

May 10, 2016

Tooele County Resident:

As a resident in a subdivision with drainage swales, we want to make you aware of the importance of maintaining the swales on your property. Swales are the graded and engineered landscape feature appearing as a linear, shallow, and open channel with trapezoidal or parabolic shape located in the road right-of-way. (see picture)



The design of grassed swales promotes the conveyance of storm water at a controlled rate during times of above average rainfall and/or snowmelt. Swales also act as a filter, removing pollutants and allowing storm-water infiltration to the aquifer. When properly designed and maintained, a grassed swale results in a significant improvement over the traditional drainage ditch, in both slowing and cleaning of water.

When originally designed, your subdivision incorporated swales to provide a way to deal with storm-water runoff. Alteration of the swales, such as filling in or leveling,

elimination of slopes, placing of culverts, or improper landscaping can jeopardize your property and/or that of your neighbors.

Tooele County code **15-5-3. Public parkstrip and right-of-way with curb and gutter.**

(1) All landscaping on public property including parkstrips and right-of-ways shall be made in accordance with this Section. It is unlawful for the owner, occupant, lessor or agent of any property abutting a public parkstrip or right-of-way with curb and gutter to violate this Section.

(2) The following materials shall be prohibited in parkstrips and public property in right-of-ways with curb and gutter:

- (a) asphalt or concrete, other than drive approaches;
- (b) thorn-bearing plants;
- (c) ground cover and shrubs which exceed 18 inches in height at maturity; and

Wade Bitner
Chairman

Myron E. Bateman

Shawn Milne

TOOELE COUNTY COMMISSION

Tooele County Office Bldg. 47 South Main Street Suite# 300 Tooele, Utah 84074
[Office] 435-843-3150 [fax] 435-843-3400 [toll free] 866-704-3443 www.co.tooele.ut.us

(d) any material that is hazardous to pedestrians and bicyclists, is difficult to walk across, can be removed when kicked or washed into the street or sidewalk, may clog storm drains, prevents percolation of water into the soil, or cause a visual barrier to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists or for the commission of a crime.

(3) The department of engineering shall remove vegetation and structures that violate this Section at the expense of the adjacent landowners. Such removal shall not preclude or be a determination as to criminal charges from being filed with the county attorney.

(4) Adjacent property owners are responsible to adequately water and maintain the landscaping and street trees in the parkstrip. (Ord. 2004-18, 7/13/04; Ord. 2001-36, 12/11/01)

For reference, subdivision road right-of-ways within the county can extend 16 feet or more past the edge of the asphalt. The only way to know for sure where your property line begins is to contact a private surveyor to help locate your property corners.

In closing, if you are contemplating altering the swale in any way, we strongly urge you to consider possible ramifications. Be mindful of not only consequences to your own property, but those of neighboring lots as well. If you are currently complying with the above ordinance, we thank you.

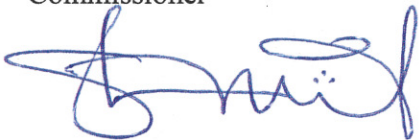
Sincerely,



Wade Bitner
Commissioner



Myron Bateman
Commissioner



Shawn Milne
Commissioner

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