**Pet Waste: Good Habits and Better Training**

Dog waste may seem innocent. You may be intending to pick it up from the yard later on, or it might even be that rare exception where you forgot a bag.

Whatever the case, its actually an important health issue not to be taken lightly. The most common misconception is that it’s natural, or that it’ll break down. This is false because dog waste is not like wildlife waste. Due to quality diets and immunizations, waste is more dense in nutrients, carries harmful pathogens, and can take up to a year to fully break-down. Dogs are also much more numerous where their people are, making neighborhoods and parks nutrient hot-spots.

100 average-sized dogs can produce up to 27,375 lbs of waste annually, and the [City/Township] has an estimated #### of doggos in the City today. An estimated 40% of pet waste in the US is not picked-up.

When a doo-doo is neglected, sun and rain will leach nutrients from the drop zone for as long as it stays there or until it’s picked up. The waste can flow off of pavement as well as grass, and is carried to the nearest lake, stream, or wetland. This is a health hazard for humans and animals alike, and brings excess algae-fueling nutrients into the aquatic habitat.

Clean water and healthy yards are a matter of practicing good habits and proper training. In 3 easy steps we can safeguard our water, fish, pets, and human community: Bring a bag, pick it up, toss it in the trash. The [City/township] provides pet waste pick-up stations at [park names].

For more information and resources, visit vlawmo.org/residents.