

Manitou Springs Stormwater Management Program

Stormwater is rain or snowmelt that flows across the ground surface, eventually reaching storm sewer systems that flow directly into Ruxton, Sutherland and Fountain Creeks. Stormwater is not treated before it reaches the storm sewer systems so contaminants picked up by stormwater will pollute streams. Manitou Springs, in conjunction with other front range communities and El Paso County, has recently created a new set of ordinances to the city code specifically outlining our part in adopting important state and federal regulations in regards to stormwater quality.

These new ordinances are known as title 14, Stormwater Quality Management and Discharge Control code. In addition to the new control code, The City Administrator has appointed a Stormwater Quality Manager to oversee the permitting structure and enforcement activities.

Most all land disturbing construction activities within the jurisdiction of Manitou Springs require at the minimum, a stormwater Management Plan, (SWMP). Construction sites > .5 acre may require a Erosion and Soil Quality Control plan, (ESQC) and a Grading and Erosion Control Plan, (GEPC).

Although construction sites less than .5 acre generally do not require the ESQC or GEPC, they may be subject to a SWMP and monitoring by the Stormwater Manager, especially if the site is in close proximity to waterways or the site poses a higher potential for waterway pollution.

To view the ordinance and requirements of the permit structure, click on the link below;

[Municipal code website, click on "Title 14"](#)

Public awareness and participation are big factors in keeping our waterways clean. Some may have noticed the storm drain markers being installed to the drain inlets around town. These are to remind residents and visitors that the storm sewer system drains directly to our creeks and that any contaminants or pollution going down the drains will have adverse effects on fish, wildlife and plant populations.



Please report illegal dumping or suspicious activity to the Stormwater Manager
@ 685-2573, 7:00 AM to 5 PM. After hours call police dispatch at 685-5407.