



Stormwater Events

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2014



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Shooks Run FEMA Project

SHOOKS RUN - RETAINING WALL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (John "Prairie Dog" O'Byrne Park, between Bijou Street & Kiowa Street)

In September of 2013, numerous City drainageways experienced a significant amount of damage from rain-fall events. As a result, a Major Disaster Declaration was declared by the President which made federal funding available for drainage projects. One of the eligible projects identified by City and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staff is along the Shooks Run drainage corridor within "John "Prairie Dog" O'Byrne Park.

Approximately 200 lineal feet of retaining wall failed, putting adjacent private and public property at risk. The drainageway runs through numerous historic neighborhoods which necessitated research to ensure adherence to historic preservation. The City hired local engineering and planning consultants to engage in the public process and prepare construction documents. The consultants provided various wall designs and their associated costs for each alternative.

After the designs were prepared, the City then hosted public meetings allowing the Shooks Run Neighborhood Association and adjacent homeowners their input as to what they wanted to see constructed in the park setting. Trying to balance the public's desire to have an aesthetically pleasing wall while staying within the allocated budget, proved to be challenging. In the end, an agreement was made.

It will cost ~\$400k to reconstruct the wall and drainage corridor through the park. The wall will be constructed with reinforced concrete using a form liner which will provide a pattern, texture, and relief for visual interest. In addition to the wall, the creek will have rock grade control structures, a boulder edge treatment, and associated landscaping. Construction on this project is anticipated to begin in early 2015.



Stormwater Classes—2014

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“Stormwater Events” is
 published by
 Stormwater/EDR

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Once again, Stormwater hosted permit classes for our local community...

In October, Stormwater Engineering hosted three days of these classes which aid our local community to ensure permit compliance. The classes include: Grading and Erosion Control (GEC), Stormwater Management Plans (SWMP), and Operations and Maintenance of Stormwater Best Management Practices (O&M).

On October 27th and 28th, Tom Gore from Altitude Training, presented the Grading and Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Plans classes to local inspectors, engineers, planners, and utilities staff: all those who support construction site stormwater programs.

On October 29th, the city’s O&M Inspector, Joel Mackey, held the Operations and Maintenance of Stormwater Best Management Practices. This class is designed for personnel responsible for ensuring the proper functioning of permanent stormwater structures, features, and BMPs as they relate to City requirements and the MS4 permit.

Please contact Jeff Besse at 719-385-5918 (ccallahan@springsgov.com) if you would like to be put on our mailing list for future classes.

Education & Outreach Numbers for 2014

- **School/Camp Presentations: 146 presentations ~ Over 4000 children**
- **Outreach Events: 13 public events ~ 815 citizens**
- **Adopt-A-Waterway: 40+ cleanup events ~ 1131 volunteers**
- **Storm Drain Marking: 3 different events ~ 41volunteers**

An Intern’s Perspective

During my time working in the Stormwater Division, I have performed a variety of tasks that bettered my understanding of how much the Stormwater Division does for Colorado Springs. One of my main tasks this past summer was pertaining to public outreach and education. I also provided many businesses in the Colorado Springs area information regarding the way in which they affect the environment around them. Among these businesses were animal supply stores, health offices, and automotive businesses. I supplied them with information regarding the dangers of animal waste and automotive waste in hopes that they will take precautionary measures to help prevent further damage to the environment. Stormwater plays a huge role in the education of our citizens and makes a tremendous effort to protect the beautiful environment of our state and the waterways that run through it.

Another way in which I helped educate our citizens was through summer class visits where we taught the kids how easily the water in our city can be contaminated. Providing a visual and hands on lesson, I showed many children a small scale model of a city and let them contaminate it with fake pesticides, animal waste, automotive waste, and other common water contaminants. This kinesthetic presentation actively helps these children to actively understand how much damage is done to the water system on a daily basis. Giving these children this information helps them develop environmentally friendly lifestyles early on and also encourages ideas for their families when they are at home. These presentations have been my main involvement for the Stormwater Division.