



# Stormwater Management Program News

## Second Quarter 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### A New Way to Report a Stormwater Problem

The City of Cañon City has introduced a new phone and computer app named "SeeClickFix" which the public can download for free. SeeClickFix allows the user to report a stormwater problem or other issues within the City such as leaking water pipes and other water issues; trees, vegetation and trash; street issues and Code Enforcement issues. The app allows the user to enter comments and upload photos. Reports of issues are automatically sent to the City Department in charge of that issue so it can be addressed as soon as possible. City personnel can also enter comments, keeping the status of the issue up-to-date. SeeClickFix can be downloaded from the App Store for your phone or accessed at <https://crm.seeclickfix.com>

The app can also be accessed through the City of Cañon City's website/Report an Issue at [www.canoncity.org](http://www.canoncity.org).



### City of Cañon City

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#### SUMMER STORMWATER TIPS:

With the warmer weather and easing of the COVID-19 restrictions, many people are looking to get outdoors more often. People are working in their yards, on their homes and enjoying the many parks and trails Cañon City has to offer, as well as spending time in or on the Arkansas River. As we all begin to enjoy the great outdoor amenities and activities in our area, let's remember to also respect others' use of the same areas and leave them in as good as condition, or better, than we find them. Some tips for reducing your impact and potential pollutants on our local environment and water resources follow.

#### Yard and Garden

- Remember to dispose of grass clippings, shrubbery and tree trimmings, and other yard waste properly. Bag them and place in your dumpster, or place in the dumpster loose for pickup. Grass clippings can also be left in place on your lawn to provide natural nutrients as they decay or can be composted to provide a natural fertilizer. Yard waste should never be blown or placed in the street curb and gutter. From there it is likely to be carried to the nearest storm drain by a storm event or through runoff from over-watering the lawn where it can clog the storm drain and possibly cause localized flooding. If it makes it through the storm system, it will be deposited in the Arkansas River or local waterways where it can cause algae blooms. For the same reason, yard waste should never be placed on the banks of, or in, drainage channels or storm detention basins.
- Minimize the use of fertilizers. Over application of fertilizers, many of which contain nitrogen and phosphorus, will lead to the excess being washed off the lawn or garden during the next watering or storm event. Nutrients washed into the storm system again end up in the river or other local waterways, leading to algae blooms. Consider using natural fertilizers and always use according to the manufacturer's instructions. Properly store any containers and properly dispose of any unused fertilizers. Never dump fertilizers, pesticides or other chemicals down a storm drain.
- Also use pesticides sparingly – be pollinator-friendly with your use of pesticides. The EPA has information available at <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol> and <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/what-you-can-do-protect-honey-bees-and-other-pollinators> to assist with when and how to use pesticides.
- Store mulch and landscape materials where they cannot be washed into the storm system during a storm event. If loose materials such as mulch can't be put in place immediately, cover them with a tarp to prevent scattering by the wind or rain until they can be placed in landscaped areas.

#### Home and Auto

- Never dump chemicals such as paint, paint thinner or automotive chemicals in the street or storm drain. Don't clean paint brushes in the street. If they must be cleaned outside, do it over a vegetated area or dirt/gravel area. Dispose of unused paint or chemicals by allowing the liquid to dry before placing in the dumpster. Cat litter or sand can be added to soak up the liquid and cause it to harden. Consider donating unused paint to Habitat for Humanity's Restore or sharing with a friend or neighbor; or take it to a local paint store for recycling.

## Home and Auto (continued)

- Clean up automotive spills immediately using absorbent such as cat litter which can then be swept up and placed in the dumpster. Take used oil to the local auto parts store for recycling. Used antifreeze may be recycled by contacting Twin Enviro Landfill for instructions on drop-off.

## Recreation

- Pack in/Pack out: Don't throw trash and debris along the trails or in the river. Place litter in trash receptacles if available. Trash can become airborne and end up clogging storm drains or being washed to local waterways.
- Pick up pet waste. Pet waste is unsightly and smelly. Be considerate of others using the area – this goes for our local parks and sidewalks also. Pet waste can contain viruses and bacteria that we don't want in our local waterways. It also releases nutrients into the waterways as it decays. Both impact our local water quality.

**A note on disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE): Please do not litter with PPE such as masks and gloves. Place PPE in a trash bag, secure and place in the trash for disposal. See the EPA article for more information at <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-stresses-importance-recycling-and-proper-disposal-personal-protective-equipment>.**

## Final Note:

The Cañon City Stormwater Program has answered some calls about trash trucks leaking oil and other substances on the pavement. In some cases this is due to containers containing oil or other liquids being placed in dumpsters. Containers containing liquids should never be placed in dumpsters, even if sealed or capped tightly. Dumpsters are not leak-proof and neither are trash trucks. As trash is compacted in the truck, the containers are often forced open by the compression, resulting in liquid material being released. This liquid then leaks from the truck and can cause a long trail of pollutants deposited on the pavement. Recycling and reuse of chemicals and paint is recommended rather than placing in the dumpster. If a container of liquid absolutely must be placed in the dumpster, the liquid must be solidified with sand or another absorbent first.

Concrete chunks, large tree branches, electronics and tires should also not be disposed of in the dumpster. Electronics and tires must be taken to a recycling facility. Large tree branches should be cut down to fit into the dumpster or hauled directly to the landfill. Concrete damages the trash truck's compactor and flooring leading to increased potential of leaking.

## Stormwater Utility Fee Update:

Beginning April 1, 2020, the Stormwater Utility Fee rate was increased to \$0.004285 per square foot per month. The estimated revenue generated by the increase is an additional \$262,537 annually. This additional revenue will be banked until late fall or early winter 2020, at which time the revenue will be used to purchase a new vacuum truck and fund two full-time positions for stormwater infrastructure maintenance and cleaning. Vacuum truck demonstrations have been on-going since the first of the year to determine the best value for purchase.



*"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).

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

In November 2018 City Council approved borrowing \$8 million through issuance of Certificates of Participation to fund a stormwater capital improvement project with specific projects.

In January 2019, a Stormwater Project Prioritization Committee met several times to produce a list of priority projects to present to City Council. Following are the projects which were approved, along with the project status.

### Dawson Ranch Culverts:

The culvert replacements in Dawson Ranch and Wolf Park are completed, ahead of the anticipated schedule.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Street – US Highway 50 to Mystic Ave:

This project combines both stormwater and drinking water infrastructure upgrades with the 2A Street Reconstruction. Funds for the project come from the Stormwater Capital Improvement funds, Water Utility Funds and the 2A Street Tax Fund. The project started in May and is currently progressing.

### Abbey Drainage and Rhodes Ave:

Design plans are 30% complete. The projected start of the project is Winter 2020/2021.

### WPA Drainage – Water Street to Kountz Ave:

Design plans are 30% complete. The projected start of the project is Winter 2020/2021.

### Additional Projects:

#### S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street between Bridge Street and Myrtle Ave:

This project is funded through CDOT and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Funds (CMAQ). Paving of S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street will begin about July 1, 2020. Irrigation lines were replaced in March, in anticipation of the project.