

The 2011 Pooch Plunge was held by the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Division on August 22nd at the city's outdoor aquatic center. This event takes place at the close of the outdoor pool each year. A booth was set up and manned by the Stormwater Division to inform pet owners of the importance of picking up after their pet. Pet waste left in yards, parks and other outdoor areas washes away with rain or snowmelt into storm sewer or ditches that flow directly into our streams, lakes and rivers. Pet waste contains bacteria and excess nutrients that have been identified as primary pollutants in the Kansas River and local streams and ponds. These pollutants destroy our natural resources and threaten public health. With 205 dogs, and approximately 400 people in attendance this was a great way to educate the public. This event will help continue compliance with our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, falling under the Public Education and Outreach requirement. Our MS4 permit is required under the EPA's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) which was enacted in 1972. The NPDES permit program is aimed at regulating the discharge of polluted water into the waters of the United States making them unsafe for drinking, swimming, fishing, and other activities. For more information please visit this [website](#).

