



City of Cañon City

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Second Quarter 2019 Stormwater Management Program News

Public Arts Mural Project Update

Mountain View Core Knowledge School and the Cañon City Stormwater Program would like to thank all of the students who submitted art work for the mural project at the 4th Street Viaduct. One hundred thirty-four pieces of art were submitted from area students Kindergarten to 12th Grade. Sixty-eight of those were chosen to be featured in the art show at the Fremont Center for the Arts during the month of February. The public was asked to vote on their top three choices at the art show and via on-line voting. We had fantastic participation from the public – 490 ballots were cast through the two avenues with a total of 1,395 votes! Thank you all for taking the time to participate. The top 10 citizen choices were presented to the City Council on April 15. The Council chose the art work which will be featured on the large support at the viaduct. The remainder of the artwork will be arranged on the pillar supports at the viaduct to the extent possible. Congratulations to the following students for being selected as the top 10 Citizen Choices:



- Alexandra Weatherill CCHS 12th Grade (chosen by City Council to be featured on the large support)
- Leilani Medina Home School 6th Grade (2 entries in the top 10)
- Creative Kids 4H Club various grades
- Natalie Henry MVCKS 2nd Grade
- Quinn Witkowski MVCKS 2nd Grade
- Emily Rabinovitz MVCKS 7th Grade
- Gavin Reddick, Thor Shelver, Joel Riva and Mason Coleman joint submittal MVCKS 4th Grade
- James Henry MVCKS 4th Grade
- Taylor Garruto MVCKS 5th Grade



Painting of the murals will be done June 3 – 7 and 10 – 14, 2019. We are looking for both student and adult volunteers who would like to assist in the painting of the murals and/or supervise students as they paint. Citizens who wish to donate time or materials to the project are encouraged to contact Glenda DeBekker at grdebekker@canoncity.org or Meg Olsen at meg.olsen@canoncitieschools.org.

The Mural Project Committee also congratulates Eli McBride, MVCKS 5th Grade. His art submittal was chosen by the Fremont Adventure Recreation (FAR) to be featured on the back of their Student Activity Guide which was published on April 1st.

Stormwater Capital Improvements

City Council has approved financing of \$8 Million through Certificates of Participation (COPs) to fund a stormwater capital improvement plan for specific stormwater projects. In January, a Stormwater Project Prioritization Committee consisting of ten citizens, a Fremont County Commissioner and City of Cañon City Council members and employees produced a list of four projects which will be completed with the funding. As part of the funding directives, 5% of the borrowed monies must be spent within the first 6 months and 85% must be spent within 3 years.



The following projects were recommended to City Council by the committee and approved.

- Storm sewer improvements on N. 9th Street from Main Street north to Mystic Ave. This project will be concurrent with water line improvements and 2A Street reconstruction on N. 9th Street.
- Drainage channel improvements on Rhodes Ave from Highway 50 south to the Arkansas River. Fremont County has committed to assist with costs of this project.
- Replacement and installation of culverts in the Dawson Ranch and Wolf Park subdivisions to improve drainage.
- Drainage improvements from East Main Street south to the Arkansas River along the WPA channel.

The first project to be undertaken will be the culvert work in Dawson Ranch and Wolf Park for completion this year. Design work will begin on the other three projects this year with completion of those projects in the next 3 years.

State Construction Permit

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued the revised Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity permit in November, 2018. The permit became effective April 1, 2019. There are several updated requirements in the revised permit, including revised electronic reporting requirements. For developers and contractors that have an existing Stormwater Construction General Permit their existing permit was reissued with a new permit number. Please visit the CDPHE permit website to learn of the new requirements in the permit at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-construction-general-permits>.

Other Tips and News

April is Earth Month and National Gardening Month. Actions we take every day can impact stormwater runoff and our local water quality by contributing pollutants to runoff. Some tips to help lessen our impact on stormwater runoff and the water quality of the Arkansas River and Four Mile Creek are listed below. Let's make every day Earth Day in Cañon City!

- Don't litter and keep lids on trash bins to prevent loose trash blowing out. Trash can be carried by runoff to the river where it affects the aesthetics and recreational uses of the river. Trash in the water and drainageways also affects wildlife.
- Pick up after your pets. Pet waste can carry bacteria and viruses which can affect both human and wildlife health. Pet waste also contributes nutrients to waterways which can lead to undesirable algae blooms.
- Use native plants and grasses in your yard which require less water.
- Set your sprinkler system correctly to avoid overspray onto hard surfaces which wastes water and can create runoff.
- Minimize use of fertilizers and herbicides. Test your soil before applying fertilizer to determine if it is needed and how much is needed. When applying, follow the manufacturer's directions; don't over-apply. Excess fertilizer and herbicide will be washed off your lawn during watering or a rain storm and end up in the river where it can cause algae blooms or have other detrimental effects.
- Compost your yard waste or leave the grass clippings on the lawn to add extra nutrients to your lawn. Never place yard waste in the street where it can be carried by runoff to the nearest storm drain. Yard waste and trash can block storm drains leading to localized flooding.

Spring in Cañon City also means irrigation ditches are starting to run. Make sure any lateral ditches or pipes which run along your property are clear of debris which could prevent the flow of water or cause water to overflow into the street. City ordinances assign the responsibility of maintaining the right-of-way ditches between the road and properties to the property owner. Even if you do not use irrigation water it is still your responsibility to insure the free flow through the ditch so downstream users receive their water.



"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.