



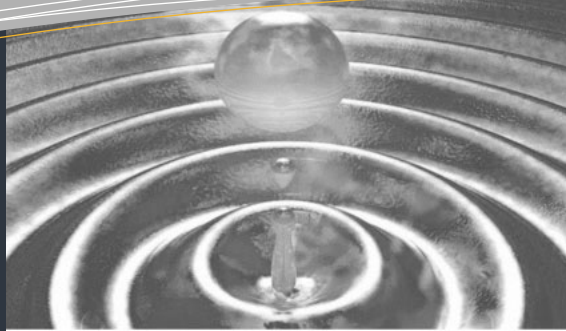
# Stormwater Management Program News

## First Edition 2024

### 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.
- Immediately clean up any spills or drips when performing automotive maintenance. Use cat litter, sand, or absorbent to soak up the oil or other fluid, then sweep it up and place in the garbage.



### City of Cañon City

P.O. Box 1460  
128 Main Street  
Cañon City, CO 81215-1460  
(719) 276-5265

### Upcoming Events:

**April 21:** The Royal Gorge Bridge and Park will be hosting an Earth Day Celebration from 10 am to 4:00 pm. Come visit the Stormwater Program's booth, see other educational displays and live animals, and participate in tours.

**April 27:** The Cañon City Area Recreation and Park District and the City of Cañon City will be partnering again this year for the 2024 annual Clean Up/Green Up. The clean up will focus on the Riverwalk and other trails throughout the City. Breakfast will be available for volunteers starting at 8:00 am with the clean up starting at 9:00 am. Volunteers will meet at the Recreation District's Community Room at 575 Ash St.

**April 28:** Royal Gorge RIO will be hosting their annual river clean up from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Volunteers will meet at Centennial Park and can raft the river or walk alongside it to remove trash and debris. Lunch will be provided. The Stormwater Program will also have a booth with giveaways, demonstrations, and information on pollution prevention.

**Canon Proud Clean-up:** The City will be issuing trash vouchers again this year; more information will posted as details are confirmed.

**June 8:** The Fremont County Safety Jam will be held at Rudd Park from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Come visit the exhibitors, including the Stormwater Program and Community Services Officers. Enjoy the festival and learn important safety and health information.

### Earth Day, April 22, 2024

This year's theme for Earth Day is "Planet vs. Plastics". April 22 is the 54<sup>th</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.

#### Earth Day Celebration

Join Nature's Educators at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park to celebrate Earth Day!

Sunday, April 21st 10am - 4pm

Tours, Educational Displays,  
Live Animals, and More!  
\*During Normal Park Hours\*



ROYAL GORGE  
BRIDGE & PARK  
CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Mention Earth Day at the gate for a \$15 admission!



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)

As plastics breakdown into microplastics, they release toxic chemicals which enter our water and food sources and circulate in the air. More than 500 billion plastic bags were produced worldwide last year, according to Earth Day.org. An additional 100 billion plastic beverage containers were sold last year in the United States alone. Did you know that making a plastic water bottle requires six times as much water as the bottle itself contains?

A 2019 study led by 5 Gyres Institute found 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.

Although 95% of all plastics in the United States won't be recycled, there are other steps you can take to reduce the plastics used.

- When shopping, take reusable bags with you. Keep extras in your vehicle for those spur of the moment stops. In Colorado, plastic grocery bags will soon be unavailable, even for a fee.
- Carry reusable eating utensils for those take-out meals.
- Use refillable bottles, rather than purchasing plastic bottles for water. Or reuse the plastic ones.
- Sign up for your local garbage company's recycling programs to dispose of all accepted types of recyclable materials.

#### Stormwater Program Announcements:

The annual Stormwater Program summary report is now available on the City of Cañon City's website: <https://www.canoncity.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/203>



*"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.

