

How Pets Impact Our Storm Drains

Dog poop is a major contributor to stormwater pollution. Rain flows across yards, dog parks, trails, and downstream to the Big Indian Creek via our streets and storm drains. Dog poop contains bacteria and is high in nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients that negatively affect our waters). This impacts the 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.

Make a difference by being a responsible pet owner. Make preparations. Carry doggie bags to pick up pet waste. Dispose of the pet waste properly; collect your pet's poop in a doggie bag and deposit it in a trash can. Do not leave bags on the side of trails, on the curbside or by the fence of a dog park. Be consistent in picking up your pet waste so you are contributing to decrease downstream water quality. Do your part pick up after your dog. It's the neighborly thing to do. Keep it clean, because we are all downstream.