



City of Cañon City

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Fourth Quarter 2015 Stormwater Management Program News

Announcements:

We're pleased to announce that the new City of Cañon City website has launched. Please be sure to visit the Stormwater Division pages which have been completely updated. A wide variety of information is now available, including resources for teachers and the general public and stormwater construction forms. You can even report a problem or ask a question via a form available on the web page. The Stormwater Division's web pages can be accessed at

http://www.canoncity.org/departments/departments/streets_stormwater_and_engineering/stormwater_division.php

Federal News:

Waters of the United States Revised Rule Update

In April 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) published a proposed rule change to the definition of the "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act in the Federal Register. This rule, known as "the Clean Water Rule", was passed and went into effect in August of this year. The rule redefines the existing definition of Waters of the U.S. and adds definitions of several terms. Many feel this rule change will actually expand the number of Waters of the U.S. subject to EPA and USACE permitting requirements and will create more uncertainty as to which waters are covered and which are not. Several states have filed lawsuits challenging the validity of the new rule. As of October 9, 2015, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has issued a nationwide stay on implementation of the new rule, pending further review and order of the court.

EJSCREEN – An environmental justice screening and mapping tool

The EPA has released an interactive screening and mapping tool which allows users to better identify areas with potentially elevated environmental burdens and vulnerable populations. EJSCREEN uses high resolution maps combined with demographic and environmental data to create color-coded maps, bar charts and reports. The website contains a tutorial on how to use EJSCREEN and how to read the maps and charts created. For more information, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/ejscreen>.

GIWiz – Green Infrastructure Wizard interactive tool

The EPA has released an interactive web application which provides access to the EPA's green infrastructure tools and resources. Users can produce customized reports based on individualized specifications. Green infrastructure uses natural landscapes to manage Stormwater, which can provide environmental and community benefits. To learn more, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/communityhealth/green-infrastructure-wizard>.

State News:

Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity Permits

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is beginning the review process for the Stormwater Construction permit renewal. The Department will hold a series of stakeholder meetings beginning on November 2, 2015. More information can be found at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/water-quality-construction-stormwater-permit-renewal>.

Local News:

Leaf Pick-up: The City of Cañon City's Public Works Street Division will be picking up bagged leaves again this year, beginning at the end of November. The schedule will be published in the Cañon City Daily Record and announced on the radio stations. The Stormwater Program would like to urge everyone to take advantage of this service. Leaves and yard waste should never be placed in the street or along the curb and gutter as they can be washed into the nearest storm drain, creating the potential to clog the storm sewer system. As the material decays it also releases nitrogen and phosphorus, collectively known as nutrients, which can be transported to the Arkansas River, Four Mile Creek or drainage and irrigation channels. Excessive nutrients can lead to algae blooms which have detrimental effects on the quality of our surface waters.

Kudos: The Cañon City Stormwater Program is adding a new section to the quarterly newsletters to recognize those individuals, groups or businesses which are making a positive impact on the quality of stormwater runoff. If you know of anyone you feel should be featured (including yourself) please contact the Stormwater Program at 276-5265. Actions can be as simple as picking up trash or pet waste to incorporating green infrastructure into their landscaping. To start off the new section the Stormwater Program would like to recognize, and thank, the following entities.

First, we'd like to extend our thanks to the Sunrise Mesa Master Association for allowing the Stormwater Program to apply stormwater markers to their storm drains. We'd also like to thank the five members of Cub Scout packs 519 and 520, and the three den mothers who accompanied them, for choosing to participate in the storm drain stenciling project as their community project. The aluminum markers remind the public to never dump anything down a storm drain. Pictured below are: Ammon Cash, Marcus Suiter, Elijah Medina, Joseph Nettles and Nathan Liddell. Den Mothers pictured are Mickey Wells, Patti Jo Medina and Vickie Houska.



We'd also like to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Dittmar on College Avenue for thinking outside of the box when replacing their driveway. While stormwater runoff was not their primary concern, their unique driveway design promotes stormwater infiltration during small storms rather than letting it run to the street. The driveway consists of six bays separated by a 4" deep concrete grid. Each bay had ground cloth installed with 2" fines on top, followed by a layer of gravel. The Dittmar's wanted something unique rather than replacing the driveway with concrete or just gravel. They had looked at patterned concrete but were concerned about durability. Pavers were also considered, but again there were concerns about durability and the possibility the pavers may shift when driven on. Mr. and Mrs. Dittmar developed the design and had a local concrete company install it. The driveway has now been in use for one year and they are very happy with the results. The initial gravel layer did pack down some from being driven on so more was added. Very little of the gravel becomes displaced during use; the pieces that do are just swept back into the bays. The Dittmar's have noticed a decrease in runoff from small storms and it has had the added benefit of reducing their impervious area on the property, which in turn decreases the amount they pay in Stormwater Utility fees.



"We live in a global environment, which is a closed system. Environmental contamination affects us all." Richard Radcliff

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.