

Catch Basin Care

A guide to improving water quality in Redford



Why be concerned?

Catch basins are storm sewer inlets that filter out debris such as leaves and litter. They are typically located next to street curbs or within the rear yards of residential areas.

It is important to maintain catch basins to prevent storm sewer blockages and minimize the amount of pollutants entering storm sewers, which discharge into detention basins or directly into streams.

Clogged catch basins can also cause water to pond along streets and in yards. This flooding can be a nuisance to motorists and homeowners.

Are you responsible for catch basin care?

Your Homeowners' Association is responsible for catch basin maintenance if you live in a platted subdivision with private roads, a site condominium or attached condominium neighborhood.

How are catch basins maintained?

Remove Debris from Grates

The grates of catch basins can become clogged with litter or leaves, especially in the spring and fall. Regularly inspect the grate and remove debris.

Remove Debris from Storage Area

Catch basins should be cleaned out before the storage area is half full. Once this level is reached, debris begins to wash into sewer pipes. Cleaning should be done in the spring after the first large snow melt, in the fall after trees have shed their leaves, and additionally if needed.

To find out how much material has accumulated in the storage area of your catch basin, insert a long pipe or broom stick into the storm drain grate. Notice where the pipe or stick hits the debris and continue to the bottom to estimate the depth of accumulation.

If the catch basin is shallow enough, you may be able to clean it out yourself with a shovel and bucket. Be careful not to drop the grate down the opening when you remove it; it can be extremely hard to retrieve. If you can't perform your own maintenance, professional services are available to do it for you. For assistance identifying suitable contractors, contact one of the agencies listed under "Getting Help."

Stencil your storm drains

Stenciled messages that say "Dump No Waste - Drains to Rouge River" are a good reminder that nothing but water belongs down a storm drain. Contact the Redford Township Department of Public Works for more information about participating in storm drain stenciling.

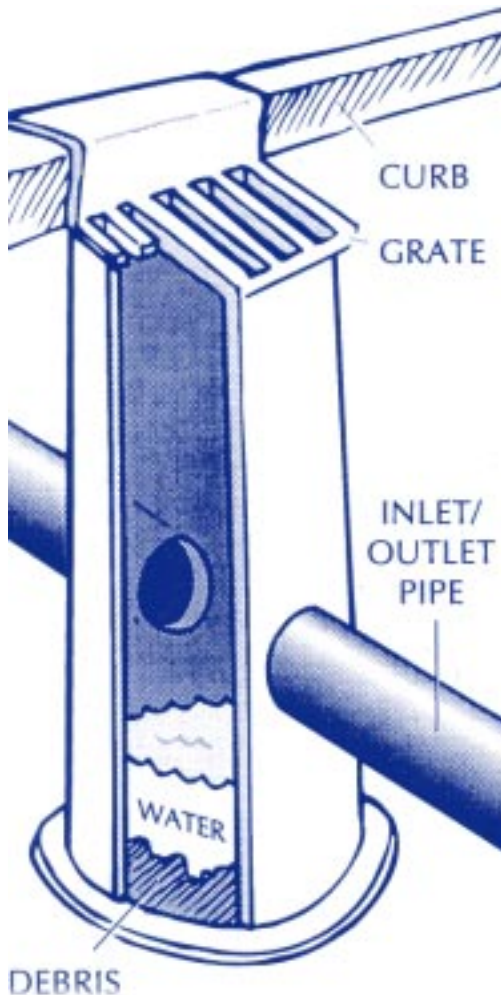


Pollutant sources and impacts

A pollutant is any substance that can harm living things. Pollutants commonly found in the Rouge River include:


Soil sediment

Soil sediment sources include construction sites and other non-vegetated lands. Uncontrolled soil erosion can result in excess sediment



Sources and Funding

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that clogs catch basins, storm sewers and detention basins, leading to higher maintenance costs and flooding. As it settles, sediment can smother fish eggs and bottom-dwelling organisms, and destroy aquatic habitat. Suspended sediment can lower the transmission of light through water and can negatively affect aquatic animals.

Other pollutants can attach to soil particles. When sediments wash off the ground into waterways they carry these pollutants with them.

Toxic compounds

Toxic substances include vehicle fluids, solvents, lawn herbicides and pesticides, paints and metals such as chromium, copper and mercury. Toxins can accumulate in the aquatic food chain, as one larger organism eats many smaller ones that have been contaminated. Even in very small concentrations, oil and other toxic substances can harm aquatic plants and animals.

Nutrients

Nutrient sources include septic systems, lawn fertilizers, animal waste, cleaning products, plant debris and eroded soil. Phosphorous and nitrogen can overstimulate aquatic weed and algae growth. As they decay, excess weeds and algae use oxygen in the water, which is needed by fish and other aquatic life.

Litter and debris

Common litter and debris include grass clippings, leaves and litter generated by careless disposal practices. Litter and leaves that wash into storm sewers can clog detention basin inlets and outlets, and eventually pollute streams and rivers. Excessive leaves and other organic materials decompose and lower the amount of oxygen available to aquatic life.

Getting Help

Charter Township of Redford Dept. of Public Works
Wayne County Public Works Office

313.387.2690
313.729.2011