



# Stormwater Management Program News

## Fourth Quarter 2021

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### SAVE THE DATE

The City of Cañon City, City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, Pueblo West and CSU-Pueblo are pleased to once again host a stormwater seminar. The date for the seminar is set for February 9, 2022 at CSU-Pueblo. The seminar is designed to educate contractors, developers, engineers, municipal employees and anyone interested in stormwater in general. Those interested in attending the seminar may contact Glenda DeBekker at (719) 276-5265 or [grdebekker@canoncity.org](mailto:grdebekker@canoncity.org) for more information.

#### NATIONAL TAKE A HIKE DAY

November 17<sup>th</sup> is National Take a Hike Day. As you enjoy our wonderful trails around the area, please remember to Leave No Trace! Pack out what you take in; don't litter and pick up after your pets. Remember that we are in extreme fire conditions, so no campfires or open fires are allowed. Also make sure that you don't throw cigarettes on the ground. These actions help keep our trails and environment clean for all to enjoy and help protect our water quality.



### City of Cañon City

P.O. Box 1460  
128 Main Street  
Cañon City, CO 81215-1460

### STORMWATER UTILITY AND IMPERVIOUS AREAS

#### Creation of the Stormwater Utility

In 1998, a Citizen's Stormwater Advisory Committee, after extensive research of methods used by other cities throughout Colorado and the nation, recommended that City Council create a stormwater utility to generate funds for stormwater infrastructure and facilities maintenance and construction. When the City of Cañon City was issued its Municipal Separate Stormwater System Discharge permit (MS4 permit) by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in 2003, the City Council determined that the stormwater utility fee would be the most dependable and equitable way to generate the funds needed to provide the programs required by the permit regulations and to fund stormwater maintenance and capital improvements.

#### Impervious Areas and Updates

The Stormwater Utility fee is based upon the impervious surfaces on each parcel within the City limits. Impervious surfaces are those that prevent stormwater from soaking into the ground where it falls. These can include buildings, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, patios and streets. The Stormwater Utility fee is a base rate, currently \$0.004523 per square foot of impervious surface on a parcel. The Stormwater Utility fee is charged to all parcels within the City limits, including parcels owned by the City, Fremont County, the State of Colorado and the federal government. When the Stormwater Utility fee was initially instituted the amount of impervious area on each parcel was determined through aerial photography of the city. Continual updates to the impervious area on properties occurs through site visits and physical GPS mapping when new structures are added or impervious area is removed and through field checks by City personnel.

The Stormwater Utility fee is included in the monthly water bill for all residents and businesses on City water, within the City limits. For those not on City water, but within the City limits, a separate bill is sent monthly. The utility fee is the first line under "Service Code and Description" on the water bill. The code is "ST" followed by the square footage of the impervious area for the property. The square footage is multiplied by the utility rate to give the fee for the month. If a citizen believes the square footage of impervious area for their property is incorrect they may contact the Stormwater Program to schedule a site visit for reassessment. If the square footage has changed (e.g. pavement or other hard surfaces have been removed or replaced with non-impervious surfaces such as pavers or new structures added), please contact the Stormwater Program to schedule a site visit and update of the current impervious area.

## Services

The Stormwater Utility provides the funding for the Stormwater Program which is a division of the Engineering Department. Funds from the Stormwater Utility can only be used for stormwater management and capital improvement projects. The Stormwater Program provides stormwater infrastructure maintenance and cleaning, floodplain administration and stormwater quality programs to maintain compliance with our MS4 permit. Funds are also used for capital improvements, including the design and construction of new infrastructure. Funds for capital improvements may be banked at the end of each fiscal year to assist in funding larger capital projects involving stormwater.

## Stormwater Maintenance Update

On April 1, 2020, the revenue generated from the annual Stormwater Utility Fee increase was earmarked for the lease/purchase of a new vac truck and to fund two new positions for storm sewer infrastructure maintenance. The new truck and crew began maintenance duties at the beginning of 2021. As of the end of September the crew has removed nearly 453.5 cubic yards of debris and sediment from the storm sewer system, cleaning the following:

- 52 Storm Culverts
- 348 Storm Drains
- 75 Storm Manholes
- 432 Storm Pipes
- Cleaning debris from the grates of numerous storm drains as needed, particularly after storms.

If you suspect a storm drain, pipe or culvert may be clogged, please contact the Stormwater Coordinator at (719) 240-5325 so maintenance can be scheduled. Or a report can be filed on-line using the SeeClickFix app at <https://crm.seeclickfix.com>.

## City Leaf Pickup

Fall has arrived, and that means the leaves will soon start falling from the trees. Leaves need to be bagged for pickup rather than just raked into the City streets. The Cañon City Streets Department will be picking up leaves in late fall; exact dates will be announced on the City website, social media and through radio public service announcements. Bagged leaves need to be placed on the property near the curb during the pickup time frame, not in the street. If you aren't going to participate in the pick-up program, leaves should be bagged and placed in or near your garbage dumpster for pickup by the garbage company. Leaves can also be left in place, either intact or mulched, to provide food and shelter for small mammals, birds and insects.

Remember, it is against City Stormwater Regulations to place loose leaves, yard waste or other items in the curb and gutter. Those who do so may face enforcement actions from the City Stormwater Program.

*"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 (719) 276-5265 or [grdebekker@canoncity.org](mailto:grdebekker@canoncity.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (CON'T)

### AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

November 15<sup>th</sup> is America Recycles Day. Although the City of Cañon City does not currently have recycle bins or areas available, City Council has been exploring avenues to resume the service. In the meantime, local trash companies do offer recycling. Both Howard Disposal and Twin Enviro offer curbside pickup of recyclables either bi-weekly or monthly for a fee. They accept most of the commonly recyclable items. Contact each for further details.

Twin Enviro may also recycle paint, antifreeze and electronics if contacted beforehand to arrange drop-off.

Used oil can usually be recycled at local auto parts retail stores. Please call beforehand to confirm they are accepting used oil

To dispose of partially used cans of paint, consider donating them to our local Habitat For Humanity Restore on S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street or doing a paint swap with neighbors and friends. Paint may also be recycled at local paint and hardware stores; again call ahead and check if the store participates in the program.

Please be aware that any type of liquid cannot be placed in recycling bins: this could lead to contamination of the materials in the bin, leading to all materials having to go to the landfill rather than be recycled.

Questions on recycling can be directed to the Cañon City Stormwater Program at (719) 276-5265 or [grdebekker@canoncity.org](mailto:grdebekker@canoncity.org).

