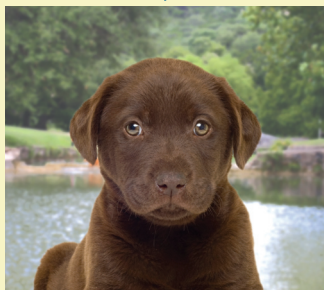


# Austin guide to... **OFF-LEASH** *dog* **PARKS**

## *Give a Bark for Cleaner Parks!*

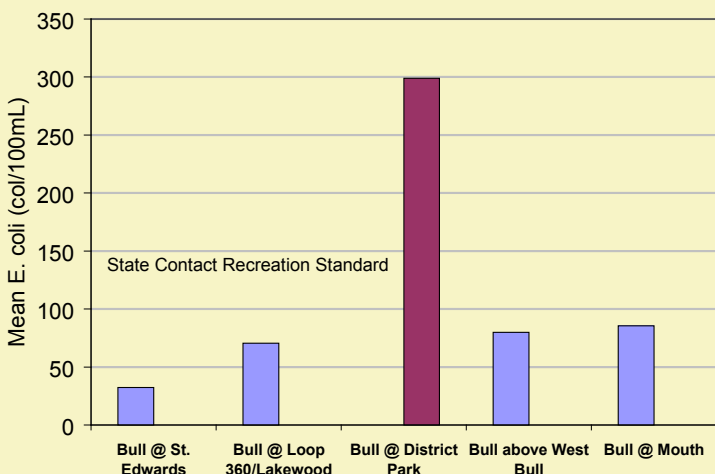
Bacteria, particularly that associated with pet feces, has become a problem in some of Austin's parks and creeks. In order to preserve all uses of the parks, including swimming, wading, and the off-leash pet areas, we need your help.



## *What is the problem with pet waste?*

Human illnesses such as dysentery and giardiasis can result from ingesting bacteria-laden water. Your pet could also be at risk of parvo and roundworms.

Water quality studies along Bull Creek show high bacteria levels in the water particularly in the off-leash area of Bull Creek District Park.



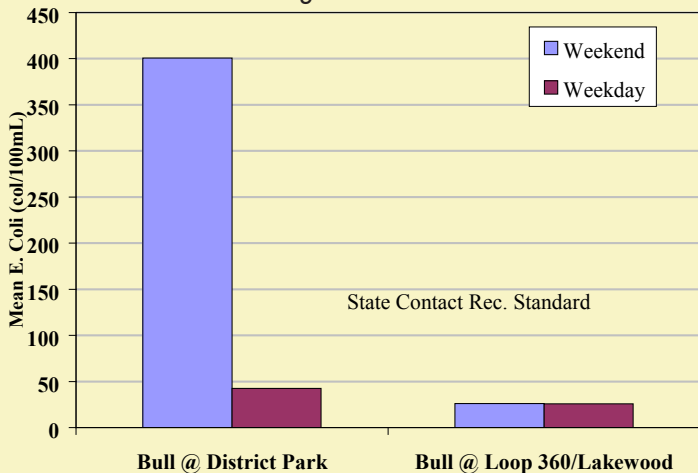
## CODE: § 3-4-6: DEFECATION BY A DOG OR CAT.

An owner or handler shall promptly remove and sanitarly dispose of feces left on public or private property by a dog or cat being handled by the person, other than property owned by the owner or handler of the dog or cat. **Maximum Fine: \$500**

*Why should I worry about leaving one "deposit" in the park?*

Imagine if all dog owners in Austin didn't scoop the poop. Each dog creates about a half pound of excrement per day. With an estimated 100,000 dogs in Austin, that's 50,000 pounds of dog waste deposited throughout the city each day! A small amount of dog waste in a waterbody can make that water unsafe for swimming.

Increased Dogs = Increased Bacteria



*What can I do? Scoop the Poop!*

**Bring it!** Bring your own bags on your walk or grab one provided in one of the mutt mitt dispensers in the park.

**Bag it!** Use the bag as a glove to scoop the waste, then turn the bag inside out and tie to seal. No mess.

**Dispose of it!** Place the bag in the trash can.

**Watershed Protection  
Development Review**



**Austin  
Parks and  
Recreation**



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

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