



Davis County Storm Water Coalition Newsletter

Fall 2017

Storm Water Education in Davis County

The Davis County Storm Water Coalition coordinates and participates in educating hundreds of fourth graders every year in Davis County! Jana Fowers (aka “The Storm Water Lady”) travels to schools throughout Davis County to educate many fourth grade classes each year as part of their curriculum. In the spring, many of the fourth graders also have the opportunity to learn even more about storm water and other aspects of water at the Davis County Water Fair.

Along with these educational opportunities for children in Davis County, many of the city storm water and health department representatives work hard throughout the year protecting our storm water and educating citizens of Davis County about what they can do to help protect this valuable resource.

Jana Fowers: Davis County’s Storm Water Lady

Jana Fowers was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and raised in Mexico City. She graduated from BYU with a degree in Spanish and Elementary Education. After working on a graduate degree in Art History and Spanish Literature, she served an LDS mission in France and Switzerland. She moved to Davis County in 1986 with her husband, Sam, and 7 children. Two more children were born and all nine of those kids have graduated from Davis High School with honors.

Jana has had a diverse history teaching in various capacities, including teaching several years in elementary schools in Provo, Logan, and Davis County. She ran a pre-school for 10 years when her children were young. She was the Program Facilitator for the High School at the Davis County Jail for 9 years and helped hundreds of adult inmates earn their High School diplomas.

Teaching the storm water lessons for the past ten years has been one of her favorite gigs! She loves interacting with fourth graders and teaching them all about how to keep our storm water clean, and how to conserve water. It has really become a passion for her and she frequently takes her own grandchildren out for long walks to help clean up gutters and neighborhood storm drains.

Nothing makes her happier than to be approached by a child who says: “I know you, you’re the Storm Water Lady!” She will happily acknowledge that she loves that title.



More About Storm Water

What is it and why is it important?

Contributor: Corby Talbot — Kaysville City

Storm water is water from storms, in the form of rain or snowmelt, which flows onto hard surfaces and into the storm drains. The storm water system is comprised of an underground pipe system, called the collection system, which drains to a creek or wetland.

Before we had cars and vehicles there were no streets, parking lots, or driveways and there was no need to have hard, impervious surfaces to drive on so most of the roads that did exist were made of dirt. As a result, when it would rain or the snow would melt, the water would quickly be absorbed into the ground.

Now, with all of the development that has taken place, when the water hits the concrete and asphalt surfaces, it is not readily absorbed. As the water flows over these surfaces, it picks up dirt, grass clippings, trash, oils, chemicals, and other debris. All of this waste may be on the surface intentionally or unintentionally, but once they are picked up by the storm water, they are taken into the collection system and discharged directly into the nearest creek or wetland.

What can I do to help keep storm water clean?

- ◆ Keep the gutter in front of your house clean — sweep, don't spray!
- ◆ Blow or sweep grass clippings back onto the grass
- ◆ Wash your car on the lawn or at a commercial car wash
- ◆ Keep trash picked up and the lids closed on dumpsters and garbage cans
- ◆ Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash
- ◆ Adjust your sprinklers so they only water the landscape and avoid over spray
- ◆ Fix any oil or fluid leaks on your vehicles and dispose of all fluids and parts properly
- ◆ Do not wash paintbrushes, mop buckets, or anything else in the gutter



What are the impacts to the storm water if it is not protected?

Grass clippings, leaves, or other organics:

As they decomposed, they consume oxygen and release nitrogen. As a result, it robs the water of its much needed oxygen, while the nitrogen promotes the overgrowth of certain unwanted plants.

Oils, gasoline, and other chemicals:

These products are often lighter than water, so they float on top and do not mix with the water. As a result, they prevent oxygen from entering the water and as the sun hits the surface, toxic chemicals are released into the water. These impacts greatly affect fish, birds, other wild life, and plants that live in and use these waters.

Construction debris, concrete, dirt, trash:

This waste can affect the pH (acid content) as well as the turbidity (cloudiness) of the water, which in turn changes what can grow near or live in the water.

Follow the Davis County Storm Water Coalition on Facebook!



The Davis County Storm Water Coalition is now on Facebook! Like our page to follow some of our members as we aim to protect the storm water system in Davis County. Our posts include pictures and information about some good (and some not so good!) practices involving storm water, information about our monthly meetings, and more!