



# City of Cañon City

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## Fourth Quarter 2019 Stormwater Management Program News

### Public Arts Mural Project Update

The murals are complete at the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct! Mountain View Core Knowledge School and the Cañon City Stormwater Program would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped transfer and paint the new murals and the businesses and individuals who donated paint and supplies for the project. Nearly 70 adults and children volunteered to assist with the painting of the murals, spending over 237 hours on the project! An acknowledgement sign has been installed at the site listing all the artists, volunteers and donors and thanking them for their contributions. **City Council will acknowledge all the artists, donors and volunteers at the November 4, 2019 Council Meeting.** Please come join us. And watch the City of Cañon City website and social media sites for announcements on the next mural project at the drainage channel on the west side of Centennial Park.

### Other Events:

The City of Cañon City Stormwater Program held a training on October 9<sup>th</sup> for local contractors on its Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control (GESC) program and permitting. Topics included the purpose behind the program, applying for the different types of stormwater construction permits and implementing plans to prevent potential pollutants being released from construction sites. ROW/Excavation and Dumpster permitting were also covered during the training.

### Save the Date:

The City of Cañon City, City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, and Pueblo West are pleased to once again host a stormwater seminar. The date for the seminar is tentatively set for February 12, 2020 at CSU-Pueblo. Come join us for breakfast and learn about construction site management – before, during and after. The seminar is designed to educate contractors, developers, engineers, municipal employees and anyone interested in stormwater in general. Vendors will be on-site. Those interested in attending the seminar may contact Glenda DeBekker at 719-276-5265 or [grdebekker@canoncity.org](mailto:grdebekker@canoncity.org) for more information and to be placed on the seminar email list for announcements. More information will also be posted on the City's website as details are confirmed.

### City Leaf Pickup:

Fall has arrived, and that means the leaves will soon start falling from the trees. Remember, leaves need to be bagged for pickup rather than just raked into the City streets. The Cañon City Streets Department will be picking up leaves later this fall; exact dates will be announced later in the fall on the City website, social media and through radio public service announcements. Bagged leaves need to be placed on the property near the curb during the pickup time frame, not in the street. If you aren't going to participate in the pick-up program, leaves should be bagged and placed in or near your garbage dumpster for pickup by the garbage company. It is against City Stormwater Regulations to place loose leaves, yard waste or other items in the curb and gutter. Those who do so may face enforcement actions from the City Stormwater Program. Property residents that have trees in the median between the sidewalk and street are encouraged to sweep up and bag fallen leaves in the curb and gutter to help keep storm drains from becoming clogged between street sweepings; this is not a mandatory requirement though.

### Fall and Winter Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips:

- Place snow shoveled from sidewalks and driveways onto your lawn or landscaped areas. As the snow melts it will provide extra water for the area rather than running down the street into the nearest storm drain, carrying trash and pollutants with it to local waterways. Businesses with parking lots should make sure plowed snow is not piled on top of storm drains.
- Use deicer sparingly; sweep up excess deicer and dispose of it in the garbage. Consider using non-chloride, non-sodium chloride or low/mixed chloride deicers which are friendlier to pavement and the environment.

### The Low-Down on Litter

Did you know that an estimated **eight million tons** of debris enter the ocean every year? Most of that is from trash and debris discarded on land. Litter, either intentionally discarded improperly or accidentally discarded, can be picked up by

stormwater runoff and washed into our storm sewer system and from there into our local waterways. Rivers and streams then carry that debris into the oceans. Debris in our waterways and oceans is not only unsightly, it can have serious impacts on the health of the environment, on wildlife and on humans.

According to a 2010 Keep America Beautiful survey on litter most of the litter generated in areas other than roadways is discarded at transition points – areas that require people to discard food, drinks and tobacco products before entering. Almost all of the litter in these areas is candy & gum wrappers, food and drinks. Tobacco products are the second most common item. Other areas where litter accumulates include storm drains, parks and recreation areas, loading docks, construction sites and high-traffic areas such as shopping centers and convenience stores.

In 2009, Keep America Beautiful completed a litter survey on the cost of litter cleanup: the survey estimates that the U.S. spends more than \$11.5 billion every year in litter cleanup. Most of that cost (\$9.1 billion) is spent by businesses, with local and state governments, schools and other organizations covering the rest.

The 2009 survey also compared its results with a similar survey done in 1969. Here are some things that have changed in the 40 years between the surveys:

- Visible litter on our roadways has decreased about 61%
- Paper, metal, glass and beverage container litter has decreased by about 74.4%
- Plastic items in litter has increased over 165%, reflecting a 340% per capita increase in the use of plastic packaging over the last 40 years

Plastics litter can have severe impacts on our environment and water resources. Chemicals in the environment will adsorb onto the plastic items which provides a mechanism for transport of these toxins through the environment. They can act as a transport mechanism also through the food chain – animals may ingest plastic items which allows the toxins to bioaccumulate and move upwards in the food chain, potentially even to humans. Plastics themselves will release harmful chemicals to the environment and animals that ingest them while slowly breaking down into smaller pieces. Animals can become entangled in plastic waste leading to serious injury or death. Animals will also ingest plastic items, causing a false sense of fullness which can lead to starvation. Ingestion of plastics can also cause internal wounds which may make the animal more susceptible to predation.

Here's what you can do to help prevent litter:

- Make sure the lids on garbage dumpsters/totes are securely closed. Trash spilling out of garbage receptacles is litter. If items, such as cardboard, won't fit in the dumpster make sure they are secured. Windblown trash can end up in the streets, possibly causing traffic hazards as well as ending up in our drainages and waterways.
- Recycle and reuse! The Ocean Conservancy estimates that 6 out of 10 of the most commonly found litter items in our nation's waterways and oceans are fully recyclable. **November 15<sup>th</sup> is America Recycles Day:** make it a point and habit to recycle. Recycle bins are located in areas throughout the city. Contact the City Stormwater Program, 276-5265, for a list of locations.
- Pick up litter when you see it or volunteer in local clean-up events.
- Visit the websites listed below for more ideas on how to prevent pollution from litter. FinalCycles.org has a Cañon City connection; its pilot demonstration home is located here in town. The home is a plastic-free, sustainably furnished home. The owner will arrange tours and classes on living plastic free and sustainably. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram at Citystead Cottages for tips, tours and news.



## References:

- <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters>
- <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/newsletter-flow-trash-free-waters>
- <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/ten-ways-unpackage-your-life>
- <https://www.finalcycles.org/>
- <https://www.keepitcleanpartnership.org/pollution-prevention/stash-the-trash/>
- <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/features/OceansOfTrash.html>
- <https://uspirg.org/sites/pirg/files/cpn/USP-041218-A10-REPORT/Trash-in-America-2018.html>
- <https://www.kab.org/resources/end-littering>

Graphic provided by Keep It Clean Partnership