

## Protect Our Waters

Pet waste may not be the first pollutant that springs to mind when you think of protecting the water resources in Lakeville but it certainly plays a role! Leaving pet waste on your lawn, dumping it in the storm sewer, leaving it on the sidewalk or on your driveway are all ways that you may be polluting our water resources, and causing a hazard to your own health, without even realizing it. By disposing of pet waste properly you will be doing your part to protect yourself and the environment.



**City of Lakeville**

**Environmental Resources Department**

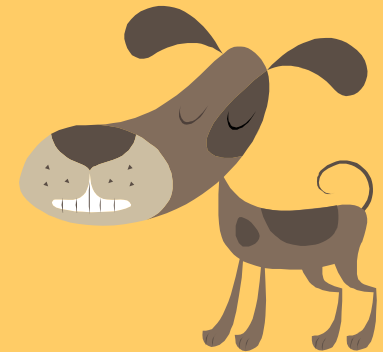
**20195 Holyoke Ave**

**Lakeville, MN 55044**

**[www.lakevillemn.gov](http://www.lakevillemn.gov)**

The Connection Between  
Pet Waste and  
Water Quality

*How you and your pet can be  
good water stewards*



## The Problem with Pet Waste

Pet waste left in a yard or on the street can result in pollutants being washed into storm sewers by rain or melting snow. Storm sewers then transport the pollutants directly into our ponds, lakes, streams and wetlands.

Once pet waste enters our local waterbodies, it begins decaying there by using up oxygen that fish need to survive.

As it decays, pet waste also releases nutrients into the water that encourage weed and algae growth.



## Health Risks

It isn't just water quality that suffers when pet waste is disposed of improperly—our health may be at risk as well. Bacteria and parasites are just a few of the health threats people face when they come in contact with water that has been contaminated by pet waste.

Contamination from pet waste can lead to a waterbody being designated as impaired by fecal coliform bacteria.



## More Information

For more information, or to see if major waterbodies near you are impaired by fecal coliform bacteria, check out the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's website at [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us). A list of impaired waters can be found under the section titled 'Impaired Waters and TMDLs'.

## What You Can Do

1. Flush it! The toilet is probably the best way to dispose of pet waste. The water from your toilet is treated at the wastewater treatment facility where pollutants are removed before it reaches local waterbodies.
2. Throw it in the garbage. Seal the pet waste in a plastic bag and dispose of it in your trash can.
3. Bury it in the yard. Dig a trench or a hole that is about 5 inches deep and away from any vegetable gardens, wells or waterbodies. Do NOT add pet waste to your compost pile. The temperature will not be hot enough to kill the bacteria and parasites in the pet waste.

