

## LCE ROADSIDE DITCH POLICY

The Lorain County Engineer's office usually prefers open channels such as swales or ditches along roads because of better drainage capacity, slower flow velocity, water quality benefits, and economy -- in comparison to pipes or tiles.

Our investigations indicate that some drainage problems are caused by ditch enclosures; and that the best solution is often to restore the original open ditch!

Any ditch enclosure with a tile or pipe should be designed by a professional engineer in accordance with the Lorain County "Storm Water Conveyance Design Criteria" rules that can be found on pages 25-27 at

<https://stormwater.loraincounty.us/platform/cms/LCSWMD%20Comprehensive%20Storm%20Water%20Management%20Rules%20191030.pdf>

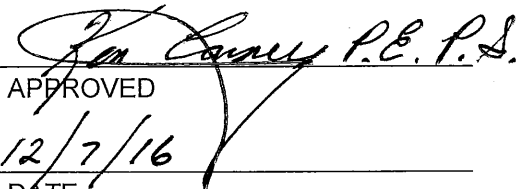
Any ditch enclosure with a tile or pipe should be constructed and installed in accordance with good construction practices, as shown on our attached detail for County roads (Exhibit A). Note that the detail requires a minimum 12" drop-off from the edge of the road for proper drainage, which can only be accomplished with a sufficiently deep pipe. Many roadside ditches are not sufficiently deep to be properly enclosed.

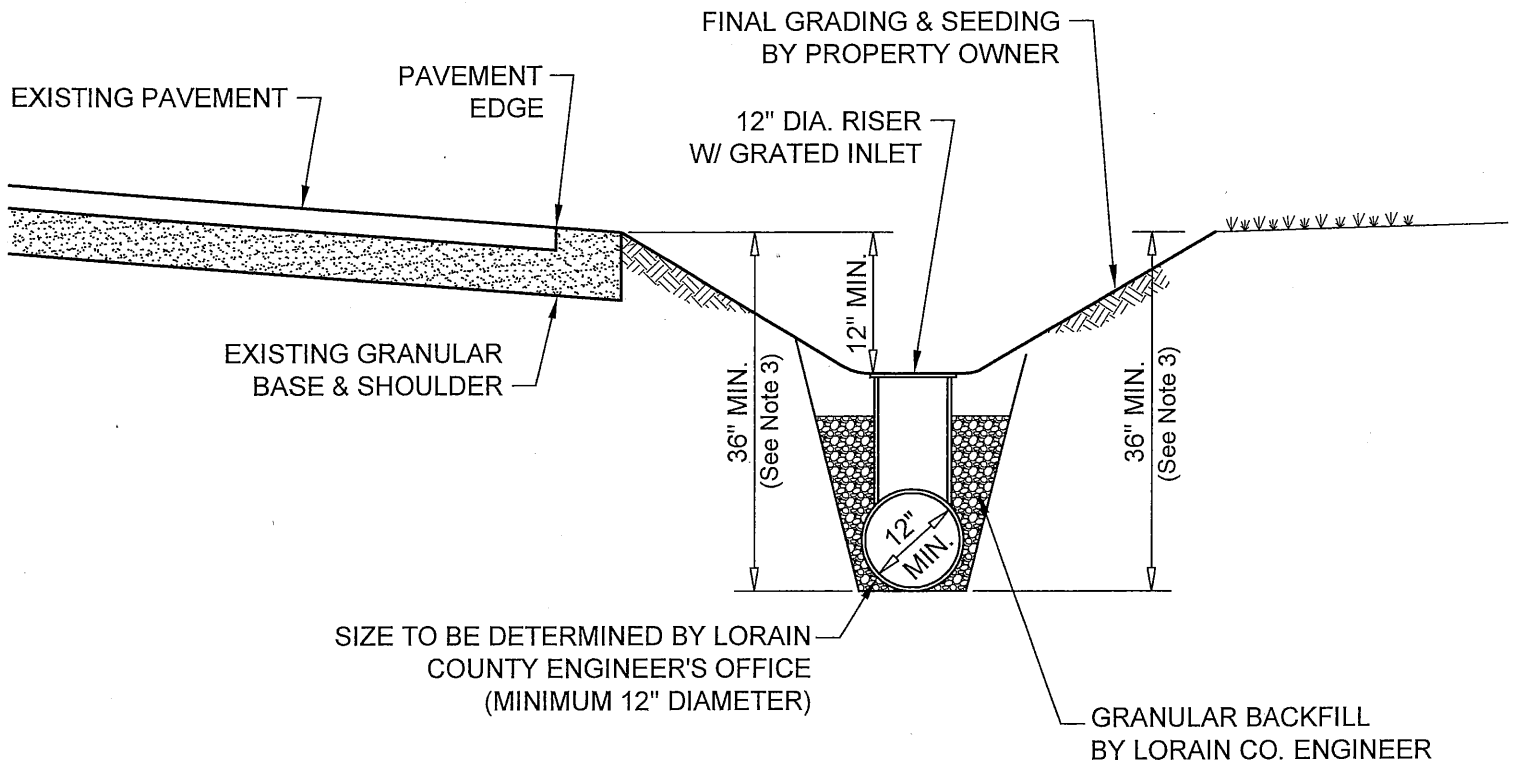
Permits are required for driveway pipes and ditch enclosures on County roads; Check with your local Township officials whether a local permit is required.



**LORAIN COUNTY ENGINEER  
ROADSIDE DITCH POLICY**

1. Curtain drains, tiles from low areas, foundation drains, downspouts, etc. are permitted to discharge into the county maintained roadside ditch provided that they are part of the watershed currently being conveyed.
2. Roadside ditch cleaning will be done only to benefit the road and roadway drainage. Requests for cleaning by the property owners will be entertained only if the work will result in a benefit to the roadside drainage.
3. Ditch enclosures will be permitted only if adequate roadside drainage is maintained after the improvement is constructed. In general, existing roadside ditches must be a minimum of 36" below the edge of the pavement or 36" below backside of ditch, whichever side is at a lower elevation, to qualify for a ditch enclosure (See Exhibit A). Labor and granular backfill will be provided by the Lorain County Engineer's Office. Approved conduit and risers are the responsibility of the property owner.

  
APPROVED  
12/7/16  
DATE



**EXHIBIT A**