

Storm Drain Stenciling

Volunteers can also work to keep our streams clean and attractive by engaging in Storm Drain Stenciling. Stenciling the outside of storm drains helps to raise the community's awareness of nonpoint source pollution and reduce the incidence of illicit discharge into the drains.

Nonpoint source pollution results from everyday activities and those pollutants oftentimes are swept directly into storm drains and waterways with stormwater runoff. Some examples include fertilizers, motor oil, litter and animal waste.

For more information, materials or to schedule a storm drain stenciling outing, contact The Conservation Foundation (TCF) at 630.428.4500 ext. 121. TCF is a Stormwater Management partner in preserving and improving DuPage County's streams and rivers.



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Pet Waste As Stormwater Pollution

Proper pet care is an *essential*—especially when considering the effects that improper pet care can have on our environment. For example, if you fail to pick up your dog waste, it is then a contributor to stormwater pollution. Dog waste is full of bacteria and parasites that may be a threat to human health and the environment as a whole.

Beyond feces, there are other ways in which improper pet care can have negative effects on our environment. *Dumping fish* from the pet store into waterways or stormwater drains is not only harmful—but it can also result in a fine under certain ordinances. It is also harmful to try to dump *plants* that were meant for your aquarium into waterways, as they can displace native plants.

Small Efforts Make Big Changes

Merely picking up after your dog can prevent up to 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. It can also decrease the amount of disease spread through contaminated water sources. This seems trivial, but it is a serious risk, considering dog waste is said to be the *3rd or 4th* largest contributor of pollution in urban watersheds. A small effort, such as carrying around a bag to pick up after your dog, can make a big change in eliminating the number of pollutants in our waterways.

More Information

Here is some information on the harmful effects of improperly caring for pet waste:

- The water in your aquarium could contain fish eggs, larvae or diseases. These contaminants pose a threat to other lifeforms currently in our waterways.
- When walking your dog in urban areas, it does not matter whether you are on a lawn, beach or a sidewalk, all of those surfaces can drain into a water body and pollute the water.

Remember

- You are not only harming the ecosystem if you choose to dump your freshwater fish into a local waterway—you can be penalized!
- Another part of your aquarium, the plants, are not to be dumped into local waterways either. They can displace native plants.
- Dog waste is one of the top contributors to pollution, meaning it is not an issue to be overlooked.
- On walks, carry a bag with you to pick up your dog's waste.
- In your own lawn, either pick up dog waste or utilize a service that specializes in removing waste in the community.

