

Have a drainage problem?

Does your yard flood or pond water? Maybe your plants aren't growing as well as you have expected. There are many factors that affect the drainage around your home. When your house was constructed, the native soil structure was disturbed and a vast majority of the soil has been covered with impervious surfaces like your driveway, patio, and your home itself. These impervious surfaces prevent water from penetrating deep into the soil and becoming part of the groundwater system. In turn, the water remains on or near the surface, causing flooding or ponding in your yard. If your soil has a low permeability due to heavy compaction or a high clay content, a soil aerator can be used to loosen the soil and provide voids where water can infiltrate. The long root systems of native plants can also be used to increase soil infiltration. Native plant roots extend deep within the soil, creating a system of channels that allows water to move into the soil and away from the surface.

But not all drainage problems can be solved by these simple fixes. In some cases, the drainage problem on your yard may be caused by an adjacent downspout directed toward your yard or a pond that outlets near your property. Disputes between landowners are often settled in civil court on a case by case basis and can be very expensive. The District encourages a cooperative effort between landowners to solve these problems, for it's usually the most successful method for all parties involved. Simply put, water should enter and leave your property where it did prior to earth disturbing activities. A landowner is entitled to reasonable use of the water that flows across his/her land, as long as it's returned to its natural course. This includes ponding water behind a dam for personal use or making drainage improvements to protect structures. The District has assembled some quick facts to help explain the current drainage laws. Please visit our webpage for more information and guidance.

