Halifax Water Hydrant and Catchbasin Interactive Mapping

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – FAQ

The following questions and answers have been prepared in anticipation of the users' experience. Please refer to this FAQ document to see if any of your questions regarding the Halifax Water Hydrant and Catchbasin Interactive Mapping website can be answered. Outstanding queries may be directed to HWMaps@halifaxwater.ca

Questions:

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Answers:

A1. What data is included in the mapping application?

The Halifax Water Hydrant and Catchbasin Interactive Mapping website contains four interactive layers and a basemap layer; Halifax Water hydrants, Other hydrants, Halifax Water catchbasins, Other catchbasins, and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)'s 'Halifax Base Map'.

The **Halifax Water hydrant** point layer contains Halifax Water owned and operated hydrants as identified through the Utility's Geographic Information System (GIS). This layer does not include private hydrants; hydrants that are not owned and operated by Halifax Water.

The **Halifax Water catchbasin** point layer contains Halifax Water owned and maintained catchbasins as identified through the Utility's GIS. Catchbasins are sometimes referred to as storm drains and allow stormwater to drain from the street. Halifax Water is responsible for the street level grate and subsurface infrastructure of these catchbasins. Halifax Water regulates the dumping of inappropriate substances into catchbasins. HRM maintains street level access to catchbasins through the clearing of leaves, snow, and other obstructions.

The **Other hydrant** point layer contains the locations of hydrants that are not owned, operated, or maintained by Halifax Water. These hydrants are typically located on private property and are part of a private or commercial fire prevention system. These locations are turned off by default in the map and may be referenced through the interactive layer tool (See User Guide for additional instruction). These locations are contained in the Utility's GIS because of their connection to the overall water system.

Halifax Water has provided these locations because of the added value to map users. Halifax Water does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or maintenance of this dataset.

Similar to the Other hydrant layer, the **Other catchbasin** point layer contains the locations of catchbasins and storm drains that are not owned and operated by Halifax Water, nor maintained by HRM (i.e. outside of the public Right-of-Way, on private/commercial properties, on major highways, etc.). These locations are turned off by default in the map and may be referenced through the interactive layer tool (See User Guide for additional instruction). These locations are contained in the Utility's GIS because of their connection to the overall stormwater network. Halifax Water has provided these locations because of the added value to map users. Halifax Water does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or maintenance of this dataset.

The **Halifax Base Map** is a freely available map maintained by HRM and served through ArcGIS Online for public consumption. While it is the recommended basemap for the application, users may switch to Esri provided basemapping using the interactive Basemap Gallery Tool (See User Guide for additional instruction).

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A2. What am I able to do with the data/mapping provided?

Halifax Water has provided very specific Terms and Conditions pertinent to the release of its public mapping application. These terms must be agreed to upon entry to the mapping website. Terms may be referenced here. By accessing or using the application, users have agreed to be bound by these terms.

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A3. What is the accuracy/completeness of the hydrant/catchbasin datasets?

Halifax Water hydrant assets are updated in the Utility's GIS using sub-meter accuracy survey data. Given the importance of Halifax Water owned/operated fire hydrants to the fire prevention system, this dataset is regularly maintained and believed to be complete.

The Halifax peninsula and mainland catchbasin dataset was initially mapped using aerial photography (1" = 40' and 1" = 100' scales) and continues to be updated in the Utility's GIS using sub-meter accuracy survey data. The dataset is regularly maintained and believed to be mostly complete, although there may be some data gaps.

Halifax Water makes no guarantees as to the accuracy, completeness, and future maintenance of the Other hydrant and Other catchbasin datasets.

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A4. Why do the hydrants/catchbasins disappear when I zoom out?

The hydrant and catchbasin layers are scale dependent, which means they are only visible within the scale range of 1:1,250 and 1:80,000.

When zoomed out to the map's extents but within the 1:80,000 scale, there may still be too many features to display in the map and they will stop drawing. ArcGIS Online recommends a default feature limit of 1,000 to efficiently manage uploaded features. This helps to improve performance, especially on mobile devices. Recommended use of the interactive mapping is to zoom in to a particular area of interest at which point all features will draw.

A5. Why can I not locate a particular hydrant/catchbasin in the map?

If the feature you are looking for is on private property (outside of the public Right-of-Way), there's a good chance the feature is not owned, operated, or maintained by Halifax Water and may therefore not part of the Utility's GIS (and not included in the interactive mapping). Please refer to A1 for more information on what data has been included.

If the feature is within the public Right-of-Way, use the Search tool to find the area on the map where you suspect the hydrant/catchbasin is located. Use the Zoom tool to focus in on the desired location. If possible, use the Locate button on a mobile device to ensure you are looking in the appropriate map area. Ensure that the layer is turned on (interactive layer tool). If the feature is still not appearing, it may be missing from the Utility's GIS. Please send a request for further information to HWMaps@halifaxwater.ca.

A6. What is the difference between the blue and green catchbasins / the red and yellow hydrants?

The colours used in map symbology are relative to this mapping application only and has no association to the actual colours of assets in the field.

Blue symbolized catchbasins represent Halifax Water owned and maintained catchbasins as identified through the Utility's GIS. Green symbolized catchbasins represent the locations of catchbasins and storm drains that are not owned and operated by Halifax Water, nor maintained by HRM (i.e. outside of the public Right-of-Way, on private/commercial properties, on major highways, etc.). Green catchbasins are turned off by default in the map and may be drawn through the interactive layer tool (See User Guide for additional instruction). These locations are contained in the Utility's GIS because of their connection to the overall stormwater network. Halifax Water has provided these locations because of the added value to map users. Halifax Water does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or maintenance of this dataset.

Similarly, red symbolized hydrants represent Halifax Water owned, operated, and maintained hydrants as identified through the Utility's GIS. Yellow symbolized hydrants represent the locations of hydrants

that are not owned, operated, and maintained by Halifax Water, (i.e. private/commercial properties. Yellow hydrants are turned off by default in the map and may be drawn through the interactive layer tool (See User Guide for additional instruction). These locations are contained in the Utility's GIS because of their connection to the overall water system. Halifax Water has provided these locations because of the added value to map users. Halifax Water does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or maintenance of this dataset.

Please refer to A1 for more information on what data has been included in the interactive mapping.

A7. How can I communicate information to Halifax Water regarding the application or a particular Halifax Water hydrant or catchbasin?

Within the interactive mapping, clicking on a feature (hydrant/catchbasin) will open a popup window containing the unique identification number for that feature. Please reference the identification number in your communication. Identification numbers for Other catchbasins (green symbols) and Other hydrants (yellow symbols) are not provided (See A1 and A6 for additional information on these datasets).

Communication regarding the interactive mapping application and included datasets should be directed to Halifax Water via HWMaps@halifaxwater.ca.

Communication regarding the dumping of material into a catchbasin should be sent to pollutionprevention@halifaxwater.ca.

Communication regarding any of the following should be directed to Halifax Water customer service by calling 902-420-9287 (902-H2O-WATR):

- Damaged catchbasin grate
- Clogged catchbasin
- Damaged or leaking hydrant
- Unauthorized hydrant use
- Obstructed hydrant

Communication regarding the obstruction of a catchbasin should be directed to HRM by calling 311.

A8. How often will the mapping application be updated?

Every effort will be made by Halifax Water to maintain the mapping application as required.