



City of Cañon City

P.O. Box 1460 – 128 Main St. - Cañon City, CO 81215-1460
(719) 269-9011 Fax: (719) 269-9017



Third Quarter 2019 Stormwater Management Program News

Public Arts Mural Project Update

The murals are almost complete at the 4th Street Viaduct! The final two pillars will be painted with an acknowledgement and information about the program in the next few weeks. Final touch-ups will also be completed, including the existing mural which was left in place. Mountain View Core Knowledge School and the Cañon City Stormwater Program would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped transfer and paint the new murals and the businesses and individuals who donated paint and supplies for the project. Donors include Home Depot, True Value, The Dungeon Inc and the Sam Crawford family. Nearly 70 adults and children volunteered to assist with the painting of the murals, spending over 237 hours on the project! Watch the City of Cañon City website and social media sites for updates on the completion of the project.



Other Events:

The City of Cañon City Stormwater Program will have a booth at the 6th Annual National Night Out, hosted by the Cañon City Police Department. The event will be at Macon Plaza (N 5th Street and Macon Ave) from 5 – 7 p.m. on August 6th. Come join us for a fun evening of activities, demonstrations and giveaways!

Construction Permitting Update:

The City of Cañon City's Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control (GESC) manual has been revised and was approved by City Council on June 17, 2019. The revised manual will be posted on the City's website (www.canoncity.org) in the next few weeks. Revisions were needed to ensure that the City of Cañon City remains in compliance with updated requirements contained in our General Stormwater Discharge permit, issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Revisions include, but are not limited to:

- Removal of unnecessary and redundant language
- Update of references for standard construction and best management practices (BMPs) specifications
- Updated inspection requirements and schedules for applicable construction sites
- Addition of a section outlining the State requirements for Permanent Water Quality Control Measures (BMPs)

A newsletter specifically for contractors and developers licensed with the City of Cañon City will be sent out soon outlining the significant changes to the manual. We will also be scheduling a training for contractors and developers on the changes in the GESC manual.

Stormwater Capital Improvement Project Update

With the decision of City Council to issue certificates of participation to fund \$8M of stormwater capital improvement projects these improvements will be completed as quickly and as efficiently as possible. The priority projects that were chosen are within the North 9th Street Drainage Basin, Abbey Drainage Basin, Forked Gulch Drainage Basin (Wolf Park & Dawson Ranch), and Northeast Cañon Drainage Basin.

The North 9th Street Basin project consists of replacing storm sewer on North 9th Street from Royal Gorge Blvd (US50) to Mystic Ave. This work will be completed concurrently with water main replacement and 2A pavement reconstruction. Design of this work is planned to start in September 2019 for construction in spring/summer 2020.

The Abbey Drainage Basin project consists of the enlargement and improvement of the drainage way along Rhodes Ave from US50 to the river. Design work for this is underway with construction planned to start fall 2020/winter 2021.

The Forked Gulch Drainage Basin project consists of addition, replacement, and enlargements of culverts in Wolf Park and Dawson Ranch. Design work for this is near completion with construction planned for fall 2019.

The Northeast Cañon Drainage Basin project consists of enlargement and improvement of the drainage way along WPA channel from E. Main Street to the river. Design work for this is underway with construction planned to start fall 2020/winter 2021.

Pollution Prevention Tips:

We're in the height of summer and yard work is on the agenda for most Cañon City residents. While it seems tempting to dump those grass clippings, branches and other yard waste into the curb and gutter of the street, don't give in. Yard waste needs to be properly disposed of through bagging and placing in your dumpster for pickup. Grass clippings can also be left in place on your lawn to provide extra nutrients as they decay. Composting of grass clippings and yard waste is another alternative. Branches can be chipped to provide mulch for garden beds and landscaping.

Larger items such as small branches from trees and shrubs also play havoc with the street sweeper. These items can cause damage to the sweeper. Placing or leaving branches in the street gutter forces the sweeper to go around them or to stop so the operator can move them out of the way. Branches downed by storms should be moved up onto the curb, out of the street and the City Parks Department should be notified for removal. If the branches are not from a storm they should be cut or broken into smaller pieces and put in the garbage dumpster for removal or taken to the landfill.

Trash, cigarette butts and pet waste should not be dumped or left in the curb and gutter either. City Municipal Code prohibits littering, which can be punishable with a fine. Put trash and cigarette butts in the garbage dumpster for pick up rather than just dumping them out of your vehicle. Pick up after your pet and place the droppings in the dumpster.

All of the above, when left in the curb and gutter of the street, can be washed to the nearest storm drain during rain events. As the trash, grass clippings, branches, cigarette butts and pet waste accumulate at the storm drain they can plug the grate or block the pipes inside leading to decreased drainage and increased street flooding. If these items make it through the storm sewers they end up in the Arkansas River or Four Mile Creek, polluting our waters. Trash and grass clippings can release nutrients as they decay which could lead to an increase in algae in the water. Pet waste will also release nutrients and has the potential to release viruses and bacteria to the water. Trash floating in the river makes it unsightly, may affect wildlife and fish negatively and decreases the recreational value of the river. And trash in the streets, City parks and drainages gives the impression that the citizens just don't care about their city, which we know is not true. Help keep our City and water bodies clean by properly disposing of trash, yard waste and pet waste.



“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 gdebekker@canoncity.org.