

# Stormwater & Water Quality

“Stormwater” refers to runoff from sources like rain and irrigation water. Stormwater flows over parking lots, streets, and yards, picking up pollutants and bacteria along the way. This water makes its way through storm drains and pipes, and eventually ends up in the McKenzie or Willamette River. Unlike sewage, stormwater is not treated before entering our waterways.

Stormwater management is an important part of the community’s effort to improve water quality. Protecting our neighborhood streams, wetlands and the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers begins at home. The City of Springfield is working hard to protect water quality, but we need your help. By picking up after your pet, you are preventing pollution and enhancing the habitat of fish and other organisms that live in the waterways.



**Clean  
water for  
everyone.**

Remember, it is a violation of City Code to dump wastes into the stormwater system. City Code also requires that everyone pick up after their pets.

*Report spills, illegal dumping and other environmental concerns to the City of Springfield’s Water Pollution Reporting Hotline, 541.726.3694.*



City of Springfield  
Environmental Services Division  
225 Fifth Street  
Springfield, OR 97477

541.726.3694  
[www.ci.springfield.or.us/ESD](http://www.ci.springfield.or.us/ESD)

# PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET

City of Springfield



Stormwater Management



## Impacts of Pet Waste on Water Quality

Pet waste contains **harmful bacteria and parasites**, which can cause disease in humans and animals. This can make the waterways unfit for swimming and recreation.

Pet waste also contains nutrients that **encourage algae growth** in waterways, making them cloudy and green.

The decomposition of pet waste uses up dissolved oxygen in the water. This **causes oxygen levels to drop**, making it difficult for fish and other organisms to survive.

SCOOP  
the  
POOP



## What can YOU Do? Dispose of Pet Waste Properly

Pick up pet waste from your yard. Bag it and toss it in the trash.

Carry a pooper scooper or disposable bags while walking your dog to pick up and dispose of waste in a trash can or a Dogipot station.

Pet waste can be flushed down the toilet. **DO NOT flush kitty litter, gloves, plastic or paper bags.**

Another option is to bury pet waste in your yard, at least 12 inches deep and cover with soil to let it decompose slowly. Bury the waste in several different locations and keep it away from vegetable gardens.

### Dogipots in Springfield

Dogipots are permanent, marked bins where you can dispose of your pet's waste. They contain biodegradable bags for picking up waste. There are several dogipot stations in parks and along paths in the Springfield area.

