

Swales are the small culverts at the edge of some residential properties that help direct water away from homes.

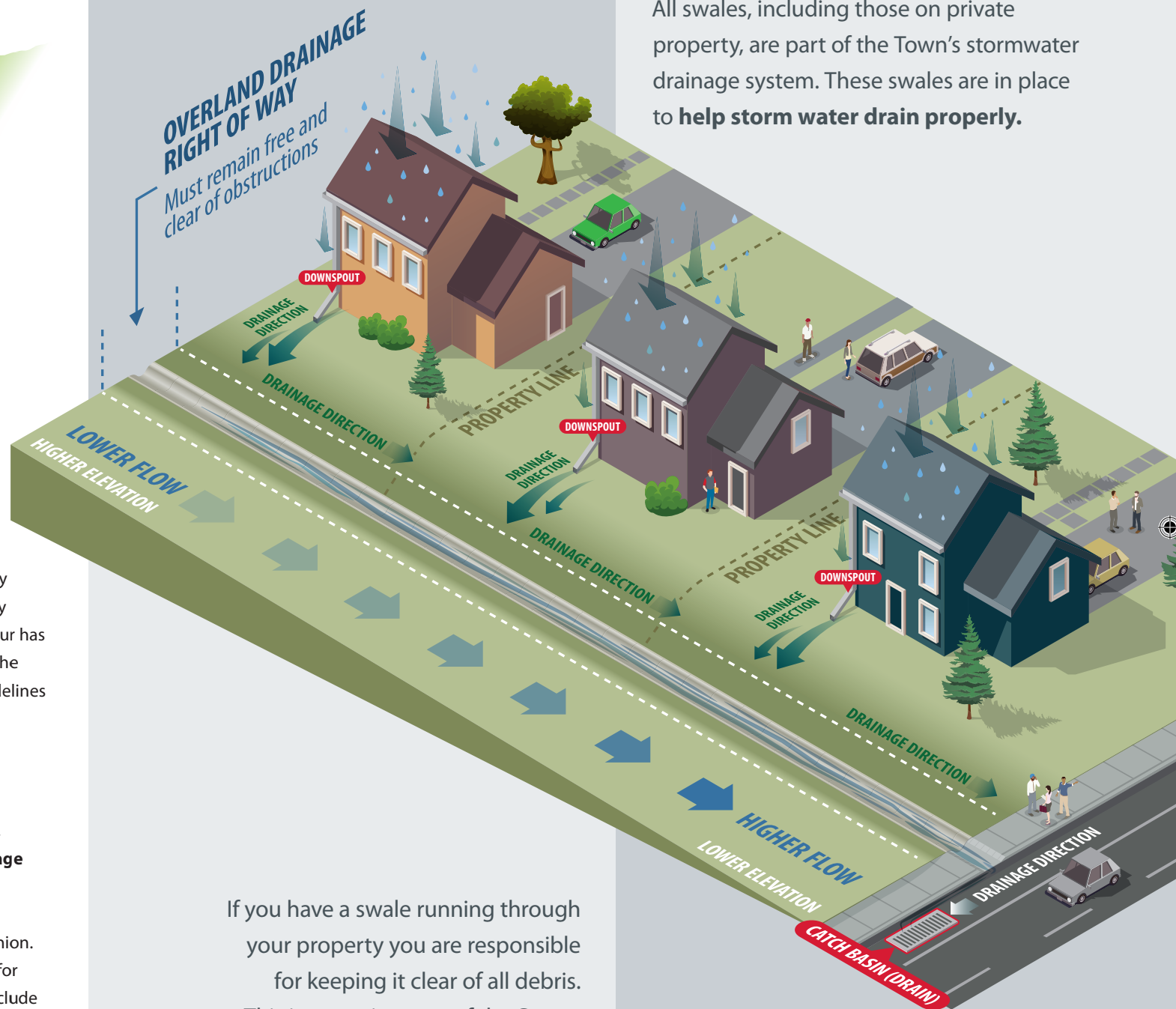
Grass or Concrete Swales - Property Owner Responsibilities

Grass or concrete swales commonly run along the back or side of residential properties. These swales are in place to help storm water drain properly. They help prevent flooding and damage to your property and your neighbour's. If either you or your neighbour has a swale, this information will help you understand the building restrictions related to it, as well as the guidelines and your responsibilities for maintaining it.

Your Responsibilities

If you have a swale running through your property you are responsible for keeping it clear of all debris. This is a requirement of the **Okotoks Storm Drainage Bylaw 18-13**.

Swales must not be blocked or restricted in any fashion. An obstruction is anything that impacts the ability for storm water to drain through the swale and may include dirt, loam, gravel, plant material, snow, slush, and ice or any equipment, or building materials.



All swales, including those on private property, are part of the Town's stormwater drainage system. These swales are in place to **help storm water drain properly**.

If you have a swale running through your property you are responsible for keeping it clear of all debris. This is a requirement of the **Storm Drainage Bylaw 18-13**.



If you have a swale on your side of the property line, remember that your neighbour behind or beside you must also be able to drain their lawn and property into the swale.

While these structures should remain clear throughout the year, it is especially important in the late winter and early spring months to remove any snow, ice and debris which has accumulated within the swales so runoff from snow melting can flow smoothly off your property.

Overland Drainage Right-of-Way

Swales located on private properties are typically protected by Overland Drainage Right-of Ways.

These right-of-ways extend beyond the limits of the physical swale area. These right-of ways must also remain free and clear of any obstructions and not be altered in any fashion.

Alterations not allowed may include, but are not limited to, raising or lowering the grade or ground, planting trees and shrubs within the right-of-way, obstructing the right-of-way, constructing any structure, such as a shed or retaining walls, within the right-of-way.

Failure to maintain the overland drainage right-of-way may result in your swale within the right-of-way not performing as it is intended.

More information

Refer to the Certificate of Title registered against your property to determine if an Overland Drainage Restrictive Covenant applies and familiarize yourself with your responsibilities and obligations for the overland drainage right-of-way.

Additional details pertaining to **Bylaw 18-13** may be found on the Town of Okotoks' website at **okotoks.ca** or by calling Operations at **403-938-8952**.



Grass and Concrete Swales

Information for property owners

