

The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) is an independent governmental entity formed to provide stormwater management for the City of Centennial and unincorporated Arapahoe County. SEMSWA charges an impact fee for residential, commercial and business

property owners based on the amount of impervious surface (rooftops, driveways, and parking lots) each property contributes to the storm sewer system. These fees provide the necessary funds to help protect people and property from flooding, maintain vital stormwater infrastructure, and protect the quality of our creeks and riparian areas. This summary highlights activities in neighborhoods, business districts, and stream corridors to manage stormwater. Visit www.semswa.org to see a more complete 2020 annual report. The report is also available at our offices, 7437 South Fairplay Street, Centennial, 80112.

FIELD SERVICES

SEMSWA's Maintenance crews annually walk, inspect, and/or conduct routine scheduled maintenance at targeted portions of SEMSWA's 1,000 storm outfalls, 85 miles of stream channels, 100 regional flood control facilities, and 170 miles of pipe to ensure adequate storm flow conveyance and flood storage during large rain events. Maintenance in 2020 removed over 1500 cubic yards & 88 end-dump loads of nuisance material. Also in 2020, 39,350 feet of storm pipe were inspected using a robotic camera system to verify pipe condition and assist in forecasting routine maintenance activities.

During 2020, Inspections staff conducted over 2,470 inspections at over 150 development sites to meet SEMSWA's State Discharge Permit requirements for stormwater by managing the storm runoff quality from building sites, both during construction and after completion.



Example Before & After sediment, nuisance vegetation and debris removal to improve flood flow conveyance at outfalls (Above) and storm sewer piping (Below)



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The Water Quality program goal is to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff entering waterways through educating the public; permitting & inspecting construction sites; maintaining our infrastructure; investigating illicit discharges; and providing residential household hazardous waste (HHW) collection.

2020 highlights:

- 3 outreach events, including the Cherry Creek Annual Conference, held for the first time entirely outdoors to best experience the watershed by foot and bike
- 10 sponsored trash clean-ups of the High Line Canal
- 34 potential improper discharges investigated
- 12 local community newspaper articles
- 56 radio ads on KJAC and KUNC
- 2,385 Fat/Oil/Grease brochures sent
- 506 HHW collections for recycling & disposal: 32,000+ pounds collected & 26,800 pounds recycled



FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

In 2020, SEMSWA continued to work with FEMA, the Mile High Flood District (MHFD), the City of Centennial and Arapahoe County to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the City and County. This mapping is a key step in protecting families, homes, infrastructure, and services against future flood risk. Visit SEMSWA's new Floodplain Map to view your flood risk, at www.semswa.org/maps.aspx or call 303-858-8844. SEMSWA

provided map information in 2020 for 36 inquiries requesting assistance in defining floodplain limits on a parcel and what that means to a property owner. Additional outreach efforts in 2020 provided flood risk information through newsletter articles and direct mailings that reached over 60,000 residents and businesses.

New FEMA FIRMs went into effect for the 8-Floodplain Physical Map Revision (PMR) on September 4, 2020, and FEMA issued preliminary FIRMs for the Arapahoe County PMR for Big Dry Creek and Tributaries on February 28, 2020.

Virtual Open Houses were held in August and September for both PMRs for affected property owners. Please contact SEMSWA if you have questions about the effects of updated flood maps on your property or potential flood insurance requirements.

All activities in the floodplain, regardless of impact, need to be permitted so SEMSWA is aware of the activity, can assess the impact, and review compliance with City/County Land Use Codes. During 2020, 39 floodplain permits were issued, 19 requests were assessed for floodplain impacts, and 10 requests for modification of a floodplain

MASTER PLANNING PROGRAM

Master planning is an important tool to plan for regional flood control and adequate storm infrastructure, and to guide responsible development. In 2020, the Sand Creek Flood Hazard Zone Pilot Study was completed. Since Master Plans can take several years to complete, from consultant selection to final Plan approval, 2020 plans In Progress include:

- SJCD 6100 N, Major Drainageway Plan (MDP) & Flood Hazard Area Delineation (FHAD)
- First Creek Tributaries (Upstream of I-70), MDP & FHAD
- Goldsmith Gulch, MDP & FHAD
- Willow Creek Tributaries (Upstream of Englewood Dam), MDP & FHAD
- Cherry Creek Tributaries (Upstream of Cherry Creek Reservoir), MDP & FHAD
- Cherry Creek Mainstem (Upstream of Cherry Creek Reservoir) MDP

LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SEMSWA staff review land development cases to ensure comprehensive and effective stormwater management in the City and County. During 2020, development referrals included 35 Arapahoe County referrals and 82 City of Centennial referrals. SEMSWA also reviewed a total of eight Aurora and Douglas County referrals to evaluate impacts to the adjoining stormwater infrastructure. Also, during 2020, staff reviewed 12 capital project cases to confirm adherence to land use codes, engineering standards, and SEMSWA criteria.

Pre-submittal Meetings are essential to providing the Developer team with a framework for successful plan/report approval. Staff conducted 137 meetings in 2020 during the pandemic, showing continued favorable south metro development interest, even though meetings decreased from 169 in 2019 and 157 in 2018.

