

“Scoop the Poop” Program Fact Sheet

What is the “Scoop the Poop” pilot program?

The “Scoop the Poop” pilot program is joint effort of the Sacramento County Stormwater Quality Program and the Arcade Creek Recreation and Parks District to install pet waste disposal bag stations and ultimately reduce pet waste left at four parks within the District’s service area.

How does the program work?

The “Scoop the Poop” pilot program is a community stewardship program. Residents patronizing the park can take a plastic bag for picking up their pet waste for disposal in waste receptacles. Residents can also leave empty plastic bags in the dispensers for others to use. Working with the park district, local volunteer groups will install the stations at designated areas.

What is the purpose of the program?

The program’s purpose is two fold—to reduce the improper disposal of pet waste found in area parks and to involve the community in addressing the problem. Pet waste bag stations are not typically found in parks because station maintenance, such as the cost to supply the plastic bags, is

often expensive. This program will help to significantly reduce the cost of bags and labor, as well as encourage appropriate disposal of pet waste in high dog use areas.

What are the benefits of keeping parks and trails free of pet waste?

The Scoop the Poop pilot program will benefit the community in several ways:

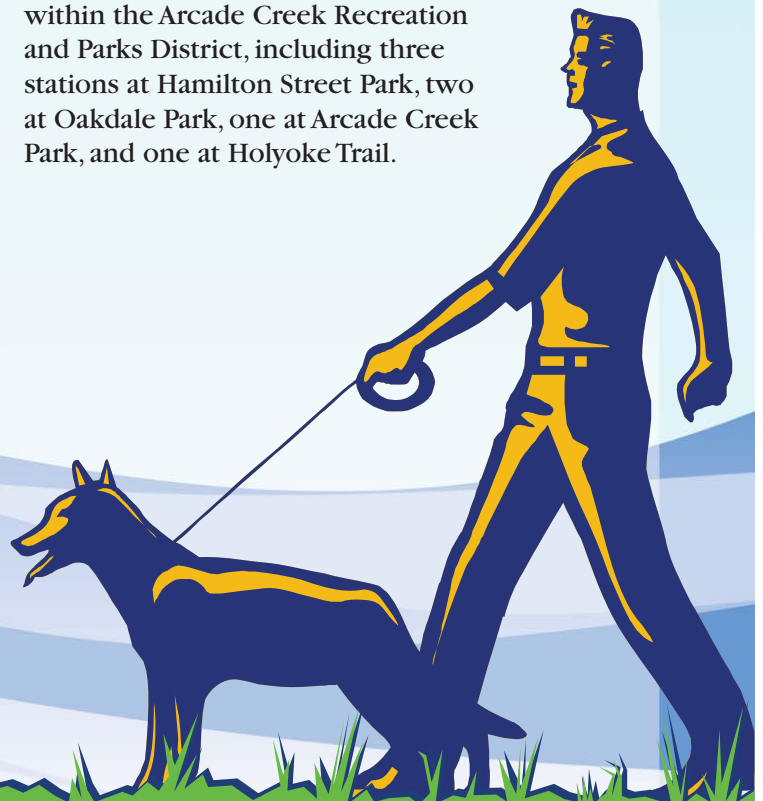
- Reduce the amount of bacteria found in local waterways.
- Keep parks and trails cleaner and healthier for residents.
- Recycle grocery bags.
- Involve the community in a program to reduce stormwater pollution.

Where are the pet waste stations located?

The stations are located at parks within the Arcade Creek Recreation and Parks District, including three stations at Hamilton Street Park, two at Oakdale Park, one at Arcade Creek Park, and one at Holyoke Trail.



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
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Stormwater Quality Program





When will this program expand to other parks?

The effectiveness of the pilot project will be evaluated over the next several months. If the stations are being used and there are signs of a decrease in pet waste at the parks, it is likely that the program will be offered to other park districts within unincorporated Sacramento County.

Can an organization sponsor a pet waste station?

Yes, community organizations are invited to help install the pet waste stations. At this juncture, the seven pilot stations are being installed by Junior Girl Scout Troop 1308. If the program is expanded, interested parties can contact Janet Parris (contact information provided below) for details.

Are other agencies using this same program?

The use of recycled plastic grocery bags and bag containers was tailored after a program in Chandler, Arizona. Pilot program staff introduced a unique element to the program by including community members as part of the project implementation and the donation of plastic grocery bags.

How does this program differ from other similar programs?

This program is distinctive because it brings together the community, including government agencies, community organizations and residents in a cost effective manner to increase water quality stewardship and awareness of our local waterways.

What is the relationship between stormwater quality and pet waste?

Pollutants from improperly disposed pet waste may be washed into the storm drain by rain or irrigation water. Unlike the sanitary sewer (from sinks and toilets), storm drains are a direct link to our creeks and rivers, carrying many pollutants—pet waste, pesticides and fertilizer, and oil—along with the untreated water.

Why is it important to dispose of pet waste properly?

Pet waste left in parks is unsanitary and disagreeable for park users. It contains pathogenic bacteria and other parasites. When pet waste is washed into our creeks and rivers it decays in the water, depleting oxygen levels and releasing ammonia, which can be harmful to fish and other aquatic organisms. Pet waste also contains nutrients that foster weed and algae growth.

Is pet waste a big problem in our area?

Anytime a park user encounters pet waste left in the park, it's a problem for them. There is a significant problem with fecal bacteria contamination found in our waterways, and pet waste left on the ground is one of the leading sources of this pollutant. Adopting simple practices by cleaning up after pets can help reduce the impact of pet waste to our waterways.

How can I learn more about this program?

For more information about the “Scoop the Poop” pilot program, visit us at www.saccounty.net (search: stormwater), or contact Janet Parris at 916.874.5733. or email at parrisj@saccounty.net.

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