

## 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.

Pet waste bags can now be found at several spots along Fort Wayne's trail system. Look for DOGIPOT bag dispensers located in Rockhill Park, Foster Park, Tillman Park, Salomon Park, at the Greenway rest node at Scott Road, on Liberty Mills Road just west of Homestead Road and on the Greenway in New Haven just east of the North River Road parking lot.

- Pet waste may contain parasites that can 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 and lakes unsafe for swimming.
- Picking up your pet's waste is your responsibility as a pet owner — and it's the law.



[www.cleanriversteam.org](http://www.cleanriversteam.org)

**Help keep our rivers clean!**

Fort Wayne City Utilities  
One E. Main Street  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802  
Phone: 311 or 260-427-1381



Mayor Tom Henry

**Help keep our rivers clean!**



## Protect Our Rivers: Scoop the Poop



**Information from  
Fort Wayne City  
Utilities**



**3 simple steps to reduce  
pet waste pollution**

## ▶ 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



A day's worth of waste from just one large dog can contain 7.8 billion fecal coliform bacteria

other pollutants that it carries, flows with the stormwater directly into streams, ponds, lakes and rivers. Most stormwater does not get any kind of treatment before it enters a water body.

Once it enters a water body the animal 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 to the growth of algae that further reduces oxygen levels. Pet waste contributes to the

high bacteria levels that make rivers and lakes unsafe for swimming or fishing.

## 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.



Scooping the poop is the law in Fort Wayne.

Pet waste is a type of pollution that can easily be reduced. All pet owners need 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 a garden fertilizer.

## Large or Small — Scoop It All!

- It doesn't matter if your pet is large or small — 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, lakes 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 it makes mowing your lawn a messy task.

(Please turn to back for more)



Help keep our rivers clean!

