

Water Pollution Prevention
It's Up to Us!

Riverbank has two drainage systems, the sewer and the **storm drains**. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets and out to our rivers or waterways.

Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to our rivers, and eventually the ocean.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent river pollution from "stormwater" or "urban runoff."

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to our rivers through the storm drain system – gutters, inlets, retention basins, pipelines, pumping facilities -- that take water and debris straight from Riverbank streets to our rivers and waterways. Each day, polluted urban runoff enters our rivers untreated, leaving toxic chemicals and trash to be carried downstream.

Urban runoff pollution contaminates our rivers, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure cleaner rivers and a cleaner city.



www.riverbank.org

**For more information about Storm Drain
Protection call:**

(209) 863-7127

**Development Services Department
City of Riverbank**

Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal

**Stanislaus County Household Hazardous Waste
(209) 525-6700**

<http://www.stancounty.com/er/hazmat/household-hazardous-waste.shtm>

To Report a Clogged Storm Drain or a Spill

**City of Riverbank
Public Works Dept. (209) 869-7128
Development Service Dept. (209) 863-7127**

Reporting of Illegal Dumping

**City of Riverbank Neighborhood
Improvement Complaint Line
(209) 863-7190**

STORMWATER

Protect our Rivers:
Scoop the Poop



**Development Services
Department**

How Does Pet Waste Affect Rivers?

When it rains, pet waste that has been left on lawns, trails, sidewalks or in the street washes into storm drains. The waste, along with the bacteria and other pollutants that it carries, flows with the stormwater directly into streams, ponds, lakes and rivers. Most stormwater does not get any kind of treatment before it enters a water body. Once it enters a water body the animal waste uses up lots of dissolved oxygen as it decomposes. This can deplete the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to live. Nutrients from decomposed pet waste can contribute to the growth of algae that further reduces oxygen levels. Pet waste contributes to the high bacteria levels that make rivers and lakes unsafe for swimming or fishing.

Did you know?

More than half of households in United States own a pet. Also the average 75 pound dog poops about 500 pounds per year. That's a lot of waste to deal with. Also a lot of potential pathogens that could enter the storm water system.

REMEMBER, THEY CAN'T PICK UP AFTER THEMSELVES



FACTS

Some of the harmful effects of pet waste are:

- Pet waste decays, using up dissolved oxygen and releasing compounds that are harmful to fish and other aquatic life.
- Nutrients present in pet waste can cause excessive algal growth in a waterbody, potentially leading to fish kills and disrupting the water's natural ecology.
- Harmful bacteria such as E. Coli and Fecal Coliform can make our waters unfit for drinking, irrigation, recreation and other uses.
- Parasites present in pet waste can spread gastrointestinal illnesses in humans such as Giardia and Salmonella.

3 Steps to Pet Waste Management

Reducing pet waste pollution only takes three simple steps:

1. Carry a bag with you when you walk your pet.
2. Pick up waste — you can put the bag right over your hand and use it as a glove then turn it inside out and close it.
3. Properly dispose of pet waste in a trash can or pet waste receptacle.

Look for the Pet Waste Stations Dispensers



Pet Waste Stations with waste bags can now be found at several spots in Riverbank along the Crossroads Trail, JMP Trail / Dog Park and most Parks.