

Managing Pet Waste – Scoop it Up

Did you know that pet waste can pollute our local waterways? Pet waste contains high concentrations of bacteria and toxins having negative impacts on local waterways. In fact, EPA authorities have previously indicated that pet waste being carried by storm water may be a contributing factor to Lake Michigan beach closings. Proper pet waste management will assist the Village in eliminating pollution or wastewater from entering into the waterway system as required by the federal government. The improper disposal of pet waste can place the health of you and others at risk and is unlawful under Village Code, so be a good neighbor and pet owner by picking up and properly disposing of your pet's waste, and consider the following:

Ways Residents Can Help

- Never discard pet waste into a storm drain or catch basin.
- Carry a plastic bag to pick up after your pet, seal bag tightly and dispose of in the trash.
- Scoop it up and flush it down the toilet (excluding bag), not to include any other litter and remember to first separate out solid waste from kitty litter before flushing.
- Dig a 1 foot hole in your yard, place 3 inches of waste at the bottom and backfill with soil; be sure to locate away from any vegetable gardens, surface water and ground water access.
- Don't add pet waste to compost piles or use as a fertilizer.
- Follow all Village Code provisions for dog walking, subsequent control of defecation and compost piles.
- Wash your hands with warm, soapy water after dealing with pet waste!

Dogs in Wilmette Parks

Dogs on a leash, not to exceed 10 feet, are allowed in all Wilmette parks during regular park hours. Dogs are NOT allowed in the following locations: building interiors; tot lots; the Family Aquatic Center; sailing and swimming beaches; the Wilmette Golf Club and at special events in Gillson Park.

The Park District maintains an off-leash Dog Beach at the south end of Gillson Park between the pier and the harbor mouth. The Dog Beach has specific hours and owners must purchase a tag for their dog before using the Dog Beach. Tags may be purchased at the Park District Administrative Office in Village Hall.