

Currents

Vincent G. Mannering, Executive Director

September • October 2008

Cleaner Stormwater, Cleaner Harbor



When it rains, the run off flows into catch basins. The catch basins connect to storm drains and the water then discharges to local bodies of water such as Boston Harbor, Charles River, Neponset River and other tributaries. Because the water goes directly back into the ecosystem without being filtered or treated, it is important that stormwater remains clean and free of pollutants and trash. Your efforts can help keep our local waterways clean.

Clean up after your pets.

When carried into the water supply, pet waste can kill fish and can carry diseases that make the water dangerous for swimming. Never put pet waste into catch basins.

Properly dispose of motor oil and paint.

The Public Works Department has disposal centers open now through October.

Minimize use of fertilizers, pesticides, outdoor cleaning products and other chemicals on your property. These products can send dangerous chemicals into the catch basins and local waterways disrupting the ecosystem.

Spills should never be hosed into a catch basin! Oil, automotive products and chemicals spills on the pavement can wash into catch basins when it rains. Use dry methods to clean up outdoor spills, such as sweeping or absorbent towels.

Keeping Leaves Out of Drains

As the autumn leaves begin to fall off the trees, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission would like to remind customers to keep catch basins free of leaves and other debris. Catch basins are crucial for removing stormwater and preventing street flooding. You can help the water flow with the following tips:

- *When you are clearing your sidewalk or driveway, dispose of waste in trash receptacles instead of sweeping it into the gutters and catch basins.*
- *If leaves or other debris are blocking a catch basin near your house, rake them away!*



The Boston Water and Sewer Commission will have a representative from the Community Services Department at neighborhood locations (see schedule below) to offer assistance.

BWSC staff will be available to:

- Accept payments (check or money order only – no cash).
- Process elderly or disabled persons discount forms.
- Arrange payment plans for delinquent accounts.
- Resolve billing or service complaints.
- Review water consumption data for your property
- Explain BWSC customer programs

**Brighton
Allston/Brighton APAC**
143 Harvard Ave.
Thursdays 10am-1pm
9/25, 10/23

**Charlestown
Golden Age Center**
382 Main St.
Tuesdays 11am-1pm
9/30, 10/28

**Chinatown
CCBA**
90 Tyler St.
Thursdays 12 noon -1pm
9/11, 10/9

**Dorchester
Uphams Corner**
Municipal Bldg.
500 Columbia Rd.
Fridays 10am-12 noon
9/19, 10/17

**East Boston
East Boston APAC**
21 Meridian St.
Wednesdays 10am-1pm
9/3, 9/10, 10/8, 10/15

**Fields Corner
Kit Clark Senior Center**
1500 Dorchester Ave.
Mondays 10am-1pm
9/22, 10/20

**Hyde Park
Hyde Park Library**
35 Harvard Ave
Tuesdays 10am-1pm
9/2, 9/16, 10/7, 10/21

**Jamaica Plain
Curtis Hall**
Municipal Bldg.
20 South St.
Mondays 10am-1pm
9/15, 10/6

**Mattapan
Mattapan Family
Service Center**
535 River St.
Fridays 12 noon-1pm
9/12, 10/3

**North End
Boston Public Library**
25 Parmenter St.
Thursdays 10am-1pm
9/4, 10/2

**Roslindale
Greater Roslindale
Medical and Dental
Center**
4199 Washington St.
Tuesdays 10am-1pm
9/23, 10/14

**South Boston
SB Action Center**
424 W. Broadway
Wednesdays 10am-1pm
9/24, 10/29

**West Roxbury
Roche Community
Center**
1716 Centre St.
Fridays 10am-1pm
9/26, 10/24

**BOSTON'S FALL LEAF
AND YARD WASTE
COLLECTION**



Leaves can become slippery and heavy when wet. Removing leaves keeps the walkway safe and helps stormwater properly drain into the catch basins. Every year the Public Works Department helps Boston homeowners recycle leaves and yard waste by providing free curbside collection. When recycled and composted, this yard waste is used as a natural fertilizer for Boston's community gardens.

2008 Collection Dates
Monday, October 27 to Friday, December 5

Guidelines

- Leaves, grass and twigs can be placed in paper leaf bags or open barrels labeled "yard waste" (no plastic bags).
- "Yard Waste" stickers for barrels are available by calling 617-635-4959.
- Tie branches with string, 3' maximum length. Do not put branches in barrels.
- Put barrels, bags and branches on the curb by 7:00 AM on your Recycling Day during the collection dates.
- Residents are encouraged to start collecting yard waste 2 weeks prior to the Collection Dates.



For more information, contact Boston's Recycling Office at 617-635-7573 or 617-635-4959.

**FALL DROP-OFF FOR HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS & TIRES**

Boston residents can bring products labeled toxic, flammable, reactive, corrosive, or poisonous to Drop-Off locations for recycling. Products include paint, used motor oil, pesticides, weed killers, solvents, glues, pool chemicals, tires, car batteries and propane tanks. No commercial waste accepted. Proof of residency required.

9 AM - 2 PM
Saturday, October 4, 2008
UMass, Harbor Campus
Morrissey Blvd, Dorchester

9AM - 2 PM
Saturday, November 1, 2008
West Roxbury Public Works Yard
315 Gardner St, West Roxbury
at Millennium Park



Motor Oil & Paint Drop-Off
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

1st Saturday of the month: Roxbury Public Works Yard, 280 Highland St.

2nd Saturday: Hyde Park Public Works Yard, 58 Dana Ave.

3rd Saturday: Brighton Public Works Yard, 315 Western Ave.

4th Saturday: East Boston Public Works Yard, 320 East Eagle St.

For more information call 617-635-4959.

