There are more than 100 private roads in our City. The difference between a private road and a public road is that the City maintains public roads, and private roads are maintained by the owner(s) of the road. There are other differences, too, such as initial cost and requirements for private vs. public roads. For instance, the rules governing public roads require the developer to install ditches, gutters and sidewalks, among other costly amenities. Private roads are normally constructed to the same standards as a public road, however, deviation may be considered on a case-by-case basis. The private road may be allowed to be gravel instead of asphalt, and sidewalks may not be required.

Another area that public roads differ from private roads is signage. Signage for public roads (street name signs, stop signs, etc.) is purchased and maintained by the City, whereas the City is not responsible for furnishing signage on private roads. If you live on a private road, it is likely that you share the responsibility for maintenance and signage on your road with your neighbors.

If there is a need for a stop sign or street sign on your private road, you may wish to contact Zumar, the company the City uses to purchase signs for public streets. Purchasing signs from the same company will help maintain uniform signage throughout the City. They are familiar with the size and type of signs we have purchased in the past and can help you select the right signs for your road. You may contact Zumar by telephoning 1-800-426-7967. If you have any question as to whether or not your road is public or private, you can telephone City Hall for assistance.