

Clean up after your dog!

Dog poop is a major contributor to storm water pollution. Rain and melting snow flows across yards, dog parks, down trails, etc. on its way to lakes via our streets and storm drains. Dog poop contains bacteria and is high in nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients that negatively affect our water).

THE IMPACT

Pets and urban wildlife are major sources of water contamination because pet waste contains harmful bacteria and parasites. Dog feces can contain fecal coliform bacteria, which can spread diseases like Giardia, Salmonella, and Campylobacter, causing serious illness in humans.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Be prepared. Carry bags with you to pick up pet waste. It's a good idea to carry a few extras with you in case you meet someone in need. Collect your pet's poop in a bag and deposit it in a trash can, or dump the poop in the toilet without the bag. Do NOT leave bags on the side of the roads—there isn't anyone designated to pick them up! Routinely pick up your pet's waste (or hire someone to do so) so you're not contributing to decreased water quality.

THE FACTS

Dog waste is cited as the 3rd or 4th largest contributor of bacterial pollution. The average dog produces approximately 3/4 pounds of poop every day. 1,000 dogs will produce 750 pounds of excrement a week. That's a lot of poop! Do your part- pick up after your dog. It's the neighborly thing to do! Dog feces have higher phosphorous concentrations than found in cow and swine manure. Phosphorus is a nutrient that negatively impacts water quality and plant species. Nitrogen, found in dog urine, also causes contaminated runoff and leads to serious water quality issues.

HELP KEEP OUR WATERS CLEAN

Some helpful tips to keep in mind

ONLY RAIN TO THE DRAIN!

Our daily activities have the potential to affect water quality if we don't make good choices.

Storm drains are connected directly to our water bodies. So anything that ends up on the driveway, alley, roof or sidewalk eventually will be carried by rain water to our lakes.

Please think of your activities as they relate to:

- vehicle maintenance and washing
- yard maintenance
- storage of materials outside
- construction sites
- exterior cleaning practices



Those soapy suds!

When a car is washed in a driveway or street, soapy, dirty water flows untreated directly into the storm drain, and then into the local waterways. It's like washing the car in the Town Park Lake or Hampton Manor Lake.

WASH YOUR CAR AT A CAR WASH OR ON THE LAWN

Although it is not illegal to wash your car in your driveway, it is not a good practice. Commercial car washes direct used car wash water to treatment systems, and in many cases, they recycle it. Washing the car on the lawn is also a better option than washing in the driveway because it allows the water to be absorbed by grass.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

If you're planning a car wash fundraiser, ask a local car wash if you can use one of their wash bays.

MAINTAIN YOUR VEHICLE

If a vehicle is not maintained it can leak and contribute to water pollution. Those drips on the pavement will be picked up with the next rain storm and carried to the nearest creek.

If you work on your own vehicle be sure that you prepare your work area so spills are captured and cleaned up.

Recycle any fluids and NEVER hose down any spills or your work area.

AVOID VEHICLE IDLING

A vehicle is idling when it is parked or standing, with the engine running. Idling wastes about a half gallon of fuel per hour and releases many pollutants that can harm human health and the environment.

Yard maintenance can impact water quality

Lawn care, landscaping, and pest control practices are major contributors to storm water pollution. Rain or melting snow flows across yards, rooftops, paved areas, and picks up dirt, leaves, grass clippings, garden chemicals, and anything else in its path. This polluted water flows directly into the storm drain system.

THE IMPACT

Nutrients and other chemicals from yard waste can cause excessive algae growth and toxin production. Algae can rob the organisms living in our streams of the oxygen they need to survive, and can kill fish along the way.

Lawn Care

- Mow your lawn so no more than one-third of the length of the grass is removed.
- Leave the grass blades on lawn or compost.
- Sweep grass on all paved areas onto lawn.
- Only spot treat for weeds or not at all.
- Compost yard waste or participate in municipal collection or drop-off – don't dump in streams, wetlands, or storm drains.
- Seed bare spots in your lawn.
- Avoid feeding of nuisance bird species.

Watering

- Do not over water. Excessive runoff wastes both water and lawn treatments.
- Direct downspouts to a depressed area or a garden bed so the water soaks into your yard instead of rushing out to the street.

Fertilizing

- Fertilize only when necessary or not at all. Have your soil tested before you apply!
- Do not fertilize if the forecast calls for rain in the next day or two.
- Don't fertilize hard surfaces.
- Don't apply lawn fertilizer between December 1st and April 1st.



What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rain or snowmelt that does not infiltrate into the ground but instead flows over the ground, driveways, parking lots, roofs and through gutters on buildings into storm drains, and into the nearest waterway – our lakes, rivers, and streams. As it flows over the land surface, stormwater picks up or is contaminated by debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. This untreated water is discharged into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.



Yard Design

- Consider installing a rain garden and directing your roof drains to it.
- Consider using bricks, flagstone, gravel, and other porous materials instead of impervious surfaces, such as sidewalks and driveways.
- Add trees and shrubs to capture and hold rainwater before it can reach the ground.

Lawn & Garden Tips

Fertilizer is a big pollutant to our lakes. Talk with your local home and garden center about your lawn and how often to fertilize. You would be surprised by truly how little it needs.

Construction Activities

- Projects over 1 acre of disturbance require a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP).
- For projects <1 acre of disturbance, protect catch basins and swales and engage in seeding activities before wind and/or rain events to minimize erosion and sediment transport.

Exterior Cleaning

- Use dry cleanup methods, such as a broom and dust pan whenever possible.
- If you must use water, divert it to landscaping where it can infiltrate and use phosphate-free detergents.