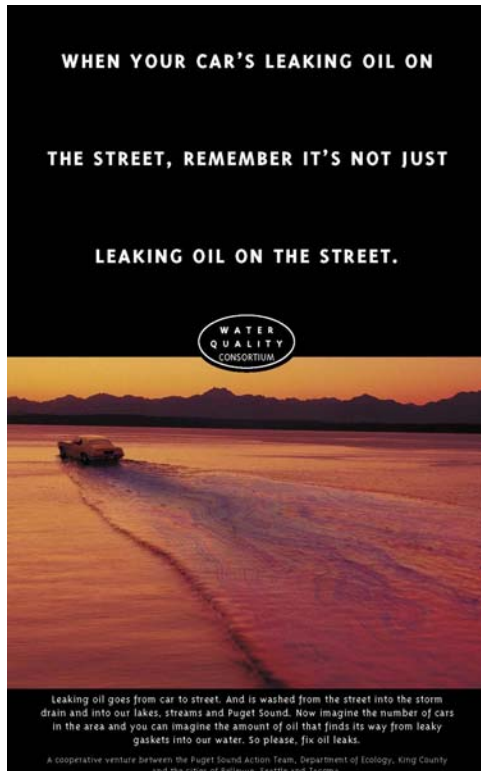


HOW DOES STORMWATER QUALITY AFFECT YOU AS A RESIDENT OR BUSINESS OWNER?



DID YOU KNOW?

- Clean water is a precious resource that we all take for granted far too often. Our thirst for clean water is enormously insatiable. Each year there are more and more people requiring clean water to drink, cook, bathe, clean and manufacture goods.
- Unlike wastewater, stormwater is not treated at a sewage treatment plant. Anything dumped or placed on the ground is carried away by stormwater runoff and will end up in the City's storm drains which discharge into our ditches, reservoirs, creeks, ponds, lakes and rivers.
- Leaves, grass clippings and other yard wastes cause elevated levels of nutrients in our waterways and is harmful to fish and aquatic organisms. Properly disposing of these materials will prevent them from entering the City's storm drains. Place them in your compost pile for use next spring in your vegetable and flower gardens.

- Pet waste left on the ground contains high concentrations of bacteria and can be carried by stormwater runoff into our ditches, reservoirs, creeks, ponds, lakes and rivers, which is harmful to fish and aquatic organisms. Bag it up and place it in the garbage or flush it.
- Salt and other chemicals to remove snow and ice is carried by stormwater runoff into our ditches, reservoirs, creeks, ponds, lakes and rivers and increases nutrient levels, which is harmful to fish, aquatic organisms, and other animals who depend on clean water for their health.
- Applying lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to the directions not only saves you money, but helps protect our ditches, reservoirs, creeks, ponds, lakes and rivers. Over application adds to the nutrient levels in these waterways and is harmful to fish and other animals who depend on clean water for their health.

**It's our water, City of Wheat Ridge.
Let's keep it clean.**



What are some other things you can do right now to help improve the water quality of stormwater runoff?

- If you wash your vehicle at home make sure no soaps or oils enter the storm drain system. Either wash your car with out soap, pull it on to the lawn or take it to a commercial car wash
- Keep vehicles in good repair so that they don't leak any fluids.
- Store all materials (oils, paint, household cleaners, fertilizers, etc.) in proper containers and in such a way that they cannot leak and be washed into the drainage system.
- Recycle or properly dispose of all materials.
- Sweep walkways, driveways and other outside surfaces, rather than hosing them.
- Use native plants in low-maintenance landscaping to reduce fertilizer and water.
- Eliminate the use of pesticides in your garden and around your home.
- Cover any exposed soil, especially while working on landscape projects.
- Preserve streamside vegetation.
- Pick up after your pets, both in the park and in your own backyard!
- [Ride Smart Thursdays](#); Walk, ride your bike, take the bus or carpool.
- Volunteer for a Stream Watch Organization (See Get Involved.)



Where can you learn more about public participation? The links provided below will allow you to get involved, participate in scheduled watershed events, learn more about watershed education and water conservation and research funding sources for watershed organizations. All of the links are excellent educational and public involvement resources but the ones denoted by the asterisk are especially useful for educators. These links provide tools, materials and volunteer activities for teachers to share with students.

Get Involved

[River Watch](#) - River Watch is a statewide volunteer water quality-monitoring program operated by the Colorado Watershed Network in partnership with the Colorado Division of

Wildlife. The mission is to work with voluntary stewards to monitor water quality and other indicators of watershed health, and utilize this high quality data to educate citizens and inform decision makers about the condition of Colorado's waters. River Watch is comprised of volunteers from school groups to watershed groups, jurisdictions, and consultants, with new groups being added each year. Each volunteer group receives the training, support, and supplies needed to monitor their rivers in a consistent and accurate manner.

* [River Smart](#) – Learn to be RiverSmart about the things you do at home, and you can make a real difference in the quality of our rivers and the water we drink.

[American Rivers](#) – Find toolkits that give you the information you need to be a good advocate for your river. Plus, get reports, how-to documents, and other resources to help you tackle a variety of river restoration projects.

[Colorado Water Protection Project](#) - The goal of the Colorado Water Protection Project is to increase public awareness in Colorado about the causes of and solutions to urban polluted runoff resulting from household activities. The Colorado Water Protection Project, which began in 1997, is a public education effort of the League of Women Voters of Colorado Education Fund.

[Center for Watershed Protection](#) - Founded in 1992, the Center for Watershed Protection is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation that provides local governments, activists, and watershed organizations around the country with the technical tools for protecting some of the nation's most precious natural resources: our streams, lakes and rivers. Be sure to read the section on [watershed stewardship](#).

[Rivers of Colorado Water Watch Network \(EPA\)](#) - Rivers of Colorado Water Watch Network conducts hands-on, year-round, real science water quality monitoring, primarily on streams. Our data is mostly used to determine stream standards. We have produced watershed resource curriculum guides, and annual watershed reports of data, standards, and biological thresholds. We conduct annual watershed gatherings, computer trainings, and leadership skill trainings for students. We have different components for elementary and for middle/high school students.

[National Volunteer Monitoring Directory \(EPA\)](#) – Fill out this form if you'd like your volunteer monitoring program added to this EPA directory.

[Storm Drain Marker Program](#) - The Storm Drain Marker allows volunteers install Storm drain markers on City and private storm drain inlets.



Existing Clear Creek Programs

[Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association \(DRCOG\)](#)

[Clear Creek Watershed Foundation](#)

[Clear Creek Land Conservancy](#)

[Colorado Foundation for Water Education.](#)

Take part in these scheduled National Events

*[Earthday Network](#)– Take part in the Water for Life Campaign. Educators can download a lesson plan and order a water testing kit.

*[World Water Monitoring Day](#) – Get involved this year and register your own monitoring site for the World Water Monitoring Day sponsored by the Center For Watershed Protection.

Higher Education and Research

[Colorado Water Resources Research Institute](#) - The Colorado Water Resources Research Institute (CWRRI), an affiliate of Colorado State University, exists for the express purpose of focusing the water expertise of higher education on the evolving water concerns and problems being faced by Colorado citizens.

*[Colorado Foundation for Water Education](#) – This organization promotes better understanding of Colorado's water resources and issues by providing balanced and accurate information and education.

*[Colorado Water Knowledge \(CSU\)](#)

[Watershed Academy Web \(EPA\)](#) - This Web site offers a variety of self-paced training modules that represent a basic and broad introduction to the watershed management field.

*[Teacher Resources](#) – Resources for introducing Urban Stormwater Quality to the classroom.

Water Resource Agencies

[Colorado Division of Water Resources](#) - The Colorado Division of Water Resources strives to be a leader in the water community of Colorado and the western United States. This is accomplished by focusing on the following areas: people, water and stewardship. People, because we recognize that the business of water involves our employees and the public. Water, because the administration, safety and use of the State of Colorado's water resources is something we are committed to and care deeply about. Stewardship, because we understand and accept our obligation to the taxpayers and ourselves, in using and protecting the resources in the most effective manner possible.

[Colorado Water Conservation Board](#) - The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) was created in 1937 for the purpose of aiding in the protection and development of the waters of the state. The Mission Statement of the CWCB is: Conserve, Develop, Protect and Manage Colorado's Water for Present and Future Generations.

Public Involvement Beyond Colorado – See what other communities are doing.

- * [Stormwater Coalition](#) – This is the Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition website with excellent educational tools for public involvement.
- * [Streamkeeper](#) – This is a Northwest Adopt-A-Stream Program.
- * [Think Blue](#) – This is a San Diego public involvement site.
- * [Watch Robocow](#) – This is a Canadian flash animation concerning water quality.
- * [Clean Water Campaign](#) – This is an Atlanta public involvement site.