



Clean Water is the Goal

Catch Basin Care

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 in 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. Storm sewers either discharge into detention ponds 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?

While catch basins located throughout Gateway are a part of our Surface Water Management System, operated and maintained by the CDD, it would be in everyone's best interest if they are kept clear of any debris. This would include HOAs, residents and property management. If you see a problem and are unsure of who is responsible, please call Gateway Services CDD.



Stormwater drainage systems are typically designed to remove water from a developed area as quickly as possible during a storm. While these systems are convenient for urban residents, they also carry pollutants to surface waters at a 'rapid transit' pace. Contrary to popular belief, pet wastes, oil and other materials dumped into storm sewer grates do not go to the waste water treatment plant, but flow directly into streams and ponds within the community. For example: dumping oil into a storm sewer grate has almost unthinkable consequences. When it reaches the water, five quarts of oil can create a slick as large as two football fields and persist on mud or plants for six months or more.

How Are Catch Basins Maintained?

Remove Debris from Grates; The grates of catch basins can become clogged with litter or leaves, grass clippings from mowing the lawn, and over grown grass, especially in the spring and fall. Regularly inspect the grate & remove debris. Encourage neighbors to adopt the catch basins in front of their homes, and keep them free of debris.



How you can help keep catch basins clean;

The following simple actions can help keep streets open and catch basins clean:

1. Monitor and clean the catch basin near your house or business, especially prior to a rain event.
2. Stand on the curb and use a rake or pitch fork to clear leaves and debris from catch basins so that water can drain easily. **Do not try to remove the grate.**
3. Do not rake or blow leaves from your yard into the street. Bag them at the curb and prepare them for curbside pickup by your garbage hauler.
4. For leaves that have already fallen on the street, rake them 10 to 12 inches from the curb, allowing water to flow to the catch basin without the leaves.

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. **This is either done by the county, the CDD, the HOA, Property Management Firm, or a private contractor.**



How You Can Protect our Waterways;

In a way, we all live on the river and surrounding bays, even if you don't have a pond or stream adjacent to your property, you can affect the water quality in your community. Water that enters our storm drains flows directly into a pond untreated, along with everything that rainwater carries away from our streets: trash, leaves, grass, fertilizers, pet wastes, etc. Reducing pollutants from rainstorm runoff is one of the biggest hurdles to keeping our river clean. During the fall, it is especially important to keep leaves out of the storm inlets. In addition to clogging drains and causing backups, leaves that enter the storm drains decay in the water create algae blooms and rob fish of vital oxygen. Follow these steps to give our waterways a hand; you'll also reduce the risk of flooding on your street, and improve the water quality and appearance of the ponds within the community.

1. Compost yard waste. The next time you mow, mulch the leaves while cutting the grass. They're the best nutrients. You can also put leaves in compost containers for curbside collection
2. Stay out of the gutter. Be sure to keep leaves out of the gutter. There should be at least a four-foot space between the curb and your leaves for the stormwater to run into the gutter. This will reduce the risk of flooding in your area.
3. Keep Inlets clear. Reduce the risk of flooding and help protect the environment by removing accumulated debris from catch basin grates. Don't deposit yard or pet wastes into or near catch basins.
4. Do not put garbage cans, yard waste or recycle bins on top of the catch basin for pick up. This block flow and could result in flooding of the area. Also debris doesn't always stay where we put it, wind and rain can move it into the catch basin and into the ponds within the community.



Getting help

If you see a catch basin filled with debris below the grate, or if you cannot clear the basin grate near your property yourself, **Do not try to remove the grate, call Gateway Services CDD at 239-561-1313.**