

## What is downspout redirection?

Downspout redirection is exactly what it sounds like: redirecting your downspouts to deposit the rainwater onto your lawn or flower beds rather than the pavement.

Redirected downspouts irrigate your yard with free water while reducing the quantity of water in our storm sewer systems. It is a small and inexpensive way you can improve your watershed and be a steward of La Vista's streams.

The problem: stormwater runoff that enters the storm sewer system is deposited into our local streams and rivers without being treated. All of the contaminants and litter that the water picks up on the way is emptied into our waterways.

## Why should I redirect my downspouts?

- To help reduce pollution in La Vista's streams.
- To help reduce the frequency and severity of flood events.
- To prevent downstream erosion.
- To show you are a steward of your local environment.

## How much maintenance is involved?

As with all gutters and downspouts, redirected downspouts will require proper maintenance to reduce problems.

- Make sure you clean your gutters at least twice a year to remove excess leaf litter.
- Check and clear elbows and bends to prevent clogging.

### Tips:

Use flexible downspouts to carefully direct rainwater or where space is limited.

Use a hinged downspout elbow so you can flip the extension up against the house during dry weather or while mowing the lawn.

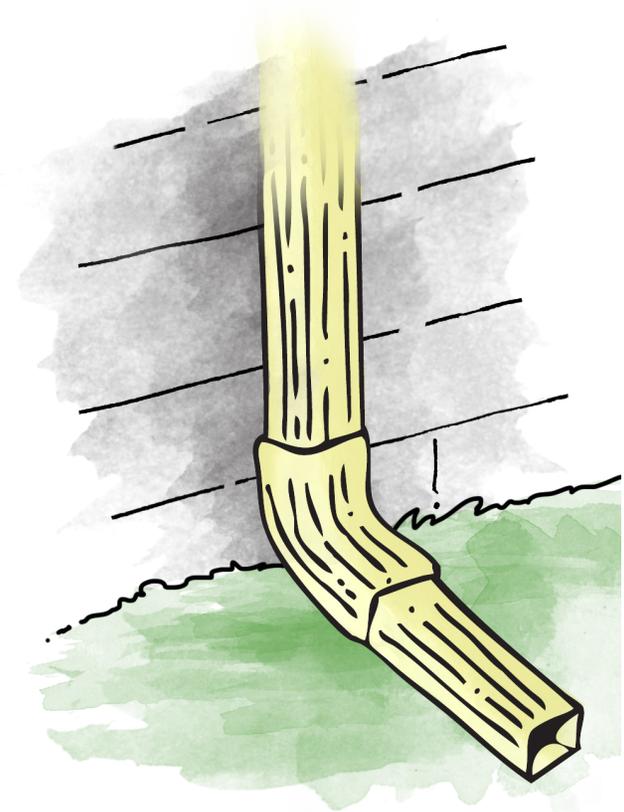
### Where can I get more information?

For more information, visit the La Vista Thompson Creek Stormwater website at:

[www.cityoflavista.org/thompsoncreek](http://www.cityoflavista.org/thompsoncreek)

or call La Vista Public Works: 402-331-8927.

# City of La Vista Downspout Redirection Program



Funding for this brochure was supplied by:



# Where do I start?

Redirecting your downspout is easy! First, cut the downspout, attach an elbow, an extension, and splash block to direct the water. Next, secure the new pipes, and plug the existing standpipe. See the following pages for step-by-step instructions.

## 1. Observe

Find out where the stormwater runoff goes once it enters your downspouts.

## 2. Design

- Make a quick site plan of your house, showing the location of each existing downspout.
- Mark where you think each downspout should go.

### Design Tips:

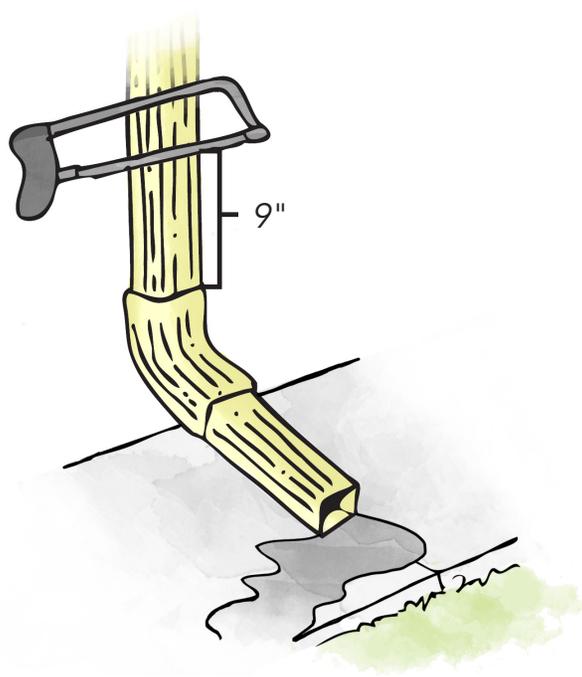
- Avoid draining downspouts onto steep slopes or within 10 feet of a retaining wall.
- Don't drain a downspout on or near a sidewalk.
- Avoid draining downspouts in an area too small to hold the water or in areas that don't have good drainage. A good rule of thumb: the ground area must be at least 10% of the roof area. So if your roof is 1,500 square feet, make sure your drainage area is at least 150 square feet.
- Redirected downspouts should be extended at least 5 feet from a basement foundation and 2 feet from a grade foundation.
- Ensure that there is at least 5 feet between the end of your new redirected downspout and your property line. It's illegal (and not nice) to drain water onto your neighbors property.

## 3. Prepare

*You will need:*

Work gloves, eye protection, dust mask, hacksaw, measuring tape, marker, pliers, screwdriver, drill, downspout elbow, and extension.

Use durable, gutter-grade materials, such as aluminum, steel, copper, vinyl, and



exterior-grade plastic. Do not use corrugated black plastic, garden hoses, dryer hose, or open-trough materials because of their limited durability.

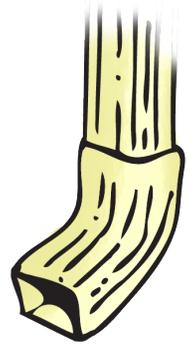
## 4. Install

- Measure approximately nine inches above where the downspout enters the ground or stand pipe. Mark this line on all sides of the downspout.
- Cut the existing downspout with a hacksaw and remove the cut piece.

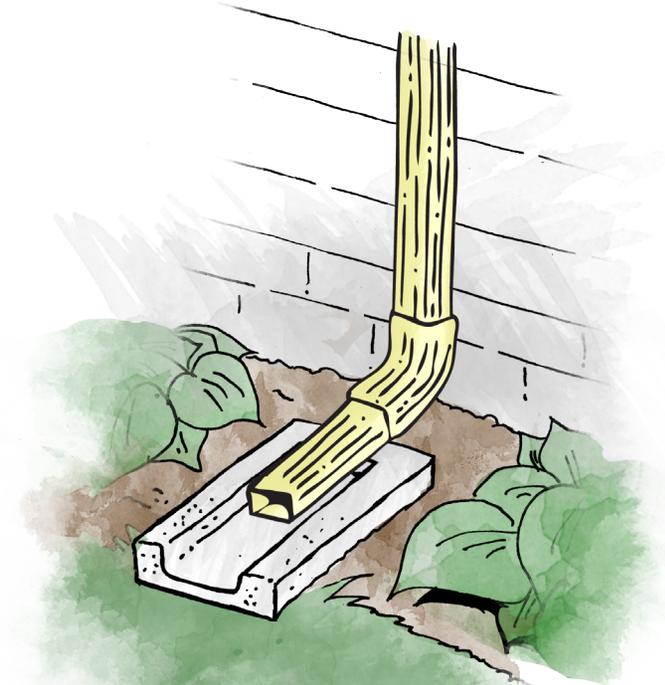
If you have a standpipe, plug or cap it using an in-pipe plug or over-the-pipe cap secured with a hose clamp.



- Attach the elbow. Make sure to attach the elbow OVER the downspout; do not insert the elbow inside the downspout or it will leak. You may need to crimp the end of the existing downspout with pliers to get a good fit.
- Measure and cut the downspout extension to the desired length. Attach the extension over the elbow.
- Secure all pieces with sheet metal screws or rivets where the downspout, elbow, and extension meet.



Optional: Place a splash block, flagstone slab, or rocks at the end of the extension to help direct runoff and control erosion.



Note: The City of La Vista maintains these instructions as a courtesy to the public and is not liable for the construction or results.