

DRAINAGE TERMS

North Richland Hills

Public Works Department

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Drainage Terms

- **Storm Water:** The term storm water refers to rainwater. Storm water flows from properties in NRH and washes into storm drains on the curbs of roads and eventually flows to the Trinity River. Unlike wastewater, storm water is untreated and it can carry pollutants, sediments, and trash directly into our natural water resources.
- **Curb Inlet:** A location where storm water runoff from the street enters the storm drain system. Curb inlets are part of the public drainage system and are maintained by the City.

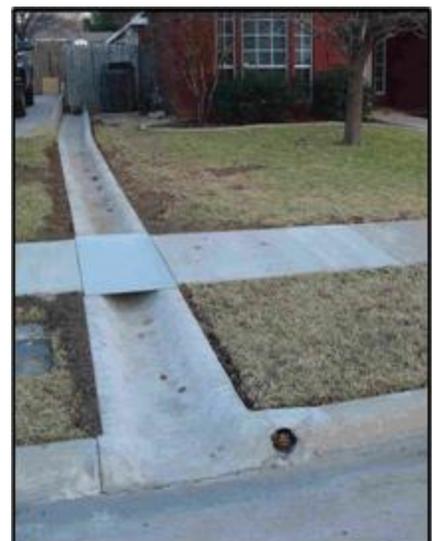
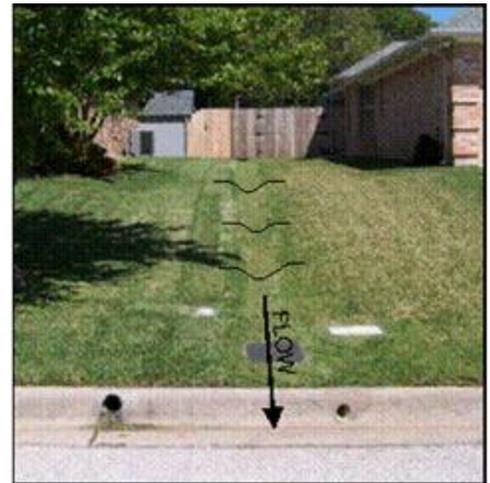


- **Drop Inlet:** A location where storm water runoff from an open area enters the storm drain system. Drop inlets are usually part of the public drainage system, but can sometimes be considered private (private inlets are not maintained by the City.)



Drainage Terms

- **Swale:** A depression between slopes that carries drainage. Most homes are constructed with a swale at the property line between neighbors. Some homes also have a rear swale which directs the water around the house from the rear to the side yard. Swales tend to be relatively shallow with gentle side slopes. Swales can be almost unnoticeable as a landscape feature, but are vital for carrying storm water away from or around the home. Unfortunately, sometimes swales are mistakenly filled in by homeowners who do not realize that this lower-lying area actually serves an important drainage purpose.
- **Flume:** An open artificial channel or chute carrying a stream of water. Typically, it is constructed of concrete, and looks like a narrow sidewalk with curbs on both sides. The benefit of a flume over an earthen or grassy swale is that it can accommodate more runoff (it carries the storm water away faster.)



A privately-constructed flume (about 1' wide) built by this homeowner carries storm water from the backyard to the street