



Watershed Protection Development Review



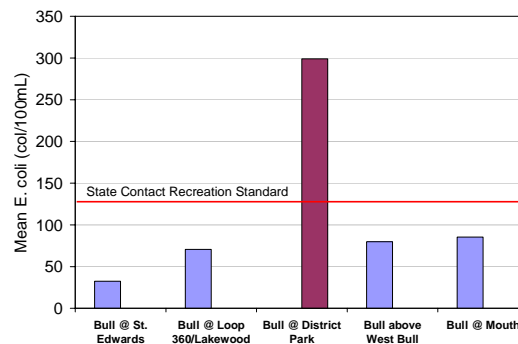
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 7, 2008

OFF-LEASH IS NOT OFF THE HOOK!

A new water quality monitoring study along Bull Creek shows high levels of bacteria at the off-leash pet area in District Park. The levels often exceed the State's recommended limit for contact recreation so the City is asking Austinites to help by cleaning up pet waste in order to preserve all uses of the park including swimming, wading, and the off-leash dog areas. Human illnesses such as dysentery and giardia can result from ingesting bacteria-laden water. Your pet could also be at risk of parvo and roundworms.

What is the Evidence?

The following shows the comparative bacteria levels at various locations along Bull Creek. The levels are also eight times higher on weekends than weekdays when park visitors increase in the off-leash area.



- [Bacteria Study](#)
- [Austin Outreach Material](#)

What's One Little "Deposit" in the Park?

Each dog creates about a half pound of excrement a day. With an estimated 100,000 dogs in Austin, that's about **50,000 pounds** of dog waste deposited throughout town daily. A small amount of pet waste in a water body can make the water unsafe for swimming.

What Can You Do to Protect our Parks and Waterways?

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|----------------|--|
| Bring it! | Bring your own bags to the park or on walks (or grab one provided in the Mutt Mitt dispensers in many parks) |
| Bag it! | Use the bag as a glove to scoop the waste, then turn the bag inside out and tie to seal. No mess. |
| Dispose of it! | Place the bag in a trash can. |

[Click here for the full report](#)