



Deal Island Peninsula Project

Ditch Maintenance Best Practices for Property Owners

Who to Contact:

Non-Roadside Ditches- Charles Cavanaugh: ccavanaugh@somersetmd.us 410 651 9641

Roadside Ditches- Woody Barnes: wbarnes@somersetmd.us 410 651 1930

Things to Consider:

- After a rain, high tides or a storm it will likely take at least 2-3 tide cycles for the water to be gone and more if you are further inland.
- For Roadside ditches, the County jurisdiction is 15ft from the center of the road. So anything beyond that is property owner responsibility.
- For non-roadside ditches it helps if the neighbors are all in agreement about ongoing maintenance. The County has to get easements and permission from all property owners. If they can not then they move onto another project.
- Property owners are responsible for maintaining the ditches on their property.
- Somerset County can provide technical and limited financial assistance in replacing driveway culverts. Contact Woody Barnes for more information.

Best Practices to Maintain the Ditches on your Property:

1. Keep the ditches free of debris and clean out yearly leaves, pine needles and other debris that may have accumulated.
2. Kill/pull/cut down the Phragmites. Somerset County recommends the use of Rodeo for Phragmites management.
3. Do not use chemicals to kill grass and weeds on the banks of the ditch. This creates bare spots and contributes to siltation/erosion
4. Clean out/Maintain openings under driveways.