

## PET WASTE

### Why pick up after your pet?

**Myth:** My pet is supposed to go outside, it's just one animal, let nature take it's course.

**Fact:** The number of pets in a concentrated area doing their business day after day really adds up. It disrupts the natural processes for managing waste and threatens the health of humans and other animals. If not picked up, waste is often washed into local waterways during rain events. Both Beaver Creek and Little Creek are vulnerable to bacteria pollution.

### It starts with you

- Pet Waste Stations are located in parks adjacent to creeks such as Mumpower Park and Sugar Hollow Park.
- Use a bag that is provided or bring your own and always dispose properly.
- Be a proud pet owner and encourage your fellow pet lovers to do the same.



Pet Waste Station at Cumberland Square Park

## LITTER, ILLEGAL DUMPING, AND ILLICIT DISCHARGES

**True or False?** When water enters the storm drain, it goes to a treatment plant before being released back into a stream or lake.

**False.** Storm drains are designed to drain water away from our homes and streets. Unfortunately, they can sometimes become receptacles for litter and illegally dumped items. Much of the litter and poorly stored items end up in local creeks.



Beaver Creek Clean Up  
Photo Courtesy of [www.2.tricities.com](http://www.2.tricities.com)

Illicit discharges include dumping, straight pipes to a ditch or creek, and irresponsible handling of materials. These activities are illegal and should be reported to the City Engineer.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/colemana/4096090>

- Pick up or mulch grass clippings
- Wash vehicles in the grass or at a wash facility
- Report sanitary sewer leaks or overflows
- Report dumping and illicit discharges

Report leaks, non-emergency spills, or suspicious activity to the Public Works Dept.  
(276)645-7360

## PROPER STORAGE, APPLICATION AND DISPOSAL

### Handle chemicals with care.

Poorly stored pesticides, cleaners, automotive fluids, and other products have a high probability of running off our yards and driveways and they eventually wind up in a creek.

Manufacturers provide specific instructions to protect health and safety. Follow the recommendations to safely apply the chemicals.



### Safe Homes and Yards = Safer Creeks

- Store chemicals securely and indoors if possible.
- Buy small quantities.
- Read labels and follow manufacturer instructions.
- Clean spills immediately with absorbent material and dispose of the material properly.
- Always dispose of chemicals properly.

Waste Collection Events are held in May and October.

For More Information, contact:  
(276)645-3791



## WHY IT MATTERS

### Our Special Place

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the Commonwealth. Our creeks, rivers and lakes play a role in sustaining life, including ours. Keeping our water resources healthy keeps us healthy. Some of our creeks have been found to have high levels of bacteria, nitrates, and sediment. While this is not uncommon for creeks near urban areas, it is critical to address the pollution and take steps to prevent it.

### Begin at Home

We can protect our creeks by starting good habits in our yards and neighborhoods. There are approximately 9,000 households in Bristol. If families could do small things, such as picking up after their pet or washing cars in the grass, the positive impacts would be significant. On the other hand, if families do not make small changes to their behaviors at home, the negative impacts can be detrimental. Forming healthy habits is a solution for problems in our creeks.

### Be a Leader

Help your neighbors remember healthy habits by showing them how simple it is. Flaunt the fact that you brought or used a bag on walks with pets, and put the waste in the proper place. Talk to them about pesticides and fertilizer. Be an advocate for healthy streams and the health of your community. It is very important to report leaks or suspicious activity. Do your part and others will follow your lead.

Questions about Stormwater? Call the  
Public Works Department

(276)645-7360

## Things To Remember

1. Pick up after your pet every time.
2. Don't put anything down the storm drain.
3. Report dumping or illegal activity.
4. Keep outside work areas clean and free of debris.
5. Store and use chemicals responsibly.
6. Take advantage of Hazardous Waste collection/disposal events in May and October.



Beaver Creek

Photo Courtesy of : Bud Phillips, Special to the Herald Courier , [www.2.tricities.com](http://www.2.tricities.com)

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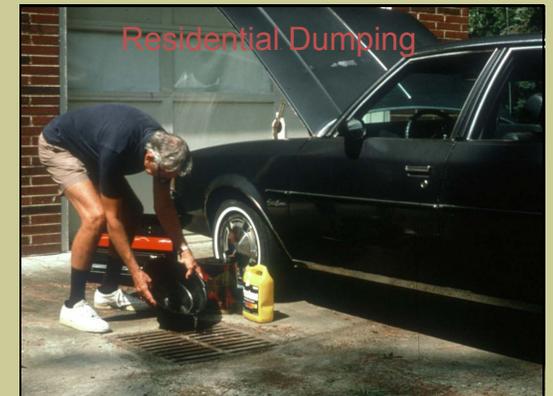


## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME



### A GUIDE FOR CITIZENS

- PET WASTE
- LITTER, ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND ILLEGAL DUMPING
- CORRECT STORAGE, USE AND DISPOSAL



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