

The Villages



WATER WISDOM

SMART MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

Properly Dispose of Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters when not properly disposed of. When pet waste is not picked up, rain and sprinkler runoff carry the bacteria across lawns and into streets and gutters and then down the storm drain and directly into local ponds and wetlands.

The water that goes down storm drains is not treated to remove harmful bacteria or pollutants. As pet waste decays in a waterbody, it uses up oxygen, sometimes releasing ammonia. Low oxygen levels and ammonia combined with warm temperatures can be detrimental to the health of fish and other aquatic life. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote weed and algae growth. The water can become cloudy and green, making it unattractive. Pet waste also carries bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can pose risks to human health and threaten wildlife.

Remember, when walking your dog always carry extra bags with you and dispose of the waste properly. The best way to dispose of the waste is in the trash. Pet waste is not a good fertilizer and should not be thrown in the landscaping. Help keep your neighborhood and the environment healthy.