



Stormwater Events

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Only Rain Down the Drain

“Only Rain Down the Drain!” That’s what nearly 3000 students learned this past year during their Stormwater presentations. Students, summer campers at City parks, and community center program attendees now have a better understanding for how the stormwater system functions and – more importantly - their role in helping to keep it clean.

This may not seem like the most riveting topic, but with the use of a “community in a box” interactive stormwater model, a simple video featuring the famous water drop H2O Jo, and even some “stormwater soup,” the subject of stormwater pollution prevention can come to life. Program participants now know the difference between stormwater and wastewater, what some of the major pollutant culprits are, and are armed with the knowledge to change their behaviors and influence others - all in the name of clean water.

What can a kid do, you might ask? Well, it’s as simple as bringing a bag on a walk to collect their pet’s waste or trash from litterbugs so it doesn’t get washed down a storm drain. Or suggesting their parents take the family car to a carwash or put it on the lawn for washing to keep the suds and dirt out of the street because that yucky water can ultimately end up in our creeks. They may even consider adopting the closest storm drain to their home and sweeping it every so often to supplement the City’s street sweeping efforts.

Water pollution happens a little bit at a time, from each of us and our everyday actions. It can also be prevented with small changes. Learn more about what you can do to keep our precious water resources clean by visiting www.springsgov.com/stormwater. Consider adopting a waterway, marking the storm drains in your neighborhood, or inviting a speaker to your next neighborhood or organization’s gathering.

We gotta keep it clean, ‘cause we’re all downstream!



Stormwater Classes—2013

Stormwater Engineering

(719) 385-5980

stormwater@springsgov.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1575 MC 410

Colorado Springs, CO 80901

www.springsgov.com/stormwater

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For additional information, please
call

Jeff Besse at 719-385-5566



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

In November, Stormwater Engineering hosted three days of these classes which are offers to 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 November 12th and 13th, 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 November 14th, 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 Cheryl Callahan at 719-385-5543 (ccallahan@springsgov.com) if you would like to be put on our mailing list for future classes.

Education & Outreach Numbers for 2013

- **School/Camp Presentations: 118 presentations ~ 2972 children**
- **Outreach Events: 11 public events ~ 898 citizens**
- **Adopt-A-Waterway: 16 cleanup events ~ 869 volunteers**
- **Storm Drain Marking: 4 different events ~ 40 volunteers**



Where Does Your Water Go?

Ever wondered where our water goes after it goes down the drain? Well, the answer depends on the kind of drain that your water goes down. You see, there are two separate sewer systems in Colorado Springs. We have a sanitary sewer system and a stormwater sewer system. The sanitary sewer system is the system that is connected to the drains and pipes in your home or office. Whether it comes from your sink, bathtub, or toilet, once it goes down the drain, it goes to the wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and then released into our creeks.

The stormwater sewer system is entirely separate and is connected to a series of pipes and drainage channels. Once the water goes into a stormwater inlet or drain, it flows *directly* to our creeks and streams. The big difference here is that the water does not go to a treatment plant to get cleaned. So anything that goes down a stormwater inlet, whether it be fertilizers, grass clippings, cigarette butts, chemicals, or trash, it all goes directly into our public waters.

For this reason, Stormwater Engineering is dedicated to educating the public on the importance of keeping our stormwater clean. Most citizens believe that stormwater actually gets treated and that our city has only one combined system. It is important to practice methods for keeping our stormwater system as clean as possible.

There are many ways to protect our creeks and streams and you can help. For more information, please click on the link here: <http://www.springsgov.com/stormwater> or contact Stormwater Engineering at (719) 385-5980.