



# Stormwater Management Program News

## Second Quarter 2022

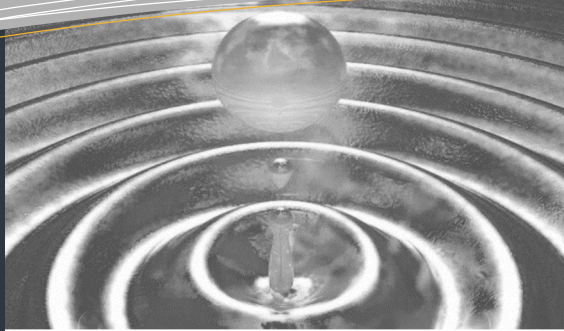
### City of Cañon City

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### Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Spring and Summer means yard work for many. Follow these tips to minimize potential impacts to stormwater runoff.

- Yard work often means mowing the lawn, weeding flower beds and gardens, and pruning trees and bushes. Grass clippings should be bagged for disposal or composted to create natural fertilizer.
- Never blow, sweep, or place grass clippings or other yard waste in the street along the curb. Runoff from storm events or over-irrigation of lawns can wash the clippings or other waste into the nearest storm drain or culvert, leading to blockages of flow and localized flooding. If the waste makes it through the storm sewer system, it will be washed into the Arkansas River where it may cause other issues such as algae blooms or other impacts to wildlife and recreation.
- Use fertilizers sparingly and only as the manufacturer directs. Excess fertilizer will just wash off the lawn and into the storm system; again potentially causing water quality problems in the Arkansas River and possibly other drainages. Excess fertilizer in our waterbodies can lead to algae blooms which impact wildlife, recreation and drinking water.
- Sweep paved areas such as sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing them down. Collect the sweepings and dispose of them in the trash.



### Clean-Up Events

April was Earth Month with April 22<sup>nd</sup> designated as Earth Day. Many clean-up events took place in March, April, and May and the City of Cañon City's Stormwater Program would like to recognize and thank all the organizations and volunteers that helped clean up area parks, trails, the Arkansas River, and even City streets. Below are a few that took place. If any other events took place be sure to let us know so we can send our thanks and recognition.

**The Cañon City Metro Rec District** hosted its annual Clean Up/Green Up Riverwalk and Arkansas River clean up on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The City of Cañon City co-sponsored the event again this year.

Despite the windy conditions, 33 volunteers participated, removing 680 pounds of trash along the Arkansas River, Riverwalk, City and Rec District Parks and City streets.



Special thanks go to the volunteers that tackled trash on Field Ave and around the Harrison School!

**Royal Gorge RIO** organized an Arkansas River clean up on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Sixty-seven volunteers walked or floated 42 miles of the Arkansas River, removing 1,811 pounds of trash and debris! Removed items included tires, propane tanks, a trash can and buckets, and even a toilet seat!

**ILLCIT DISCHARGES**

**What is an illicit discharge?**  
 Technically, anything other than stormwater entering our storm sewer system is considered an illicit discharge. The storm sewer system includes City streets, curb and gutter, and drainages, as well as storm inlets and pipes.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) does allow some discharges to not be enforced against. These include, but are not limited to: Irrigation and lawn watering flows, stream and groundwater flow, uncontaminated pumped groundwater and crawl space dewatering, water line flushing, residential car washing, dechlorinated swimming pool water, water from street sweeping, agricultural stormwater and water from emergency fire-fighting.

**Why should we care about illicit discharges?**  
 Our storm sewer system does not go to a treatment plant before it discharges to the Arkansas River and Four Mile Creek. Anything that enters the system has the potential to enter our waterways. Oil, antifreeze, pet waste, yard waste, trash and other pollutants will contaminate the waterway, making it less safe for human and wildlife use. Our drinking water comes from the Arkansas River – the more pollutants that enter, the more that has to be removed and treated before use. So please, do not dump chemicals, waste and trash into the streets. Clean up spills and properly dispose of trash, pet waste and yard waste. If you are discovered intentionally dumping chemicals and waste into the storm sewer system you could face enforcement actions, including fines.



**Weather Tidbit:**

February was the 3<sup>rd</sup> snowiest recorded since 1900, with 21.9 “ of snow in Cañon City. It was only beat out by February, 1903, with 27” and February, 1997, with 29”. May’s 9.5” of snow was the second snowiest May since 1900, surpassed only in May, 1990, with 9.7” of snow.



**The Cañon Proud Clean-Up** took place on March 5<sup>th</sup>. About 50 volunteers tackled areas around the city, including area trails, cleaning up trash and debris. Others took advantage of the electronics recycling and dumpsters available for trash drop-off.

**Fantastic Job Everyone!**

A huge thanks to everyone that participated in, donated to and sponsored these events. Let’s make every day Earth Day: take time to pick up litter, don’t throw litter out of vehicles, pick up after pets and dispose of the waste properly. We all can make a difference with just little actions.

