

The **Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT)** NPDES Program is a comprehensive effort charged with improving the quality of stormwater runoff from DeIDOT owned streets and facilities. This includes operation and maintenance of storm drain systems to reduce the discharge of pollution, illicit discharge investigation and remediation, spill prevention and response, and public education and training.

The **Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc.** is a private, non-profit organization that leads collaborative and creative efforts to protect and enhance the Delaware Estuary and its tributaries for current and future generations.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Division of Water Resources monitors, manages, and protects Delaware's ground and surface waters, tidal wetlands, and underwater lands. The Division also provides public education and outreach programs and coordinates citizen volunteer monitoring programs.

If you want to learn more about water and what you can do to help keep it clean, or how you can contact your local watershed group, please contact the following organizations:



Delaware Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 778
Dover, DE 19903
(In-state) 1-800-652-5600
(Local or out-of-state) 302-760-2080
E-mail: public-relations@mail.dot.state.us
Website: www.deldot.net or www.ncc-swnpdes.com



Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
400 West 9th Street, Suite 100
Wilmington, DE 19801
1-800-445-4935
E-mail: dross@DelawareEstuary.org
Website: www.DelawareEstuary.org



Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901
1-800-662-8802
Website: www.dnrec.state.de.us

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Check out these exciting web sites for more water wisdom:

Academy of Natural Sciences
www.urbanrivers.org/watersheds.html

Center for Watershed Protection
www.cwp.org

Delaware Chapter of the Nature Conservancy
www.nature.org/states/delaware

Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club
www.delaware.sierraclub.org

Delaware Nature Society
www.delawarenaturesociety.org

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
www.state.nj.us/drbc

DRBC's Ed. Web
www.drbc-edweb.net

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
www.delawariverkeeper.org

Stroud Water Research Center
www.stroudcenter.org

U.S. EPA Office of Water
www.epa.gov/ow

U.S. EPA Watershed Website
www.epa.gov/watershed

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

White Clay Watershed Association
<http://mercury.ccil.org/~wcwa/>



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What is
your
doggy-doo
doing?

Sometimes good things "do" come in small packages...

Cleaning up after our pets just got easier in Pike Creek. In a collaborative program, DelDOT, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and DNREC have joined efforts to provide pet waste bag dispensers to neighborhoods throughout the Pike Creek area. "DogiPot" units supply dog owners with biodegradable waste collection bags when and where they need them most.

State law requires dog owners to clean up after their pets, and for good reasons. Besides being a public nuisance, pet waste left on the ground is also a measurable source of pollution in our water supply. Pet waste, along with other contaminants on lawns, walks and roadways, washes into storm sewers with rainwater or melting snow. In your neighborhood, stormwater drains directly into Pike Creek. A study performed by DNREC last year in Pike Creek concluded that dog waste contributes as much as 12% of the total coliform bacteria present in some areas!

With a little effort, dog owners in Pike Creek can make a big difference in the health of their stream, and in the health of the Delaware Estuary. So, although the small packages dispensed by DogiPots may not seemingly contain "good" things when used, it is a good thing that DogiPots are here to serve pet owners, and the entire Pike Creek community.



Why is this project important?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has begun a new phase of stormwater management programs, requiring suburban and rural municipalities to meet the water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act. In response, DelDOT must improve the quality of water entering waterways from the storm sewers that drain the streets.

As a result of the challenges presented by the US EPA program, the Pike Creek watershed, along with other major streams in New Castle County, may be facing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) regulations for bacteria and nutrients. TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive and still meet water quality standards.

Good water quality in Pike Creek is not only vital to human health, but also to fish and wildlife in the Delaware Estuary. Estuaries are vital ecosystems created by the merging of fresh and salt water flowing in and out with the ocean tides. Water in tributary streams, like Pike Creek, flows to the Delaware Estuary. Home to the world's largest population of spawning horseshoe crabs, the second largest population of migratory shore birds in the western hemisphere, and over 130 different kinds of finfish as well as shellfish and waterfowl, the Delaware Estuary is an incredibly rich and valuable natural resource.



How harmful is pet waste to Pike Creek?

Animal waste acts like a fertilizer in the water, just as it does on land. This promotes excessive aquatic plant growth that can choke waterways, nourish algae blooms and rob the water of vital oxygen when plant materials begin to decay. Water contaminated with disease-causing bacteria is a threat not only to aquatic life, but to human life as well. The Pike Creek is a tributary to the Christina River, which is a drinking water source for many Delawareans. Water treatment plants are continuously faced with the challenges of providing clean, healthy drinking water drawn from contaminated sources. Not to mention, wouldn't you prefer to have your children playing in a clean neighborhood stream?



What can residents do to help protect Pike Creek and the Delaware Estuary?

This is the good news...every resident can make a difference when it comes to protecting our neighborhood creeks.

- Be sure to pick up after your pets and encourage your neighbors to do so.
- Flush pet waste down the toilet if possible. This way, pet waste is treated at a sewage treatment plant. If flushing is not an option, place bagged pet waste in a trash can. **NEVER** put pet waste in a storm drain!
- Make sure that your neighborhood's community areas have at least one Dogi-Pot unit, and that the bags are refilled as needed.
- Spread the word! Dog waste is harmful in our waterways. Share this brochure with your friends, coworkers, and relatives.

How can your neighborhood obtain FREE Dogi-Pot units?

Easy! Just call the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, at 655-4990 x18 to find out more information about this free program. We will help you get your neighborhood enrolled in the Dogi-Pot program.

Remember, clean water begins and ends with YOU!