

"Scoop the Poop" Program Fact Sheet

What is the "Scoop the Poop" program?

The "Scoop the Poop" program is a joint effort of the Sacramento County Stormwater Quality Program and the Sacramento Regional and County Park Districts to install pet waste disposal bag stations. This program is unique because it allows park districts to work closely with the community to reduce pet waste in parks and along trails.

How does the program work?

The "Scoop the Poop" program is a community stewardship program. Working with the park districts, local volunteer groups and other organizations install the stations at designated areas.

Residents using the park can take a plastic bag from the Scoop the Poop station and use it to pick up their pet waste and dispose of it in the trash waste receptacles. They can also leave empty plastic bags in the dispensers for others to use.

What is the purpose of the program?

The purpose of the program is to reduce the improper disposal of pet waste found in area parks by engaging the community in the solution. The community makes the program possible by providing bags, which can be costly for parks to provide. Having these bags readily available makes it easier for dog owners to pick up after their pets.

What are the benefits of keeping parks and trails free of pet waste?

The Scoop the Poop program will benefit the community in several ways:

- Reduce the amount of bacteria found in local waterways.
- Keep parks and trails cleaner and healthier for residents.
- Recycle grocery bags.
- Involve the community in a program to reduce stormwater pollution.



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
STORMWATER UTILITY
Stormwater Quality Program





Can an organization sponsor a pet waste station?

Yes, community organizations are invited to help install pet waste stations. Interested parties can contact Suman Kumar (contact information provided below) for details.

How does this program differ from other similar programs?

This program is distinctive because it brings together the community, including government agencies, community organizations, and residents in a cost effective manner to increase water quality stewardship and awareness of our local waterways.

What is the relationship between stormwater quality and pet waste?

Pollutants from improperly disposed pet waste may be washed into the storm drain by rain or irrigation water. Unlike the sanitary sewer (from sinks and toilets), storm drains are a direct link to our creeks and rivers, carrying many pollutants—pet waste, pesticides and fertilizer, and oil—along with the untreated water.

Why is it important to dispose of pet waste properly?

Pet waste left in parks is unsanitary and disagreeable for park users. It contains pathogenic bacteria and other parasites. When pet waste is washed into our creeks and rivers it decays in the water, depleting oxygen levels and releasing ammonia, which can be harmful to fish and other aquatic organisms. Pet waste also contains nutrients that foster weed and algae growth.

Is pet waste a big problem in our area?

Anytime a park user encounters pet waste left in the park, it's a problem for them. There is a significant problem with fecal bacteria contamination found in our waterways, and pet waste left on the ground is one of the leading sources of this pollutant. Adopting simple practices by cleaning up after pets can help reduce the impact of pet waste to our waterways.

How can I learn more about this program?

For more information about the “Scoop the Poop” program, visit us at www.saccounty.net (search: stormwater), or contact Suman Kumar at 916.874.8326. or kumarsu@saccounty.net.

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