

Adams County holds a Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit No. COR: 090041 issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Division. This is a statewide general permit for jurisdictions with population between 10,000 to 100,000 that grants permission to discharge untreated stormwater flows into waters of the United States. This permitting mechanism is designed to prevent stormwater runoff from washing harmful pollutants into local surface waters.

Under MS4 Permit regulations, Adams County has been mandated since 2003 to develop, implement and enforce the following six (6) Minimum Control Measures within unincorporated Adams County MS4 Permitted area:

1. Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts
2. Public Involvement/Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

The MS4 Permit is not a technology-based permit, there is no specific numeric effluent limitation like Wastewater Treatment Plant discharges. Instead, the MS4 permit is regulated under a practice-based framework. This means that adequate best management practices are required to be implemented to the maximum extent practicable to minimize stormwater pollution.

The County is currently under the fourth renewal of the CDPS General Permit. The permit will be renewed again on 7/1/2026. No additional permit requirements are anticipated in the upcoming 5-year permit cycle. The 2020 Census data became available in January 2023, and it appears that there is no impact to the current MS4 permitted area (based on 2010 census data).

The County is required to submit an annual MS4 Permit Report that identifies the accomplishments in accordance with the goals set forth under the 6 minimum control measure. The annual report is delivered on a standard State-issued form. The 2022 MS4 Annual Report is attached for electronic signature. Adams County's 2022 Annual Report must be submitted to CDPHE by **March 10, 2023** by the Stormwater Administrator. This report has been created to summarize program achievements and highlights.

The Stormwater Division has 3 full-time employees who are mainly responsible for the implementation of the Stormwater Program: 1 Stormwater Administrator and 2 Stormwater Inspectors.

Unincorporated Adams County owns and operates the public storm sewer system. To be able to discharge stormwater flows into the river, the County is required to comply with the terms and conditions of the MS4 permit (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) issued by CDPHE and required by the Clean Water Act. The specific permit requirements aim to reduce degradation of water quality and are applicable within the County's MS4 permitted area. This area is an urbanized area determined by the **2010** census data. As opposed to Wastewater Treatment Plants, which discharge sanitary sewer based on "numeric" effluent permit limitations, the MS4 permit is "practice" based and requires implementation of a series of administrative and structural best management practices to be able to operate and discharge from the system.

MS4 Area in Numbers:

(2022 data)

MS4 Permitted Area:	42 sq mi	(Urbanized Area)
Population in MS4:	72,000	(Urbanized Area)
Inlets in MS4:	3040 Inlets	(1670 public, 1370 private)
Manhole in MS4:	1750 MH	(1130 public, 620 private)
Pipes in MS4:	105 Miles	(60 public / 45 private) miles
Channels in MS4:	45 Miles	(15 public / 30 private) miles
Ponds in MS4:	500 Ponds	(20 public / 480 private)
Outfalls in MS4 into State Waters:	270	(including into irrigation ditches)

2022 Highlights:

- **Innovation:** Beehive rental, Washington Pond baskets and Compost Machine (on-going).
- **Pipe repairs:** Huron St outfall pipe joint repair completed in winter 2022/2023 (\$600K). Larger wetland maintenance project identified for 2024/2025.
- **Training:** Both Stormwater Inspectors obtained their 40hr HAZWOPER (OSHA) certification in 2022. They are now familiar with hazardous waste identification to properly respond to illicit discharge inspections.
- **Speakers:** Adams County Stormwater team presented at IECA 2022 Chapter Conference about trash basket system, and at the Colorado Waterwise Symposium about the Colorado Stormwater Council's education program campaign.
- **Events:**
PW Earth Day Event: 5 truck beds of trash, 25 employees.
PW Bring your Kid to Work Day: 15 Kids (Stormwater Activity/Presentation)
YOUTH SPRAY Summer Camp program =5 activity events (outside MS4)
- **2022 Adams County Community Report:** article about trash sent to 500,000 Adams County Residents. <https://adcogov.org/node/23645>



MEMORANDUM

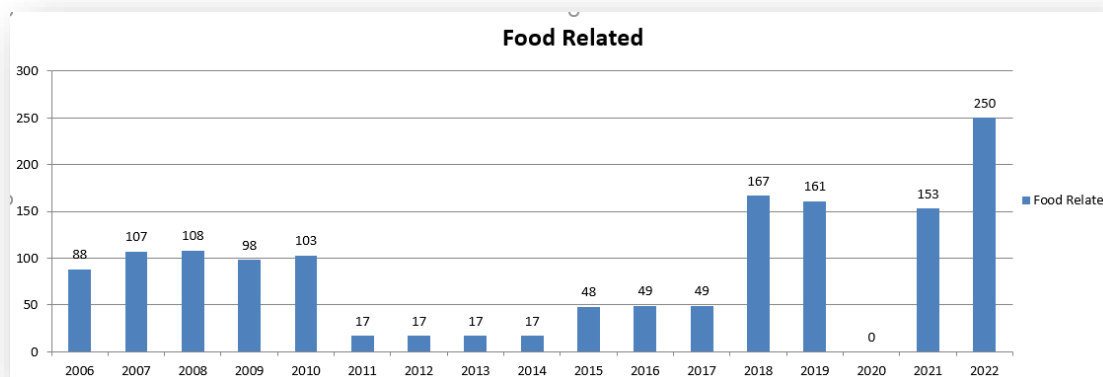
Educational Program

The Educational Program consists of brochures distribution, signs along streams, “Dump no Waste” markers for storm inlets, “Dump No Waste” storm manhole covers, contracted classes provided to schools by Denver Zoo, booths at public events, website updates, watershed associations memberships, partnerships in research studies, etc. The program has consistently been supporting the following events:

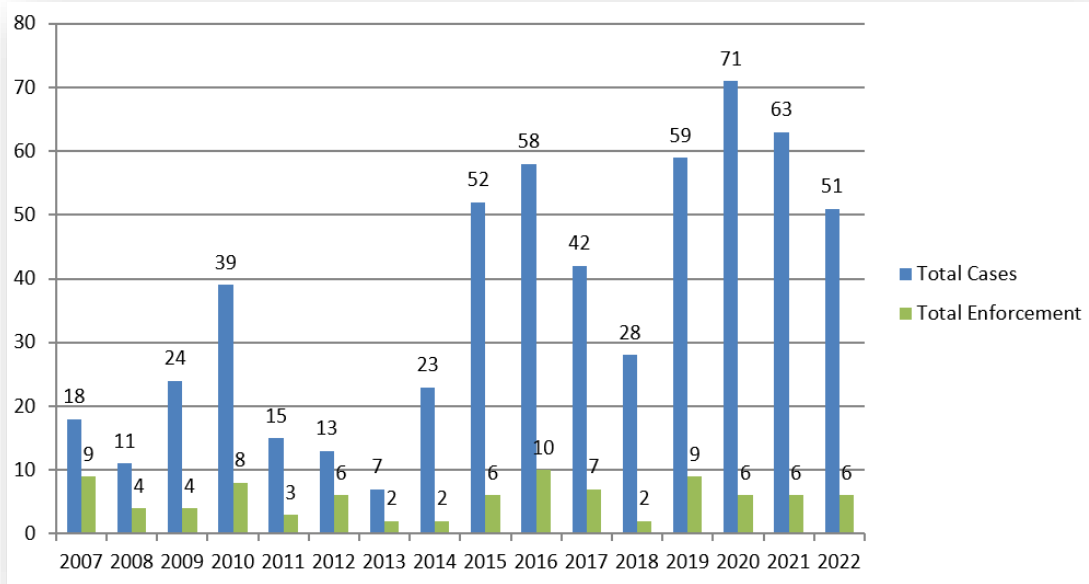
- 1) Adams County Fair Senior and Kid’s day
- 2) Annual Barr Lake Clean-up
- 3) Westminster/Thornton/Northglenn Water Festival (cancelled 2022)
- 4) Adams County - Bring your Kid to Work
- 5) Denver Zoo’s water quality classes to 5th graders. (cancelled 2022)
- 6) Rotella park events spring and fall

Adams County is proud to have been participating the annual Colorado Stormwater Council (CSC) state-wide educational campaign (from Southern Colorado-Pueblo to Northern Colorado-Ft Collins). This team effort allowed 80+ jurisdictions to send a unified message, increase length of campaign and platforms, as well as share resources. Adams County led the Spanish radio campaign in 2022 on behalf of CSC.

The County is required to provide educational information about stormwater pollution prevention practices for food related businesses since 2018. In 2022, **250** restaurants, school kitchens and supermarkets in the MS4 area were targeted. This industry has been identified as the businesses with highest stormwater pollutants potential. Information has been provided in English and Spanish. Below is the chart of educational information distributed by year to food related businesses. Note 2020 mailing was cancelled due to covid. Business survey data was used in 2022:

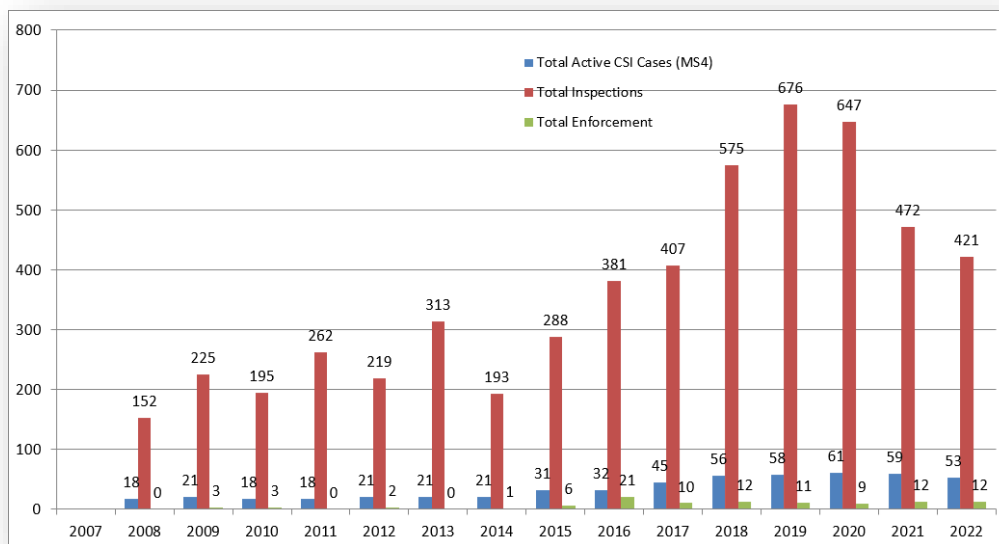


Illicit Discharge Program



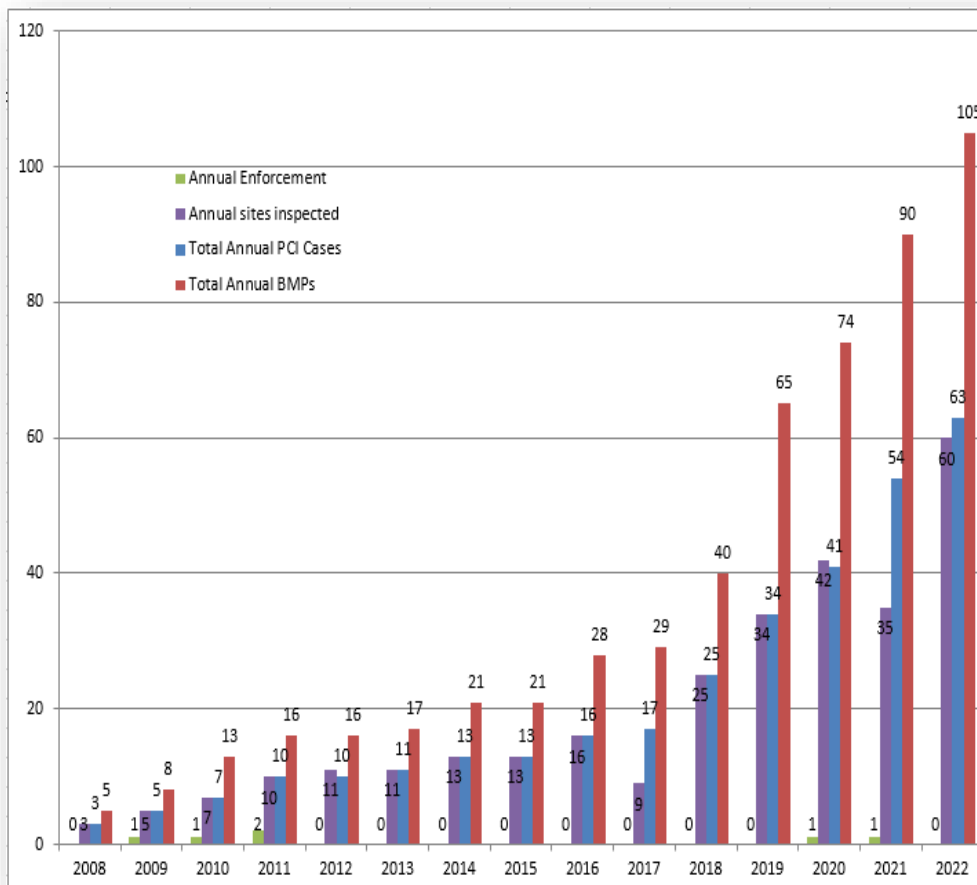
The Stormwater Division responds to illicit discharge complaints trying to find the right balance between education and enforcement actions to comply with Ordinance 11 and Adams County Development Standards and Regulations Chapter 9-05. The Illicit Discharge program is required in the MS4 permitted area, and the County chose to also implement the program outside the MS4 area to protect water quality and the environment for our whole community county-wide.

Construction Program



Sediment is the #1 pollutant of our streams and lakes according to EPA. Erosion impacts from construction sites are 8 times higher than agricultural practices. Erosion during construction releases sediments which can easily bond and act as a carrier of other toxic pollutants when it rains or snows. EPA and CDPHE have established stringent programs for construction sites disturbing 1 or more acres. The County's role is to oversee these projects in a regular monthly basis with the intent to assist contractors and prevent issues, as opposed to the EPA/CDPHE role which targets large enforcement cases.

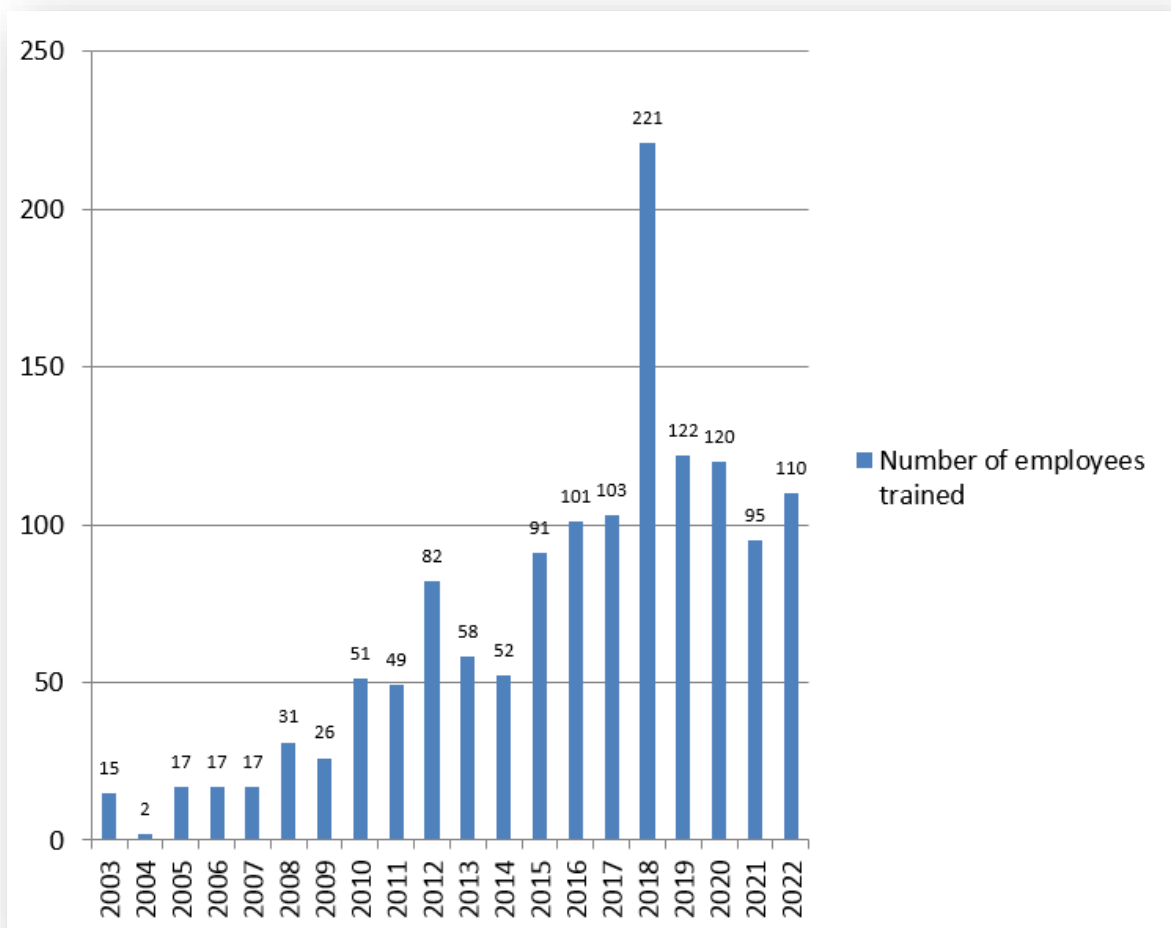
Post-Construction Drainage Inspection Program



Since 2008, development projects in the MS4 area which disturbed 1 or more acres have been required to provide water quality treatment. As of 2022, 105 water quality drainage structures have been installed in private/public areas as part of this program. The structures are within 63 development sites in the MS4 area. The County is required to inspect each drainage structure (pond, vault, bioretention, hydrodynamic separator, etc) once every 5 years to ensure property owners (private and public) perform long-term maintenance of these structures. The County strives to inspect all applicable water quality drainage facilities annually, but in 2022 only 60 sites were inspected by the county, due to lack of access to 3 private properties.

Water quality is typically achieved by the installation of ponds, but the industry is moving towards **Green Infrastructure (GI)**. Rain gardens, sand filters, green roofs, pervious pavers, etc. are new environmentally friendly GI which promotes groundwater infiltration and reduces run-off volume mimicking nature.

House-Keeping Program



Annual stormwater pollution prevention training was provided to county employees that work in the field. In person training was provided in-house. The 2018 peak was when the Sheriff Department was trained. Fleet and Facilities were unable to attend in 2021, nor 2022. The new Health Department field team may be trained in 2023.