

Memorandum

NORTH OLMSTED ENGINEERING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: I need to find the location of my sanitary/storm test tee. Can you help me?

Answer: We can check your address file to see if we have information concerning this. We can then give you the approximate location over the phone or make a copy from our file for you to pick up. If we have no information concerning the location, you may contact the Waste Water Treatment plant for help in locating sanitary test tees or the Service Department for location of storm test tees.

Question: Where do I obtain maps of the city?

Answer: The Engineering Department does have copies of street and zoning maps that you may obtain for a small fee.

Question: Who is responsible for the sidewalk in front of my home?

Answer: The public (right-of-way) sidewalk, although owned by the City is the maintenance responsibility of the property owner.

Question: I am interested in purchasing a lot in Butternut Ridge Cemetery. Who do I contact?

Answer: The Engineering Department maintains the records and/or sales of lots in Butternut Ridge and Coe Ridge Cemeteries.

Question: The apron of my driveway is in disrepair. Will the city fix it for me?

Answer: The public (right-of-way) apron, although owned by the City is the maintenance responsibility of the property owner.

Question: We have a problem with cars speeding down our street. Can a stop sign be installed at the corner of our street?

Answer: Research shows that other measures are often more effective than adding more stop signs or traffic signals as way to reduce speeding. The purpose of stop signs and traffic signals is to assign right-of-way at an intersection, not to control speeding. Overuse of stop signs reduces their effectiveness and if installed where not justified they are largely ignored by drivers who tend to speed up between stop sign controlled intersections rather than slow down.

Question: Can a "Slow – Children at Play" sign be installed on my street? Cars are speeding down the street and I am afraid they will hit my children.

Answer: We do not recommend installing these signs because studies have shown that these signs have failed to achieve the desired safety benefits. Further, children should not be encouraged to play in the street, especially since studies have shown that these signs do not work. These signs will give children a false sense of security. Finally, the Ohio Department of Transportation does not recommend using this type of signing on any roadway at any time because of the above-listed reasons.

Question: Will the City please install a crosswalk across a main road even though there is no traffic signal?

Answer: Crosswalks at mid-block locations that are not controlled by a traffic signal or stop sign are not recommended due to safety considerations. Even if adequate markings, lighting and signing are provided, drivers tend to disregard the law and fail to stop. An engineering study is also required to determine if the crosswalk is warranted. Additionally, if a flashing yellow signal is installed, pedestrians incorrectly assume that traffic must stop for the signal when in fact they are not required by law to stop. It is recommended that pedestrians cross at signalized intersections when the signal is red or at a stop sign.

Question: May I enclose the roadside ditch in front of my house with a pipe? It is very difficult to mow the grass in the ditch on the slope.

Answer: The Engineering Department no longer permits enclosures of roadside ditches because 1) the flow capacity of the ditch will be significantly reduced if a pipe is installed, 2) the larger flow capacity of a ditch helps prevent upstream flooding, 3) a ditch allows storm water to recharge ground water levels which have become depleted due to extensive land development, 3) the soil and vegetation in a ditch filter pollutants from the storm water before they enter Lake Erie and our drinking water—a pipe sends the pollutants straight to Lake Erie, 4) a

roadside ditch provides a storage area for storm water in your front yard which helps prevent flooding in your basement.

Question: Do I need a landscaping permit if I want to put in a new lawn?

Answer: Landscaping permits are not required for new lawns except when the elevation of the yard is raised by the addition of topsoil and/or landscape mounds.

Question: Is the City responsible for snaking out my sewer lines between by house and the public sidewalk?

Answer: The property owner is responsible for maintaining sewer lines between the house and the public sidewalk (right-of-way). The City is responsible for maintaining sewer lines between the public sidewalk and the sewer main.