

# Trap Low Design

## FLOODING DURING RAIN

**Q What do you do during a big rain storm when the street is flooded and water is starting to come into your yard?**

The streets of any new subdivision in the City of Calgary are designed to be in compliance with an approved Stormwater Management Plan to handle severe rainstorms. The Trap Low Design is a requirement by the City of Calgary Wastewater and Drainage Division as part of this plan.

Ponding areas are designed and constructed to temporarily hold back runoff so that areas downstream do not receive large quantities of stormwater/snowmelt all at once. To assist the underground pipe system during a rainstorm, temporary stormwater storage sites called "Trap Lows" are designed into the streets, lanes and even parks to accommodate a high volume of water. These ponding areas eventually drain down slowly (up to 24 hours) and are designed so that the detained water does not enter any buildings.

The ponding may encroach into the lot or driveway and remain there for a while. Do not panic if you see water rising in your street, or even in your driveway, during a fast rainfall. Predetermined grading plans are followed at the time of construction to ensure the water will flow towards the Trap Low and slowly drain into catch basins once the rain subsides. There is an easement registered on any lot that will have temporary ponding on it. This easement is registered in favour of the City/Town/Municipality and legally permits the ponding to occur on the lot.

Should you have concerns that there may be a blockage preventing the ponding to drain slowly into the catch basins, as stated above, report your concern to The City of Calgary by dialing 311.