

Driveway Culvert & Ditch Care on Private Property – a KFA Guideline

[10/2025]

Managing stormwater and drainage in Keyes Ferry Acres is a vital component of preserving road surfaces. Acting in the interest of the community as a whole, KFAMA maintains roadside culverts and ditches to help prevent road deterioration. However, there are junctures where public road care intersects with drainage systems located on private land. At such points, the Association cannot provide care without crossing private boundary lines. At these areas, the Association calls upon private property owners to contribute care and maintenance on behalf of the community's investment in improved roads. This care is intended to avoid adverse impact on the adjacent community-owned roads from poorly maintained drainage on private land.

To help prevent damage to adjoining community roads, these guidelines urge preventive care and maintenance of driveway culverts and drainage ditches located on/within private boundary lines.

The rationale and authority of Keyes Ferry Acres Roads Maintenance Association (KFAMA) to publish these guidelines is also explained.

Purpose of these guidelines

The purpose of these guidelines is to:

- Promote proper drainage and water flow within and around privately held lots
- Prevent flooding and erosion of adjacent roads and neighboring properties
- Protect community infrastructure by preventing damage to roadways and facilities

Scope

While most ditches are located within road easements, these guidelines apply to each lot owner in Keyes Ferry Acres with drainage components such as driveway culverts, ditches or swales located on/within their property line.

Lot Owner Attention and Care

Each Keyes Ferry Acres lot owner is asked to maintain driveway culverts and the associated drainage system located on their property, which includes attention to the following:

- **Routine monitoring and cleaning** - containing and maintaining free flowing stormwater entails regularly inspecting driveway culverts and associated drainage systems. Clear them of obstructions such as debris, trash, leaves, branches, sediment or other.

- **Pay special attention during the following conditions** - before and after heavy rainfall; when standing water is observed in the swale; or when the culvert pipe is filled 20% or more with sediment.
- **Yard waste disposal** - prevent debris from entering the culvert or roadside ditches by properly containing or disposing of yard waste such as cut grass, dead leaves and fallen branches.
- **Repairing damage** - in a timely manner repair damaged culvert ends or barrels; remove debris to restore free flowing runoff and help prevent sediment buildup.
- **Maintain access** – to allow inspection and maintenance access, avoid obstructing culverts and ditches with fencing, structures or sheds.

Organization Authority and Oversight

Roadways are common owned property throughout Keyes Ferry Acres, maintained by funds collected annually from each lot owner. KFAMA has authority over roadway care and protection and so provides these guidelines on behalf of the community and its investment in improved roads. The guidelines are based on a premise of fairness: if road damage is traced to poorly maintained drainage by a private lot owner, it is an unfair demand on community funds to pay restoration or repair costs attributed to individuals' neglect.

It is understood that heavy downpours can overwhelm drainage systems that ordinarily perform adequately. But if road damage adjacent to their property is clearly attributed to failure to maintain a culvert or the associated drainage system, the KFA lot owner may be asked to contribute toward road restoration or repair cost.

Recommendations

As needed, consider hiring a professional for culvert and ditch preventive care, maintenance or repairs. Routine tasks help extend the lifespan of driveway culverts and avoid damage which may incur costly repairs. When stormwater is properly contained and free flowing, both the private property owner and the community benefit.

Summary

Improvement, upkeep and restoration of community roadways are a primary responsibility of Keyes Ferry Acres Maintenance Association. Managing stormwater and drainage is a vital component of preserving road surfaces. The Association cannot accomplish this alone without community participation. Lot owners with driveway culverts and/or drainage swales or ditches within/on their property line are asked to share this responsibility. Free flowing yet properly

contained stormwater is dependent upon well maintained drainage systems (culverts, swales or ditches). Though located on private property, they may potentially be vital in helping to protect the adjacent community roadway from damaging erosion.

When funds are conserved rather than spent on road repairs that could have been prevented, it benefits community-wide projects that improve roads for all.

Thank you.

Please note: Any lot owner planning to pave a driveway or install / modify / upgrade / or replace a culvert, please contact KFAMA for review of the proposed plan. There may be modifications that can optimize the drainage design.

Please refer to the KFAMA Culvert Installation Policy, available to view on the KFAMA website, KFAMA.org. *Once again, thank you very much.*)

For further information, please contact support@KFAMA.com