

# Clean Pets, Clean Water

Small messes can lead to big problems.

Pet waste is a serious problem for Athens-Clarke County. While most pet owners clean up after their pets, many do not.



Cleaning up after your pet is a dirty job, but one that is necessary for protecting our water and our health. A little effort goes a long way to keeping our water clean.



Let's work together for healthy streams, healthy people and a healthy community.



Athens-Clarke County  
Stormwater Management Program

# What's the problem?

## Dogs are animals, so isn't their waste just part of nature?

**Nope!** Rain carries the waste directly into our water. Athens' many dogs create more waste than would occur naturally, leading to problems.



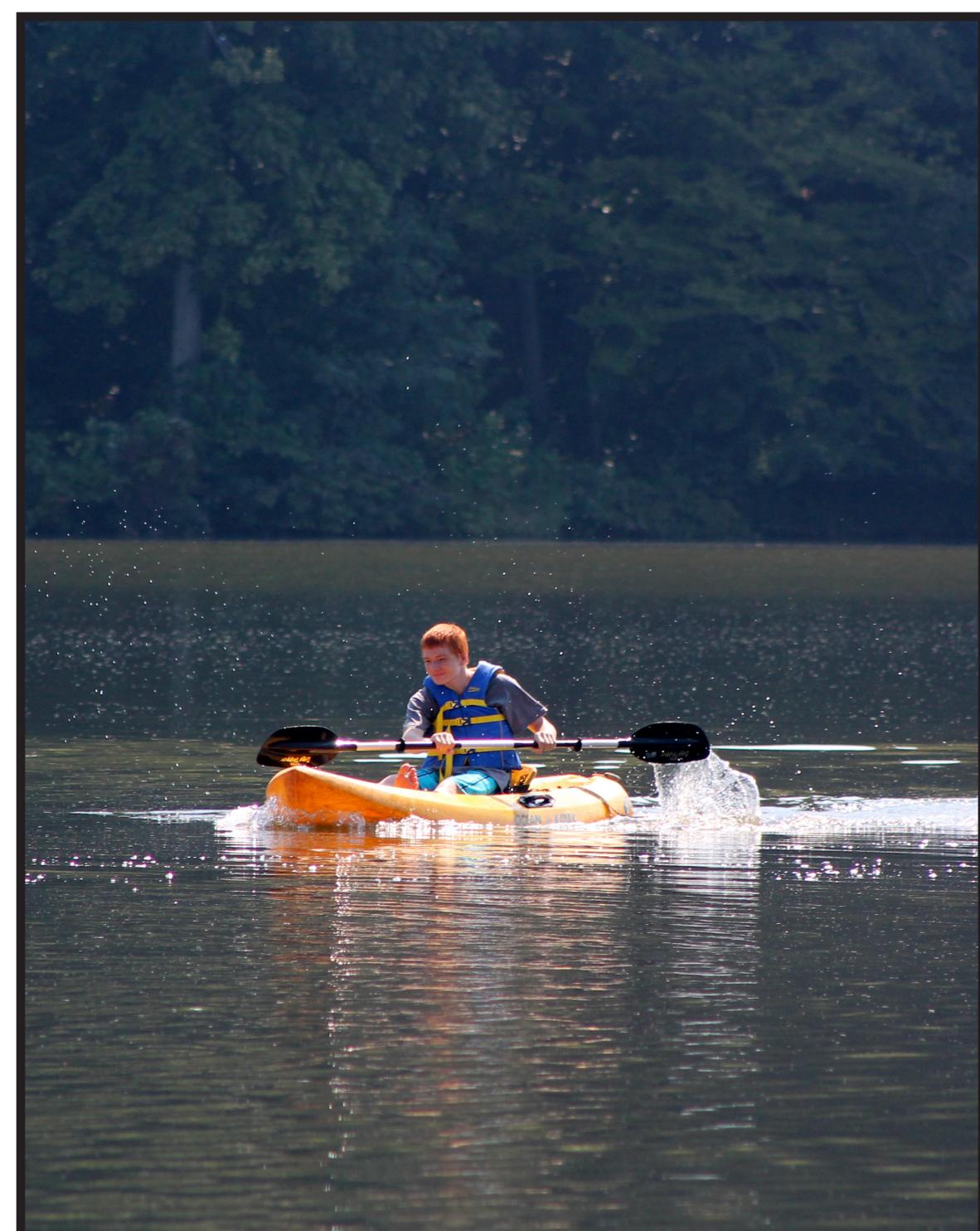
1.

Pet waste **lowers** water quality, sometimes even killing fish.



2.

Pet waste carries **pathogens** and **parasites**, which can lead to illness.



3.

Pet waste can make water **unfit** for fishing, swimming and recreation.

4.

Highly polluted water is **more costly** and **difficult** to treat.



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# How can I help?

When it comes to water, every drop counts.

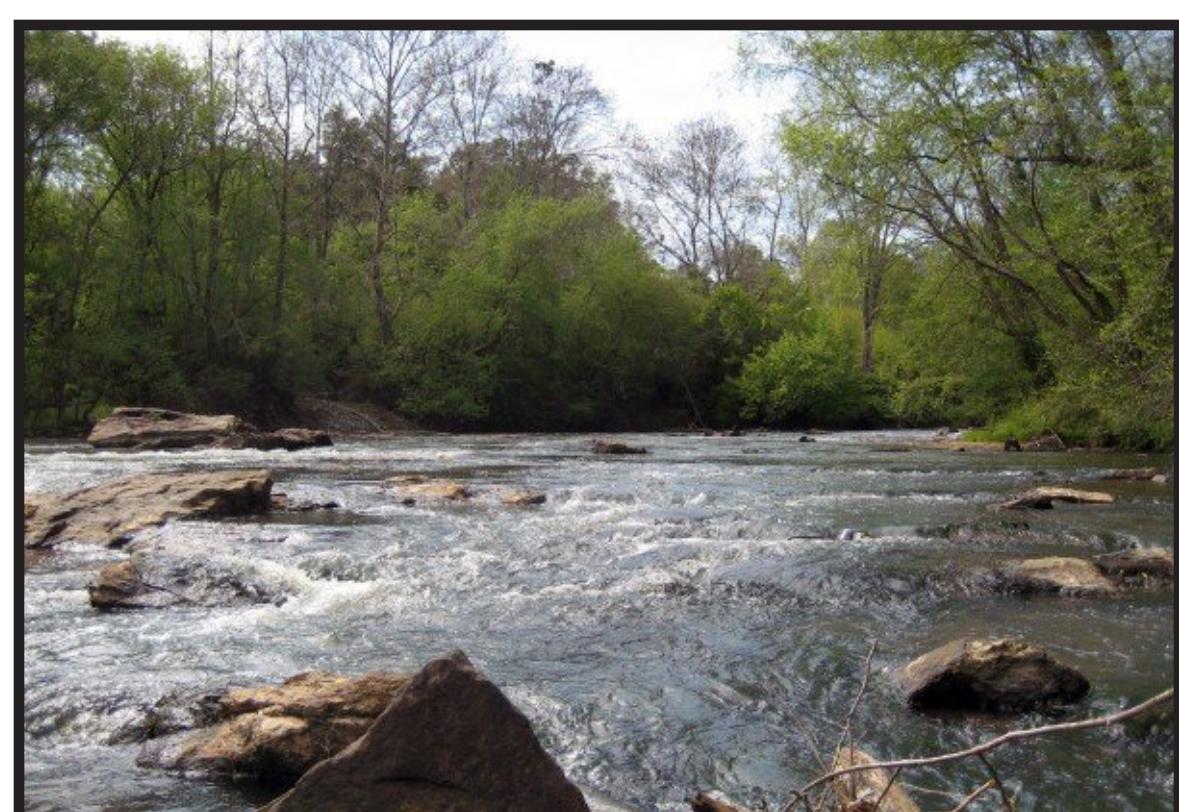


You can make a big difference. Here's how:

1. **Sign** our pledge.
2. **Pick up** your pet's waste using a bag or shovel.
3. Toss it in the **trash**, and wash your hands.

By cleaning up after your pets, you will:

1. **Protect nature.**
2. Keep your yard and neighborhood **clean**.
3. Be a **good** neighbor.



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