

MAKING A *Difference*

VILLAGE VALUES

Greenwood Village is a city that notably enhances and sustains the quality of life of the community for residents and businesses through a series of guiding principles. These values, which can be traced back to the Village's beginnings, are an important and direct achievement for the character and reputation of Greenwood Village today. Through a series of articles in 2011, several important topics will be examined to provide citizen understanding of how community values are applied to produce worthy benefits, plan and manage the future, and overall, make a difference in the lives of citizens.

WATER QUALITY

The Village plays an important role in protecting water quality in order to ensure the protection of waterways for humans and aquatic wildlife. Through the federal Clean Water Act, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is responsible for administering the state's stormwater management plan. As part of the state's plan, municipalities like Greenwood Village who are issued a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Permit (MS4) by the state must develop and implement stormwater management practices to reduce stormwater pollution (runoff that is never treated) and released into drainageways.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION

The Village works to prevent and reduce the frequency and environmental impact of illicit discharges intentionally or accidentally discharged into the storm sewer system. Materials such as paint, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, yard waste, automotive fluids, soaps, grass clippings, pet waste are all considered illicit discharges and may carry pollutants to the storm sewer.

The Village performs annual inspections of storm sewer outfalls for illicit discharges and informs residents and businesses about hazards



Many illicit discharges such as grass clippings may carry pollutants to drainageways.

associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste. Illegal dumping is investigated by the Public Works Department during normal business hours and by the Police Department after hours.

CONSTRUCTION, POST CONSTRUCTION, AND LANDSCAPING RUNOFF CONTROL

Concrete wash water, discarded building materials, landscape materials, chemicals, litter, and sanitary waste along with grading activities which remove grass, rocks, and pavement result in the exposure of sediment and other construction related pollutants that have the potential to enter the storm sewer system and harm water quality.



Crystal clear water flowing into drainageways can be enjoyed by all due to the Village's efforts to protect water quality.



Ground cover and silt fencing are required to stabilize the soil so that sediment does not travel downstream.

The Village has local laws in place to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff from construction activities for both public and private property projects. Contractors are required at a minimum to provide perimeter sediment and erosion control devices to minimize the sediment that would flow off the construction site during a rain storm and provide vehicle tracking control pads to prevent construction traffic from carrying dirt onto the roadways. Water quality structures used for post construction runoff control may include water quality ponds, underground detention facilities, and sand oil separators.

Under the Village Drainage Code, residents and commercial residents are required to obtain a landscaping permit when landscaping or grading activities are within 10 feet of the property line, within a drainage easement or disturb more than 500 square feet of soil. This includes new development and improvements to existing landscape. The landscaping permit ensures that the appropriate measures such as ground cover or silt fencing is in place to stabilize the soil that has been disturbed in an effort to prevent sediment from leaving the site, traveling downstream and impacting water quality. Ground cover, typically seed and straw mulch, sod, or landscape mulch, must be established within 30 days of the completion of the disturbance. Establishing the final ground cover and/or landscape mulch in planting beds is required prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Completion.

Village staff performs inspections of both private and public facilities on an annual basis and provides notices to responsible parties for maintenance and upkeep. Procedures are enforced to ensure construction site compliance to minimize the occurrence of chronic and recalcitrant violators of control measures.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Reducing the amount and type of pollution that is generated by Village municipal operations or from Village owned property is also managed through a Stormwater Runoff Control Plan for activities generated by the Public Works

Maintenance Facility that have the potential to impact water quality. The Village implemented management controls for these activities including installation of a cover on the fuel station, covers on materials bins, a new wash bay with a sand oil separator, an improved detention pond, new desalination pond and vegetation establishment on exposed ground.

Some activities that the Village participates in to keep water clean include sweeping every public street at a minimum of once a month. This activity assists in maintaining a clean street by keeping soil and litter from entering the stormwater system. Village staff also uses fuel refilling kits to absorb excess oil during fueling operations on small equipment and lawnmowers. The kits reduce the chance that fuel will accidentally spill onto streets, sidewalks and lawns. The Village staff also pulls weeds by hand to avoid using chemicals. In rare cases, when the Village needs to use herbicides, they use the smallest amount necessary to avoid impacting water quality.

The Village also instituted a free Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection Program for residents. Residents may call 1-800-449-7587 to request a free curbside collection of hazardous waste. Acceptable wastes include: non latex paint, herbicides, rust removers, aerosols, used motor oil/filters, hobby chemicals, lubricants, corrosive chemicals and much more. Electronic waste includes: televisions, monitors, computers, printers, fax machines and other miscellaneous e-waste (items used only in the home not items from businesses).

For more information on water quality efforts in the Village, please call Public Works at 303-708-6100. For questions related to water quality management of construction and landscaping activities, please call Community Development at 303-486-5783. *GV*



Street sweeping is a key function to keep the streets in the Village clean from soil and litter that could enter the stormwater system.