

STORM WATER QUALITY

In effort to improve water quality within the watershed that we all use and enjoy, Park City has implemented a Storm Water Management Plan. Successful storm water management is achieved by controlling the quantity and quality of runoff from property. The overriding condition, which governs storm water runoff quantity, is the amount of hard, impervious surface located on your property (driveways, sidewalks, roofs, carports, etc.). Reduce these hard, impenetrable surface areas and you can reduce problems associated with excess storm water runoff. Storm water quality is governed by the accumulation of pollutants on the entire surface area of your property, regardless of whether it is grassed or paved.

As a resident to Park City there are certain practices that you can implement to assist the city and the state of Utah in improving water quality. Park City has two streams within the city limits designated as McLeod and Silver Creek. Many residents do not realize that storm water that originates within Park City, enters these two streams which eventually enter the watershed. As a result, Park City would like to make every effort to protect these waters by improving the storm water inflows that enter them. McLeod Creek is part of the East Canyon Creek Watershed, which has been identified by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality as being “impaired” due to low dissolved oxygen and excessive phosphorous. Silver Creek has also been deemed impaired due to the heavy metal concentrations

Chemicals around the home such as fertilizer, pesticide, engine oils, and deicing materials are conveyed by surface water runoff and degrade storm water quality. Although individually your effect on storm water quantity and quality may seem inconsequential, the cumulative impact of runoff from thousands of yards across the State has a direct impacted on the watershed. Here are some residential “best management practices” you may want to consider for improving the water quality runoff from your own backyard.

- **Avoid using the storm drain to dispose of any household waste or other garden waste. Consider composting yard waste, this is a great soil amendment when done correctly.**
- **Do not dispose of household hazardous waste improperly. Park City has a dynamic recycling facility (Recycle Utah), which is located at 1951 Woodbine Way. Most household waste can be dropped off at that facility and should you have any question about a particular waste the phone number is 435 649 9698 or email at director@recycleutah.org.**
- **Control erosion on your property by maintaining groundcover and stabilizing erosion prone areas. Topsoil is a precious commodity here in Park City.**
- **Use natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In the event you wish to fertilize test your soil to determine the appropriate amount.**
- **Conserve water by using irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray systems.**
- **Limit the amount of impervious surfaces in your landscape. Instead, use permeable paving surfaces such as wood decks, bricks, and concrete lattice to allow for water to soak into the ground.**
- **Wash gardening tools and other equipment that have accumulated soil over the yard.**