



# Stormwater Management Program News

## First Edition 2023

### Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Follow these tips to minimize potential impacts to stormwater runoff.

- Use fertilizers sparingly and only as the manufacturer directs. Excess fertilizer will just wash off the lawn and into the storm system, 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.
- Pick up your pet waste while out on walks and make sure outdoor pet areas are cleaned regularly. Pet waste can carry bacteria and viruses that we don't want in our waterways and it can contribute nutrients as it decays.
- Never blow, sweep or place grass clippings or other yard waste in the street along the curb. Runoff from storm events or over-irrigation of lawns can wash the clippings or other waste into the nearest storm drain or culvert, leading to blockages of flow and localized flooding. If the waste makes it through the storm sewer system, it will be washed into the Arkansas River where it may cause other issues such as algae blooms or other impacts to wildlife and recreation.
- Wash your car on a vegetated area rather than in the street. The vegetation will filter pollutants from the wash water.



### City of Cañon City

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### City News:

The City of Cañon City welcomed its new Director of Public Works, Leo Evans, in January of this year. Leo will be the direct supervisor of the Stormwater Program. He also manages and oversees the following departments: Engineering, Facilities & Fleets, Parks & Open Space, Streets, and Water Treatment & Distribution. Please welcome him when you see him out and about!



### Cañon City Water Committee:

City Council is forming a Water Committee to assist Council in reviewing, evaluating and to make recommendations concerning all legislative water issues which may include development, regulations, water quality, water quantity and conservation. Council accepted letters of interest from individuals through March 10, 2023 and will select the committee members. Committee member positions will include representatives from a Fremont County irrigation ditch company or agriculture, water recreation/conservation, development, and Fremont County/Cañon City residents.

### Rhodes Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project:

Improvements to the drainage channel on the west side of Rhodes Avenue have been substantially completed from south of E Main Street to south of Ute Street. The project is currently on hiatus pending permit approval from the railroad.

### North Reynolds Avenue 2A Streets Project:

Water line replacement is currently underway on North Reynolds Avenue from Fremont Drive north to Pear Street. The 2A Street Improvement project is out to bid with selection of the contractor anticipated to occur in April and work beginning shortly thereafter. Improvements include road reconstruction and installation of curb and gutter and sidewalk.

### 2023 Regional Stormwater Seminar:

The Southern Colorado Stormwater Education Committee, of which Cañon City is a member, held their 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Stormwater Seminar on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The seminar featured a full-day course on Stormwater Management and Erosion Control (for construction sites). Attendees of the full-day course received a certificate of completion. Over 100 people attended the seminar this year.



## Earth Day, April 22, 2023

This year's theme for Earth Day is "Invest In Our Planet". By investing our time, energy and resources in activities such as community clean-ups, we are supporting cleaner water and environment which can help lead to healthier communities.

April 22 is the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. It marks the birth of the modern environmental movement to address issues such as pollution of our land, water and air. Earth Day sprang from a 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California which (then) Senator Gaylord Nelson and others witnessed. The incident prompted Senator Nelson, with the assistance of others, to promote a national day of action. The first Earth Day in 1970 inspired 20 million Americans to rally and demonstrate against the impacts of pollution. In the time since, the movement has gone global resulting in more than one billion people world-wide marking the day as one of action to improve our environment, change human behavior and advocate for global, national and local policy changes. To learn more about Earth Day visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)

Did you know that a 2019 study led by 5 Gyres Institute showed an estimated 171 trillion floating plastic particles in the world's oceans. The study looked at data from 11,777 ocean stations in six major marine regions from 1979 to 2019. It is estimated that the amount of plastic pollution could rise 2.6 fold by 2040. Plastics (and other types of pollutants) are often carried to the oceans via inland rivers and streams, so preventing it at the source is a major step in reducing the amount of pollution that makes it to the seas.

Locally, there are several clean-up events in the planning for the next few months. Watch for announcements for these events:

- Cañon City Area Recreation and Park District's Annual Clean Up/Green Up River and Riverwalk event. The annual event is scheduled for April 29.
- Royal Gorge RIO will be hosting their river clean-up on May 21.
- Events for Canon Proud Clean-up are in the planning stages for April; more information will be posted as details are confirmed.
- Trail clean-ups are regularly scheduled by Fremont Adventure Recreation. More information on these can be found at [www.joinfar.org](http://www.joinfar.org) or through their social media.



*"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](mailto:grdebekker@canoncity.org).

## Spring Clean-Up of Irrigation Laterals and Ditches

Irrigation ditches will soon come on in Cañon City which means the lateral pipes and ditches along property boundaries will be flowing with water. Please take the time to make sure these pipes and ditches, including Right-of-Way ditches, along your property are clear of any debris and sediment. Cañon City Municipal Code, Title 19, assigns this responsibility to the property owner or resident. Regardless of whether you have water shares or use the irrigation water or not, it is your responsibility to ensure the water flows unobstructed. Downstream users depend upon it.

Irrigation water is used to water crops, gardens and yards within the City, so it is also important to keep the water as clean as possible. The water eventually returns to the Arkansas River or Four Mile Creek. Any items, such as trash, grass clippings and sediment have the potential to be washed into the river or creek. These items can also cause blockages of culverts or pipes, leading to water overflowing, flooding the street or adjacent properties. Please do not dump any trash, yard waste, pet waste or other substances into these laterals or into the mainstem of the irrigation ditches.

