



# City of Cañon City

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**Second Quarter 2018**

## **Stormwater Management Program News**



### **Announcements:**

The Cañon City Stormwater Program will host a booth at the Blossom Craft Fair in Veteran's Park on May 5-6. Stop by and visit us to learn about the Stormwater Program and see demonstrations on how stormwater runoff impacts the quality of our water. Free giveaways such as children's activity books, information, pet waste baggie dispensers and litter bags will be available. We hope to see you there!

The City of Cañon City, Fremont County, the Hydraulic Ditch Company and other interested parties have been meeting to address stormwater issues. The City and County have identified some small projects which may be addressed jointly. A study is underway to identify runoff issues which impact the Hydraulic Ditch and suggest possible projects which may assist to alleviate those issues. Fremont County Code Enforcement officers are also identifying stormwater control measures such as detention basins located outside of the City limit, conducting inspections on those control measures and working with those responsible for their maintenance to insure all are functioning properly.

The 2017 Annual Stormwater Program Review is now available on the City of Cañon City's website:

[http://www.canoncity.org/departments/departments/streets\\_stormwater\\_and\\_engineering/permits\\_reports.php](http://www.canoncity.org/departments/departments/streets_stormwater_and_engineering/permits_reports.php). The report contains a more detailed description of the information given below.

### **2017 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 in New Development and Redevelopment
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 2017 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 and booths at festivals which include demonstrations and the dissemination of informational material.

- 1) During 2017, 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 31,449 newsletters were mailed with water bills.
- 2) A Stormwater booth was set up during several festivals and events in 2017. 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. Approximately 1,210 visitors stopped by the booth during these events and 215 demonstrations were given.
- 3) Seven public service announcements were aired on the local radio station and five stormwater-related programs were aired on CCTV-Channel 19.

- 4) The City has a stormwater hotline (275-5265) for citizens to phone in issues and questions. Stormwater staff handled approximately 145 contacts during 2017.
- 5) The City of Cañon City's website contains a section on stormwater which provides information on stormwater and water quality, including what citizens can do to lessen their impact on the quality of stormwater runoff.
- 6) The City also has a Facebook page and a Twitter account. The Stormwater Program posted eleven times on a wide range of topics.

### **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 2017, 27 potential illegal discharges were investigated. The investigations resulted in 11 verbal warnings, 3 Notices of Non-Compliance and 1 Cease & Desist Order.
- 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 2017, 227 inspections were conducted on outfalls.
- 3) Illicit Discharge training was held for 39 Parks, Streets, Engineering, Water Department and Code Enforcement employees.

### **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) During 2017, 20 inspections were conducted at construction sites. These inspections resulted in 4 Notices of Noncompliance, 2 Cease & Desist Orders and 1 Notice of Violation with a fine.
- 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 Cañon City on February 15, 2017. The seminar was attended by 84 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 ninety-six (196) inspections were conducted on 145 permanent facilities during 2017 (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 2017, 53 inspections were done on facilities with the results sent to the appropriate department head. Ninety-four (94) inspections were conducted on municipal and private drainage channels; 182 inlet, 13 storm manhole and 220 culvert inspections were also completed.
- 2) Municipal Pollution Prevention training was held for 39 Parks, Streets, Engineering, Water Department and Code Enforcement employees.



*“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](mailto:grdebekker@canoncity.org).