



Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor



Volume 3, Number 1

January 2006 Issue

*A Publication of the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's Office
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Up Front

The eMonitor is designed to keep our Partners and friends updated on CPCS, stormwater management issues, provide helpful information to reduce stormwater and nonpoint source pollution, recognize new Partners, highlight upcoming events, and create networking opportunities. We hope you enjoy each edition of the Monthly eMonitor and welcome any comments, concerns, or suggestions.



Pet Waste

Pet Waste can Affect Human Health and Degrade Water Quality

Taking your pet for a walk through the neighborhood or run in the yard can be great exercise for both you and your pet. You may not put much thought into the connection between water quality and your pet's waste, but it is significant. Pet wastes can be easily washed off the landscape into the nearest storm drain or waterway. It is particularly problematic, if it is left near the street, storm drain, other water source or vegetable garden.

According to the Humane Society, there are 65 million dogs in the United States alone. With each dog generating about 10 ounces of waste a day, it adds up and degrades the quality of local and regional waterways.



When pet wastes wash into waterways, there are several issues. As the material decays, it uses up oxygen and releases ammonia. Fish kills are attributed to lack of oxygen, high levels of ammonia and high temperatures. Additionally, the nutrients contained in pet waste encourage weed and algae growth that can choke out other life forms as well as making the water unattractive for recreation. Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of pet waste may be the bacteria and diseases that make water unsafe for drinking and recreation. Children who play outside and adults who spend time in the garden are also at risk for diseases carried by pet wastes. Some of these include Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidium, Toxocariasis, and Toxoplasmosis.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tip of the Month



Pet Waste Disposal Dos and Don'ts

Though some waterways and soils may be frozen, water quality issues do not take a break for winter. Pet waste can accumulate over winter, causing big problems in the spring. Pet wastes washing into waterways have been linked to beach closures and other human health issues. With tons of pet wastes generated each year, it is each pet owner's responsibility to clean up after their pet.

The following lists of simple dos and don'ts for pet waste disposal are designed to protect the environment and human health.



Dos

- Always pick up after your pet as soon as possible, especially when walking it in the neighborhood.
- Flush it down the toilet. The waste will be treated in the sanitary sewer system along with the regular human waste stream. This is the safest disposal method.
- Put it in the trash. Place waste in a securely sealed bag or other container before placing in the garbage.
- Bury it in the yard. Dig a hole that is about 5 inches deep, away from vegetable gardens and away from any water sources such as well, ditch, stream or pond. The soil will break down the waste, destroy the bacteria and release nutrients slowly to the surrounding vegetation.
- Install a pet waste digester. This is similar to a septic tank, a small canister that is buried in the yard, away from any vegetable gardens. There are many varieties and brands available commercially at your local pet supply store.
- Check with your local community. Learn about local ordinances regarding pet waste disposal. Many communities have "pooper scooper laws" in effect. It may be illegal in your area to place pet waste in the trash.

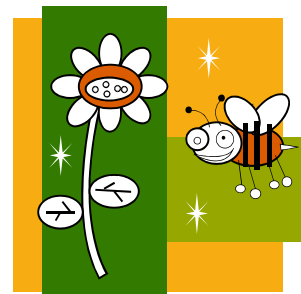
Don'ts

- Do not handle pet waste with your bare hands. If you do come in contact with it, thoroughly wash your hands immediately to avoid spreading disease.
- Do not add pet waste to a standard compost pile. The pile will not get "hot" enough to kill bacteria.
- Do not flush debris or kitty litter down the toilet. It may clog up your plumbing, and cause back-ups.
- Do not assume that winter is a time to ignore pet waste! It is still an important aspect of water quality and human health. Always clean up your pet's waste, even when the ground is frozen. Spring melts can carry away pet wastes very quickly.
- Don't feed waterfowl. This concentrates the birds to one area, often near a body of water, where large amounts of waste can cause contamination.

[CPCS News](#)

New Integrated Pest Management Packet Now Available

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a holistic approach to managing pests in your yard and home. Instead of focusing on eradicating pests with pesticides, the objective is to prevent their appearance. There is also an emphasis on tailoring a management plan to specific pests and sites to specifically fit your unique needs. Community Partners for Clean Streams has created a comprehensive packet that includes information about specific pests, alternative pesticides and a guide to implementing an IPM approach in your home or business.



Contact Vicki Kalkirtz at 734-222-6813 or kalkirtz@ewashtenaw.org for a copy of the packet or more information.

Renewing Partners

We would like to thank our renewing Partners for their continued commitment to protecting Washtenaw County's waterways. Thank you for working with us!

McNaughton & Gunn

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http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/drain_commissioner/dc_cpcs.html

