

Keep Our Creeks Bacteria-Free!

Stormwater is not treated like our home's wastewater, so what goes down the storm drain harms streams and rivers. Did you know that Spring Creek and Willow Creek are classified as having "impaired" water quality by the Environmental Protection Agency because of high levels of bacteria?

Bacteria in stormwater is pollution. Bacteria in Spring Creek and Willow Creek affects the water quality and health of the natural waterways right in our backyard. You can help to keep harmful disease-causing bacteria out of our water by protecting the quality of stormwater at your home, business, and in our parks.

YOU CAN HELP! Pick up your pet's waste from your yard, while on walks, and in dog parks – even if it is on your private property

Your dog's poop contains millions of *E. coli* and other bacteria and pathogens. When it rains, that bacteria is "washed" from your yard or other areas INTO the storm sewer and eventually into Spring Creek or Willow Creek. YUCK!



Some helpful tips to protect stormwater from bacteria pollution:

- Clean up after your dog regularly.
- Clean up poop from your yard *especially* before it is going to rain.
- Throw pet waste in the garbage inside a sealed bag or flush it down the toilet.
- Buy a "pooper scooper" to make the job easier.
- Hire a poop collection service to do the dirty work for you.

DO NOT leave pet waste on your lawn

NEVER add pet waste to your compost or vegetable garden

DO NOT leave pet waste near a curb or on the sidewalk

By cleaning up after your part, you can keep your home and our city looking and smelling better AND keep our creeks bacteria-free!

Photo Source: http://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/cwc_petwaste_poster.pdf

Adapted from materials prepared by the Stormwater Joint Task Force and retrieved from www.cleanwaterways.org