

Why you need to know...

The purpose of this brochure is to describe the driveway and culvert regulations adopted by the Genesee County Road Commission and explain the procedures to ensure efficient and safe driveway connections onto public highways.

The Michigan Legislature enacted Public Act 200 of 1969 giving county road commissions the authority to regulate activities within the rights-of-way along roads under the county's jurisdiction. In Genesee County, this is accomplished with a review and permit process.

Since the efficiency and safety of a highway depends to a large degree upon the amount and type of roadside interference with moving traffic, reasonable standards for the location and design of driveways must be established. It is generally recognized that road-fronting landowners (abutters) have certain rights of access consistent with their needs and road users have certain rights to safety and free traffic flow associated with efficient highway operation. It is the responsibility of the highway authority, in this case, the Genesee County Road Commission, to regulate and control the design location of access driveways in an effort to meet the needs and rights of both abutters and travelers.

Restrictions as to the design, location and number of driveways are based on the conclusion that the abutter is not entitled to access at all points of his property along a public highway and that the Genesee County Road Commission has the right to regulate the use of the highway to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all its citizens.

John H. Daly III, Ph.D.
Manager-Director

Fred F. Peivandi, P.E.
County Highway Engineer

Bonnie P. Wood, P.E.
Traffic Engineering & Permits

Avoid the most commonly made driveway mistakes!

1. Provide a slope (fall) of ¼ inch per foot from the edge of the road towards the ditch centerline to drain water **away** from the road. Construct side slopes of one on three, from either side of the drive surface, towards the culvert ends.
2. Do **not** install headwalls! Headwalls of any kind around culvert ends are dangerous and prohibited.
3. Make sure to excavate sod/soil from beneath the culvert installation area. Provide sufficient cover over culvert. And, maintain the existing water flow.
4. Do not pave any portion of a drive to the edge of a gravel road. Asphalt and/or concrete driveway approaches on gravel roads, must **not** be paved between the edge of the road and the centerline of the ditch.
5. Paved driveway approaches, including radii, must be five inches of non-reinforced concrete or six inches of asphalt, and must be flush with the surrounding pavement and shoulders.
6. Residential driveways must have a minimum width of ten feet and a maximum width of twenty feet. Twelve feet is a standard width.
7. Remove trees as required. Trees and/or branches must be removed from the rights-of-way, when directed by GCRC staff. It is necessary to have proper sight distance at all driveway approaches.
8. Do **not** construct any portion of your driveway, including radii or flares, on your neighbor's property without his/her written consent to do so. A copy of your agreement must be filed with the Genesee County Road Commission.
9. Do **not** fill any ditches! They are a necessary part of the road system.
10. Do not construct or apply for a driveway permit on a land division prior to obtaining a land division permit. A land division permit will determine if there is accessibility to an existing county roadway.

Questions or Comments?

Genesee County Road Commission
211 W. Oakley Street
Flint, MI 48503

Call: (810) 767-4920

Visit us on the web: www.gcrc.org
Email: permit@gcrc.org

GCRC Mission Statement

Our mission, as Genesee County Road Commission employees, is to collectively provide and maintain a safe, cost efficient and quality county road system for the motorists in Genesee County, Michigan.

.Revised March 21 2017

What you need to know about...

Driveways and Culverts

Including:

- ▶ **Permit procedures**
- ▶ **Farm field driveways**
- ▶ **Residential driveways**
- ▶ **Drainage and culverts**
- ▶ **Maintenance ditching**
- ▶ **Driveways at the end of certified roads**



Board of Road Commissioners

Permit Procedure

Other than for highway travel purposes, any activity within or using the rights-of-way along roads under the jurisdiction of the Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC) is subject to a review and permitting process. This process has been established to help ensure safe travel on roads in Genesee County by discouraging those activities or objects that may create a hazard. The process also controls those activities that may interfere with road maintenance, snow plowing, drainage or future road improvement projects.

Permit Fees: The GCRC is allowed by law to charge a fee to defray administrative and inspection costs pertinent to the issuance of driveway permits. Refer to www.gcrc.org for a current fee schedule or call us at (810) 767-4920.

Revoking of Permits: A permit may be revoked by the highway authority issuing it if at any time the permitted object, use or activity fails to meet the requirements of Public Act 200 of 1969 or rules made in accordance therewith.

Correcting Violations: Any driveway which is constructed or reconstructed after the effective date of the rules issued pursuant to Public Act 200 of 1969 and which is in violation of the rules shall be corrected by the owner within a period of time, not less than 30 days, as specified in the notice of violation sent by certified mail to the owner. If not corrected within the time period required by the notice, the GCRC or its agents may perform the necessary correction and the owner shall reimburse the GCRC for reasonable cost of correction.

Farm Field Driveways

Any driveway serving cultivated fields, timber land or undeveloped land not used for industrial, commercial or residential uses shall be defined as a farm field driveway.

Width

1. All farm field driveways shall have a minimum width of 10 feet and a maximum width of 24 feet as measured at right-angles to the centerline of the driveway at the rights-of-way line.
2. All farm field driveways shall meet the traveled way with a curve with a minimum radius of 10 feet.

Location: No portion of a farm field driveway, including the curve which meets the traveled way, shall extend beyond the property line of an adjoining parcel of property extended at right-angles to the centerline of the rights-of-way from the point where the property line meets the rights-of-way line, unless written approval of the adjoining property owner is obtained and a copy filed with the GCRC.

Surface Treatment: All farm field driveways shall be seeded or sodded to provide plant growth which will stabilize the driveway and minimize erosion. Surfacing will be permitted on request in accordance with requirements herein applicable to residential driveways.

Number of Driveways: A permit may be granted for a driveway to serve each 10 acres of cultivated land, timber land or undeveloped land.

Residential Driveways

All driveways for the purpose of serving the residents of single or two family dwellings or a farm yard adjacent to a farm residence shall be defined as a residential driveway.

Width

1. All residential driveways shall have a minimum width of 10 feet and a maximum width of 20 feet as measured at a right-angle to the centerline of the driveway at the rights-of-way line. On curb and gutter streets, a maximum 30 feet curb opening will be allowed.
2. All residential driveways shall meet the traveled way with a minimum radius or flare of 5 feet.

Location: Any portion of a residential driveway, including the curve which meets the traveled way, shall **not**:

- extend beyond the property line of an adjoining parcel of property extended at right-angles to the centerline of the rights-of-way from the point where the property line meets the rights-of-way line, unless written approval of the adjoining property owner is obtained and a copy filed with the GCRC.
- be located closer than 30 feet from the spring point of the nearest radius of the intersecting street or nearest rights-of-way line of the intersecting street, whichever is greater.
- be located closer than 30 feet to one another, if serving the same property, as measured at the rights-of-way line parallel to the centerline of the road.
- be closer than 5 feet from an existing curb inlet basin.

Joint Driveways: When both the property owners abutting a common property line agree, they may construct a joint residential driveway which shall have a minimum width of 10 feet and a maximum width of 30 feet. It shall meet all the rules regarding residential driveways, except that pertaining to location in respect to property lines.

Surface Treatment: All residential driveways on curb and gutter streets must be paved a minimum distance of 10 feet from back of curb toward the rights-of-way lane with one of the following:

- 5" minimum depth non-reinforced Portland Cement concrete, or
- 6" minimum depth bituminous aggregate base and surface (placed in at least two courses).

Residential driveways on other than curb and gutter streets shall be surfaced with gravel, or paved in accordance with GCRC permit specifications.

Please note that if your hard surface drive is removed because of a failed culvert, the paved approach will **not** be replaced in kind.

Number of Driveways: One residential driveway will be permitted for each platted lot except circle drives will be permitted on lots in excess of 70 feet frontage or for the first 70 feet or more of residential property held in one piece in unplatted areas. The GCRC reserves the right to deny additional driveways in accordance with access management principles.



Drainage and Culverts

Road drainage facilities provide for carrying water across the rights-of-way and for removal of storm water from the road itself. Access over a road side ditch can be provided for by placing a culvert.

Upon request, the GCRC will evaluate the proposed access and determine if a culvert is required and specify its diameter and length. The property owner shall purchase the specified culvert and ensure its installation. This procedure is cost effective for the property owner and the GCRC since it reduces our maintenance costs.

Culvert diameter shall not be less than 12"

No culvert shall length shall provide steeper than 1' on 3' side slope around and above the culvert ends on both sides.

All culverts shall be corrugated metal pipe or reinforced concrete Meeting MDOT Class F drive culvert specifications.



Maintenance Ditching

Every year, the GCRC maintenance crews perform ditching along our county roads. At times, this maintenance work reveals culverts in an unsatisfactory condition. If discovered, a new corrugated metal pipe will be placed. The costs associated with the new culvert will be invoiced to the property owner after the ditching is complete.

Any paved approaches that are removed to accommodate culvert placement will be replaced with 23A gravel or equivalent

Policy for Driveways at the End of a Certified Road

On platted road rights-of-way, where no road has been constructed, the GCRC will issue up to two (2) driveway permits to use the undeveloped rights-of-way to access property beyond the end of the existing certified road. Any additional applications for access will require construction of a road. This road will be constructed to GCRC standards and will be placed prior to any issuance of driveway permits. The property owner will be responsible for the road costs.