



DNREC

Tax Ditches and Septic Systems Considerations when Installing a Septic System

Did you Know?

ALL septic systems are considered Tax Ditch Rights-of-Way (ROW) obstructions

Septic Systems located or installed within a Tax Ditch ROW are subject to [§ 4186 of the Tax Ditch Law](#). As such, upon request of a Tax Ditch officer the septic system must be removed at the landowners expense and the landowner is responsible for paying any fines issued for the violation.

If you are a landowner planning or contractor hired to install a septic system you must ensure the septic system is located outside of Tax Ditch Rights-of-Way (ROW).

Does my property have a Tax Ditch Rights-of-Way?

Visit de.gov/taxditchmap and search by street address or Parcel ID to find out!

A Closer Look: Navigating the Tax Ditch Map

If there is a Tax Ditch ROW on a property, it will be illustrated as an orange polygon on the map (see below). As you zoom in on a property the ROW width will also appear. **All** permanent features, including septic systems, must be installed outside of the existing ROW.



How to move forward if your property has a Tax Ditch Rights-of-Way

The [DNREC Tax Ditch Program](#) will review and evaluate the proposed request in consultation with the tax ditch officers to determine an acceptable path forward.

To initiate review of the proposed septic system, please complete and submit the form found [here](#).

To expedite our review be sure to include a site plan/sketch of the septic system location and include the proposed distance of the septic system from the top of the tax ditch bank.

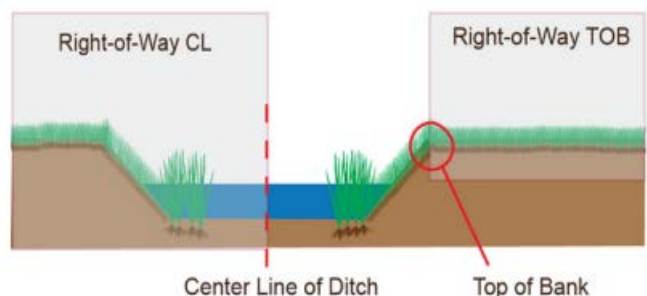
Office Location & Contact

DNREC Tax Ditch Program

21309 Berlin Road, Unit 6 Georgetown, DE 19947

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Typical Tax Ditch Cross-Section/Rights-of-Way



Map and Cross-Section Abbreviations Defined:

TOB- Top of Bank

CL- Centerline

MT- Maintenance Turnaround

SAR- Special Access ROW