



Todd County Drainage Ditches

- ❖ **Todd County has approximately 368 miles of County Ditches (CD) and Joint Judicial Ditches (JD).**
 - CD systems are the ditch systems that are entirely in Todd County. Todd County has 44 CD systems.
 - JD systems are the ditch systems that are shared with a neighboring county. Todd County has 5 JD systems.
 - Most of the ditch systems look like “natural” waterways and landowners are sometimes surprised to find that the stream or creek running through their property is actually a CD or JD ditch.
 - Todd County has a mix of agricultural land and recreational hunting land. The importance of drainage to individual landowners varies by what type of land they own.
 - The ditch systems in Todd County were mainly built to improve marginal pasture land.

- ❖ **CD and JD systems are owned by the parcels that were determined to be benefiting or affected by the ditch and paid for the construction of the ditch when it was originally established. These parcels are on the Assessment Roll for the ditch system.**
 - The Ditch Authority is the board that is responsible for the management of the ditch systems.
 - The Ditch Authority for the CD systems is the Todd County Board of Commissioners.
 - The Ditch Authority for the JD systems is a Joint Board made up of Commissioners from both counties that the JD system is in.
 - The parcels on the Assessment Roll are responsible for all bills incurred for a ditch system. These bills include costs associated with meetings, maintenance projects, beaver control, dam removal, etc.
 - Chapter 103E is the State Statute pertaining to Drainage Law. This can be viewed on the Todd County website:
[County Home Page](#) → [Divisions](#) → [Public Works](#) → [Ditch / Weed Inspector](#)

❖ **Todd County is continuing the modernization of its ditch records.**

- All records are being scanned.
- Research is being done to verify the accuracy of the original ditch designs. Many of the ditch systems were not approved as designed. Aerial photos are used to verify where the ditch was built.
- Maps pertaining to the approved ditch systems can be found on the website at: [County Home Page → Divisions → Public Works → Ditch / Weed Inspector → County & Judicial Ditch Info](#)
- Assessment rolls are being updated to ensure their accuracy based on each parcel's percent of responsibility of the original ditch cost.
- Maintenance continues of the culvert elevation data collected by Public Works for public roads that cross CD or JD systems.

❖ **Landowners can petition the Ditch Authority for maintenance of a ditch system. The petition process is started by a landowner submitting a petition form to the Ditch Inspector.**

- Proposed project petitions can include cleaning portions of, or all of a ditch system, beaver control and dam removal, removing minor obstructions, installing private crossings, etc.
- A project that is going to be paid for by the landowners on the assessment roll is requested by submitting a Drainage System Repair Request form.
 - Informational meetings and Public Hearings are held as part of the petition process.
- A project that is going to be paid for by an individual or small group of landowners is requested by submitting a Hold Harmless Agreement form (HHA).
 - A HHA petition does not require hearings and the decision to approve or deny is made much more quickly than a repair request to be paid for by landowners on the Assessment Roll.
- Beaver control and dam removal is requested by submitting a Beaver Control Request form. Beaver Control requests do not require meetings.
- These forms are available on the Ditch/Ag Inspector home page at: [County Home Page → Divisions → Public Works → Ditch / Weed Inspector → Applications/Forms](#)

You can also contact the Ditch Inspector for the forms or any questions you may have.

Nancy Uhlenkamp
Ditch & Ag Inspector
Located at Public Works
44 Riverside Drive
Long Prairie, MN 56347
nancy.uhlenkamp@co.todd.mn.us
www.co.todd.mn.us
Phone: 320-533-4651