Storm Drains are NOT Sewers

The waste your dog leaves behind may not be in contact with a creek, lake or stream, but during a rain event that waste can be washed directly into our waterways.

When it rains storm water runoff is directed into storm drains that drain into creeks, lakes and the bay.

Good Dogs
Remember, although your dog may be your best friend, other dogs, park visitors and wildlife may not feel the same. Always leash them in areas that require a leash, including going to and from off-leash areas. Be prepared to scoop the poop.

Dog Waste Station Locations
Dog waste stations are located on the Railroad Trail, Lake Padden Park, Boulevard Park, Bloedel Donovan Park, Whatcom Falls Park and Post Point Lagoon. Remember to stoop, scoop and bring the bag home to dispose of properly.

Hounds for Healthy Watershed Volunteers
Do you spend time on our city trails, enjoy talking with people and want to help our waterways? We need you! Please contact Kym Fedale, Public Works Environmental Educator, at 778-7970. Volunteer training and materials will be provided.

Violations of a provision of City regulations is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $500.00 (City of Bellingham Code, Ordinance 8.04.070).

What Does It All Mean?
Fecal coliform is the name for a group of bacteria found in waste from humans and animals. The detection of fecal coliform bacteria can indicate that disease causing pathogens are present. In large numbers, pathogens in untreated drinking water and recreational waters present a health risk.

There are approximately 37,000 dogs in Whatcom County. The average dog produces 3/4 of a pound of waste a day, or 273 pounds of waste a year.

273 lbs of dog waste can contain 1,241,730,000,000 fecal coliform bacteria.

All the dogs in Whatcom County produce 27,750 lbs of dog waste per day.

That 27,750 lbs of dog waste contains 125,874,000,000,000 fecal coliform bacteria.

Your dog may simply be answering nature’s call, but when animal waste is left to decompose, the pathogens it contains can end up in our lakes and streams.
Arroyo Park
All trails

Bloedel Donovan Park
During daylight hours from October 1 to April 30 & until 10:00am from May 1 to September 30.

Lake Padden
- The fenced off-leash area near the ballfields in the southeastern part of the park.
- Trails as designated at the east end of the park between the fenced off-leash area & Galbraith entry on E. Samish.
A dog water exercise area near the ballfields area (east side of Lake) is signed for dog training/exercise. Dogs are restricted to only entering Lake Padden in this area.

Post Point
The field and trails adjacent to the treatment facility are open for dog training & exercise. Access to the Lagoon is closed for Eel grass mitigation until further notice.

Sunset Pond
All trails and the water are designated training and exercise areas.

Sehome Hill Arboretum
All secondary (unpaved) trails are designated for off-leash exercise & training. Dogs must be on leash on all paved trails including Jersey St. & Arboretum Walkway.

Whatcom Falls Park
The Waterline Trail (south of Whatcom Creek) west of the Water Treatment Plant to Bayview Cemetery & the trail from the Waterline Trail south to Lakeway.

Little Squalicum Park
All Trails (Creek may contain chemicals which may be harmful to animals. Also, Little Squalicum Beach area is NOT owned by Bellingham Parks and Rec.)

Prohibited Areas
For health and safety reasons, dogs are not allowed in the following areas:
- Post Point Lagoon and along the lagoon shore.
- Spray parks in Cornwall Park and Fairhaven Park.
- Athletic fields and Tennis Courts
- In park playground equipment areas.
- Boulevard Park, except leashed dogs are allowed on the path next to the parking lot & from the saltwater trestle along the trail to the south end of the Park and to the overhead trestle at the north end of the Park.
- Lake Padden Park beach area marked between the west park entrance and the tennis courts.
- In streams during spawning season.

Parks with off leash areas
Dog water exercise areas
Areas prohibited to dogs