



Stormwater Utility Open House & Online Survey Flows Forward

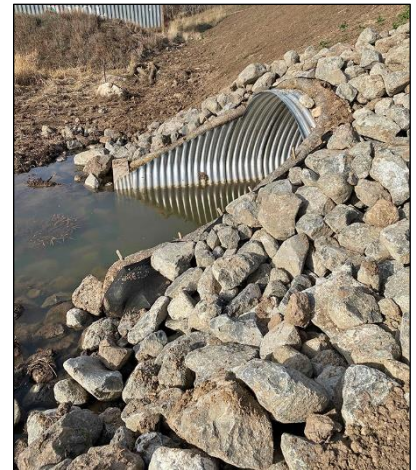
Community Invited to Learn, Engage & Help Shape Future Stormwater Solutions

Steamboat Springs, Colorado-December 3, 2025-The City of Steamboat Springs is inviting residents, businesses, and property owners to learn more about the community's stormwater challenges and provide input on the potential creation of a Stormwater Utility.

"Stormwater touches every part of our community—from protecting homes and roads to safeguarding the Yampa River," said Water Resources Manager Julie Baxter. "Our current system is aging and under-resourced, and we're at a point where proactive planning is essential. Community input will help us shape a fair and effective path forward."

An in-person Open House and an online survey will offer opportunities for the public to understand current issues, explore possible solutions, and share priorities for future investment. The Open House will take place on Monday, December 15, 2025 at City Hall, 115 10th Street from 4pm to 6pm. The event will feature three interactive stations:

- **Stormwater 101 & Community Challenges** – An overview of how stormwater flows through the community, current system conditions, regulatory responsibilities, and the growing impacts of aging infrastructure, flooding, and climate change. Participants can mark problem areas on a community map and share what they've observed in their neighborhoods.
- **Solutions & Levels of Service** – A look at how enhanced stormwater management can protect people, property, and the Yampa River. Displays will showcase example projects for flood mitigation, green infrastructure, public education and awareness, healthy river programs, and more. Participants can identify their top priorities.
- **Stormwater Utility & Potential Rates** – An explanation of how a dedicated stormwater utility could create a fair and sustainable funding model. Staff will outline how fees are calculated and how revenues could be invested in maintenance, flood reduction, water quality, and long-term resilience.



As part of this effort, the city has also [launched an online survey](#), allowing residents who cannot attend the open house to learn about the project and share feedback on priorities, funding approaches, and service expectations.

The city's stormwater system includes miles of pipes, culverts, inlets, and drainageways that require ongoing maintenance and replacement. Currently, stormwater activities are funded through the General Fund, which must also support police, fire, transit, parks, and other essential services. A dedicated utility could create a stable, transparent funding source focused solely on stormwater needs.

"Local dollars invested locally" is a key theme, with revenues supporting flood reduction, cleaner waterways, safer streets, and long-term cost savings by shifting from emergency repairs to planned upgrades. More information, including [background materials can be found online](#).

-WeServeTheCity-

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