

**Utica
Spring 2019 Newsletter**

Proper Disposal of Pet Waste

Pet waste contains bacteria that are harmful to us and our local waterways. Leaving it on the sidewalk or lawn means harmful bacteria will be transported into the storm drains and then into our rivers. It is highly encouraged that all residents clean up after their pet. Many public places contain a number of signs, bag dispensers, and receptacles which have been conveniently installed to encourage pet waste removal.

How can I keep harmful bacteria out of our lakes, rivers, and beaches?

➤ **Dispose of it promptly and properly**

Pick up after your pets before watering your yard or cleaning patios or driveways. Don't use a hose to clean pet waste off driveways or sidewalks.

➤ **Share the message**

When at a dog park, community meeting, or talking with your friends, spread the word about the positive impact picking up after your pet can have on water quality.

➤ **Don't treat ducks or geese as pets**

Feeding ducks and geese may seem harmless but, in fact, can be a nuisance to people and harmful to our water. Feeding the waterfowl causes them to become dependent on humans. This, in turn, creates unnaturally high populations and problems in parks and lakes. Waterfowl waste can pollute our water with harmful bacteria.

For more information regarding pet care, visit www.semccog.org.

