



Stormwater Management Program News

Second Edition 2025

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Follow these tips to minimize potential impacts to stormwater runoff.

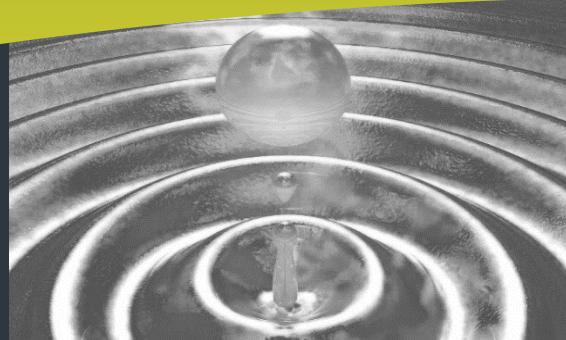
- Fall yard work means leaves! Leaves should be bagged and placed with garbage for pick up. The City of Cañon City will hold its annual leaf pickup near the end of November – watch for announcements. Other alternatives include composting yard waste or leaving the leaves in place to provide food and shelter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

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

- When prepping your vehicle for winter, watch for leaks and drips. Use kitty litter, sand, or 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.

- Wash vehicles on grassy or non-paved surfaces using biodegradable soap. The grass will filter grime and other pollutants allowing cleaner water to infiltrate into the ground.



City of Cañon City

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News:

City Hall is now the new home for the National Weather Services weather observation station. Weather observations for Cañon City began at the Old Territorial Prison in 1888. Cañon City has one of the longer records of continuous observations in Colorado. The station was at the prison for over 50 years, then moved around town to several other locations before finding a home at the radio station for the last 20 years. Weather observations are taken daily for precipitation, maximum and minimum temperatures and the temperature at the time of observation. All values are uploaded to the National Weather Service. Cañon City data can be viewed at <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/Climate?wfo=pub>. We'd like to thank Ed Norden, who has diligently taken the readings for the past 20 years.

On August 1, 2025, Governor Jared Polis, along with Denver volunteers and civic leaders, launched Keep Colorado Beautiful, a new statewide affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Keep Colorado Beautiful will lead efforts to keep communities throughout Colorado cleaner and more beautiful. The nonprofit organization will support local and statewide efforts to prevent litter, promote recycling, increase beautification, and build sustainable public spaces. For more information visit <https://keepcoloradobeautiful.org/>.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has begun the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Stormwater Discharge Permit renewal process. Cañon City was first issued its permit in 2003, with renewals in 2008 and 2016. The current permit has been under administrative extension since it expired in 2021. CDPHE is holding a series of stakeholder meetings to discuss proposed updates to the general permit. The first meeting was held in July for potential new permittees; the rest will be for all current permittees as well as the potential new ones. The second meeting was held on September 22, to discuss general objectives and expectations. There will be four more meetings over the next seven months discussing several areas of the permit, including how Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) may be incorporated into the permit and changes to the construction and post-construction program requirements. These meetings are open to the public; if interested in attending please sign up at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/water-quality/water-quality-engagement/municipal-separate-storm-sewer-system-ms4-general-permit>. Once the stakeholder meetings are complete, a draft version of the revised permit will be issued, followed by a 60-day comment period. Comments will be addressed before the final permit is issued. The permit will contain compliance dates for new or revised requirements which the City will meet.

Upcoming Events:

Royal Gorge RIO will be holding a Fall River Cleanup on Sunday, October 12, 2025. Volunteers will help clean up the banks and river of trash and debris. The event runs from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Centennial Park. Trash bags and pizza will be provided.

Sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094AA4AF22A6F9C52-58550884-fall>. Come join us and visit the Cañon City Stormwater Program's booth for free giveaways and information. Royal Gorge RIO's spring cleanup event had 76 participants who collected 1,000 pounds of trash!



The City Streets Department will be conducting its annual leaf pickup program from November 11th through December 2nd. The schedule will be published the week of October 20th. Residents can bag their leaves and leave behind the curb at their property for pick up by the City Streets Department. An option for dropping off bagged leaves will also be offered.

The City of Cañon City will be offering a shredding event in November. Watch for announcements and information on the exact date which will be published shortly.

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



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

Stormwater and Street Projects Update

Main Street from US Highway 50 and S. 1st Street to S. 4th Street has been completed. The project included some stormwater drainage improvements along with repaving of the street.

Justice Center Road reconstruction is in progress. The project includes stormwater drainage and irrigation improvements, as well as repaving of the road. The project is anticipated to be complete by mid-October.

Upcoming project:

Road reconstruction with stormwater improvements for N. 9th Street will begin in November 2025. The project is expected to last through most of 2026.



Weather Tidbits

January's snowfall total of 9.8" is the sixth highest total since 2000 and the third highest since 2009.

This March's precipitation of 0.02" made it the fourth driest March recorded since 1900.

April's snowfall total of 10.1" is the second highest recorded since 2000. The 1.43" of moisture is the sixth highest since 2000.

And May's 3.8" of precipitation makes it the second rainiest recorded since 2000.