

Yard Basins

What is a yard basin?

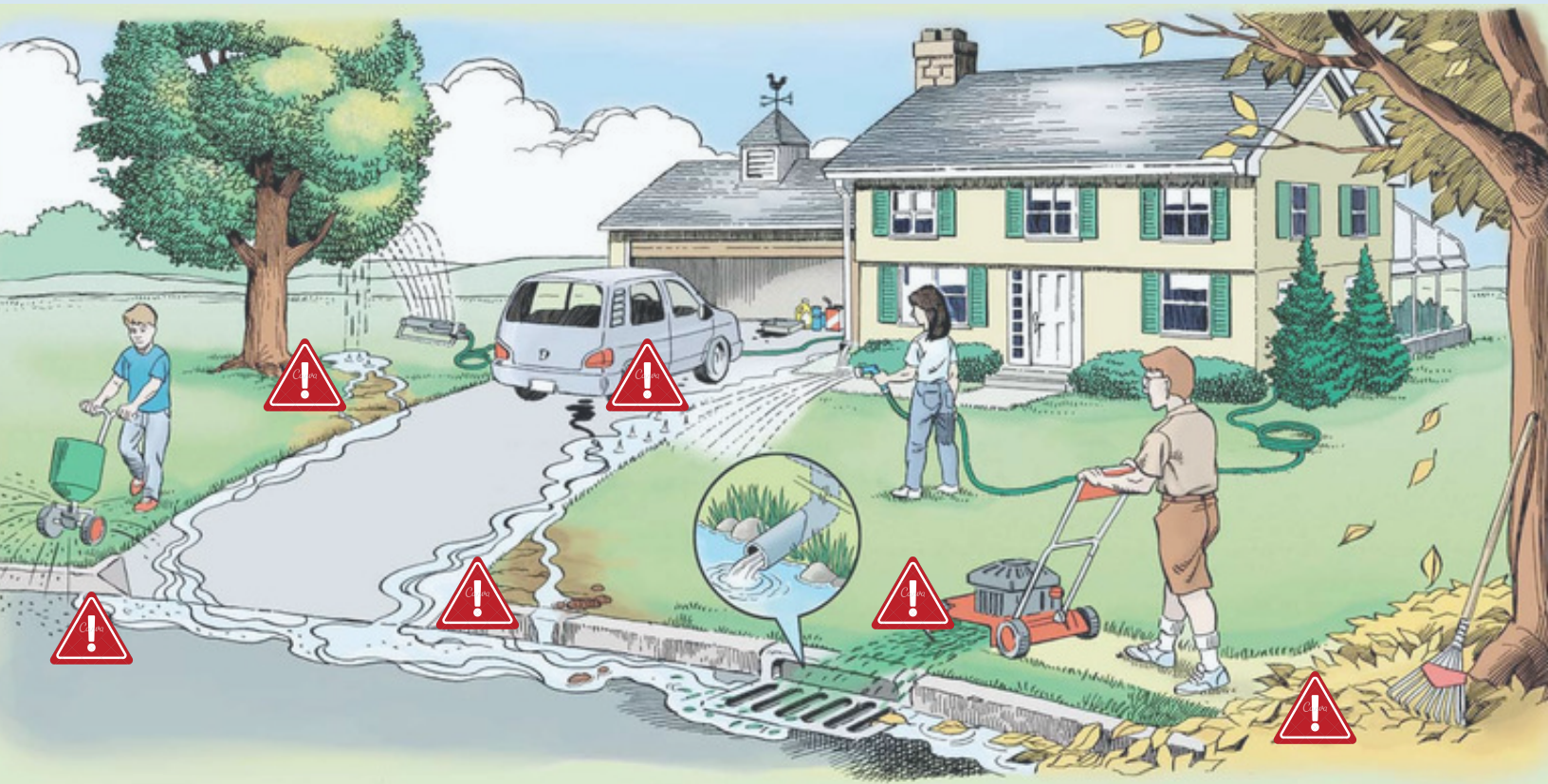
The basin in your backyard or neighborhood is a structure that collects rainwater to prevent water accumulation on your property. Upon entering the basin, water and any collected pollutants are carried off your property through the Kent County storm-water sewer system until they discharge, untreated, in a river or stream. We need your help to ensure these basins are free of pollutants and functioning properly.



What is the role of the Kent County Drain Commission (KCDC)?

The KCDC is responsible for ensuring water can flow through the storm sewer system after entering the catch basin. KCDC ensures the capacity of the system is appropriate and the structures are in good condition. The cost of maintaining the system is paid as needed by you and other property owners in its drainage district which contributes runoff water to the drain.

What are the responsibilities of a property owner?



- Never dump any contaminants into the catch basin - nothing but rainwater or groundwater should ever enter the system.
- Keep the catch basin visible, clear, and free of obstructions that may block water entry.
- Keep pollutants including grass clippings, pet waste, sediment, litter, fertilizer, and oil and grease from cars out of catch basins. These pollutants are discharged in rivers and streams that ultimately lead to Lake Michigan.
- Keep trees and plants away from the drain. Landscape features, especially trees, have root systems that can damage and destroy the underground storm sewer system. Avoid planting trees within the county easement (typically a 15-foot radius around a basin or within 15 feet on either side of a storm sewer line).
- Keep the easement free and clear of all permanent structures – they may impede access to the drainage system in the event of required maintenance. You may see your complete building restrictions through the Kent County Register of Deeds webpage.
- Receive a permit from the county before connecting any private sump or underdrain systems that service rainwater. Only systems servicing rainwater are permitted.