

Help Prevent Pet-Waste Pollution

Water is no place for pet-waste

Pet-waste left on streets, pavement, lawns, and driveways can have a significant impact on our health and the health of our watershed. When not properly disposed of, pet-waste can be picked up by stormwater runoff and distributed into the watershed through storm drains.

Upon entering the watershed, disease-causing bacteria and parasites are introduced into the environment increasing the risk of infection and other ailments detrimental to one's health. When left exposed to the water, the waste begins to decompose depleting oxygen levels and increasing the amount of nutrients in the surrounding water. The by products emitted in the water during the decomposition of the waste, can cultivate the perfect circumstances for an algae bloom to occur which can be catastrophic to the ecosystem.

Stormwater runoff

Stormwater runoff is any water from rain or snow. Under natural conditions, this water seeps into the ground. In urban areas, this water flows over impervious surfaces such as pavement and rooftops. This flow collects debris, chemicals and other pollutants (like pet waste) and does not seep into the ground. Instead it settles in gutters, ditches, and storm drains. Since stormwater is not treated, it can pollute the rivers, streams, lakes, and oceans that we use for recreation throughout the year.



Did you know pet waste is the 3rd largest contributor of bacterial pollution in urban wetlands?

Steps for prevention

There are three simple ways to prevent pet waste from compromising our water quality

1. Use a bag to clean up the waste
2. Dispose of the waste in the trash
3. Tell others to do the same

Benefits of prevention

There are many benefits of preventing pet waste pollution

- Cleaner neighborhoods
- Lowered potential for disease
- Decrease environmental impact

