



Map Provided by Arkansas Watershed Information System

## How Many People Live in the Lake Fayetteville-Clear Creek Watershed?

About 17,090 people or about 759 people per square mile live within the watershed. In this watershed one in four people own a dog. So, there are about 4,962 dogs in the watershed. The average amount of dog poo deposited per year from one of these dogs is about 98 lbs. This means that on average 486,276 lbs of dog poo is deposited on the land surface every year. Wow, that's a lot of pet waste to pick up! Did you know picking up and properly disposing of pet waste is good for maintaining water quality?

## Did You Know?

- The Lake Fayetteville– Clear Creek Watershed is 22.5 square miles in size. Lake Fayetteville Clear Creek is a sub-watershed of Clear Creek which drains 77 square miles of Fayetteville, Johnson, Springdale, Tontitown, and rural Washington County to the Illinois River Watershed which is 1,700 square miles in size.
- A sub-watershed is a drainage area that receives and drains precipitation into a larger watershed.
- A watershed is an area that drains water from the landscape to a body of water such as a lake, stream, or ocean.
- The Clear Creek Watershed is designated as impaired from bacteria which comes from urban sources within the cities of Fayetteville, Springdale, and Johnson.
- A stream is designated as impaired when it does not meet one or more designated uses.
- Designated uses for Clear Creek are: Primary Contact (wading), Secondary Contact (boating), Fish Consumption, Agriculture/ Industrial Use, Fishery, and Drinking Water.
- Excessive bacteria levels of Fecal Coliform and E. Coli have impaired Clear Creek from meeting the primary contact designated use.

## Why Should You Pick-up Your Pet's Waste?

When pet waste is not picked up and properly disposed of, it can be carried by stormwater runoff into storm drains or nearby bodies of water like Lake Fayetteville. Since storm drains don't often lead to treatment facilities, untreated pet waste often gets washed into lakes and streams where it causes significant water pollution. Pet waste carries bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can threaten the health of humans and wildlife.



*Remember, it's everyone's responsibility to protect water quality. Find out the ways that you can protect and improve the water quality of Lake Fayetteville-ClearCreek on the other side of this fact sheet.*

# What is a Best Management Practice (BMP)?

A best management practice (BMP) is an action that any person, group, or organization can take to protect or improve water quality. Best management practices have undergone scientific evaluation to ensure that the practice can work to reduce the amount of pollutants entering a body of water from the surrounding landscape.

## What are some BMPs that I can use that will protect and improve the water quality of Lake Fayetteville-Clear Creek?

- **Pick Up Your Pet's Waste** - When your pet has to follow nature's call they don't have a sanitary toilet to use. To improve water quality or help keep it in good shape in an urban environment—picking up and properly disposing of pet waste can be a big help.
- **Proper Maintenance of Septic Systems** - A failing septic system can discharge raw sewage which exceeds established water quality standards for nutrients and bacteria. Proper septic system maintenance can help keep water quality in good condition.
- **Do Not Remove Streamside Vegetation** - The streamside area, also known as the riparian zone, performs critical functions such as stabilization of stream banks, filtration of pollutants, providing wildlife habitat and shading of the water body. When vegetation is removed from the riparian zone, stream banks become more at risk for erosion, pollutants can enter the stream easier, and wildlife lose their habitat. All of the functions performed by riparian zones are critical to maintaining good water quality and wildlife habitat.
- **Put Litter In Its Place** - When trash is not properly thrown away it will end up in a stream sooner or later, where it will cause harm to water quality and aquatic life. A good way to prevent litter from ending up in streams is to pick up trash when you see it, encourage your friends not to litter, and report littering to the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (1-866-811-1222) whenever you see littering happen.
- **Soil Test Before Fertilizing** - Excessive fertilizer applications to lawns and gardens can degrade water quality when runoff from rainfall transports the extra fertilizer that wasn't used by the plants to a nearby storm drain or stream. The best way to prevent over application of fertilizers is to contact your local Extension Office (479-444-1755), ask for a free soil test kit, and test your soil to receive recommendations.
- **Do Not Store Trash or Hazardous Materials Near a Stream Bank** - In large rain events, items stored near a stream or in its floodplain can be washed into the creek. Trash and hazardous materials can harm water quality and wildlife when they are washed into creeks.
- **Implement a Riparian Buffer in Your Yard** - A riparian (streamside) buffer can filter pollutants in runoff, slow runoff, prevent streambank erosion and property loss, provide wildlife habitat in your backyard, and provide up to \$50,000 in tax credits! Contact (501) 682-1608 for more information.
- **GET INVOLVED!** - Join an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission - Stream Team, your local school or community environmental club/organization, The Lake Fayetteville Watershed Partnership, Illinois River Watershed Partnership, the City of Fayetteville Adopt-A-Trail Program or another organization that actively works to keep our streams of Arkansas clean.

*The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For more information on protecting water quality contact your local Extension Office at 479-444-1755*