small platelets.

What can I do if the ditch bank starts sloughing?

There is no clear cut answer to this except to say our duty is the same to all. We take erosion seriously and look at these on a case by case basis. We take care of our ditches, but can't control the volume or velocity of stormwater that they have to handle. The passage of time, presence of water and poor soils tend to cause erosion. We make reasonable efforts to maintain and restore the ditch banks to avoid situations where sloughing starts to impact or "take" private property beyond the limits of our ownership or easement. In some places, our ability to improve the bank is limited or impossible due to lack of access. Other factors also come into play if unpermitted encroachments or illicit activities are contributing to the erosion. If you see a problem developing, please call us before it gets worse.

What does it mean if there's an easement on my property?

In order to maintain our drainage ways, CDID#1 holds numerous easements. An easement is an agreement that gives us the right to cross or use someone else's private property for a specific purpose. Some of these easements date back to 1923 and new property owners may not even know about them. Our easements provide access to mow, treat noxious weeds, dispatch invasive species, clean ditches and culverts, and perform general maintenance to keep stormwater in the ditches and out of your backyard. Before placing anything in an easement, you need to apply for an encroachment permit. Don't worry, our permits are painless!

Is that a nutria I see?

Probably so. The ditches are also home to beaver, weasels and other wildlife but nutria are especially prolific and destructive. They are invasive and classified as a prohibited aquatic species with extensive burrowing habits that cause serious damage. We actively hunt nutria so don't be alarmed if you see us in action. They carry disease, can be aggressive and the white ones are not rare or special!

