

# Remember, you're not just walking the dog

Our Water. Our Future.



## Clean up after your pet

Did you know that pet waste has bacteria that can make our lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities?

That happens when pet waste left on sidewalks or yards gets washed into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers.

How can you help?

Follow the tips on the back of this card for simple ways you can help keep our water clean.

## Clean up after your pet

**Prompt and proper disposal.** Whether in your yard or on a walk, promptly dispose of your pet's waste in the trash or down the toilet where it will be properly treated. When pet waste is left behind, it washes into storm drains and ditches. From there it heads straight to your local lakes and rivers taking harmful bacteria with it.

**Watch instead of feeding.** Watch and enjoy the ducks and geese, but avoid feeding them. Feeding ducks and geese may seem harmless, but, in fact, can be harmful to our water. Feeding waterfowl causes them to become more dependent

on humans which, in turn, creates unnaturally high populations and more animal waste. This waste contains bacteria that pollutes our parks and lakes.



**Spread the word.** Tell others how they can help protect our lakes and rivers. Also, work cooperatively with your

local government to install signs, bag dispensers, and trash cans in convenient public places to remind visitors to clean up after their pets.

Find out more at [www.semcog.org](http://www.semcog.org)

Brought to you by the Southeast Michigan  
Partners for Clean Water

Support provided by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan  
Council of Governments (313-961-4266) and the  
Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project

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