

Jefferson County Department of Storm Water Management



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JeffCo H₂O News

IN A PERFECT WORLD!



IT'S YOUR "DOODY"

PICK UP AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF PET WASTE

PET WASTE CONTAINS HARMFUL BACTERIA WHICH IS WASHED BY RAINFALL AND IRRIGATION. PET WASTE POLLUTES OUR WATERWAYS.

REPORT SUSPECTED WATER POLLUTION, CALL 325-5792



What's Happening?

Free Brown Bag Lunch & Learn Seminars. Click [HERE](#) for details!

Turning Trash into Treasure - Backyard Composting July 17. Learn how to turn yard and kitchen waste into free soil. Contact ACES at 205.879.6964 x10 to register.

August is National Water Quality Month. What are you doing to protect water quality in Jefferson County's 50 creeks and streams?

National Dog Day August 26. 'Paws' for just a moment to celebrate our special bond with canines and commit to picking up and properly disposing of your pet's waste.

Pollution Prevention Week September 15. What potential pollutants are lurking around your home? Survey outdoor areas for possible culprits and take some stormwater friendly action to prevent pollutants from leaving your property. [HERE](#) are some tips from EPA.

Wholly Cr@p! Seriously?

Not many friendships could stand the test of time like the relationship between people and their pets. Archaeologists have found evidence that humans began domesticating dogs 16,000 years ago to help with hunting, herding, and protection.

Throughout the ages, people also have kept dogs as companions. No wonder we refer to dogs as 'man's best friend'. According to the Humane Society, Americans own 78 million dogs. And not to leave out feline fanciers, cats were domesticated 8,000 years ago when people noticed their usefulness in keeping rats and other vermin away from harvested grain. Today in the United States, more than 86 million cats allow humans to own them.

We love our pets and want to keep them healthy and safe. One important step is picking up and properly disposing of pet waste. An average sized dog produces about 1/2 pound of waste per day. Multiply that by the 150,000 dogs owned by Jefferson County residents, and we are talking about nearly 38 tons of dog waste! If you've ever stepped into one of those lovely piles, you know how annoying that can be.

But pet waste is more than just a nuisance - it is a health hazard. The average pile of dog waste contains 2.5 billion fecal coliform bacteria as well as viruses and parasites. These pathogens can live in both soil and water, and people and pets are at risk of illness if they are exposed to them. That's why pet waste should never be added to compost or used as fertilizer - and should always be kept out of storm drains! As with anything else left on the ground, stormwater can wash pet waste into the nearest waterway.

So what is the most environmentally friendly solution to disposing of your pet's waste? It's as easy as:

1 - Always pick it up. 2 - Bag it. 3 - Trash it.

Check out [It's Your Doody](#) for a quick reference about pet waste.

Focus on: Litter, Trash, Debris

Jefferson County Commissioners approved assisting the unincorporated communities of Concord, Edgewater A, Edgewater B, McDonald Chapel, and North Smithfield/Greenleaf Heights to participate in the People Against a Littered State (PALS) Spring Cleanup. Jefferson County Storm Water Department coordinated with other County departments and leaders in each participating community to publicize the cleanup and obtain resources for the volunteers.

Nearly 5 tons of litter, trash and debris were removed from along public roadways and rights of way as a result of some truly awesome team work.

A big THANK YOU to Roads and Transportation's Bessemer and Ketona Camps for picking up and properly disposing of the filled bags; the Sheriff's Office for providing traffic control and other assistance for volunteers; the Emergency Management Agency for loaning safety vests to volunteers; Land Planning & Development Services for providing project area maps and community contacts; and PALS for providing trash bags.

Going from Bare to Flair is 'Mulch' Better



It wouldn't be hard to transform the yard on the left into a lovely shaded landscape like the yard on the right. It all starts with applying a layer of mulch. A few easy care shade loving plants complete the look.

Summer is here, and a shady yard in which to pass those long hot afternoons is a wonderful thing, especially for pets. [Petscaping](#) your yard can help make it safer and more functional for your four legged friends. However, sometimes in spite of our best efforts, shady areas show the symptoms of wear and tear from pet activities such as running, jumping, rolling and digging.

Areas under trees are often sparse or bare of any type of vegetation anyway. Not only can these hard to maintain areas be unsightly - they also can result in bare soil washing away from your yard. There is an easy fix - APPLY MULCH. Mulch has many benefits: it retains soil moisture, stabilizes soil temperature, controls weeds, and reduces soil erosion.

The secret to keeping mulched areas looking good is to always maintain 2 - 4" of mulch. If you used leaves this past fall for your mulching needs (which by now should have created some wonderful soil enrichment), this is the time to replenish these areas with mulch from your compost heap or purchased from a home and garden store. Check out this section of [Alabama Smart Yards](#) from ACES for more information about mulching.

To report suspected water pollution, call 205.325.5792. Questions or comments? Email diclementel@jccal.org or call 205.325.8741.