

Environmental Minute

Scoop it, Bag it, and Throw it in the Trash

Dog poop. Yes, this time I'm talking about pet waste, nobody's favorite subject! We've all come across it, at one time or another. On the sidewalk, at the beach, in our gardens, or on our **SHOES!** So did you know each time it rains, any pet waste left on our streets, sidewalks or at the park is picked up by the rainwater and washed into the Edmonds storm drains. After entering the stormwater system, the now liquefied highly acidic waste is eventually discharged **untreated** to Puget Sound as well as our local watersheds such as Lake Ballinger and Good Hope Pond. Remember, pet waste is essentially raw sewage, and contains harmful bacteria that can make humans sick and disrupt the natural pH of our aquatic systems. It is one of the leading causes of surface water contamination and stormwater pollution.

Did you also know that it is actually a violation of Edmonds City Code to leave your pet's waste in public areas? It is! Chapter 5.05.070 Public Safety/Animal Control code

specifies that it is unlawful for animal owners to allow their pets to deposit waste in public areas, unless that waste is picked up immediately. Additionally, pet owners need to be prepared to pick up any pet waste that might get deposited so always bring your bags! Once it's picked up, **throw the poop in the trash.** Please **don't put it in the yard waste.** Yard waste is compostable and can be reused in our gardens. Also, don't forget to wash your hands when you're done walking Fido, Larry or Princess!

When you're walking your pet around town, make note of the 11 locations in Edmonds where pet waste bags are supplied by our Parks Department (*see below*), or visit the popular Off-Leash Area Edmonds at Marina Beach Park, which is managed by some outstanding volunteers through www.olae.org

Locations of pet waste bag dispensers in City of Edmonds Parks

- Sunset Avenue (between Bell St and Caspers St) - 2 dispensers at each end of Sunset Avenue N.
- Edmonds City Park (600 3rd Ave S) - 1 dispenser at trail entrance to southeast wooded area.
- Yost Park (9535 Bowdoin Way) - 2 dispensers. One in upper parking lot near playground and another near pool service road/inner trail access.
- Pine Ridge Park (20330 83rd Ave W) - 1 dispenser near north parking lot at gate/trail access.
- Hickman Park (23700 104th Ave W) - 1 dispenser in SE corner of park.
- Mini Park (131 Sunset Ave) - 1 dispenser on north edge of park just off sidewalk.
- Hutt Park (92nd Ave and 187th Ave SW) - 1 dispenser near south entrance off 187th.
- 7th & Elm Park - 1 dispenser in center of park near road, 15ft off road.
- Mathay-Ballinger Park (24100 78th Pl W) – 1 dispenser at entrance gate.
- Interurban Trail Station – 1 dispenser at 76th & McAleer Way.
- Seaview Park (8030 185th ST SW) – 1 dispenser at SW trail entrance.



Questions or comments? Contact Patrick Johnson, City of Edmonds Stormwater Technician, at (425) 771-0220 x1322 or pat.johnson@edmondswa.gov