



STORMWATER CHALLENGES

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Welcome to the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority

The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) was formed in order to close the funding gap in stormwater management, to protect people and property from flooding and to comply with stringent federal regulations of stormwater quality. The mission of SEMSWA is to maintain, improve and construct new stormwater infrastructure to help minimize flooding, and to safeguard water quality by monitoring and reducing pollutants that enter our waterways. SEMSWA provides stormwater management services to Centennial, to developed portions of unincorporated Arapahoe County as well as to areas previously covered by special districts. (See map)

After a heavy rainstorm it is not uncommon to see stormwater surging over streets and curbs in some of our neighborhoods. This makes it difficult or dangerous to drive through, and poses a threat of flooding. Buildings, concrete, and asphalt make it challenging to manage stormwater runoff. When more of the ground is covered with impervious surfaces, stormwater has less soil and ground to sink into, and more of it ends up impacting the storm drainage system, roads and properties.

Area citizens and property owners aren't the only ones who see a problem. The federal government has new environmental regulations which mandate that local communities control runoff and the pollution it picks up as it moves into waterways. In response to these challenges and requirements, SEMSWA was formed to manage stormwater in the City of Centennial and in unincorporated Arapahoe County. Stormwater must be managed for the common good, as runoff does not follow subdivision or community boundaries.

We invite you to explore this web site to learn more about stormwater problems, and what's being done to address them.



WHAT'S NEW

New Stormwater Authority -- The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (Authority) was officially formed in September 2006. The Authority will set new stormwater fees, paid by area property owners and new development, to fund stormwater management. The fees will be set in late October 2006.