

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet
Bainbridge Mills Phase 1 Drainage Maintenance Petition

1. Am I being assessed at this time?

No. Please continue reading for more information.

2. Why is there a petition for this project?

Drainage infrastructure within Ohio is the responsibility of private landowners. The drainage petition process, authorized by Section 6131 of the Ohio Revised Code, allows landowners to request Delaware County to construct and maintain drainage improvements on private property. In the absence of a drainage petition project, the construction and maintenance of drainage infrastructure remains the responsibility of private landowners.

3. How are drainage petition projects paid for?

The costs are covered by special assessments to the properties that are within the watershed, or benefit area, of the project. Petition projects are entirely landowner-driven and landowner-funded.

4. What is the purpose of the View?

The View is an opportunity for the Delaware County Commissioners to see the condition of the existing drainage infrastructure in the area, and to allow the public to point out specific areas of concern. The View will be conducted by showing a drone video of the potential project. There is no testimony allowed to be given at the View.

5. How is the scope of the project determined?

The scope of any petition project is based on the actual petition request received. In the case of the Bainbridge Mills Phase 1 petition, the scope of the request covers the entire area served by the existing stormwater system and outlet.

6. How do I sign the petition after it has been filed?

Once a petition is filed, any addition to the petition including additional signatures is considered an amendment to the petition. Fill out the form included with this mailing and submit it to the Commissioners' Office within 21 days following the date of the View.

7. What is the purpose of the 1st Hearing?

The Delaware County Engineer and Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District prepare a 1st Hearing report which includes a description of the existing conditions, a preliminary cost estimate, and comments on the feasibility of the project. After hearing the report, the Commissioners will take testimony from the benefitting landowners. The Board may then find in favor of the petition if they find that the improvement is necessary, that the improvement is conducive to the public welfare, and that they are reasonably certain the benefits of the project will exceed the costs. Individual property assessments are not calculated for the 1st Hearing.

OVER

8. I do not live directly adjacent to any stormwater infrastructure. Why am I considered a benefitting landowner?

The Ohio Revised Code (state law) considers all landowners within the watershed, or drainage area, of a project as *benefitting* from the improvement. Essentially the law equates benefit to use. If you are receiving the mailing, a property owned by you is located within the area being served by the Bainbridge Mills Phase 1 drainage system and benefits from the drainage capacity provided by the system.

9. What happens after the 1st Hearing?

If the Board of Commissioners approve the petition, the project moves to a survey and design phase. During this time, the Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District and Delaware County Engineer will visit the subdivision, assess all existing drainage infrastructure, determine what existing drainage features need improvement, and what additional features, if any, need constructed. Based on this information, the two agencies will develop detailed engineering plans and cost estimates, prepare a final report, and formulate the schedule of estimated assessments. This information, once complete, is returned to the County Commissioners who will then schedule a Final Hearing to further consider the project based on this more detailed information.

10. What is the Delaware County Subdivision Drainage Maintenance District?

The County Commissioners created the Delaware County Subdivision Drainage Maintenance District in 2025 to merge all single-family subdivision projects into one single district. Single-family subdivisions require work of a similar nature, and by merging what was once 400-plus individual projects into one, it has allowed the Soil & Water Conservation District and County Engineer to reduce administrative costs and reduce the assessments necessary to the residents.

11. When will I know how much my cost will be?

The current collection rate for the Drainage Maintenance District is 0.3 mills assessed annually against the taxable value of a property. A detailed example would be prepared if the petition request advances to a Final Hearing.

12. Why is Section 2 of Bainbridge Mills not included in this petition?

Section 2 is already included in the Drainage Maintenance District because of when it was developed. All subdivisions platted after July 1, 1998 have been required to petition their stormwater infrastructure systems for Drainage Maintenance as a condition of platting. Phase 1 was platted in 1995 before this requirement was enacted.

13. How can I find more information?

Please visit the Soil & Water Conservation District's website, <https://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us/drainage-petition-projects/>, or call their office at 740-368-1921 and ask to speak to someone regarding the Bainbridge Mills Phase 1 drainage petition project.