

# Goose Creek Watershed Annual Newsletter



Goose Creek Watershed Group — 2018 — Sheridan County Conservation District

## What is Stormwater?

*Stormwater runoff is a product of rain and snowmelt that flows across the land surface. This overland flow picks up pollutants, such as trash, oils, excess sediment, and animal waste, and deposits them in local waterways. In urban areas, stormwater consists of concentrated flows accumulated from various impervious surfaces that enter local streams via storm drains. Impervious surfaces, such as parking lots and paved streets, have the potential to deliver much more runoff to streams than natural landscapes. The same is true for bare ground where vegetative cover is poor or non-existent.*

*Stormwater runoff can contribute excess sediment that can physically degrade the conditions of our waterbodies, including aquatic life and fisheries. While the City of Sheridan has worked to install new storm drains to minimize the amount of sediment and other pollutants in stormwater, it does not undergo treatment prior to entering waterways.*

**The bottom line is that contaminants on the street or ground surface have the potential to end up in our streams and rivers during a runoff event.**



An impervious surface, like a typical city block, generates 5 times more runoff than a wooded area of the same size



- ◆ Sweep driveways and sidewalks and place in dumpster rather than washing or sweeping into the street
- ◆ Retain topsoil and prevent material at building sites from entering drainages
- ◆ Use oil recycling facilities at the City of Sheridan Landfill

### What Can You Do?

- ◆ Keep trash and other pollutants out of storm drains — *The City of Sheridan has markers on storm drains in the downtown area*

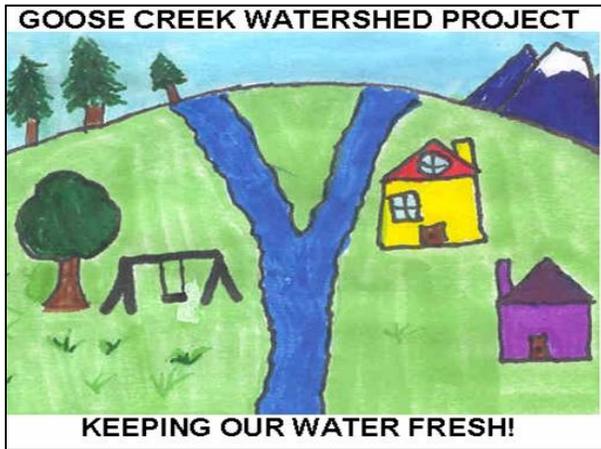


- ◆ Use only suggested amounts of fertilizers or pesticides
- ◆ Dispose of pet waste using plastic bags or by burying at least five inches deep, away from gardens, waterbodies, or wells
- ◆ Maintain vegetated buffers between waterways and closely cropped, mowed, or burned areas

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED PROJECTS

Through federal and state grants, the SCCD offers financial assistance for projects that benefit water quality in impaired watersheds. Typical projects include installing fencing or stockwater systems to minimize livestock access to waterbodies, relocating corrals or animal feeding areas away from waterbodies, and replacing eligible septic systems to eliminate sewage discharges. Descriptions of select projects are available on SCCD's website ([www.sccdwy.org](http://www.sccdwy.org)).

If you would like to apply for cost-share funds through one of SCCD's many water quality improvement programs, we encourage you to contact SCCD to determine if the project is eligible and to learn more about the application process. Batching deadlines for project applications are March 1st and July 1st.



## Goose Creek Watershed Interim Monitoring Summer 2018

The sixth season of water quality monitoring will take place May through September on select sites within the Goose Creek watershed. SCCD will be monitoring water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, discharge, turbidity and *E. coli*.



Macroinvertebrate sampling and habitat assessments will also be conducted in October.

## GOOSE CREEK WATERSHED STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The annual Goose Creek Watershed Steering Committee Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 20th at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Sheridan County Courthouse 2nd Floor Meeting Room** (use doors by parking lot).

The Goose Creek Watershed Steering Committee, which is comprised of landowners and interested parties, provides input and recommendations to the SCCD for implementing resource programs within the Goose Creek Watershed. The meeting is open to anyone living in or interested in the Goose Creek Watershed.

Please come join us on **March 20th**, your input is always welcome!

## Wyoming Water Development Commission Study Goose Creek Level 1 Study Draft Completed

EnTech, Inc., Professional Engineers of Sheridan has been working with the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) and the Sheridan County Conservation District (SCCD) in preparing a Level I Watershed Study of Goose Creek. Much of the focus of the study encompasses possible surface water storage and upland water development opportunities and rehabilitation and/or improvements associated with existing irrigation infrastructure within the watershed.

EnTech, Inc. presented the draft report at a meeting on December 18. Once the Level I Watershed Study Draft is finalized, projects can become eligible for the following:

- ◆ For projects with costs less than \$135,000, up to \$35,000 in grants are available on a 50/50 basis through the WWDC's Small Water Projects program;
- ◆ For projects with costs greater than \$135,000, public entities formed within the watershed can apply for WWDC Level II (Preliminary Design) studies and eventually, Level III (Final Design and Construction) funding.

For more information, contact:

Carrie Rogaczewski, SCCD, 672-5820, ext. 3  
(carrie.rogaczewski@sccdwy.org)

