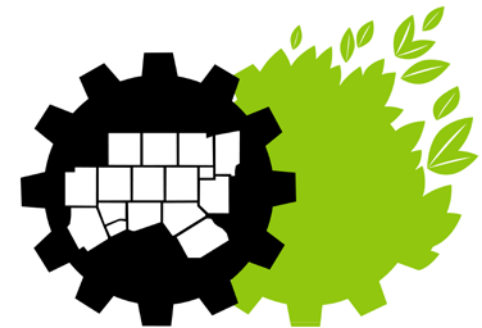


*NCTCOG & You:  
Programs and  
Initiatives for the  
Region's Residents*

CRYSTA GUZMAN

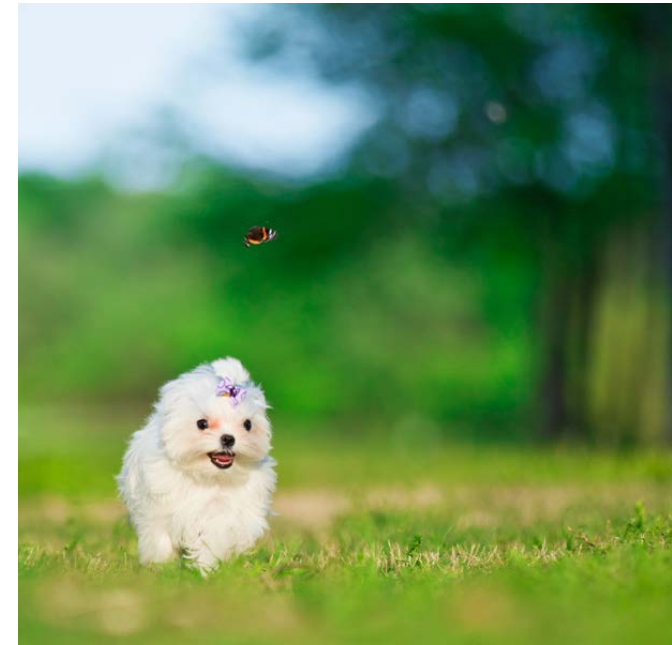


North Central Texas Council of Governments

**Environment  
& Development**

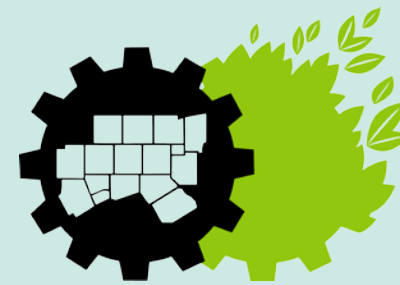
# *Agenda*

- Environment & Development Overview
- Defend Your Drains North Texas
- Time To Recycle
- Report Illegal Dumping
- Trash Free Texas
- North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge
- Texas SmartScape
- Doo the Right Thing



# ***NCTCOG and Environment & Development Overview***

[www.nctcog.org/envir](http://www.nctcog.org/envir)



North Central Texas Council of Governments  
**Environment  
& Development**

# ***NCTCOG Overview***

- The [North Central Texas Council of Governments](#) (NCTCOG) is a voluntary association of, by and for local governments, established to assist in regional planning.
- NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make joint decisions.
- NCTCOG's programs and departments encompass transportation planning, environment and development, aging and disability resources, emergency preparedness, demographic research, regional training, criminal justice, 911 emergency numbers, a regional police academy, and more.
- The counties we serve include: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise.

# *Environment & Development Overview*

- The [Environment & Development](#) department guides and promotes collaboration among public entities to progressively address common environmental issues and development challenges facing them due to our region's rapid growth and urbanization.
- We work with over 230 member governments, including the 16 counties, numerous cities, school districts, and special districts.
- We have six strategic initiatives for Sustainable Environmental Excellence: Materials Management, Natural Resources, Public Works, Regional Codes, Watershed Management, and Development Excellence.

*Defend Your  
Drains North  
Texas*

[defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com](http://defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com)

---

**DEFEND**  
★ ★ ★ YOUR ★ ★ ★  
**DRAINS**

---

# *Defend Your Drains North Texas*



- Defend Your Drains North Texas is a public education campaign aimed at informing North Central Texas residents on what should and should not go down the drain.
- Funded through the Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable, a voluntary cost-sharing program at NCTCOG, Defend Your Drains North Texas focuses on the following topic areas:
  - Don't pour Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) down the drain
  - Don't dump paint, household chemicals, or excess cleaning products down the drain
  - Don't flush wipes, paper towels, hygiene products, or other items (even if they're labeled as "flushable")
  - Only flush the "Three P's" (pee, poop, and toilet paper)

# *Defend Your Drains North Texas*

- Wipes, paper towels, and other hygiene products are designed to be strong and not break down when wet or used.
- Because of this, they don't break down in pipes like toilet paper and cause major blockages in your home's pipes or get caught in machinery at the wastewater treatment plant!
- Defend your drains by only disposing of these types of products in the trash before they cause unpleasant and expensive repairs or increases to your water bills!





# *Defend Your Drains North Texas*






- If you pour Fats, Oils, Greases (FOG) down the drain, they will harden and cling to the walls in your household pipes or city sewer lines.
- Once the FOG has hardened, it reduces water flow and can quickly cause a sewage backup into your home or neighborhood.
- Protect your pipes and never put any FOG down the drain! Instead, pour or scrape remaining FOG from the pan into a container and put it in the trash.

# *Defend Your Drains North Texas*

- As part of Defend Your Drains North Texas, NCTCOG partners with American BioSource and entities in the region to offer an Annual Holiday Grease Roundup, in which additional FOG collection sites are made available during the holiday season
  - Participants receive free marketing materials, including a social media toolkit, press release, bill insert, and more
  - Participants that do not have an established grease program can also receive free grease containers, along with pick up and collection of the container from American BioSource
- During the 2021 Holiday Grease Roundup, 41 participants hosted 70 collection sites and collected 8,445 gallons of grease!



# *Defend Your Drains North Texas*

- Learn more at:  
[www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com/](http://www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com/)
- Follow us on social media!
  -  @DefendDrainsNTX
  -  @DefendDrainsNTX
  -  @DefendDrainsNTX



# ***Time To Recycle***

[timetorecycle.com](http://timetorecycle.com)



**TimeToRecycle.com**

# Time to Recycle

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for 'WHERE TO RECYCLE', 'HOW TO RECYCLE', 'COMPOSTING', 'RETHINK WASTE', and 'RESOURCES'. The main heading is 'North Texas Recycling Locator'. Below the heading are two input fields: '(What to Recycle)' and '(North Texas Address)', along with a '5 Miles' radius selector. At the bottom, there are filters for 'VIEW BY MARKET: Residential' and 'FILTER BY ACCEPTED MATERIALS: All Materials', with a 'RESET MAP' button. The map below displays numerous green and blue location pins across the North Texas region, indicating recycling drop-off points.

- Time to Recycle is an educational effort that encourages North Central Texas residents to properly dispose of or recycle items, reducing the impact on the region's landfills.
- Time to Recycle hosts a Recycling Drop-Off Locator map, in which you can search recycling locations by materials and zip code.
- This website also includes additional resources covering topics such as composting, household hazardous waste, creative reuse ideas, and more!

# *Time to Recycle*

- In FY2018-2019, NCTCOG created a Regional Recycling Education Campaign based on results from regional waste characterizations and aimed to teach North Central Texas residents how to “recycle more and recycle right.”
- This campaign, titled “*Know What To Throw*,” included the redesign of Time to Recycle, the “Do you Know What to Throw” quiz, and promotional activities, such as billboards, print ads, radio and movie theater ads, and more.
- To continue the “*Know What To Throw*” campaign, NCTCOG’s Recycle Roundtable has developed monthly coordinated topics, informing residents of items that should and should not be recycled.



# *Time to Recycle – Don't Recycle*



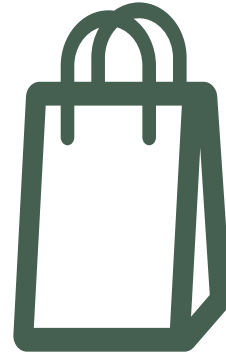
Needles and  
medical  
equipment



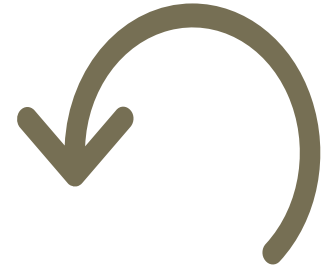
Food and  
yard waste



Propane  
tanks and  
other  
explosives

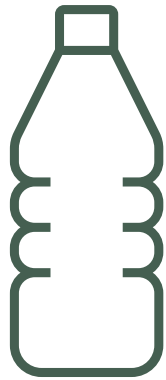


Plastics bags  
and film



Wrap-able  
materials or  
"tanglers"

# ***Time to Recycle – Do Recycle*** ✓



Bottles and  
Cans



Cardboard






Paper



Glass



# *Time to Recycle*

- Learn more at:  
[www.timetorecycle.com](http://www.timetorecycle.com)
- Follow us on social media!
  -  @RecycleNorthTexas
  -  @TimeToRecycle
  -  @TimeToRecycle

Be a Recycling

# HERO



Learn more at  
**TimeToRecycle.com**



# *Report Illegal Dumping*

[www.reportdfwdumping.org](http://www.reportdfwdumping.org)




# Report Illegal Dumping

## Report an Illegal Dump Site

Have you identified an illegal dump site and wish to report it? Please use the form below and provide as much information as possible. The more information you provide, the sooner authorities can begin an investigation.

If you want to be notified regarding the status/outcome of your report, please provide your contact information, or you may choose to remain anonymous.



Map Satellite

Drag marker to refine its position on the map.

Approximate Address

Find on map

- Report Illegal Dumping is a regional website where citizens can report illegal dump sites or illegal dumping activity.
- NCTCOG staff forwards the report to the correct jurisdiction, so you don't have to!
- This website also aims to increase the awareness of the hazards of illegally dumped trash, as well as to encourage citizens to actively participate in local recycling and solid waste programs.
- Reports can be submitted online [www.reportdfwdumping.org](http://www.reportdfwdumping.org) or by calling the illegal dumping hotline 1 (888)-335-DUMP
- In 2021, 658 reports were forwarded to the proper authorities.

# *Trash Free Texas*

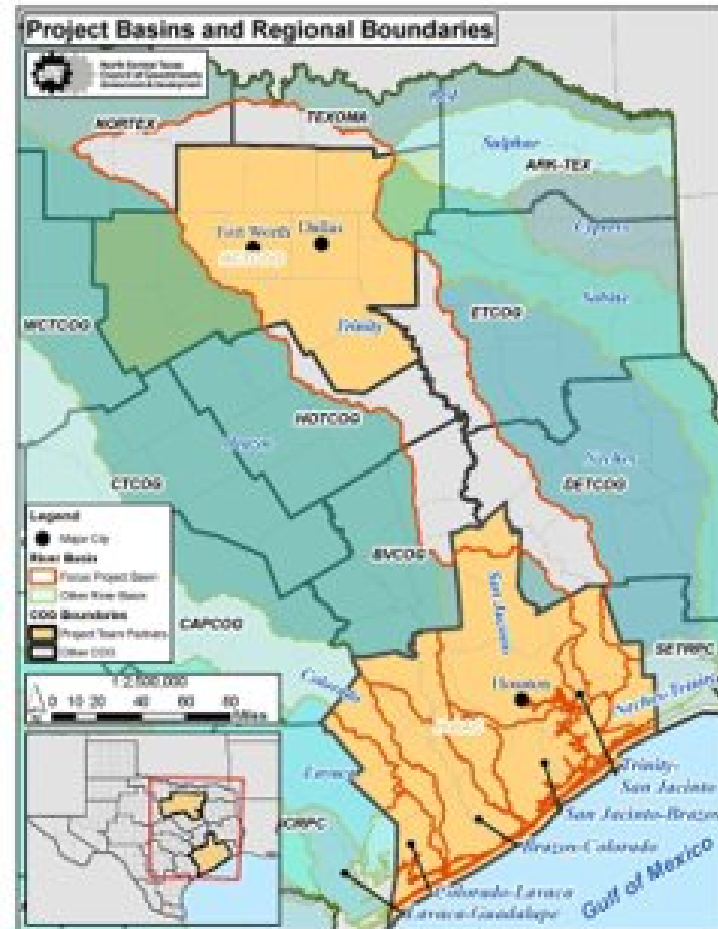
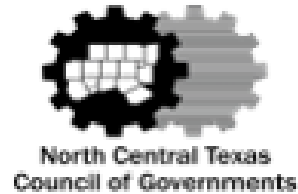
[www.trashfreetexas.org](http://www.trashfreetexas.org)



TRASH  
FREE  
TEXAS

# Trash Free Texas

Project Partners and Regions:



# *Trash Free Texas*

## Several Project Goals:

- Promote use of the [Trash Free Texas](#) (TFT) website statewide
- Promote the [Adopt-A-Spot](#) map; increase mapped locations and connect volunteers to available locations
- Publish litter cleanup and community engagement resources to Trash Free Texas website
- Engage and educate Texans on ways to get involved in litter cleanup and prevention

# *Trash Free Texas*

## Why We're Focused On Litter

Is an eyesore

Approximately 362 million pieces of litter accumulate on Texas roads each year. Recyclables, such as beverage containers and paper, make up 25% of it.

\*Source: [Don't mess with Texas](#)

Harmful to wildlife

Roadside litter, across the U.S., is down 54% in the past decade to an estimate of 23.7 billion pieces. However, litter along waterways is estimated to be at 23.7 billion pieces.

\*Source: [Keep America Beautiful](#)

Increases flooding risk

Trash, packaging, and improperly disposed waste from sources on land accounts for 80% of the marine debris found on beaches during cleanups and surveys.

\* Source: [EPA Trash-Free Waters](#)

Creates water quality issues

# *Trash Free Texas*

## How You Can Get Involved:

- Adopt-A-Spot! Sites Include:

- Adopt-A-Road
- Adopt-A-Highway
- Adopt-A-Waterway
- Adopt-A-Creek
- Adopt-A-Park
- Adopt-A-Beach
- Adopt-A-Stormdrain



- Coming Soon: Plogging Resources!
- Check Out Our [Volunteer Resources](#)





# *Trash Free Texas*



 [Contact@trashfreetexas.org](mailto:Contact@trashfreetexas.org)

 [www.trashfreetexas.org](http://www.trashfreetexas.org)

 [Subscribe](#) to the Trash Free Waters Project Newsletter

Follow us on social media!

 <https://www.instagram.com/trashfreetexas/>

 <https://www.facebook.com/TrashFreeTexas>

 <https://twitter.com/TrashFreeTexas>

# *North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge*

[www.communitycleanupchallenge.com](http://www.communitycleanupchallenge.com)



# *North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge*

- Started in 2021, the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge is a friendly regional competition amongst communities and residents to see who could cleanup the most litter, per resident, during a set timeframe
- 2022 Challenge timeframe:  
March 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022



# *North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge*

## How It Works

### Communities & Local Govts.

Sign-up on the website for their community to officially participate. Once registered, they will be recognized as a participating community on the website and can post their cleanup events on the calendar.

### Individual participants

Aren't limited to only cleaning up at organized local events. Any cleanup of litter and trash in their local park, neighborhood, or on their block in which they live or work that is collected can be reported and counted towards the community in which they collected the litter.

**Note:** All cleanup data by communities and individuals must be for activity that occurred during the challenge timeframe of **March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022** and must be logged by **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022!**

# *North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge*

## How It Works



*City of Grand Prairie Cleanup*


- Any type of litter cleanup activity conducted during the Cleanup Challenge timeframe counts towards the overall totals for each city where the cleanup activity occurred.
- Everyone can participate! This includes individuals, families, faith groups, Scouts, HOA's, businesses, non-profits, environmental groups, and Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates.
- Informal cleanup activities, such as collecting litter on a daily walk or jog through neighborhoods and parks, also count towards the goal of removing as much trash and litter from our environment as possible!
- Each of these activities can be logged to help push cities closer towards the goal of being the community that collected the most trash and litter during our Cleanup Challenge timeframe.
- Each cleanup that is logged is connected to the community in which it took place.

# *Join The Community Cleanup Challenge!*

## Joining the Challenge – Individuals:

- Pickup litter at any time in your neighborhood, community, or place of work
- Go to the [Log Cleanup](#) page on NTCCC website
- Click “Log Cleanup Event” (you will be routed to the [Texas Litter Database](#))
- Enter your litter collection data on Texas Litter Database
- Enter **CCC22** in the external ID field toward the bottom of the report
- Congratulations, you just helped make our environment in North Texas cleaner and healthier!

➔ Check out our [Quick Guide for Using the Texas Litter Database](#) to help walk you through how to enter your data

 **Note:** When participating in an organized cleanup event, please do not report your individual litter collection data. The event coordinators should report data for the event as a whole.

# 2021 Community Cleanup Challenge Results



**OVER  
6,000**

Volunteer instances in The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.



**ABOUT  
20,000**

Volunteer hours were recorded in The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge. There were 32 events posted to the online calendar.

**7,665  
BAGS**

Of litter were filled during The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.



The weight of litter picked up The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge is equal to about

**85 HORSES**

The estimated range of litter picked up in the challenge is between 65,775 lbs. and 78,670 lbs.



**MORE THAN  
400**



Locations cleaned in the The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.

# *North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge*

Questions? Contact staff:

✉ [eandd@nctcog.org](mailto:eandd@nctcog.org)

🌐 [www.communitycleanupchallenge.com](http://www.communitycleanupchallenge.com)

Tag us on social media!

Use #NTXCleanupChallenge



City of Frisco - Stream Clean Up



*Texas  
SmartScape*

[www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com)



# *Texas SmartScape*

- Texas SmartScape is a landscape program that has been designed to be "smart" for North Central Texas. It is based on water-efficient landscape principles, promoting the use of native and adaptive plants suited to our region's soil, climate, and precipitation that don't require much—if any—additional irrigation, pesticides, fertilizer, or herbicides to thrive.
- The two main goals of the program:
  - Improve stormwater runoff quality
  - Conserve local water supplies
- Other tangential benefits to a SmartScape friendly landscape:
  - Supports our pollinators and local ecosystems
  - Saves time and money

# *Texas SmartScape*

## Benefits of Texas SmartScape and Native and Adaptive Plants

- ☑ Water Conservation
  - Requires less water
- ☑ Water Quality
  - Requires little to no fertilizers or pesticides
  - Improves stormwater runoff quality
- ☑ Better Suited to Variability of Texas Climate
- ☑ Supports Pollinators
- ☑ Reduced Costs/Saves Money



# *March Is Texas SmartScape Month*

March campaign is a reminder to use Texas native and adaptive plants when planning landscaping for the year

2022 Slogan:

*Plant Smarter. Plant Natives.*



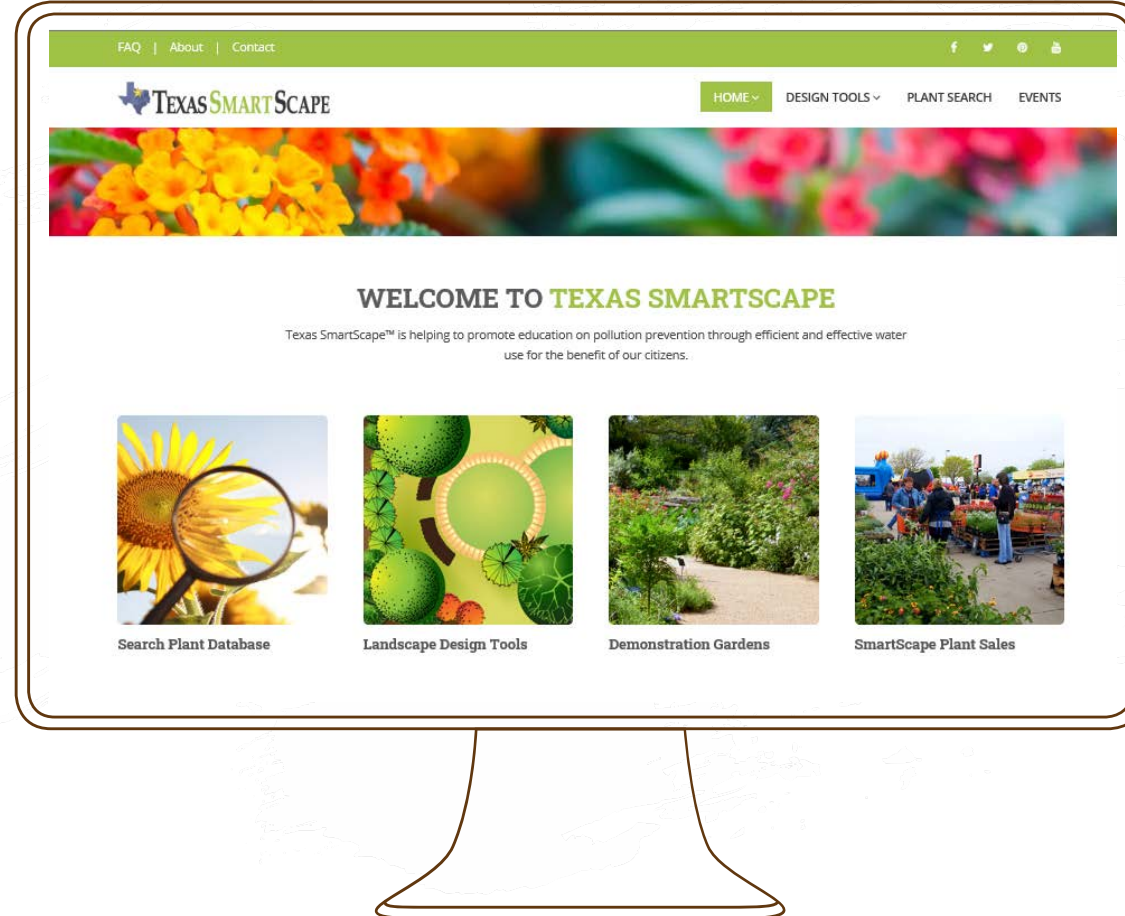
# *www.txsmartscape.com*

## **Plant Database**

Search the plant database. Use filters for plant type, light requirement, water use, landscape use, color, and more.

## **Event Calendar**

Populated with events around the region that relate to gardening, landscaping, composting, and other SmartScape related topics.



## **Design Tools**

Contains photo gallery of Texas SmartScape yards and a design layout guide. Also, info on soils, mulch, watering, and pollinators.

## **Demonstration Gardens**

Map of gardens around the Dallas-Fort Worth area that demonstrate SmartScape principles.

# Texas SmartScape Tips



For a Texas SmartScape friendly landscape:

## 1) Plan and Design

- Start with the end in mind. What are your needs and desires when envisioning your perfect yard? Prioritize your needs and create a plan.

## 2) Reduce Turf

- Less is more. Less turf means more time for you to enjoy your lawn and reduce watering costs.

## 3) Soil

- Use compost to improve soil health support plant nutrient needs. Compost helps to condition the soil, hold moisture, prevent runoff, reduce erosion, and unlocks nutrients in the soil.

## 4) Planting

- The right plant in the right place. Use the SmartScape plant database to help select the right plants for your specific needs and aesthetic preferences.

## 5) Mulch

- Mulch beds with approximately 3" of material regularly. Mulch helps reduce evaporation and cools soils in the summer by up to 10 degrees. Mulch also helps reduce erosion, diseases, and prevents weeds from getting a foothold. Leave (mulched) grass clippings on lawn

## 6) Be Water-Wise

- Water early in morning or between 8 pm – 10 am. Water slowly to avoid runoff; try the [cycle and soak](#) method. Audit your irrigation system – fix any leaks or broken heads, adjust direction of sprinkler heads, adjust run times.

## 7) Maintenance

- Maintenance should be minimal with native and adaptive plants once established. If you do encounter problems, try cultural, organic, physical, and mechanical means of pest control instead of chemicals.

# *Texas SmartScape*

✉ [info@txsmartscape.com](mailto:info@txsmartscape.com)

🌐 [www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com)

Follow us on social media!

📌 [@texas-smartscape](https://www.pinterest.com/texas-smartscape)

📘 [@TxSmartScape](https://www.facebook.com/TxSmartScape)

🐦 [@TxSmartScape](https://twitter.com/TxSmartScape)



# *Doo the Right Thing*

[www.dfwstormwater.com/petwaste](http://www.dfwstormwater.com/petwaste)

# DOO THE RIGHT THING





# *Doo the Right Thing*



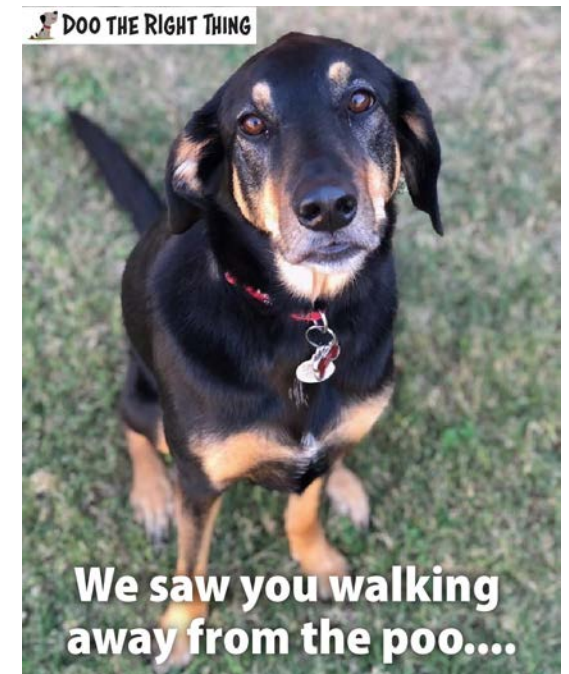
## Pet waste education campaign and photo contest

- Pet waste, if left on the ground, can pose health risks for people and pets
- Pet waste can carry:
  - Parvovirus
  - Bacteria like E. coli
  - Parasites
  - Diseases like Toxocariasis and Giardiasis
- It is NOT a natural fertilizer
- Pet waste can also affect our water quality
- Pet waste and the bacteria it contains can wash into stormdrains from rain, melting snow/ice, and sprinkler runoff
- Stormdrains flow untreated directly into lakes and streams
- Bacteria and decomposing pet waste can make water unsafe for recreation, encourage algae growth, and contribute to fish kills

# *Doo the Right Thing*



- How to “Doo the Right Thing” and become a Watershed Protector
  - Flush waste down toilet
  - Bag and toss it in trash can
  - Burry it in a pet waste composter
  - Take bags on your walks
  - Pick up pet waste in yard at least 1x week



# *Doo the Right Thing*



- Doo the Right Thing Contest

- Runs: May 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Take the pledge to cleanup after your pup(s) and enter their photo(s) in the contest



# *Doo the Right Thing*

- Learn more and enter contest at:  
<http://www.dfwstormwater.com/petwaste>
- Follow us on social media!
  - 📘 @DooNorthTexas
  - 🐦 @DooNorthTexas
  - 📷 @DooNorthTexas





*"The environment is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest, it is the one thing all of us share."*

**Lady Bird Johnson**

# *Thank you*

## CONNECT WITH US!

