

Stormwater is an Amenity

Stormwater has been seen a nuisance to get rid of, and drainage facilities, such as detention ponds, have a reputation for being functional waste areas. The MS4 permit provides opportunities to design features to manage stormwater as functional and attractive parts of our community. Stormwater is the source of all the water we have access to; keeping it free from pollution, and valued, is critical to our vibrant town.

How does this affect me?

Runoff from precipitation happens everywhere in Windsor, and everyone plays a part in keeping it clean. The Clean Water Act of 1972 brought about these regulations; it is an Act of Congress that is “of the People, for the People, and By the People.” We all have a right to clean water for drinking, growing food and recreation. ALL of this water comes to us, at the start, as **stormwater**.

What can I do to help?

Many actions help keep stormwater clean. Windsor’s residents have pride in their town and many of these actions are already routine. See inside this brochure for new ideas and facts.

What will this cost?

Storm drainage fees account for most of the costs. Windsor charges fees on development, and is working through various partnerships to manage the costs of implementation and maintenance.



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Town of Windsor **NEW Stormwater Regulations** **MS4**

Windsor has been designated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) as a Phase II MS4, and received an MS4 permit. This will impact how the Town will manage runoff from rain and snowmelt on our streets, construction sites, businesses and other areas. Windsor is regulated by the CDPHE through the MS4 permit, and must implement new regulations and processes to ensure the discharge of the cleanest stormwater possible.

What is an MS4?

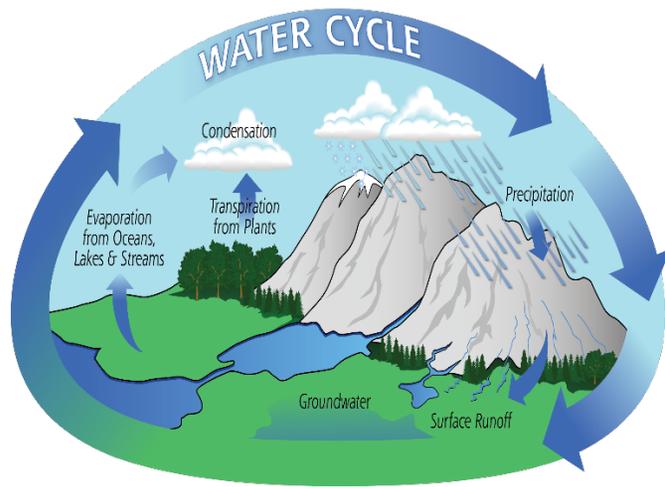
MS4 is short for “**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System**.” This is the series of drains in the street, the ditches, and the underground pipes that convey runoff to the Cache la Poudre River. This runoff *does not* go to the wastewater treatment plant, and contributes to water pollution.

Why has Windsor been designated?

Several factors led to this designation. Population, growth trends, and proximity to waterways all influenced this process. There are about 120 MS4s in Colorado, both Phase II (small population) and Phase I (large population).

What is the Town doing to comply?

The MS4 permit is a framework for the development of new ways of managing our stormwater. Conducting education and outreach and implementing regulations are part of the process to meet the full implementation date of July 2020.



Water: The original recycling program

All the water on earth has been “recycled” for over 4 billion years. Water goes through various forms in this cycle: liquid, solid, and gas. Obviously, the liquid form is the only form important to us. But much of it is salt water in oceans. And much of the fresh liquid water is locked up in the polar ice caps.

While this model is useful and simple, the reality is more complicated. The paths and influences of water on the Earth’s ecosystems are not completely understood, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Studies continue to increase our knowledge of the complex issues surrounding water.

- 💧 Remember – Only Rain Down the Drain! Even natural substances, in excess, are pollutants.
- 💧 Keep your vehicle well maintained and fix leaks. Sweep before power washing surfaces.
- 💧 Wash your car on the lawn or on gravel, better yet at the car wash. Water at car washes is typically recycled.
- 💧 Use lawn and garden products sparingly. Unabsorbed chemicals wash off in stormwater. Choose organic alternatives if possible. Avoid application before a storm.
- 💧 Mow your lawn less often. Keep it at about 3” tall and you will reduce the need for watering and decrease the likelihood of pests.
- 💧 Clean up after your pet. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria. Please do not throw pet waste or bagged pet waste into any storm sewer, detention pond, or ditch!
- 💧 Minimize the amount of ice-melt used, and choose the most environmentally friendly alternative.
- 💧 Walk, bike or share a ride to work. Air pollution from vehicles is washed out of the air by – you guessed it! – stormwater, and becomes water pollution.
- 💧 Don’t drain swimming pools, fountains or hot tubs to the storm drain. Let the chlorine dissipate first to zero – be sure to test it – then drain it onto a landscaped area.
- 💧 Install a rain barrel to capture runoff and apply it to your landscape or use it for washing patio furniture. This helps reduce the potential of pollutants washing away in runoff, and is very beneficial to your landscape and garden.
- 💧 Do not sweep grass clippings into the street or dump grass clippings in the gutter or any storm drain. This can clog the storm sewer system and potentially lead to flooding. And grass clippings are a source of excess nutrients – water pollution.
- 💧 Insist that your landscapers cover piles of mulch, dirt and rocks dumped in the street, and be sure to do this yourself for DIY projects.
- 💧 If you see a spill or any non-stormwater material that has made its way to a storm drain, ditch or water way, contact the Stormwater Program right away!