

# SD1

Managing Northern Kentucky's  
Wastewater and Storm Water



## When do I need a professional?

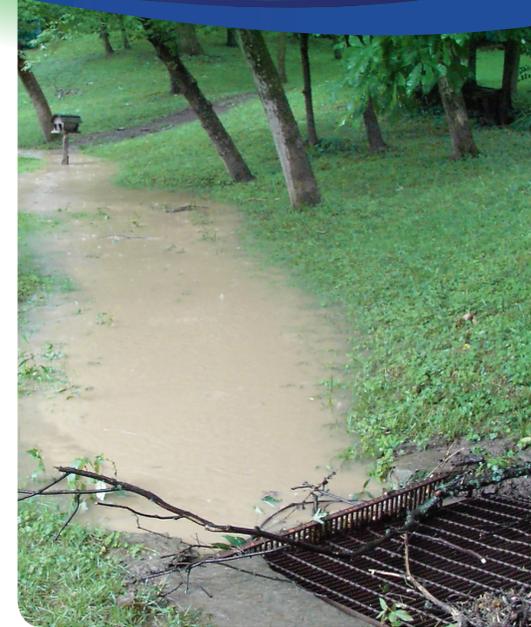
Consult with a plumber, landscaper or engineer to determine if you should add or redirect any drains, downspouts or catch basins on your property. Be careful when adding a new structure, like a shed, or making major landscaping changes to your property. If a change reroutes storm water and has a negative impact on properties downstream, the matter could become a legal issue among neighbors.

Remember that you'll need approval from SD1 to connect to the public storm water sewer system.

## What should I do if I experience overland flooding?

It is important to report each flooding event because SD1 considers customer reports when prioritizing improvement projects. If you suspect that overland flooding has occurred due to issues with SD1's infrastructure, contact SD1 immediately at **859-578-7450** (choose option 2) to report the issue. SD1 will respond to your call by sending a crew out to investigate what caused the flooding and will later notify you about the results.

If overland flooding issues are unrelated to SD1's infrastructure, you should check your city, county or homeowner association's regulations to learn more about how it handles flooding issues.



## Understanding Overland Flooding



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## Why does overland flooding occur?

Overland flooding can occur for a variety of reasons, all stemming from excessive storm water runoff. Storm water runoff occurs when rain or snowmelt is unable to soak into the ground due to impervious surfaces, including sidewalks, rooftops, parking lots and streets. Common causes of excess storm water runoff and overland flooding include the following:

- Too much rain in too little time
- Development that added impervious surface to the area uphill of the flooding site
- Change in landscaping that led to less storm water absorption into the ground or plant roots uphill of the flooding site
- Malfunction, clog or other damage to a storm water control structure, such as a culvert, swale, catch basin, drain or detention basin

## Who is responsible for overland flooding?

Flooding is an ever-present risk, but that risk is compounded by the roofs, roads and parking lots that keep water from soaking into the ground. SD1 works to reduce the risk of overland flooding in a variety of ways, including by maintaining storm sewers and related storm structures. SD1's infrastructure is vast, but it is only part of a complex network of storm water control structures designed to protect Northern Kentucky from flooding and other runoff issues. As a result, responsibility for storm water control is shared among the following entities:

**SD1** is responsible for storm water flow once it enters our storm water system, which includes hundreds of miles of closed storm water pipes and many associated storm structures. For the most part, the flow of storm water before it reaches SD1's system is the responsibility of cities, counties and individual property owners.

**Cities and counties** are responsible for maintaining roadside ditches, culverts, curb and gutter systems and storm catch basin grates.

**Individual property owners** are responsible for the storm drainage systems that convey storm water runoff solely from private property.

## What can I do to prevent overland flooding?

Storm water infrastructure relies on many interconnected parts to protect against flooding. As a result, it is important that private property owners properly maintain structures under their control and consider the downstream effects of their actions. Consider the following to help prevent overland flooding and ensure the entire storm water system runs smoothly:

- Do not discard debris, grass clippings, construction waste, trimmed tree branches or any other landscaping over hillsides or into wooded areas. This debris will eventually end up in drainage ditches and creeks, which could block inlets or outfalls, causing flooding and affecting water quality.
- Bag any leaves, grass clippings, bottles, trash or other debris in front of a storm drain before the next rainfall.
- Look for street grates and drains in the public right of way that are clogged or covered. If you see debris over them, you may remove it yourself or contact your city or county to ask them to clear them.

### Safety Tips

- ▶ Do not wade through flood water. This water may sweep you off your feet or contain contaminants that may be a health concern.
- ▶ Do not drive a car or other motor vehicle through flood water, even if it is over the roadway or appears shallow. Flood water can erode soil and pavement, making the water deeper or faster-moving than it appears.

