

What is Stormwater?

We are all familiar with rain: water falling from clouds onto the earth. Although rain itself is easy to identify, what happens to rainwater after it reaches the ground is less evident and dependent on the type of land cover where it rains. Rural areas consist of natural open spaces that allow most of the rainwater to soak into the ground.

As a community grows and these natural lands develop, hard surfaces (roads, buildings, and parking lots) replace the natural areas and no longer allow rainwater to infiltrate. Instead, the rain now "runs off" these hard surfaces, is collected and transported through inlets, pipes, and ditches and finally ends up in our rivers, lakes, and streams without any treatment to remove pollutants.



How can you help?

Citizens can take an active part in becoming the solution to stormwater pollution. Taking simple steps to reduce pollution in and around your home will help the City in its mission to improve stormwater runoff.

Below are some simple steps to help reduce pollution around the home:

- Clean up after your pet (even at home!)
- Do not apply chemicals to your lawn before a rainstorm.
- Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines for storage, application, and disposal of household contaminants.
- Do not over-apply chemicals.
- Do not throw trash or other materials into storm drains!
- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!



Contact Us

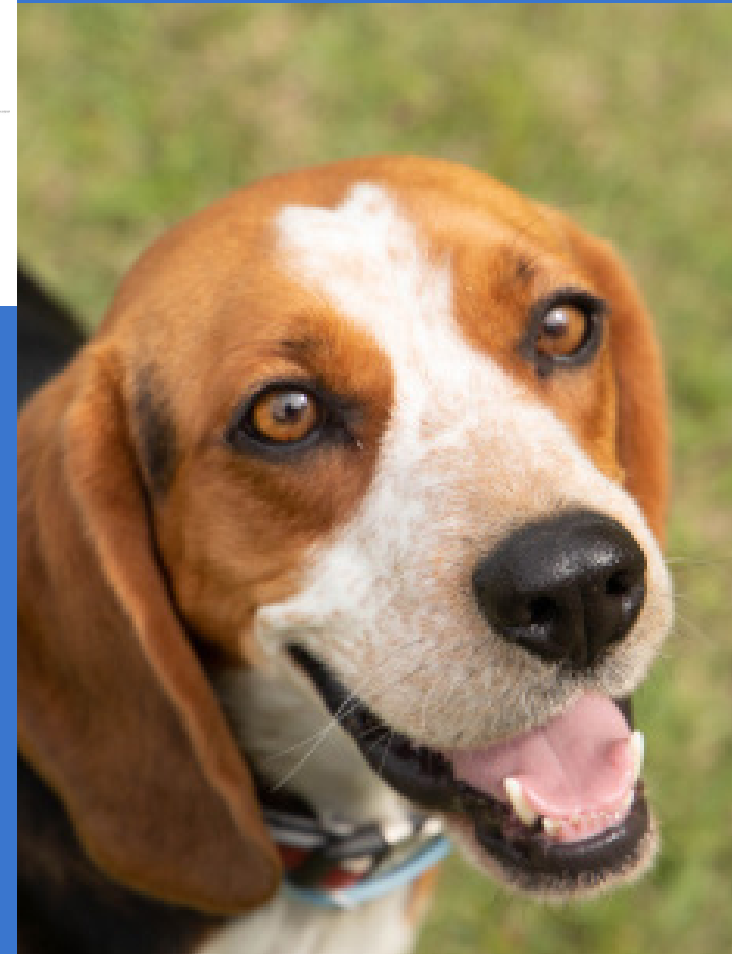
Stormwater Management Program

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Pets and Water Quality



When it rains, it drains (and Pollutes!)

Facts about Pet Waste

There has long been a common misconception that dog or cat waste can't possibly matter in the greater scheme of all the pollutants entering our waterways. But consider that each gram of feces from dog waste contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. There are over 30,000 dogs in Cumberland County, all the cats, and all the other pets, which adds up quickly!

It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children. Bacteria, viruses, and parasites found in pet waste can pose health risks to humans and other animals and result in the spread of disease.

It's a nuisance in our neighborhoods. Dog waste is gross. No one wants to step in it, and it's against the law not to pick up after our pets. If not picked up, pet waste will wash directly into local storm drains, flows untreated into our local streams, rivers, and lakes.



Next Time We Take a Walk:

Remember, it's your responsibility to clean up after your pet - just like feeding and grooming, but they are worth it!

When taking your pet for a walk, make sure to have a way to pick up after your pet! You can purchase doggie bag carriers that will attach to your dog's leash, so you will always have a bag! Plastic grocery bags will also do the job!

If you are at our City parks and do not have a pet waste bag, please use the convenient pet waste stations in the park.

Once you have "scooped" your dog's waste, please tie the bag and properly dispose of it in a trash can.

