**Reminder: Scoop the poop when walking your dog**

Please remember to pick up and dispose of poop when walking your dog. Dog feces can carry bacteria and parasites, including heartworm, whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, parvovirus, giardia, salmonella and *E. coli*. Some of the parasites remain infectious in contaminated soil for years. In addition, dog poop contains high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen.

Pet waste on or near sidewalks and streets can wash into storm sewers and ditches that connect to local lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands. Nutrients in the feces contribute to harmful algae blooms and the bacteria can make people sick if they are swimming or wading in the water. Some cities have even had to close beaches near dog parks after rainstorms due to contaminated runoff.

The city of [insert name here] requires all pet owners to pick up and dispose of dog poop and other pet waste in the garbage. [Insert ordinance language here.] Please remember to bring plastic bags with you when you walk your dog and pick up dog waste in your yard as well.