

know where it goes

take simple steps to reduce STORMWATER POLLUTION

A Strategy for Stormwater Education Through Pet Waste Management

Updated 2018

What do we want residents to do?

- Pick up pet waste.

What are the messages?

- Picking up pet waste is easy when you carry a bag with you. Simply put the waste in the bag, and put the bag in the trash.
- It's the law, and it's common courtesy.

Help Your Neighbors Scoop The Poop!

Pet waste is a nuisance that also pollutes surface waters, contributing bacteria and nutrients.

Urban and suburban areas contribute to the problem when pet waste on sidewalks and streets washes into storm drains.

Parks and other popular dog-walking places are another site of stormwater contamination.

It is important to convey to our neighbors that they should pick up their pet's waste and that it's easy to do. Simply carry a bag

when you walk your dog; put the waste in the bag, and throw it in the trash.

It's the law (if your town has an ordinance), and it's common courtesy!

Pet waste does not just decompose. It adds harmful bacteria and nutrients to local waters, when it's not disposed of properly.



What happens when pet waste isn't disposed of properly?

Inside this issue:

Get a Pet Waste Ordinance Adopted	2
Advertise the Ordinance Adoption	2
Offer and Advertise New Pet Waste Disposal Options	2
Publicize Yearly Reminders	3
Keep Track of Your Success	3

What Help Is Out There?

If you want pet waste to be less of a stormwater concern in your town, then we have a strategy for you!

This newsletter highlights four steps to achieving that goal. To help you along, we can offer you:

- a model ordinance,
- a fact sheet on the ordinance for Board members,
- prepared press releases,
- newspaper articles,
- a fact sheet about the

problem of pet waste for distributing to residents, and

- a nitrogen removal calculator spreadsheet to figure out just how much the ordinance is helping local waters.

Find these resources on the **Rhode Island Stormwater Solutions** website: <https://web.uri.edu/riss/take-action/in-your-community/install-a-pet-waste-station/resources/>

Step 1. Get a Pet Waste Ordinance Adopted

The following **materials** will be available to help with this step:

- a model ordinance and supporting educational materials such as a fact sheet about the ordinance for Board members or the public
- a press release on the public comment period

for the ordinance and on the ordinance hearing

Steps to take:

- Draft a pet waste ordinance.
- Coordinate a review at the town level.
- Distribute press releases.

Volunteers could be recruited to:

- comment on the ordinance



Step 2. Advertise the Ordinance Adoption

The following **materials** will be available online to help with this step:

- a press release on the ordinance adoption

Steps to take:

- Distribute press releases.

Step 3. Offer and Advertise New Pet Waste Disposal Options Such as Pet Waste Stations at Local Parks

The following **materials** will be available to help with this step:

- a press release on the availability of new pet waste stations at local parks or along highly-trafficked streets
- a "coupon" to advertise a Bags-on-Board type product give-away, sponsored by the Town, a local organization or business

Steps to take:

- Purchase pet waste stations (\$300-\$400 each) and Bags-on-Board canisters (price depends on quantity, minimum of \$2 each).
- Distribute press releases.
- Recruit volunteers to manage and maintain pet waste stations.
- Distribute "coupons" to local papers to advertise Bags-on-Board concept.

Volunteers could be recruited to:

- contact local vets, shelters, pet stores, and groomers regarding distribution of Bags-on-Board canisters and accompanying flyer about scooping the poop
- seek contributions from businesses for funds to purchase pet waste stations and Bags-on-Board
- distribute materials to locations
- keep records of number of bags refilled at pet waste stations and Bags-on-Board distributed.



Step 4. Publicize Yearly Reminders

The following **materials** will be available online to help with this step:

- short articles for local papers reminding people about the ordinance, pet

waste stations, and the benefits of picking up after your pet

Steps to take:

- Distribute the short articles to local papers.

Keep Track of Your Success

Documenting your success at having residents increase their efforts to pick up after their pets will be instrumental to having continued support for the program. Here are a few methods you could use:

1. Keep records of the number of press releases and articles that have been printed, informing the public about the program.
2. Ask the volunteers responsible for maintaining the pet waste stations to keep a record of how often they have to refill the bags and use that to estimate the amount of nitrogen and bacteria that have been removed as pollutants to local waters, using the nitrogen removal calculator.
3. Ask the volunteers responsible for distributing the Bags-On-Board to keep track of the number of canisters distributed, using the forms that document the refill of pet waste station bags.

