



City of Cañon City

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Second Quarter 2017 Stormwater Management Program News

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips:

It's Spring! This is the time of year when we begin thinking about working in our yards. Here are a few tips to help prevent stormwater runoff pollution while we do so.

- Compost yard trimmings, food scraps and other organic wastes. Adding the compost you make to soil will increase water retention, help to decrease erosion and keep organic materials out of the landfill.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn when you mow instead of bagging them. The clippings will return nutrients to the soil as they decay instead of taking up space in a landfill. Or you can add them to your compost pile. Remember – grass clippings and other yard waste cannot be placed in the street along the gutter. Not only will it block flow of runoff in the gutter, but it can block flow through storm drains causing them to overflow during a storm event.
- Use pesticides and fertilizer sparingly and follow manufacturer's instructions. For more information on alternative methods of pest control visit: <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol>.

Announcements:

The 2016 Annual Stormwater Program Review is now available on the City of Cañon City's website:

http://www.canoncity.org/departments/streets_stormwater_and_engineering/permits_reports.php. The report contains a more detailed description of the information given below.

2016 Stormwater Program Overview

In 2003, the City of Cañon City was issued a permit for "Stormwater Discharges Associated with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)" from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This permit was renewed in 2008 and 2016. The 2003 permit required Cañon City to develop, implement and enforce a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) Stormwater Management Plan. The program had to be designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from our storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable to protect the water quality of the Arkansas River and Four Mile Creek and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act and Colorado Discharge Permit Regulations. A revised permit was issued and became effective July 1, 2016. The permit clarified previous requirements and added some new ones.

The MS4 discharge permit contains six areas the City must address in its stormwater management plan. These areas are:

1. Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts
2. Public Involvement/Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-construction Stormwater Management
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

Each of the six areas has several program elements which are used to meet the goals of the stormwater management plan. A brief summary of activities and programs used to meet the requirements for each area during 2016 follows:

Public Education/Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement

Some of the methods the Stormwater Program uses to fulfill the requirements of this area include newsletters, public service announcements, stormwater presentations at schools and to various organizations and booths at festivals.

1) During 2016, four quarterly newsletters were sent to residential customers and commercial establishments. These newsletters addressed the stormwater management program and asked for feedback from readers. A total of 32,553 newsletters were mailed with water bills.

2) A Stormwater booth was set up during several festivals and events in 2016. Brochures, magnets, litter bags and children's activity booklets were given out. Staff was available to answer questions about the Stormwater Program and to give demonstrations about runoff. The festivals and events included: the Blossom Craft Fair, the Library Mini-Health Fair, Cañon City Police Department's National Night Out and St. Thomas More Children's Health Fair. In addition, the Stormwater Program was invited to have a booth at the first Annual Salida Water Festival in August. A total of 849 visitors stopped by the booth during these events and 169 demonstrations were given.

3) Stormwater runoff demonstrations and presentations were given to kindergarten through 3rd grade at the Lincoln School of Science and Technology and the 2nd grade class at McKinley Elementary School. A workshop on the Keep It Clean –

Neighborhood Environmental Trios was hosted by the Cañon City Stormwater Program for area school teachers. Twenty people attended the workshop from Cañon City and Salida.

- 4) Nine public service announcements were aired on the local radio station and 4 stormwater-related programs were aired on CCTV-Channel 19.
- 5) The City has a stormwater hotline (275-5265) for citizens to phone in issues and questions. Stormwater staff handled 139 contacts during 2016.
- 6) The City is a member of, or involved in, several councils and associations concerning stormwater. Various staff members attended several meetings and conferences during 2016. Cañon City's representative to the Colorado Stormwater Council served as its Chair for 2016.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Program elements required by the State in this category include Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination and Staff Education.

- 1) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: During 2016, 21 potential illegal discharges were investigated. The investigations resulted in 16 verbal warnings, 1 Notice of Violation with a fine and 2 emails detailing a violation and corrective action to be taken.
- 2) Our permit requires the inspection and monitoring of outfalls within the City limits. An outfall is the point where stormwater discharges to the river, creek or a drainage channel. During 2016, 130 inspections were conducted on outfalls.
- 3) Illicit Discharge training was held for 15 seasonal and new Public Works, Parks, Engineering and Water Department employees and 1 Fire Inspector.

Construction Site Runoff Control

A requirement of the City's stormwater permit is the inspection of all applicable construction sites to assess stormwater runoff control at each site.

- 1) In 2016, 23 inspections were conducted at construction sites. These inspections resulted in 5 Notices of Noncompliance.
- 2) The City of Cañon City Stormwater Program, the City of Pueblo Stormwater Utility, the Pueblo County Engineering Department and the Pueblo West Metro District held a regional stormwater seminar for contractors, developers and municipal employees in Pueblo on February 10, 2016. The seminar was attended by 90 people.

Post-construction Stormwater Management

A requirement of our permit is the annual inspection of post-construction stormwater facilities such as detention basins, stormwater quality vaults, grass swales, etc. One hundred fifty-nine (159) inspections were conducted on 140 permanent facilities during 2016 (both private and public).

Municipal Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

Our State permit requires that the City of Cañon City prevent stormwater pollution, to the best of its ability, from its facilities through good housekeeping practices.

- 1) Inspections of municipally-owned facilities (including parks) were conducted to assess the potential for pollution of stormwater runoff. During 2016, 51 inspections were done on 51 facilities with the results sent to the appropriate department head. One hundred thirty (130) inspections were conducted on 96 municipal and private drainage channels; 216 inlet, 19 storm manhole and 254 culvert inspections were also completed.
- 2) Municipal Pollution Prevention training was held for 15 seasonal and new Public Works, Parks, Engineering and, Water Department employees and 1 Fire Inspector.



“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 276-5265 or grdebekker@canoncity.org.