Catch Basin Inspection and Maintenance

A catch basin is a surface water inlet structure to remove storm water from parking areas. They are positioned at low levels in parking areas with sloped surface allowing water to flow across the surface and be collected. Catch basins are made of an inlet grate, concrete or plastic box structure and an underground outlet discharge pipe. Some catch basins may have an inlet pipe as well to create an assembly of collection points within a total system. An important function of the catch basin is to allow solids such as gravel and silt to settle in the basin and permit water to flow in the pipe.

If not properly maintained, catch basins may accumulate debris and can potentially impede the flow of water.

**Recommended Maintenance**

- Catch basin grates should be inspected to ensure they are secure and tight-fitting to the structure to avoid being displaced by traffic.

- Catch basins should be inspected. Remove the grate to access the basin bottom and clean the accumulated debris on an annual basis. Maintain a minimum of six to 12 inches between the pipe bottom and the basin bottom.

- Deteriorating asphalt at basin edges should be repaired to keep water from seeping into the subsurface and undermining the structure.

- Care should be taken not to introduce or allow pollutants such as yard waste or chemicals into the surface water and influence the downstream ecosystem.

- Prior to and during storm events, catch basin grates should be monitored to keep debris from accumulating and restricting the flow of water and causing ponding.

- During thaw events after freezing weather, catch basins should be kept clear to allow water to discharge from the parking area without accumulating in ponds.
Related Link:

- www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-catch-basin.htm

*Contact LCEF to find an Architectural Advisory Committee member near you for additional information.*