



## CITY OF SWIFT CURRENT

### **RETAINING WALLS**

Retaining walls are structural elements that require building permits when the wall is 24"/600mm or more in height as measured from top of grade to top of retaining wall. When a wall exceeds 48"/1.2m in height, an engineered plan or system documentation is to be submitted with the building permit application. Currently, a retaining wall under 24"/600 mm is considered as a landscape feature and a building permit is not required. Walls may be constructed of concrete, wood, or other materials capable of the soil loads potential imposed upon them.

When a retaining wall is constructed between properties, the onus is on the party constructing the retaining wall to ensure its placement on the correct property. Retaining walls are not expected to last forever and like any other structure, repair and maintenance will be required to maintain the integrity of the retaining wall. When an issue regarding a retaining wall arises between two properties, the matter is deemed to be civil in nature and City of Swift Current does not get involved.

When constructing a retaining wall between the private and public property (owned by the City of Swift Current or Her Majesty the Queen), the wall is to be built on the private property unless arrangements have been made with the City. Allowances to build on City property will be reviewed on a property specific basis. Public land is often used for the burying of infrastructure or future development and/or repair of roads and sidewalks. If a retaining wall is constructed by a homeowner on public land, the City is under no obligation to repair or replace it if it needs to be removed or is damaged in the carrying out of work on City owned property.