

## What is a Watershed?

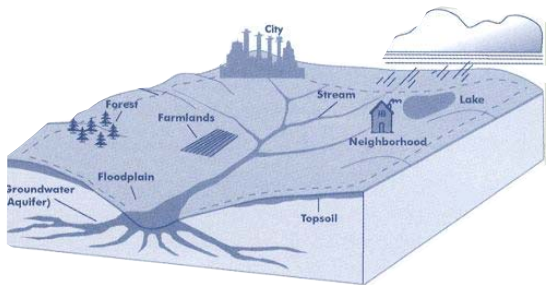
A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow and drains to a common point, such as a nearby creek, stream, river or groundwater. Every small watershed drains to a larger watershed that eventually flows to the ocean.

Watersheds support a wide variety of plants and wildlife and provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

By protecting the health of our watersheds we can preserve and enhance the quality of life for Garden City area residents.

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow. It flows from rooftops, over paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil, and through lawns and storm drains. As it flows through the watershed, it collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. This water drains directly into nearby creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes *without* it receiving treatment at sewage plants.



Watershed Example

**Do You Know** the difference between a storm drain and a sewer?

**Storm drains** collect water from outside our homes and businesses and carry it, *untreated*, directly to streams and rivers.

**Sewers** collect water from inside homes and businesses and carry it to treatment plants, where it is cleaned before it reaches creeks, streams and rivers.

**Remember:** *only rain should go into storm drains...not pet waste, trash, oil, or other pollutants.*

For more information regarding the Garden City Watershed Protection Program, please call

**620-271-1576**

**City of Garden City**

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# Pet Owners for the Environment!



**Watershed  
Protection  
Program**

City of Garden City, Kansas

## Facts About Pet Waste

-  Pet waste is a health risk to pets, people (especially children), rivers, and lakes.
-  Pet waste left on trails, sidewalks, streets, and grassy areas is flushed into the nearest storm drain when it rains. It drains (untreated) to the river.
-  Animal waste contains harmful bacteria and viruses, making the water unfit for irrigation, recreation, or other uses.
-  Animal waste depletes oxygen in the water which is critical for healthy underwater grasses, wildlife, and fish.
-  Unlike the waste of animals in the wild, suburban pet waste is highly concentrated. Limited surface area prevents its healthy break down and dissipation, requiring pet owners to take an active role in the process.

## Our Community Can Make a Difference...

**Managing pet waste properly is a contribution that everyone can make to ensure the quality of our watersheds. Unlike some forms of storm water pollutants, pet waste can be easily and economically managed by individuals like you!**

### **OUT AND ABOUT:**

The Garden City Parks and Watershed Protection Departments have teamed up to help clean up parks and trails. Look for new **Pet Waste Dispensers** at Deane Wiley, A.H. Long Park, and Talley Trail. *Simply follow the directions on the dispenser box and throw the biodegradable bags in the trash.*

### **AT HOME:**

When pets leave those little surprises on your lawn, dispose of it properly\* to protect your family, yard, and watersheds.



*If you love him, you'll pick up after him*

## What's the Problem?

**When pet waste is disposed of improperly, water quality isn't the only thing that suffers—your health may be a risk.**

Pets, children playing outside, and gardeners are most *at risk* for infection from the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

Diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste include the following:

- **Salmonellosis:** the most common bacterial infection transmitted to humans from animals. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- **Toxocarisis:** roundworms transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include vision loss, rash, fever, or cough.
- **Toxoplasmosis:** a parasite found carried by cats that can cause birth defects if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy and can also be a problem for people with depressed immune systems.

## What Can You Do?

**\*Pet owners can help protect human health and the environment by disposing of pet waste properly.**



### 1. Flush it

Flush your pet's waste down the toilet, so it can be treated at the sewage treatment plant.

### 2. Toss it

If you dispose of pet waste in the trash, wrap it carefully to avoid spillage during collection.

### 3. Bury it

Bury pet waste in your yard, at least 12 inches deep and cover with at least eight inches of soil to let it decompose slowly. Bury the waste in several different locations and keep it away from vegetable gardens.

### 4. Dispense it

When walking your pet, always remember to bring a disposable bag along to pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it properly (See 1-3).

**Loving pet owners  
are good stewards  
of the environment!**