

“Clean-up After Your Pets”

For most dog-owners, taking a walk is part of your daily routine. But did you know that leaving pet waste on the ground could harm water quality? Pet wastes contain bacteria like E. coli and cryptosporidium, which can make humans sick. When pet waste is left on the tree lawn, stormwater washes it into storm drains and directly into our lakes and rivers. This means the bacteria will flow directly to Lake Erie, our drinking water source. Not only does pet waste contain bacteria, it also contains nutrients. These nutrients also wash into rivers and lakes with stormwater, where it can be harmful to plants and animals living there. An excess of nutrients leads to increased algal growth, making drinking water harder to treat and swimming unpleasant. Because there is an increase in algae, there is less oxygen in the water, which fish and other organisms need to survive. Follow these steps to help keep bacteria and nutrients out of stormwater:

- Pick up after your pets! Flush the waste down the toilet or throw it in the trash.
- Never throw waste down the storm drain.
- Because pet waste contains bacteria, it cannot be composted.
- Do not dump pet waste anywhere but in the trash!

Stormwater pollution can be found in everyone's backyard. Do your part to keep Lake County's waterways clean. For more information, contact the Lake County Stormwater Management Department at www.lakecountyohio.gov/smd or 350-5900