

Austin guide to... **SCOOP***the* **POOP**

Pet Waste Pollutes our Water!

Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly – it is a health risk to pets and people, especially children. When it rains, pet waste left on trails, sidewalks and grassy areas can wash into the nearest creek or lake.

The bacteria, parasites and viruses in pet waste can harm water quality and anyone who comes in contact with it. It also contains nutrients that increase the growth of nuisance algae in our waterways.

So, please Scoop the Poop – it's the healthy and neighborly thing to do.



Here's the Scoop:

- An average-sized dog dropping contains 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria
- An estimated 1,327 pounds of dog waste are deposited into Town Lake every day - nearly a half million pounds per year
- There are over 100 Scoop the Poop boxes installed throughout Austin
- At approximately 0.25 pounds of pet waste per bag, Austin citizens are removing an estimated 135,000 lbs. of waste and the related bacteria each year from our parks and trails.

Make a Difference.

- Bring plastic bags with you when walking your dog (tie bags on the leash if you don't have a pocket or pack)
- Look for mutt mitt dispensers in City parks, follow directions on dispenser box and throw the bag in the trash
- Remove pet waste from your yard
- Place a Scoop the Poop sign in your yard to encourage your neighbors to scoop (call 974-2550)

Contact Information:

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| • Mutt Mitt Refills (parks): | 440-5150 |
| • Park Complaints: | 974-7707 |
| • Environmental Health Services: | 972-5600 |
| • Water Quality Protection Information: | 974-2550 |

http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/wq_scoop.htm



Austin
Parks and
Recreation



Watershed Protection
Development Review

City ordinance states that it is unlawful not to dispose of feces left by a dog or cat on private or public property (other than your own) and is punishable by a fine of up to \$500