

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 10/13/2021 3:27:50 PM
Subject: [Upcoming news release: Adopt a Catch Basin this Fall \(Oct 14, 2021\)](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release on October 14, 2021, promoting the City's Adopt-a-Catch-Basin program. Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at 10:00 AM on Oct 14, 2021.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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City of Vancouver
News Release
October 14, 2021

Adopt a Catch Basin this Fall

Neighbourhood heroes help keep streets safe and ecosystems clean

Fall and winter months bring heavy rain, snow and falling leaves. Together with debris, all are ingredients for clogged catch basins, which can lead to flooded streets and trash washing into adjacent waterways. The City of Vancouver benefits from a team of about 1,500 'adopters' who give their time and energy to keep neighborhood catch basins clear as part of our annual [Adopt-a-Catch-Basin program](#).

"I thought that adopting a catch basin was really interesting because we can all give back to the community in small ways, and make an overall greater impact," says adopter and high school student Hailey. "I've been participating in the program for about two years now and have adopted three catch basins."

Keeping catch basins clear prevents costly flood damage to properties, while making streets safer for drivers and pedestrians. It also helps protect water quality for species like salmon, by reducing the

amount of litter swept into adjacent waterways that are also habitat. Finally, adopters provide valuable support for hardworking City street crews.

“On average, we receive 1,200 calls a year from residents reporting surface flooding from blocked catch basins. In the context of climate change, we’re seeing increasingly heavy precipitation events putting pressure on our drainage systems. We’re very thankful to our adopters because they enable City Operations to focus on larger maintenance and cleaning tasks,” says Jimmy Zammar, Director of Urban Watersheds, Sewers & Drainage for the City. “This year, we want to show our gratitude by inviting adopters and their families to two community events celebrating the program’s fifth birthday. We also encourage others interested in the program to come out and celebrate.”

The program is modelled on similar programs in Oakland and San Francisco. Vancouver adopters have surpassed their American counterparts with over 3,700 catch basins adopted to date. Participants keep an eye on their adopted catch basins, particularly before heavy rains and when trees begin to shed leaves. If it is blocked, adopters clear the catch basin with a rake, broom or shovel. The program is simple, but it provides a valuable service to the community and local ecosystems.

Vancouver residents and their families are invited to two neighborhood catch basin clean-ups that will include treats and hot chocolate. Events will start at 10:00 am at Kitsilano Community Centre on Saturday, October 23 and Hastings Community Centre on Saturday, November 6. People are asked to RSVP to adoptacatchbasin@vancouver.ca.

The City of Vancouver has about 41,000 catch basins available for adoption. Adopting a catch basin is a safe, simple way to give back and get children involved in community and environmental stewardship. Also, adopters can get creative by naming their catch basins. Look for an available catch basin in your neighborhood or on your daily commute at adoptacatchbasin.ca

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Safety Guidelines

- Safely clear your catch basin
- Do not use your hands to move leaves or debris blocking the catch basins, instead use a long-handled rake, broom or shovel to clear away materials
- Stay visible with bright clothing or a safety vest when clearing your catch basin

Report hazardous materials

- Do not attempt to move or pick up hazardous materials like needles, broken glass, or deceased wildlife
- Report hazardous materials: report it online using VanConnect or phone 3-1-1
- Report discarded needles: phone The Mobile Needle Exchange at 604-657-6561

Watch for traffic

- Be aware of traffic and keep out of the street whenever possible
- Make sure that you only cross the street at designated crossing areas and avoid crossing mid-block
- Keep COVID-19 measures in mind
 - Maintain physical distance from other sidewalk and road users
 - Consider wearing a mask while clearing your catch basin

Media contact:

City of Vancouver

Civic Engagement and Communications

604.871.6336

media@vancouver.ca