



Their Doody, Your Duty

Pet Waste Pollutes: Scoop the Poop

City of Ottawa
Public Works Department
Stormwater
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Water Quality

Pet waste becomes a water quality issue if not disposed of properly by washing into our creeks and Marais des Cygnes River via stormwater. Stormwater is runoff from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground and flows across the land. This runoff flows into storm drain culverts, ditches that end up in local streams, creeks, and rivers. Stormwater is not treated for any pollutants before entering these water bodies we use for drinking water, swimming, fishing and other recreational opportunities.

Pet waste washed into our streams carries bacteria like E. coli, which in high concentrations can make recreation in the water unsafe. As pet waste breaks down it can hurt fish and other organisms in the water by using up oxygen. It can also encourage weed and algae growth.

Human and Animal Health

- Pet waste left outside can spread diseases between pets
- Pet waste not picked up where children play increase risk of infection
- Pet waste not picked up can be a food source for vermin.

You can make a Positive Difference

Their Doody



Your Duty



Pick it up



Put it in the trash

What Learn more about stormwater at <https://www.ottawaks.gov/stormwater>