

Why Should I Care About Stormwater?

EVERY TIME IT RAINS, the water that is not absorbed by the ground runs off rooftops, lawns, driveways, and streets.

TIP: *When you walk your pet, take along a glove, large bag and baggies. Put the glove on, turn half the baggie inside out, place it over the poop, pick up the poop with the baggie-closing it in the same motion. Place the filled baggie in your large bag and dispose of it properly.*

When stormwater falls on our lawns and roads it picks up contaminants like oil and antifreeze, fertilizers and pesticides, litter and pet waste. As it goes down the storm drain, this stormwater is taken directly to the nearest body of water. The water going into storm drains is not treated before it empties into the rivers.

Uncontrolled storm water can affect your quality of life by worsening the quality of our waterways. It can have a negative impact on our drinking water and on fish and game habitats.



RIVER CLEAN UP

Join the thousands of people who have participated in a river clean up!

Any church, school or civic group can join in, or simply come alone to join with other involved citizens.

These events take place during the warmer months.

For more information on how you can keep our rivers clean, contact us!

Who To Contact

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

3718 New Vision Drive

Fort Wayne, IN 46845

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Fax: 260.484.5080

www.acwater.org

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Proper Disposal of Pet Waste

A Reference Guide for Pet Owners



www.acwater.org

How Does Pet Waste Affect Storm Water?

WHEN A STORM COMES, the runoff from that storm can carry bacteria from the fecal matter and wash it into the storm drain.



All animals carry bacteria in their guts. Among the more common forms of bacteria is E. coli. Coliform bacteria aids in our digestive process. When this bacteria leaves our bodies, it can become both a nuisance and a health hazard.

Stables and Hobby Farms

IF YOU OWN horses, chickens, goats or any other animals on a small scale you still have an impact upon water quality.



Any stormwater that falls onto your property will usually flow through your manure pile or open pasture.

Use your landscape to help prevent polluted runoff to the rivers.

Can I Compost It?

WE'VE ALL HEARD that manure makes great fertilizer. Waste from farm animals is often composted or spread directly onto fields but there are many differences between farm manure and pet waste.



Farm animals have a high percentage of fiber in their diet; pet waste is mostly processed protein. This doesn't mean this waste can't be composted but that it doesn't necessarily make good fertilizer.

In order to compost pet waste properly, the average temperature of the pile would have to be high enough to kill parasites and certain bacteria. The proximity of your compost heap to your neighbor and the nearest storm drain also make this less than ideal.

Rain will flow through your pile and into the nearest storm drain causing unnecessary nutrients and contributing to algae growth. You could also be cited for maintaining a nuisance and possible health hazard

The Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health strongly recommends not integrating pet waste into your regular compost heap. If you do choose to compost your pet waste, remember not to use it on or around any consumable plants or crops.

Pet Waste Disposal

THE BEST METHOD of dealing with pet waste is to bag it and throw it out with the trash. This prevents the potential spread of unwanted bacteria and pests.

Proper pet waste disposal also helps improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods as well as the water quality in our rivers, lakes and streams.

E. Coli bacteria is one of the major contaminants in our waterways. Of course, the wildlife population is a contributing factor to the amount of e. Coli but a considerable amount is washing off our yards through poor waste management.



Pet Park Protocol

Many communities have pet parks for exercise and social time with your pet.

As you can imagine, where there are larger numbers of pets there will be a higher concentration of pet waste.

Most parks provide for on-site collection and disposal of this waste but a certain level of this remains un-policed on the ground.

Do what you can do. Pick up after pets and please dispose of all waste properly.