

Pet Waste

It might not seem like a stormwater problem, but animal waste is one of the many seemingly small sources of pollution that can add up to big problems for water quality, and even human health.

Pet waste left uncollected is unsanitary. It contains pathogenic bacteria and other parasites. When pet waste is washed into our lakes and rivers it decays in the water, depleting oxygen levels and releasing ammonia, which can be harmful to fish and other aquatic organisms. Pet waste also contains nutrients that foster weed and algae growth. Elevated bacteria levels in lakes and rivers caused by *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) can cause unsafe conditions for swimming and recreational activities.



Proper pet waste management results in cleaner parks and neighborhoods. So, please remember to clean up after your pet. Picking up after your pet is easy. Clean up the waste in your yard every day (especially before a big rain) and always carry a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog. Then, throw it in the nearest trash can. Many parks and recreational areas have courtesy bags and disposal boxes, designed specifically for dog waste. Avoid letting your dog do his business within 200 feet of a water body. And, never throw your dog waste into a stormdrain!