



## Backyard Conversation Connecting Community + Conservation

*Welcome to the Backyard Conversation! Each month we'll be sharing a conservation topic from a more personal viewpoint for our readers. To make this successful, I want to hear feedback from you! I'll include a poll at the bottom regarding our topic and share links to some of our partner organizations with similar messages. So, let's get to it!*

### Hot-dog, Welcome to the Dog Days of Summer! Remember to Practice P.U.P.

Welcome to the dog days of summer! Whether Fido is tagging along everywhere or they prefer lounging at home, let's remember to PUP. What's that stand for? Pick Up Poop. Now you know what it stands for, let's talk about why we should practice PUP.



#### ***What does dog poop have to do with water quality?***

Not only is PUP is the law, dog poop contains a lot of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus as well as bacteria and other organisms like E.coli or parasitic worms. If it's not picked up, a rain event will wash all those nutrients, bacteria, and others into our storm sewers which lead directly to local creeks and waterways.

As dog poop breaks up, those nutrients dissolve, creating a prime environment for algal growth. Then, the algae uses up the dissolved oxygen in the water, which can be detrimental to aquatic life. Moreover, bacteria and worms can be passed through the water to other animals or humans.

Furthermore, in 1993, the US EPA reported that 95% of harmful fecal bacteria in the water came from non-human sources, the majority of which was from dogs. Dog poop has on average 100 times more harmful bacteria than wild animal poop. In Franklin County alone, there are approximately 277,000 dogs. Each dog creates an average of 0.75 pounds of waste each day. That's a lot of poop! Yuck, right? Well, here's some tips and tricks for

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### ***Doggy Doo's and Don'ts***

- **Doo:** Doggy doo'd? Pick it up! Use a bag or poop scooper. Throw away your waste in the trash.
- **Don't:** Leave the bag on the ground or throw it anywhere other than a trash receptacle.
- **Doo:** Clean up dog poop before a large rain event. It's easier to clean up before a rain storm! Plus, it's better for water quality.
- **Don't:** Use dog poop as a lawn fertilizer. Dog poop is very acidic and leaving it on the lawn can kill the grass and leave dry brown spots. Not all poop is created equal!
- **Doo:** Take your poop bags when you take Fido on a walk.

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### ***Take the PUP Pledge***

Are you ready to pledge your commitment to PUP? Take the pledge [here](#). Residents of Cities of Columbus, Gahanna, New Albany, or Franklin County townships can receive a free poop bag dispenser that attaches to a leash when they take the pledge.

Look for the PUP wagons around town this summer. You may have already seen us around at [Gahanna Paws on the Plaza](#) or [New Albany Touch-a-Truck](#) just this month!



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### ***Save the Date! Franklin Soil and Water's Annual Meeting & Board of Supervisors Election***

Join us for our in-person Annual Meeting on Thursday September 23 at Wyman Woods Park. We will have activities, presentations, networking, and a BBQ picnic. Visit [here](#) for more information and to purchase a ticket. We will be celebrating how we are "All Together for Conservation" for Franklin County residents and natural resources.

Additionally, our 2021 Board of Supervisors election voting is open August 25 - September 23. Franklin County residents can cast their vote via absentee ballots or in-person ballots at our office. Learn more about the candidates and how to vote [here](#).

**All Together for Conservation**

**Save the Date**  
 Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's  
 75th Annual Meeting & Board of Supervisors' Election

Thursday, September 23, 2021  
 Annual Meeting 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Held at Wyman Woods Park,  
 1515 Goodale Blvd, Grandview, OH 43212  
 (Park is directly behind the office.)

Casual Attire Picnic-style Catered BBQ Fun Activities & Yard Games

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, please contact Kylie Davis at (614) 486-9613

## POLL TIME

Everyone has their own preference or style. What's your PUP style?

**Baggy**

Select

**Pooper Scooper**

Select

**Other**

Select

Here are the full results from last month's poll about what readers find most concerning in our rapidly growing metro area:

<b>46.7%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Loss of greenspace and habitat	Stormwater runoff and pollution	Traffic!
<b>11.4%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Urban heat island effect	Air pollution and quality	Increased energy demands

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STAY CONNECTED  
to your Soil and Water District!