

Managing Stormwater in Allenstown

ISSUE XVI | SPRING 2025

Stormwater, or runoff, is the water that flows as a result of rain or snowmelt. Stormwater travels across pavement and other surfaces collecting sediment, chemicals, and pollutants, including but not limited to motor oil, gasoline, lawn chemicals, pet waste, and deicing chemicals. It can carry these harmful pollutants directly into waterways, contaminating water used for drinking, recreation, and for local wildlife.

Residents of Allenstown benefit from the town's location along the Merrimack and Suncook Rivers and it is of the utmost importance to keep the quality of these waters to the highest standards. There are many steps that the town and residents can take to protect waterways and drinking water. This flyer is the first in a series about how residents can do their part. Read on to learn more.

Pet waste: why is it a problem?

Rain or snow runoff can carry pet waste directly into waterways, infiltrating drinking and swimming water without any treatment. Pet waste contains harmful (and gross!) bacteria and diseases, such as salmonella and parasites, that can cause illness in humans as well as other animals and pets if exposed to it. And it's not just getting into your water. Leaving pet waste on the ground, especially in public areas like parks or playing fields, may pose a risk to children and others who use those spaces, as bacteria and parasites can linger on the soil even after the waste has decomposed.



*Flip me over!
Additional resources and information can be found on the back side!*

Own a business? Manage a commercial or public area?

Consider installing pet waste disposal stations!

Do you have an area that experiences a high volume of pet walkers? Or do you want to ensure that public areas remain clean? Consider installing a pet waste disposal station. These stations help to remove one of the biggest barriers for pet owners - not having a bag or trash can. A pet waste station provides the waste bags and container necessary to remove and dispose of the pet waste from the surrounding area.

Prefabricated pet waste stations require minimal assembly and are easily installed. There is signage that identifies the station and its presence communicates an interest in keeping public and open space areas clean and healthy for all users and our watersheds clear of contaminants.



Scoop the Poop Tips:

- ① **Always carry a bag or some other device for poop removal when you walk your dog.** Try reusing grocery or food packaging bags. There are now bags available for purchase that claim to be biodegradable. Just make sure to check the bag for holes before you scoop...
- ② **Use the bag as a glove to pick up the pet waste.** Turn the bag inside out around the waste, scoop it up, and seal the bag. Then dispose in a trashcan or take it with you.
- ③ **Properly dispose of the waste.** Don't leave your bagged or un-bagged pet waste near a storm drain or hose pet waste toward storm drains as they drain directly to a stream, river, lake, or other water body.
- ④ **Wash your hands.** Use warm, soapy water after dealing with pet waste.

Additional Resources:

[For the Sake of Clean Water, As Well As Our Shoes: Scoop the Poop! | NH Department of Environmental Services](#)

[Welcome to the NH Stormwater Regional Coalitions' MS4 Website | NH-MS4 Municipalities](#)

Town of Allenstown, New Hampshire

<https://www.allenstownnh.gov/>

