

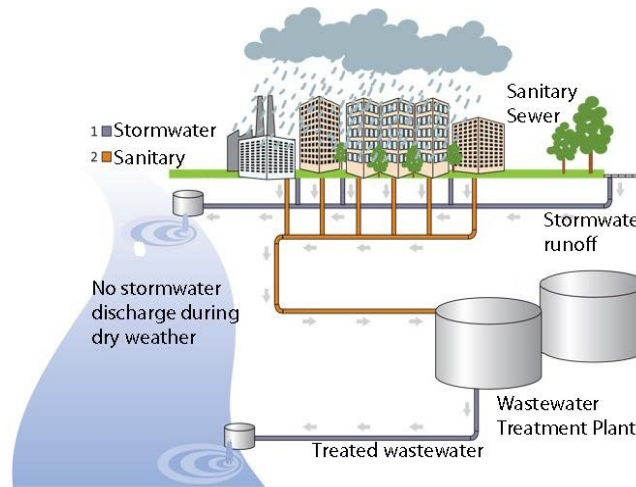
How Does Pet Waste Affect Rivers?

When it rains pet waste that has been left on lawns, trails, sidewalks or in the street washes into storm drains. The waste, along with the bacteria and other pollutants that it carries, flows with stormwater directly into streams, ponds, lakes and rivers. Most stormwater does not get any kind of treatment before it enters a body of water.

Once it enters a body of water the pet waste uses up lots of dissolved oxygen as it decomposes. This can deplete the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to live. Nutrients from decomposed pet waste can contribute the growth of algae that further reduces oxygen levels. Pet waste contributes to the high bacteria levels that make rivers and lakes unsafe for activities.



Stormwater vs. Sanitary Wastewater



Find out more about stormwater management at:

www.cityoffortwayne.org/utilities

To report a stormwater drainage issue or to report illegal dumping call 311 or (260) 427-8311

Managing Pet Waste

A Reference Guide for Fort Wayne Residents



You Can Prevent Pet Pollution!

Stepping in pet waste is annoying! Pet waste smells, it attracts flies and it can be a source of parasites and infections for other pets and for children who play outside. Contact with pet waste can cause illnesses such as Giardia and salmonella. Picking up your pet's waste from other yards and public spaces is common courtesy and it's the law in Fort Wayne. It can mean cleaner and healthier neighborhoods and less water pollution.

Pet waste is a type of stormwater pollutant that can easily be reduced. All a pet owner needs is environmental awareness and a pet waste bag. The best kind of bag to use is a biodegradable one. When you walk your pet, you can place the bag over your hand and use it to pick up the waste. Then place it in a trash can or flush it down the toilet (without the bag of course). Pet droppings can also be buried at least six-inches deep, well away from gardens and wells.

Pet waste should not be composted or used as garden fertilizer.



STORMWATER

Large or Small—Scoop It All!

- It doesn't matter if your pet is small or large—it can still contribute to water pollution.
- Pet waste carries bacteria and other contaminants that wash into storm sewers when it rains. These pollutants go straight to streams and rivers.
- Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly. It can make people and other animals sick.
- Leaving pet waste on your own yard can attract flies, it smells and makes mowing your lawn a messy task.
- Pet waste may contain parasites that make your children sick if they come into contact with it.
- Even though pet waste may seem to “just go away” it can still cause pollution.
- Nutrients from pet waste contribute to algae growth in water bodies.
- Bacteria in pet waste can make rivers unsafe for activities.
- Picking up your pet's waste is your responsibility as a pet owner and it's the law.



3 Steps to Pet Waste Management

Reducing pet waste pollution only takes **three simple steps:**

1. **Carry** a bag with you when you walk your pet.
2. **Pick up** waste. You can put the bag right over your hand and use it as a glove, then turn it inside out and close it.
3. **Dispose** of the waste by flushing it (without the bag), burying it, or putting it in the trash so it will go to a landfill.



Look for DOGIPOT (pet waste bag dispensers) at several spots along Fort Wayne's trail system and in your local park.

