

## STORMWATER UTILITY FEE

In 1998, a Citizen's Stormwater Advisory Committee recommended that City Council create a stormwater utility to generate funds for stormwater facility maintenance, construction, and State and Federal Clean Water Quality mandates.

In 2004 the City Council adopted Ordinance No.22, Series of 2004, creating a Stormwater Utility Fee to provide funding for implementation of the City's federally mandated MS4 permit requirements. This permit regulates stormwater quality to protect streams and rivers.

Because "impervious surface" is the primary contributor to polluted urban runoff, the fee is equitably based upon the extent of impervious surface found on a tract of land.

Impervious surface is best defined as any surface which inhibits precipitation from directly percolating through the soil and into groundwater. Examples include pavement, sidewalks, buildings and lined gravel beds.

### City Ordinance Prohibits Illicit Discharges

**Illicit Discharge:** is defined as direct or indirect release of pollutants into the City's Storm Sewer System, including gutters!

City Ordinance provides enforcement and civil penalties of up to

**\$250 per violation per day!**

City of Cañon City  
Engineering Dept.

# Stormwater Management Program News

## RESIDENTIAL EDITION

## POSTER CONTEST

The Stormwater Program is having a POSTER CONTEST to develop a theme and logo.

The contest is open to all ages, with cash prizes for artists under 21 years old of \$50 for 1st, \$25 for 2nd, and \$10 for 3rd places. Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, paper or other materials).

Deadline for submission is

September 29th.

The Public Works Committee will be the judges. Prizes will be presented by the City Council.

Artwork submitted must be 11" x 17" or smaller, limited to 2—3 colors, and the artist's name cannot appear on the front of the artwork.

**For an Entry Form or for more information, contact:**

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# Managing Urban Stormwater Runoff

## THE CITY OF CAÑON CITY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM'S MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER FROM POLLUTANTS FOUND IN URBAN STORMWATER RUNOFF

### How Urbanized Areas Affect Water Quality

When rain falls or snow melts, the runoff washes accumulated pollutants off of our streets, parking lots, construction sites, industrial storage yards, and lawns, and into the Arkansas River.

Urban runoff carries a mixture of pollutants from our cars and trucks, outdoor storage piles, muddy construction sites and pesticide spills. Efficient systems of ditches, gutters and storm sewers carry the polluted runoff directly to the river, bypassing wastewater treatment systems.

One way of cleaning up polluted urban runoff is to install stormwater treatment facilities. A much less expensive alternative is to eliminate the potential for polluted runoff *before it becomes a problem*. The potential payoff from better land management practices is healthier waters for us and quality water recreation for everyone, a very important economic factor to our area.

**If You Think  
Poop Scooping is Unpleasant,  
Just Imagine Swimming With It!  
Remember! What Goes Into The  
Stormdrain Goes Into The River!**

at a business that accepts used oil. If you wash your car at home, wash it on the grass and use biodegradable cleaning products. Clean up after your pets and put in the trash or toilet.

**Keeping pollutants out of stormwater runoff is less expensive than installing stormwater treatment facilities. These are some ways to help prevent stormwater pollution:**

- **Recycle Oil**
- **Direct Downspouts to Lawn**
- **Sweep Paved Areas**
- **Clean up Leaks from Cars**
- **Limit Fertilizer and Pesticide Use**
- **Leave Grass Clippings in Lawn**
- **Clean up Pet Waste**
- **Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste Properly**
- **Wash you Car on the Grass or at the Car Wash**

### What Homeowners Can Do:

Urban and suburban residents of Cañon City can play a major role in preventing water pollution. Household tasks like fertilizing and pesticide application, automobile maintenance, or walking the dog can inadvertently pollute the Arkansas River! When these tasks are performed carelessly, contaminants can be picked up from yards, sidewalks, gutters and streets by rainwater and snowmelt or overwatering, collected by storm drains and then discharged *directly* into the Arkansas River. *There is no treatment process along the way!*

Hosing off your driveway or sidewalk sends dirt, motor oil, fertilizer, pesticides, and animal waste directly into our river - the very water we drink and recreate in. So please, sweep instead of hosing. Limit your fertilizer use by following recommended rates and do not apply it before a rainy day. Take care when changing your motor oil and dispose of the old oil and filter