

Pet Waste Stations

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Problem:

Poorly-managed pet waste not only can be a nuisance to pedestrians but it also poses public health hazards (as it carries bacteria and parasites) and is a source of water quality impairment (due to its high nutrient content).

Solution:

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and Rock Creek Conservancy launched a pilot program to encourage pet owners to properly dispose of pet waste in the Rock Creek watershed. The program used county stormwater fees to install seven pet waste collection stations (consisting of bag dispensers and trash receptacles) in several communities. In its first year, the program kept more than 1,500 pounds of pet waste out of local waterways.



Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Other

Scale: 7 pet waste recovery stations

Pollutants Removed: 1533 pounds of pet waste annually

Cost: \$7,000 for installation, \$11.00 bi-monthly for servicing plus \$7.00 bi-monthly for bag refills

Funding Sources: Chesapeake & Alliance Coastal Bays Trust fund through Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Partners: Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection; Rock Creek Conservancy

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What is Polluted Runoff?

The growth of our cities has resulted in too many paved surfaces, which prevent rain water from being absorbed by the ground. Instead, the water runs off streets and buildings, collecting trash and dangerous chemicals on its way. This contaminated water overflows into our streams and rivers, creating public health hazards and toxic waters.

Storm water projects create safe paths for polluted runoff to be captured and filtered before it reaches our waterways. They keep communities healthy and the environment clean.

When communities and their local governments work together to solve big problems like stormwater runoff, that's a story worth telling!