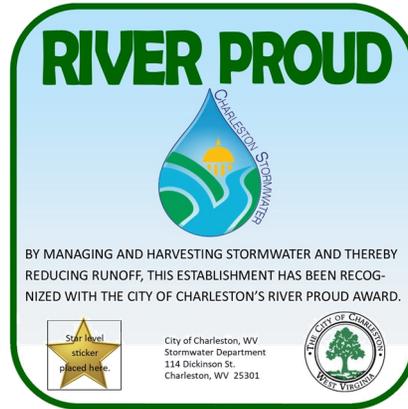




Pet waste that enters storm drains, releases harmful bacteria, lowering oxygen and increasing ammonium levels in our rivers, killing aquatic life.



Charleston's 'River Proud' Program is an initiative of the Charleston Stormwater Department to recognize the citizens of Charleston who take action to reduce stormwater runoff and pollution by successfully managing the water on their property. Go to our website to find out more!



STORMWATER DEPARTMENT

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This Brochure has been distributed to you by the City of Charleston, West Virginia in an effort to increase your knowledge of our stormwater management program and educational efforts.

Teaching an old dog a new trick?



If he can do it, so can you. Keep pet waste out of our Storm Drains!



Pet Waste

Best Management Practices for the Pet Owner



How does pet waste harm the environment?

Did you know that most storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? Whatever enters the catch basins in our parking lots and road goes untreated into creeks, streams and rivers. The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Nearly 20% of the bacteria found in water samples in Seattle Washington and 25% in the Kansas City region were linked to dogs or pet waste. A study for Charleston has not been finalized.

What Can You Do?

What can you do?

- Be prepared, when you go for a walk take a plastic bag
- Pick up pet waste
- Remove pet waste from areas where children play
- Keep pet waste away from vegetable gardens and water supplies
- Do not add pet waste to compost piles - it will not get hot enough to kill the disease organisms
- Do not dispose of pet waste in the storm drains, ditches, or streams



Methods of Disposal

- Flush down the toilet
- Put in the trash
- Bury in the yard

Diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste

- **Campylobacteriosis** - Bacterial infection - frequently causes diarrhea.
- **Cryptosporidium** - parasite - symptoms include: diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea and dehydration - may be fatal to those with depressed immune systems.
- **Toxocariasis** - roundworms - may cause vision loss, rash, fever, and cough.
- **Toxoplasmosis** - parasite - symptoms include headache, muscle aches, lymph node enlargement - may cause birth defects if contracted by pregnant women.

