

Letters to the editor (4/3/10)

Dog poop contaminates water

The amount of dog poop left on trails and other places in our city is disgusting and unhealthy. Rainwater and melting snow wash it into storm drains, which empty into Anchorage's creeks, streams and lakes. These are the places where our children swim, wade and fish, and we canoe and kayak. They are home to our salmon, trout, Dolly Varden, and other fish and wildlife species. Storm drain runoff is not filtered like wastewater.

Anchorage's dogs eliminate about 20 TONS of waste every day. Besides the nutrient levels waste adds to our waterways, which negatively affects the water quality, it also is a concern for humans. Animal waste can contain a variety of serious pathogens that are harmful to us. Every pile of dog poop left on the ground has the potential to cause many problems. Be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your pet. If we all pitch in, Anchorage will become a cleaner and safer place to live, and our waterways will improve as well.

-- *Cherie Northon*

Anchorage Waterways Council

Anchorage