



THE INSIDE SCOOP ON PET WASTE

Is It Really a Problem?

Yes! Did you know that storm water in Louisville is not treated, but goes directly into our streams and creeks? That's why it's important to ensure that pollutants like pet waste don't end up in the storm drains or water bodies. Water washing over the land can pick up an array of contaminants that run off into streams and creeks, either directly or indirectly, and through our storm sewer system.

One of the many seemingly small sources of pollution that can add up to big problems for human health and water quality is animal waste, as it contains two main types of pollutants that harm local waters (pathogens and nutrients). When this waste ends up in the water bodies, it decomposes, releasing nutrients that cause excessive growth of algae and weeds, which makes water unusable for swimming or fishing. The pathogens (disease-causing bacteria and viruses) can also cause several illness in humans.

What Can You Do?

The easiest way to avoid these problems is to clean up after your pet each and every time and dispose of the waste properly. Here are a few ways to be prepared:

- Simply carry a plastic bag with you on every walk and you'll have the equipment to remove your dog's waste. Throw the bag in the nearest trash can and you're done! There are even compact, refillable bag dispensers that you can attach right to your dog's leash.
- Many parks and recreational areas have courtesy bags and disposal boxes, designed specifically for pet waste.
- Avoid letting your dog do his business within

200 feet of a water body.

- Never throw dog waste into a storm drain, street or curb!

It's also a good idea to pick up after your pet at home. Some diseases can be transmitted from pet waste to humans through contact with the soil. It's important to dispose of waste in the garage, as well. Waste from meat eaters shouldn't be placed in compost piles because parasites, bacteria and viruses are not readily destroyed during the composting process and can be passed onto humans.

What Does the City Require?

Pets are required to be on leash and under control at all times within City limits, including on City trails and in open space and parks. If you would like to run your dog off-leash, please visit two designated areas: the dog park at Community Park and the Davidson Mesa off-leash area. Please remember dogs are prohibited at Harper Lake, as it is a City water storage facility and a designated wildlife habitat.

Owners are responsible for cleaning up and disposing of pet waste within City limits, including on City trails and in open space, parks and off-leash areas. Please do not leave pet waste bags along trails. Owners are responsible for disposing of them.

All open space and park violations require a court appearance. The City's Open Space Ranger and Code Enforcement Officers are on patrol to help ensure compliance with the City's regulations.

Have Questions?

Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 303.335.4735 or the Police Department at 303.666.8634.