

CULVERTS 101:

HOW RESIDENTS CAN MAINTAIN THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE

What is a culvert? A culvert is a pipe located in the right of way, usually under a driveway, that allows water to drain from one area to another. Culverts allow water to drain more effectively than pool on the roadway, which causes traffic hazards and road deterioration. You may not realize it, but many houses in Winthrop Harbor have culverts located at the base of and underneath your driveway. It can be easy to ignore culverts until a problem arises. Most culverts are made of metal, steel aluminum or plastic and can erode or corrode from road salt, erosion and the weather's elements. They can also become clogged from sediment, dirt and other materials.



Similar to a driveway apron, a culvert falls under the homeowner's responsibility for maintenance and repairs. Here are some tips for maintaining your culvert:

- Keep the pipe free from obstructions, like debris silt, garbage litter, etc.
- Be watchful after inclement weather event for increased debris build up
- Monitor the pipe to ensure it's not corroded or eroded
- Ensure the pipe is aligned correctly and that the ends are not collapsed
- Watch for large brush or other large items upstream that may get caught in your culvert

Here are some signs your culvert is in need of repair:

- The roadway and driveway is sinking, uneven or you see a sinkhole
- The pavement has cracks or settling on the driveway or roadway surface
- The pipe is eroded or corroded – this may mean the integrity of the pipe is compromised and should be repaired

These all may be signs that your culvert is damaged. For more information on how to maintain a culvert, please contact Public Works at (847) 872-5275



Village of Winthrop Harbor

Department of Public Works

847-872-5275

www.winthropharbor.com