

# History of HVLA Culverts

The purpose of the HVLA culvert system is to handle rain run-off and prevent (or minimize) flooding. Our culverts were initially to be maintained by Lake County (1974). Lake County rescinded this agreement - when or why is unclear.

Member/Owners were made responsible for culvert maintenance adjacent to their property at least as early as 1993: The 1993 CC&R's is the oldest document available where the responsibility for maintenance of culverts was put into owner hands - Article XI Easements, (c) Maintenance. Precedence for this is unclear (since written HVLA history is so lacking). However, the Association has always been responsible for maintenance of culverts in common areas.

There has been at least one incident (date uncertain but within the past 5-10 years) of flooding within HVLA where rain run-off damaged several homes, likely because of lack of proper maintenance/development of the culvert system.

Since then and over the years various attempts were made to gain owner compliance. However, since enforcement has always been spotty, so has compliance. All known past efforts to obtain owner compliance have consisted of requests published in the "Views" (past, "Compass"). No other efforts or follow-up is known. As a result, a large number of culverts are either partially or completely filled with run-off debris. Nevertheless, HVLA has steadfastly continued to press owners to clean culverts, meanwhile doing no enforcement, and, not maintaining culverts in common areas, as well.

In the early years of HVLA's culverts, maintenance by owners was likely a reasonable, realistic task. However, due to many years of neglect, clearing of many culverts is now beyond the capability (and affordability) of most owners. Walking the length of HVL Dr. or Deer Hill Rd. and closely looking at the culverts immediately along-side those roads, clearly reveals the fact that many are filled in even beyond recognition.

For those diligent owners who have consistently cleaned and maintained their culverts, hats-off, there's no problem. But for those who have partially or completely clogged culverts, clearing them is now a totally unreasonable and unrealistic request (for the individual owner).

**It is also important to note** that HVLA has never sought any expansion or further development of its culvert system, e.g., having civil engineers review the system for effectiveness or needed development. Further, Association support for members in dealing with potential flooding appears to have always been an after-thought. There are only one or two locations for

members to obtain sand-bags. Those locations are poorly laid-out and organized, and, there has never been any protocol for Security or Maintenance to follow during flooding.

**Solutions?** Write to the HVLA Board: [board@hvla.com](mailto:board@hvla.com) (with copy to: [gm@hvla.com](mailto:gm@hvla.com))