

STORM WATER SERVICES—ACTIVITIES

Storm Water Fees

A monthly Storm Water Fee will be charged to each property within the

Canon City limits based on

the square feet of impervious area on each property.

It is proposed that the fee will be included on the City water bill, which is mailed

monthly to commercial-type properties and quarterly to residential properties.

1. Strategic planning
2. Engineering and design
3. Construction and Capital projects management
4. Public Outreach and Education
5. Customer Service
6. Routine and Preventative Maintenance
7. Street Sweeping
8. Storm water facility inspections.

Tips to Protect Water Quality

1. Never put anything into a storm drain, drainage ditch or irrigation ditch.
2. Always clean up after your pet.
3. Use fertilizers and pesticides only when needed and apply the correct amounts. (Get your soil tested!)
4. Dispose of leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste properly. Put grass clippings back on the lawn, or compost and use as mulch, or put in a bag for the trash collection.
5. Throw litter in the trash. Reduce, reuse and recycle.
6. If you wash your vehicle at home, wash it on the lawn. Better yet, take it to a commercial car wash.
7. Recycle motor oil, antifreeze, and other auto fluids at an auto parts store or other authorized recycling centers.
8. Tell a friend about the need for water quality.



City of Canon City

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STORM WATER UTILITY



STORM WATER SERVICES—ACTIVITIES

Strategic planning
Engineering and design
Construction and Capital

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When It Rains It Drains

When it rains, the water that hits the ground has three basic options: soak into the ground, evaporate or run off. In natural settings, rain water is slowed and filtered by plants, soil and other natural buffers. When rain falls on hard or "impervious" surfaces, such as roof-tops, parking lots and driveways, it becomes runoff. The amount of storm water runoff increases as the amount of impervious surface increases. **Runoff flows faster across impervious surfaces and also picks up pollutants.**

Scene of local flooding on May 30, 1999

In Canon City, storm water runoff is channeled to the Arkansas River through a system of paved streets with curb and gutter, irrigation laterals and main ditches, roadside drainage ditches and several drainage channels. Impervious surfaces increase the QUANTITY and decrease the QUALITY of storm water runoff.

Need For Storm Water Utility

The Canon City Council recently approved an ordinance creating a Storm Water Utility. A fee-setting ordinance is planned to come before Council in late Spring 2005. This action is necessary to provide adequate funding for storm water management in Canon City. The fee-based revenue for the Utility will be dedicated to the **comprehensive management** of Canon City's public drainage system. Comprehensive storm water management includes: **long-range planning, drainage improvements, preventative maintenance and public awareness** about drainage issues and water quality. Since storm water runoff is a primary source of water pollution, pollution prevention is integrated into storm water projects when possible. In 2003, the City, by Federal mandate, applied for and was granted a storm water discharge permit from the State. This permit requires the City to implement 6 minimum measures by 2007. Funding through the Utility will allow the City to meet the required measures.

Our goal is to manage the QUANTITY and QUALITY of storm water runoff in a COMPREHENSIVE MANNER.



Typical flooding on North Ninth Street

The City maintains the sections of the drainage system that are in the public rights-of-way or accessible by public easement. Runoff from private property eventually drains into the public drainage system or receiving waters. Because the public drainage system routes storm water from higher land away from lower-lying properties and public roads, it serves a protective purpose. **Roadside ditches and drainage improvements significantly reduce flooding on downstream roads and property.** The public drainage system protects both public and private property from the impact of storm water.

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