

Pet Waste & Water Quality

Why pet waste is harmful to our lakes, streams, and wetlands.



What's the problem?

Pet waste is unlike wildlife scat. It has more nutrient density, is more abundant in populated areas, and is classified as an official surface water pollutant by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

When stormwater picks up pet waste from grass or pavement, it carries the bacteria, contaminants, and excess nutrients into waterbodies. This is a health hazard for humans and wildlife, and throws aquatic systems out of balance (algae, E. coli, etc). Canine-sourced E.coli has been detected in Lambert Creek, which drains to Vadnais Lake.

100 average-sized dogs can produce up to 27,375 lbs. of waste annually. An estimated 40% of pet waste in the US is not picked-up.*

What can you do?

- Always pick up pet waste and dispose it in the trash.
- Be ready for pick-up duty. Create good habits to have baggies on hand.
- Spread the word and be proactive. “It’ll just break down” or “my dog is small” are not excuses.



**Thank you
for supporting
clean water!**



VLAWMO

*doodycalls.com

*petbutler.com

Photos: CleanWaterMN