

Why Should I Care About Stormwater?

Every time it rains, the water that is not absorbed by the ground runs off lawns, rooftops, driveways, parking lots, and streets and goes straight to the nearest body of water.

When stormwater falls on our lawns and roads it picks up contaminants like oil, antifreeze, fertilizers, pesticides, litter and pet waste. It carries these contaminants to the storm drain and ultimately to the nearest body of water without ever being treated.

Do your part to make sure that you are not adding unnecessary contaminate loads to our waterways! Make sure to routinely check your car for any leaks. Quickly check the forecast to make sure that a rain event isn't coming before you spread your fertilizer and pesticides. Clean up after your pets to make sure that their waste doesn't end up down stream.

TIP: When you walk your pet, take along baggies so you are ready when you need to pick up after your pet.

Put the baggie on your hand like it is a glove, place it over the poop, pick up the poop with the baggie-closing it in the same motion.

Place the filled baggie in the nearest disposal bin.

RIVER CLEAN UP

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

Be a force of positive change! 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.

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. Consider adding rain barrels, rain gardens, and pervious pavements to your property to help slow stormwaters down on their way to the nearest body of water.



For more information please visit:

**Allen County Partnership for
Water Quality**

acwater.org

 Follow and "like" us on **facebook**

Proper Disposal of Pet Waste

**A Reference Guide
for
Pet Owners**



www.acwater.org

How Does Pet Waste Affect Stormwater?

When a storm comes, the runoff from that storm can carry fecal matter's bacteria straight into the storm drain.

All animals, including us, carry bacteria in their guts such as Coliform bacteria, which aids in our digestive process! Among the more common forms of



bacteria is E. coli. When this bacteria leaves our bodies, it can become both a nuisance and a health hazard that can create the right environment for a water-borne illnesses.

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 on-site collection and disposal of this waste. Do what you can do. Pick up after pets and please dispose of all waste properly.



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 it might not be the best fertilizer.



In order to compost pet waste properly, one must first overcome several challenges. First, the average temperature of the pile has to be high enough to kill parasites and certain bacteria. Secondly, your compost heap will likely be in close to your neighbors, making for unpleasant social interactions.



Additionally, you could also be cited for maintaining a nuisance and possible health hazard.

Lastly, 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 in near by water bodies contributing to algae growth.

The 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.

E. Coli bacteria is one of the major contaminants in our waterways, and a considerable amount is washing off of our yards through poor waste management.



Proper pet waste disposal helps to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods as well as the water

Stables & Hobby Farms

If you own horses, chickens, goats or any other animals, even on a small scale, you still have an impact upon water quality in your watershed.

Stormwater that falls onto your property will flow through your manure pile or open pasture, taking with it any pollutants.

Use your landscape to help prevent polluted runoff from making its way to our rivers.

