

# What is the Role of Rockdale County's Stormwater Utility?

Most people do not realize that there are many stormwater pipes and structures under and along the roadways they drive on every day. These pipes and structures make up the drainage storm sewer system that capture rainwater and direct the water to the County's streams, creeks, lakes and rivers. The Department of Stormwater Management is responsible for inspecting and maintaining over 183 miles of pipe and approximately 19,000 drainage structures within the County's right-of-way.



A significant portion of the County's stormwater infrastructure is currently in disrepair and inadequate. Drainage system components have deteriorated, separated, clogged or broken over time.

**Construction and Maintenance Projects:** Examples of stormwater projects are below:



**Bailey Creek** —The culverts were deteriorated and undersized

Before



After



**Abbot Rd** —The culverts were undersized causing frequent flooding



## How Do I Contact the Stormwater Utility?

### For a Stormwater Maintenance Service Request:

- Call 770-278-7442, and ask for "Stormwater Maintenance"
- You may also e-mail your concerns to: [rscwu@rockdalecountyga.gov](mailto:rscwu@rockdalecountyga.gov)

### For Billing:

- Call 770-278-7155\*, and ask for "Stormwater Billing"
- You may also e-mail your questions to: [rscwu@rockdalecountyga.gov](mailto:rscwu@rockdalecountyga.gov)

\* During the peak billing season (January-March) you may be directed to the stormwater billing phone line (770-278-7131) where you will be asked to leave a message with all necessary information. A billing representative will return your call as soon as they are available; however, it may take up to 2 to 3 days to return a phone call due to the high call volume.



**Rockdale County  
Department of  
Stormwater Management**

## Stormwater Management Overview



*What does the Department of Stormwater Management do for you?*

**Administration & Services Building**  
958 Milstead Avenue  
Conyers, Georgia 30012

**Office: 770-278-7155**  
**After Hours: 770-278-7145**

**Email: [rscwu@rockdalecountyga.gov](mailto:rscwu@rockdalecountyga.gov)**  
**Website: [www.rockdalecountyga.gov](http://www.rockdalecountyga.gov)**

## What is stormwater runoff?

Every time it rains some of the water seeps into the ground, but some of the water is unable to and becomes "stormwater runoff".

Developed areas increase the amount of impervious surfaces (i.e. driveways, parking lots, roofs, roads) that prevent water from soaking into the ground. When less rainfall soaks into the ground, surface runoff generally increases. Increased runoff contributes to higher peak flows in drainage systems and receiving streams.

Rockdale County has traditionally managed stormwater runoff by collecting and channeling it through its roadside ditches and storm sewer system: catch basins on the side of roadways, pipes, junction boxes, ponds, etc.



The above figure illustrates that stormwater runoff travels from a roadside catch basin to an underground pipe. Once inside the pipe, the water travels to the closest waterbody, such as a creek, stream, lake and river.

This stormwater runoff is released directly into bodies of water used for swimming, fishing and drinking.

Stormwater runoff can pick up pollutants such as: debris, litter, trash, dirt, leaves, grass clippings, pet waste, fertilizers, oil, grease and other contaminants. Everything that happens near waterbodies has the potential to affect aquatic and public health, so proper stormwater management is essential.

**For more information please contact Stormwater Management at 770-278-7155**

## Stormwater Management in Rockdale County

The Rockdale County Stormwater Utility was created in 2005 to comply with federal requirements established by the Water Quality Act of 1987. The Utility was managed by the Planning and Development Department until February 2018, when the County created a separate Department of Stormwater Management. As a continuation of the Utility's mission from 2005, the Department of Stormwater Management must inspect and maintain its drainage infrastructure, educate the public about proper stormwater management, and enforce practices to reduce pollution caused by stormwater runoff.

### Who maintains drainage infrastructure?

#### 1. Rockdale County

Rockdale County's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 310-134.a. allows the County to inspect, maintain and replace drainage systems within County-owned properties, rights-of-way and within platted drainage easements. (These areas are shown in the diagram below as being within the red-dashed lines.)

#### 2. Residents / Property owners of Rockdale County

The County has no legal obligation to work within private property. Instead, areas of private property are the property owner's responsibility. This is the case for most drainage pipes, ditches and ponds within private property. Likewise, drainage systems along or under a private road must also be maintained by the property owner.

#### 3. City of Conyers

Stormwater drainage systems that are located within the city of Conyers are outside the jurisdiction of Rockdale County and may be the responsibility of the City, as determined by the City.

#### 4. Georgia D.O.T.

Stormwater drainage systems that are located within the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) rights-of-way are outside the jurisdiction of Rockdale County and may be the responsibility of the GDOT, as determined by GDOT. Dogwood and Iris Drive, Georgia Highway 138, 20, 212, 162 (Salem Road) and Interstate 20 are examples of roads within GDOT rights-of-way.

