



Stormwater Management Program News

Third Quarter 2022

Stormwater Program Update

Rhodes Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project: Drainage improvements are continuing on Rhodes Avenue. The channel has been widened and stabilized from the south side of the Oil Creek Ditch to south of Ute Street. Improvements will continue north to the highway.



The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has announced its intent to begin the review of the Phase II General Stormwater Discharge Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) later this fall. Cañon City was first issued this permit in 2003; it was renewed in 2008 and 2016 with significant changes. The Cañon City Stormwater Program will be participating in reviewing and commenting on any changes proposed by CDPHE. Future newsletters will include updates on the process.



The City of Cañon City has received new aerial footage of the city from the Fremont County GIS. We will be continuing our usual reviews of impervious area on parcels within the City limits with the updated footage. Property owners may see a change in their Stormwater Utility Fee due to normal reviews. As always, if you have a question, please contact us at 719-269-5265. We are available to do on-site assessments and mapping to confirm and update the impervious area for properties.



City of Cañon City

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The Latest Low-Down on Litter

Litter is a large problem throughout the United States, even here in Cañon City. It is the result of improperly disposed of waste items, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Whether or not littering is intentional, it impacts us and our environment in negative ways. Litter impacts water quality and safety, wildlife, humans and soils. It can cause localized flooding if it plugs up storm drains. It can impact economic development, local economies, and overall quality of life.

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.

Keep America Beautiful has conducted three major studies on litter in America – in 1969, 2009 and again in 2020. The 2009 survey compared its results with 1969 survey. Here are some things that had changed in the 40 years between the surveys:

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

The 2020 study summary highlights the following findings:

- The study included waterways in the U.S. for the first time – it found an estimated 50 billion pieces of litter along roadways and waterways; that's **152 pieces of litter for every U.S. citizen**
- Nearly 26 billion pieces of litter were found along waterways and almost 24 billion along roadways
- The amount of litter on roads is estimated to be down 54% since the 2009 survey
- Cigarette butt litter along roads has decreased from 18.6 billion in 2009 to 5.7 billion in the 2020 study, but still remains the number one type of litter
- Cardboard, beer container, food packaging film, sports drink container and water container litter has increased since 2009
- Litter composed of plastic has decreased less than other types of litter materials
- Since the study was conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic it noted an increase in a new type of litter – personal protective equipment (gloves and masks).

While the studies show a downward trend in the amount of litter found along our roadways and waterways, just looking around shows that there is still a long way to go. Here are some tips to help prevent litter:

- Make sure the lids on garbage dumpsters/totes are securely closed. 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.
- Secure loose materials and trash in pickup beds so items do not blow out.
- 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 15th is America Recycles Day:** make it a point and habit to recycle. Our local trash companies offer recycling programs; contact them for details.
- Pick up litter when you see it, volunteer in local clean-up events or organize one of your own.

Several Cañon City organizations hold clean-up events throughout the year. Keep an eye out for events or contact the organizations listed below to participate in or help organize an event.

- Fremont Adventure Recreation: www.joinfar.org
- Cañon City Area Recreation and Park District: <https://ccrec.colorado.gov>
- Royal Gorge RIO: <https://royalgorgerio.org/>
- Fremont360 Litter Mates on Facebook
- Royal Gorge Region BLM: Sean Reynolds, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 719-269-8526
- Cañon City Stormwater Program: grdebekker@canoncity.org

The full summary of the Keep American Beautiful 2020 National Litter Study can be read at <https://kab.org/litter-study/>.

The City would also like to thank the employees of First Interstate Bank who picked up trash recently on County Road 3A (the road to the Royal Gorge). Great job!

If you have an clean-up event in the planning, be sure to let us know so the City can help promote it.



"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." – John Muir

Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either 719.276.5265 or grdebekker@canoncity.org.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Follow these tips to minimize potential impacts to stormwater runoff.

- Fall yard work means leaves! Leaves should be bagged and placed with garbage for pick up. The City of Cañon City will hold its annual leaf pickup near the end of November – watch for announcements. Other alternatives include composting yard waste or leaving the leaves in place to provide food and shelter for beneficial insects.

- Use fertilizers sparingly and only as the manufacturer directs. Excess fertilizer will just wash off the lawn and into the storm system; again potentially causing water quality problems in the Arkansas River and possibly other drainages. Excess fertilizer in our waterbodies can lead to algae blooms which impact wildlife, recreation and drinking water.

- Tree branches from this year's storms are still occasionally coming down. If the branches are from City trees in the area between the street and sidewalk, please contact the City Parks Department for removal. While waiting for the removal please move the branches to the top of the curb. Larger branches and sticks prevent the street sweeper from cleaning along the curb and gutter. They may also block flow from storms leading to localized flooding.

- When prepping your vehicle for winter, watch for leaks and drips. Use kitty litter or another type of absorbent to soak up the fluid, then sweep it up and place in the trash. Automotive fluids such as oil and antifreeze can be picked up by storm runoff and carried to the river. They are also highly toxic to pets and wildlife.

- Sweep paved areas such as sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing them down. Collect the sweepings and dispose of them in the trash.