

Pet Waste Facts

- Just one gram of dog waste can contain as many as 23 million fecal coliform bacteria.
- The 90 million dogs in the United States produce over 10 million TONS of dog waste each year!
- The waste produced by the dogs and cats in the Tri-County area is about the same as what 50,000 people – roughly the population of East Lansing – would produce.
- Hookworms, ringworms, tapeworms, and salmonella can be spread by contact with infected dog waste.
- Due to the high-protein, highly processed diets of modern dogs, their waste can contain more bacteria and pathogens by weight than that of cows.
- If left on the ground, pet waste can be washed into storm drains, discharge into surface waters, and impair water quality.

Your actions can help
keep our water clean.
Find out how and
spread the word!



**GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

www.mywatersheds.org

*For more information or to learn more about
protecting our water, visit the links below or contact
the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.*

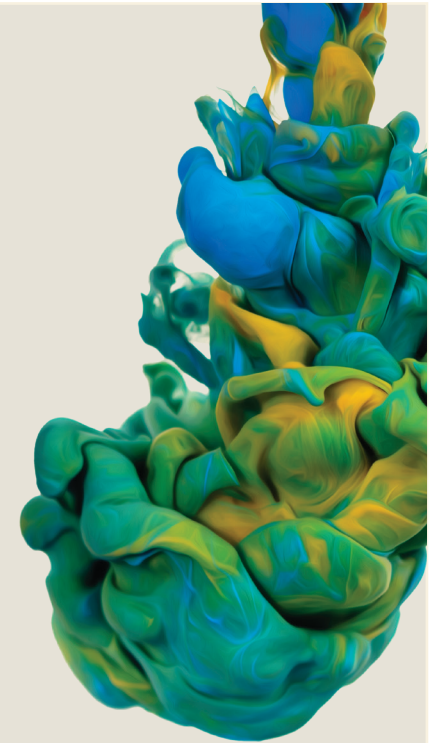
www.MyWatersheds.org

www.PollutionIsntPretty.org

(517) 393-0342



TRI-COUNTY
regional planning commission



**POLLUTION
ISN'T PRETTY.**

Pet Waste Management

What's the Problem with Pet Waste?

Pet waste isn't just a nuisance in yards and parks, it's full of bacteria that can make people and aquatic habitats sick. When left on the ground, precipitation and sprinkler runoff can wash pet waste (and the bacteria it carries) into storm drains. Since most storm sewers discharge into rivers, lakes, and streams without undergoing any treatment, runoff polluted with pet waste and other contaminants can impair our surface water resources.



Help Keep Our Water Clean

There are many threats to the health of our watershed, but picking up after our pets is a simple and easy way to limit one common source of pollution.

- Frequently pick up pet waste from your yard or hire a pet waste removal company to clean it on a routine basis.
- Pick up after your pets before watering your yard or cleaning patios and driveways. Never hose pet waste into the street or gutter.
- Carry a plastic or biodegradable bag when walking pets and be sure to pick up after them. Either throw the waste in the garbage, flush it, use a pet waste compost, or:
- Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep, put three to four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole, and cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard, just make sure to keep it away from vegetable gardens!

If they can't do this...



Please do this!

