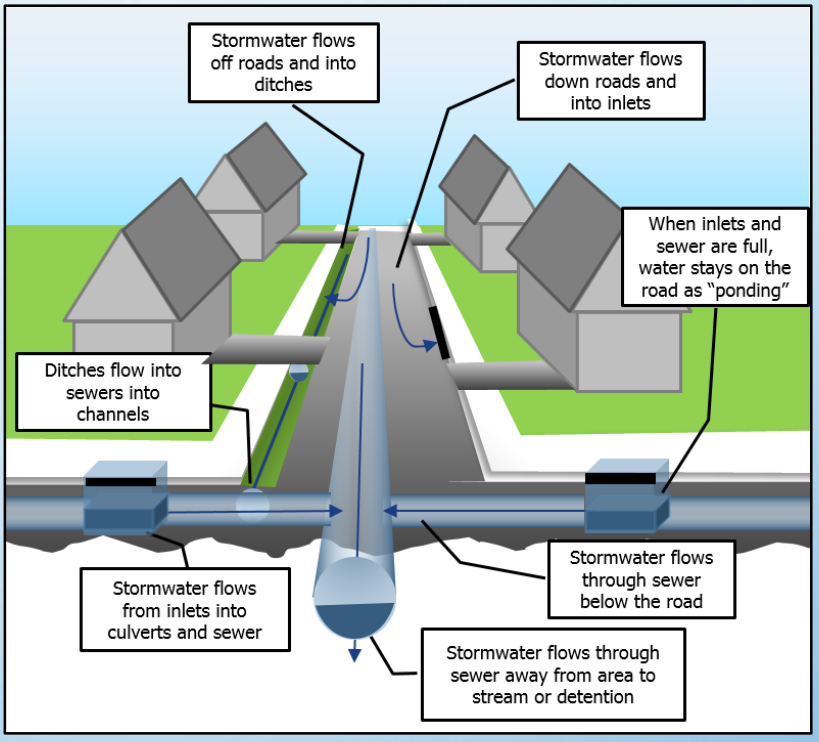
Fort Bend County #50
Municipal Utility District

How Your Drainage System Works

Our stormwater system is made up of roadway curb inlets, underground storm sewers, roadside ditches, and detention basins. All of these pieces work together to move stormwater runoff away from us quickly and efficiently to reduce the likelihood of flooding structures. You can help keep these systems operating well.

Why do we occasionally see localized flooding?

The storm sewer system is specially designed to handle what engineers call a "2-year" rain. In this area, that is about 4 inches in one day or an intensity of 2 in/hr for one hour. If it rains more than that, or with higher intensity, the system can get overwhelmed and will need more time to move all the stormwater away, creating localized flooding in streets, yards, and other open areas. Once the storm sewers and detention basin have time to empty, the localized flooding will drain away to creeks and streams.



Why do roads sometimes flood during heavy rain?

Roadways with curbs and gutters are actually designed to help hold and move some of the stormwater when the storm sewers are overwhelmed. Ponding on the road is normal during heavy rain. The whole system works together to reduce the likelihood of flooding structures. Note: <u>You should never drive through deep ponded water. Temporary standing water on the road can make it difficult to control your car and be very dangerous!</u>

How can you help keep the storm sewer system functioning properly?

Blockages in the system can be caused by branches, garbage, debris, grass clippings, leaves, loose gravel or dirt, and other stormwater pollutants. Please don't dump items into inlets or into roadside ditches. Use a bagging mower or mulch clippings to the center of your yard. Bag leaves in the fall so they don't clog our drainage system.