

Pet Waste & Water Pollution

You are the solution to stormwater pollution!

Pet waste is not a fertilizer. It's a harmful pollutant. Pet waste left on the ground washes into storm drains and waterways, exposing humans, pets, and wildlife to disease-causing bacteria and viruses.



How do I properly dispose of pet waste?

When nature calls, please do your "doo-ty" by both picking up your pet's waste and putting it in the trash.

Want More Information?

Learn the importance of cleaning up after your pet at the Poop Fairy University.



www.poopfairy.university

What is the City's policy on pet waste?

Rochester's City Code states that pet owners cannot leave waste on public or private property without permission from the property owner. While it is not illegal to leave pet waste in your own yard, the City encourages residents to pick up after pets to reduce the movement of bacteria into areas where it can be washed into local wetlands, lakes and creeks.

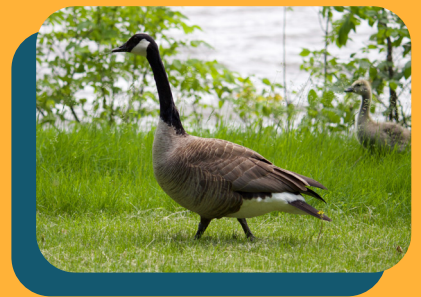


How does pet waste in my yard pollute water?

When it rains or snow melts, pet waste that is left on lawns, sidewalks, beaches, or along trails will wash bacteria, viruses and parasites (such as worms and giardia) into stormwater, which can threaten the health of humans and animals. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote aquatic weed and algae growth in lakes and rivers, some of which can be toxic to people and pets. This is the same as when too much fertilizer is used - it turns water bodies into a mucky, green color. Picking up pet waste helps keep our recreation areas clean, safe and beautiful.

Is waste from other animals a problem?

Pet waste is not a part of the natural environment because we feed our pets fortified foods to keep them healthy. Waste from squirrels, birds and other wildlife also contribute to water pollution; however, these animals forage their food from nature and tend to spread out waste across the landscape.



Another source of fecal matter in Rochester's waterways comes from Canada Geese. The practice of feeding the geese is highly discouraged. Feeding the geese leads to more geese and more waste in the waterways, plus a greater chance of disease spreading through the flock. One goose will produce three pounds of waste each day, adding fecal coliform bacteria and excess nutrient pollution to our surface waters.