

**DID YOU  
KNOW...**



# PET WASTE CAN HARM OUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Every pet owner in Emerson plays a part in preventing water pollution in our rivers and streams. Be a good neighbor and pick up after your pets, both at home and on public land. **Scoop it. Bag it. Trash it.**

## WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, dogs can serve as the hosts for up to 65 diseases that can be transmitted to humans. If left on the ground, these parasites, bacteria, and viruses **can contaminate the water, soil, and infect both pets and humans.**

Every time it rains, pet waste left on the ground makes its way to our waterways causing **elevated levels of bacteria in our rivers and streams!** Studies have found that 20% of the bacteria contaminating some waterways can be traced back to the digestive system of dogs.

## AS A PET OWNER, WHAT CAN I DO?

Carry disposable bags and pick up pet waste when out on walks. Properly dispose of pet waste by bagging and sealing the waste and depositing it in a trash can or pet waste receptacle. **Do not place it in a storm drain or leave it on the ground.** Cat waste and used litter should also be put in a sealed bag and then in the garbage. **Our sewer system is not designed to handle cat litter or cat waste.**

If walking in the Emerson Woods Preserve (EWP), please **ensure that your pet is on a leash**, and that **all pet waste is properly bagged** and placed in the trash. Marked bins are placed near all EWP entrances.

**IMPORTANT:** In Emerson, pet owners who do not properly dispose of pet waste may be **subject to fines** for each offense. Do your part and help keep our neighborhood clean and free of pet waste!

