

What are Catch Basins?

Catch basins are storm sewer inlets that collect water during storm events and are the first step in the stormwater drainage systems. Storm sewer systems are designed to remove water from our developed areas as quick a possible during storms. When storms occur, water and anything else on the streets enters the storm sewer system through the catch basins. Pet waste, oil, litter, leaves, etc. carried in the stormwater is discharged directly into our streams and rivers untreated.

What do Catch Basins do?

Catch basins are typically located next to street curbs or in rear yards of residential areas. They filter out debris such as leaves and litter. The grids located on top of the catch basins are small enough to prevent large objects from falling into the sewer system, but large enough to ensure that the flow of water is not blocked.



City of Owatonna

540 West Hills Circle
Owatonna, MN 55060-4701

Adopt a Catch Basin Program



“Clean H₂Owatonna” is the City of Owatonna’s Stormwater Management initiative to improve the quality of our water resources and protect them from harmful pollutants.

What is required for adopting a Catch Basin?

Citizens that adopt a catch basin will pledge to do the following :

- **Remove debris from grates:** The grates of the catch basins can become clogged with litter or leaves, especially in the spring and fall. Regularly inspect the grate and remove debris.
- **Ensure regular cleaning:** The area under the grate should be cleaned out if debris becomes lodged in the catch basin. Cleaning these storage areas should be performed by City workers. If the catch basin needs cleaning, please contact the Storm Water Manager @ 507-774-7300.
- **Label the storm drain:** Stenciled signs with the stormwater logo and the message that says “No dumping, drains to river” should be painted on one side of the catch basin. The stencil will notify other citizens that nothing but stormwater should enter the storm drains. Contact the Storm Water Manager @ 507-774-7300 to check out a stencil kit.



Why are clean catch basins important ?

Having a clean environment is incredibly important to our health and future. Clean waterways provide recreation, fish habitat, and add beauty to our City.

When we all keep our streets and catch basins clean, our lakes, rivers, wetlands and groundwater benefit.



How do you adopt?

Residents interested in adopting a catch basin will need to contact the Storm Water Manager. Residents are required to sign the Adopt a Catch Basin pledge form agreeing to the requirements of the program.

In exchange for monitoring the catch basin, residents will receive a complimentary bow rake to assist in the cleaning.

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