

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 11/2/2023 12:46:48 PM
Subject: Upcoming news release: Adopt a catch basin this fall (November 3, 2023)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release on Friday, November 3 regarding the City's Adopt-a-Catch Basin program and some related upcoming neighbourhood events. Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

This release will help kick off a variety of outreach initiatives across social and print, with partner organizations and through program promotion at in-person events. Since inception seven years ago, the program has steadily grown with about 700 new catch basins adopted every year. The program gives residents an easy way to help keep their neighbourhoods safe from flooding while protecting local waterways.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News Release
November 3, 2023

Adopt a catch basin this fall

Recent fall weather has already brought intense rain fall to Vancouver. Heavy rain, combined with falling leaves and other debris, can clog catch basins, leading to flooding and ponding in our streets. Fortunately, residents have adopted over 6,100 catch basins as part of the City of Vancouver's annual [Adopt-a-Catch-Basin program](#).

"Vancouverites do great work caring for our city. It's great to see people help care for catch basins in our communities. It only takes a few minutes and goes a long way in keeping our streets safer for pedestrians and drivers," says Mayor Ken Sim. "It also prevents debris from getting swept into adjacent waterways that are often habitat for wildlife, keeping Vancouver cleaner, greener, better for everyone."

Crews work hard to regularly remove leaves from streets and keep catch basins and our drainage

system clear, but with 45,000 catch basins across the city, it's difficult to attend to all of them within a short period. On average, the City receives close to 1,200 calls per year reporting flooding from blocked catch basins. Like other cities in the Lower Mainland, we're also seeing more intense and frequent rainfall due to climate change, with more potential for flooding.

Gamelle Fitzgibbon has seven catch basins that she cares for:

. Since I joined the program and started cleaning debris from catch basins in my West End neighbourhood, people stop to thank me or ask me what I am doing. It feels good being involved in my neighbourhood and environment.”

The City of Vancouver has almost 39,000 catch basins available for adoption. To adopt and name your new catch basin, go to adoptacatchbasin.ca. Catch basins marked with “hearts” are prone to flooding and are in need of a little extra care. The best time to check on catch basins is before and after heavy rain or snow, and when trees begin to shed leaves.

Raking or blowing leaves onto the street can make flooding problems even worse so we ask residents, business, property management and maintenance teams to avoid being in violation under [the Street and Traffic By-Law \(up to \\$10,000\)](#). There are no City By-laws that require residents to clear sidewalks of leaves.

Upcoming community catch basin clean-up events:

Give back to your community, meet other like-minded residents and learn more about Vancouver's drainage system.

- Saturday, November 4: [Dunbar Community Centre Community Catch Basin Clean-Up](#), 10 am to noon.
- Sunday, November 5: [West End Community Centre Community Catch Basin Clean-Up](#), 10 am to noon
- Saturday, November 18: [Douglas Park Community Centre Community Catch Basin Clean-Up](#), 10 am to noon

Safety guidelines when cleaning catch basins

1. 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.
2. Stay visible with bright clothing or a safety vest when clearing your catch basin.

Report hazardous materials

1. Do not attempt to move or pick up hazardous materials like needles, broken glass, or deceased wildlife.
2. Report hazardous materials: report it online using [Van311](#) or by phoning 3-1-1
3. Report discarded needles: phone The Mobile Needle Exchange at 604-657-6561.

Watch for traffic

1. Be mindful of car and bike traffic, and other pedestrians, and stay out of the street whenever possible.
2. Make sure that you only cross the street at designated crossing areas. Avoid crossing mid-block.

Civic Engagement and Communications
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