



# City of Cañon City

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Third Quarter 2017

## Stormwater Management Program News



### Announcements

The City of Cañon City Parks Department will be installing “There is no dog poop fairy” signs in City Parks and along trails beginning the week of July 17<sup>th</sup>. The signs are a friendly reminder to please pick up after your pets, not only in City parks and along trails, but also in your own neighborhood. Dog waste does not biodegrade like wild animal waste; it stays around for a long time. It also can contain harmful bacteria and viruses which can be carried into our local waterways by stormwater runoff. Cañon City Municipal Code, Section 9.44.060 (17) makes it unlawful to dispose of or leave behind any feces or other waste matter from a dog or other animal in a person’s control or custody in any street, alley, roadway, parking lot, playground, vegetated area or other place within or adjacent to any City park, except that such waste matter may be bagged or wrapped and then deposited in a trash receptacle. So please remember to pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste properly.

### Illegal Dumping

City personnel have noticed some areas within the City limits where dumping of trash and unwanted items is occurring. Items such as computer monitors, hot water tanks and tires have been dumped along the shoulders or just off of City streets. It is illegal to dump items or throw trash along any roadways, whether they are City, County or State roadways. Please haul large items to the local landfill and place trash in garbage dumpsters. Those caught littering or illegally dumping items may be subject to a fine.

### Stormwater Permit Update

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued the final revised General Permit COR090000 Stormwater Discharges Associated With Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), generally referred to as the Phase II General Stormwater Permit, effective July 1, 2016. The permit has been revised to clarify many requirements contained in the previous permit and has added some new requirements, along with a timeline to meet the new requirements.

The Fourth Quarter 2016 Newsletter discussed the new Control Measures requirement in the permit and the revised Program Description Document requirement. This newsletter will highlight the changes in the permit requirements for Public Education and Outreach.

Part I.E.1. Public Education and Outreach section of the permit contains both revised and clarified requirements as well as a new requirement for nutrients. The previous permit required the permittee to implement a public education program to promote behavior changes by the public to reduce water quality impacts associated with pollutants in stormwater runoff and illicit discharges that included:

- Targeting specific pollutants and pollutant sources determined by the permittee to be impacting, or to have the potential to impact, the beneficial uses of receiving waters
- Conducting outreach activities about the impacts of stormwater discharges on water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff

- Informing businesses and the general public of the municipality’s prohibitions against and/or the water quality impacts associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste

The current permit expands upon these with the inclusion of the requirement to determine targeted businesses that are likely to cause an illicit discharge or improperly dispose of waste. At a minimum, the permittee must identify at least one type of business and a list of the businesses that fit the identified type of business. The permittee must develop and implement at least one education and outreach activity to the identified businesses which describes water quality impacts associated with illicit discharges and the improper disposal of waste, behaviors of concern and actions the businesses can take to reduce the likelihood of illicit discharges.

In the previous permit the City of Cañon City developed its education and outreach programs and activities, which were included in the stormwater management plan sent to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for approval. Any changes to the program had to be submitted to CDPHE for approval. The current permit contains a list of education and outreach activities from which the City has to choose a minimum of four to incorporate into its program. The City can also include education and outreach activities not included in the list, as long as at least four from the list are included in its program. These activities can change from year to year without being submitted to CDPHE for approval.

The current permit has added a new requirement to specifically address the reduction of water quality impacts associated with nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients) in stormwater discharges from our storm sewer system in our education and outreach program. The permit requires the determination of targeted sources that are contributing to, or have the potential to contribute, nutrients to our receiving waters – the Arkansas River and Four Mile Creek. These targeted sources then need to be prioritized on which are likely to obtain a reduction in nutrient discharges through education and educational materials distributed to them.

The current permit also details the type of records to be maintained and what information needs to be documented in the Program description document.

**Garden and Yard Tips to Conserve Water and Decrease Potential Stormwater Runoff Pollution**

- Group plants with similar moisture requirements close together, matching them with appropriate yard conditions (sunny, shady, damp, dry). Target watering only on the vegetation that needs it.
- Select plants that are native to the area. They have a better chance of survival on natural rainfall and are more resistant to local plant diseases and pests.
- Water infrequently, but deeply and thoroughly. This prevents runoff and encourages deeper root growth. Plants with deeper roots develop greater resistance to dry spells.
- Apply mulch to planting beds. This helps the soil to retain moisture, discourages weeds and provides plants with essential nutrients, reducing the need for fertilizer.
- Use fertilizer sparingly and according to the directions. Consider having soil samples analyzed to determine the need for fertilizer. Excess fertilizer can be washed off of lawns and gardens and end up in the river. Excess fertilizer in waterbodies can lead to increased algae blooms which have detrimental effects on the plant and animal life in the waterbody.
- Use pesticides sparingly and only according to directions. Excess pesticides can also be washed off vegetated areas and cause problems in local waterbodies.



*“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).