PET WASTE & WATER POLLUTION

Dog waste left on the ground washes into storm drains, lakes and streams, exposing people, pets and wildlife to harmful bacteria.

Good Neighbors Care About Clean Water

There are an estimated **310,000 dogs** in Hennepin County, and they create over **40,000 tons of waste** per year — that's a lot of poop!

This poop causes bacteria, excessive algae growth, and other water quality issues in our communities, so city ordinances require owners to clean up dog waste. This is also the neighborly thing to do to make sure we can all enjoy our local wetlands, lakes, and streams.

How does pet waste in my yard pollute water?

Dog waste contains harmful bacteria and parasites. When waste is left on lawns or not picked up, it is washed by the next rainstorm into the nearest lake or stream. Wading, swimming, or playing in bacteria-laden waters can be harmful to humans and pets alike. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote weed and algae growth in lakes and rivers. Picking up pet waste keeps recreation areas clean, safe, and enjoyable.

What about all the other animals?

It is true that squirrels, birds and other wildlife can also contribute to water pollution. However, these animals tend to spread out waste across the landscape, whereas dog waste is concentrated in yards and along sidewalks or paths.

How can I be a good neighbor?

Pick up dog waste from your yard and throw it in the garbage — it is not a fertilizer. Carry disposable bags while walking your dog. Do the same at the dog park — don't make it somebody else's problem.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For more information regarding the information in this flier, visit:
westmetrowateralliance.org/pet-waste

WMWA
West Metro Water Alliance