



Give A Bark!



[Chatfield Hollow State Park pet waste project](#)
[Pet waste management outreach materials and other resources](#)

Did you know that your dog's poop can be a health risk and source of water pollution? This spring, the District developed and initiated a pet waste education and outreach campaign focused on our state parks in collaboration with the CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The purpose of the project is to build awareness of the health and environmental risks of dog waste. The project is funded by the DEP through a US EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 grant.

[Simple and clean ways to deal with dog-doo!](#)

[Bark for a Clean State Park at Chatfield Hollow State Park!](#)

[More about dog waste pollution and similar campaigns!](#)

[Find dog-friendly places and parks to visit in Connecticut!](#)

Why is picking up after my dog important? *It's a health risk!*

When rain or snow melt runs over the land it can carry the pet waste that has accumulated, along with associated bacteria and possible parasites and viruses, to our waterways where these microorganisms may pose a human health risk. This is an example of [nonpoint source pollution](#), or pollution that is carried by storm water runoff into waterways, impairing water quality. Leaving dog waste on the ground in your neighborhood will risk contamination of your local stream, lake, beach or even drinking water supply. At Chatfield Hollow State Park in the Town of Killingworth, bacteria contamination means closure of the swimming beach.

Pet waste contains a large number of fecal coliform bacteria that may indicate the presence of Giardia, roundworms, Salmonella, parvovirus and many other microorganisms that can be harmful to human health. Leaving the pet waste anywhere on the ground may expose children, adults and other pets to diseases. These microorganisms can also make water unsafe for drinking and swimming.

You may wonder: why is it a risk to not pick up after a single dog? Consider this...there are about 1,600 dogs in the Town of Killingworth alone. The Food and Drug Administration estimates that, on average, one dog will produce $\frac{3}{4}$ lb of waste a day. That means there are approximately 1,200 lbs of dog waste produced per day in just one Connecticut town!

Pet waste is more than bacterial contamination. *It's an environmental risk!*

Dog waste can have a serious impact on water quality. When fecal bacteria is found in

waterways, researchers are able to use a DNA-fingerprinting technique (microbial source tracking), to see whose waste it was from. Often, it is found that dogs are a predominant source species (www.stormwatercenter.net). Dog waste also adds nitrogen and phosphorus to the water. In large amounts, these nutrients encourage the runaway growth of algae and aquatic weeds, which can impact the health and quality of our waters.

What can you do? *It's simple!*

Pet waste pollution control begins with you:

BRING IT! Always bring a plastic bag, or two, when you walk your dog! You can carry bags in your pocket, tie them to your leash or belt loop, or use a doggy bag holder that fits on to your leash.

BAG IT! Use the bag as a glove to scoop the waste, then turn the bag inside out and seal. You can keep a small bottle of hand sanitizer with you or wash your hands with soap and water when you are done bagging.

DISPOSE OF IT! Place the bag in a trash can or flush it, unbagged, down a toilet. Never dispose of pet waste in a storm drain as it will then flow directly, untreated, to your local waterway. Pet waste may also be carefully buried at least 5" deep, away from vegetable gardens or waterways, or even composted.

To learn more about the importance of scooping your dog's waste, in state parks as well as in your community, please visit the following links:

[Give a Bark for a Clean State Park!](#) Chatfield Hollow State Park gets new dog waste disposal stations.

Does your dog Bark for a Clean State Park? Support the campaign and send in a photo of your responsible dog to include on the District's website! Visit [Give a Bark for a Clean State Park](#) for more information.

[Pet waste nonpoint source pollution and similar campaigns](#) throughout the web.

More about *Nonpoint Source Pollution*

Nonpoint source pollution (NPS) occurs when accumulated pollutants from residential, commercial and agricultural lands are carried by stormwater and snowmelt runoff, and deposited in our waterways where it is a significant threat to the quality of our wetlands, ponds, streams, lakes, rivers and estuaries. Common NPS pollutants are construction sites, roads, parking lots, roofs, lawns, farms and failing septic systems. In addition to pet waste, lawn fertilizers, motor oil, driveway sand and salt, and soapy water from washing cars in driveways are common NPS pollutants that end up in waterways.

Find dog-friendly places and parks to visit in Connecticut

[CT dog-friendly travel places \(leave CRCCD site\)](#)

[CT dog parks from Ecoanimal.com \(leave CRCCD site\)](#)

[CT dog parks from Doggeek.com \(leave CRCCD site\)](#)

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