

# STORMWATER AWARENESS



## | ANIMAL WASTE AND YOUR WATERSHED |

### WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land that feeds all the water running under it and draining off of it into a body of water. It combines with other watersheds to form a network of rivers and streams that progressively drain into larger water areas. All land in Boulder is part of a watershed, so protecting the land keeps the water clean.



### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

#### On the Trails

Pick up pet waste and place bags in a secondary container for easy carrying back for proper disposal.

Never leave bags on the side of trails. Keep your dog leashed unless allowed otherwise; your dog should always be within sight and able to hear your call.

#### At Home

Remove food and water sources from your yard. Secure trash cans and dumpsters with proper lids to deter urban wildlife.

#### At the Park

Be prepared, carry bags with you to pick up pet waste. Collect your pet's waste in a bag and deposit it in a trash can.

Learn more about our watershed and how you can help protect it at [KeepitCleanPartnership.org](http://KeepitCleanPartnership.org)

### WHAT IS A E. COLI?

E. coli is a bacteria in the digestive systems of mammals and birds. Colorado uses the presence of E. coli in surface water as an indicator of pollution by feces. E. coli can be dangerous, but it also indicates the potential of other pathogens that can make people sick, such as giardia and cholera.

Potential sources of E. coli include:

- Pets
- Trash and urban wildlife
- Livestock
- Faulty sewers and septic systems

### WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Pet and urban wildlife waste contains harmful bacteria, parasites, and nutrients that do not belong in our waterways. This includes pathogens that cause serious illness in humans.

Urban trash can attract wildlife to areas that results in an increase in fecal matter entering stormwater runoff.

Rain and melting snow flows across yards, parks, parking lots, and trails on its way to creeks by way of our streets and storm drains. Bacteria and pathogens in animal waste can increase E. coli in our streams which can cause serious illness in humans upon contact or incidental ingestion of water.

