

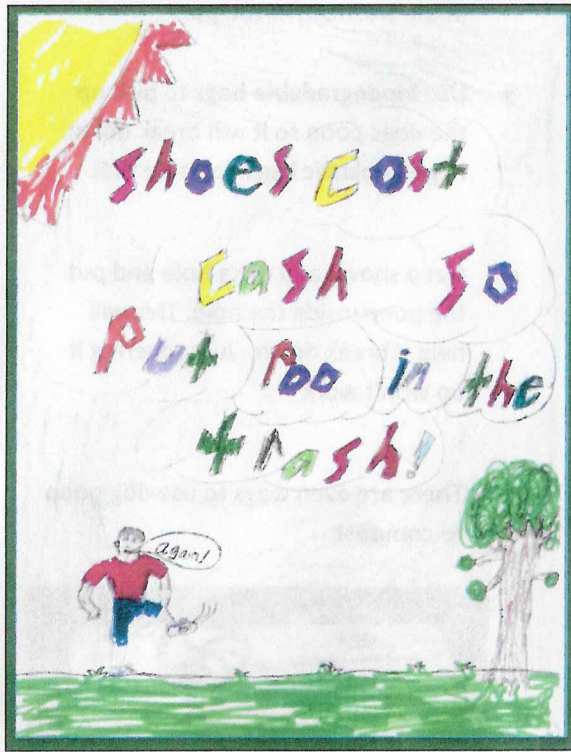


Who's Concerned?

We are the Urban Naturalist program. We are 15 middle school kids from Nathan Bishop Middle School in Providence, Rhode Island who are excited about the environment and about saving it.

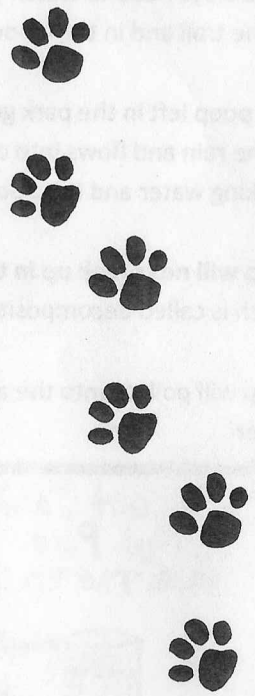
The Urban Naturalist program is a cool program that helps us save the earth, entertains kids and helps us learn how the environment works in this current time. We go green and it helps us to live stronger, better and healthier lives. This program has taught us not to litter or treat the world like it's a big trash can.

Every Monday, we go to Blackstone Park in Providence, Rhode Island where we play games, take walks and learn about our urban environment. We see many animals in the park including salamanders, worms, millipedes, crows and even a hawk. We love to explore the park and learn new things when we go.



Take Pride in Your Local Blackstone Park

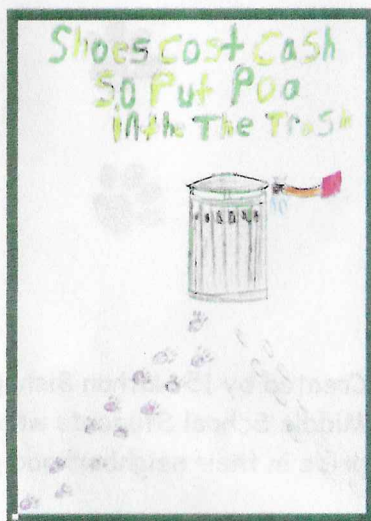
What to Do With Doggy Doo



Created by 15 Nathan Bishop Middle School Students who take pride in their neighborhood park

Why Should You Pick Up After Your Pooch?

- Blackstone Park is a park for **people to enjoy**
- It's hard to hike and explore because you always need to watch your step on the trail and in the woods
- Dog poop left in the park gets taken by the rain and flows into our drinking water and local ponds
- Poop **will not break up in the ground**, which is called decomposition
- Poop will pollute into the air AND water



What to Do with Doggy Doo

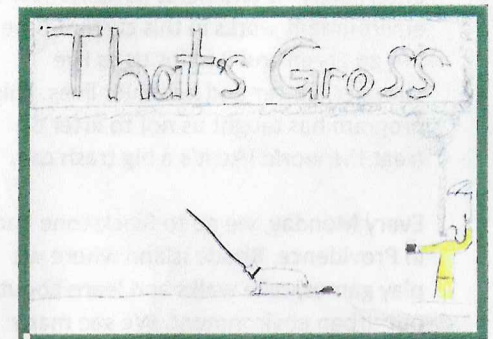
- Put your dog poop in a bag and put it in the **trashcan in the park**
- Use **biodegradable bags** to pick up the dogs poop so it will break down. Regular plastic bags don't do that
- Get a shovel and **dig a hole** and put the poop inside the hole. This will help it break down. Just covering it up won't work
- There are even ways to use dog poop to **compost**



The Park Spark in Cambridge, Massachusetts transforms dog waste into public power. People put the dog poop in a tank where it makes a gas that makes enough energy to power a light in the park. This is a cool way to use dog waste for something good.

Some Interesting Stats about Dog Waste

- Dog poop is a common carrier of many diseases such as **heartworm, tapeworm and salmonella**- so it can also be dangerous for your pets too
- After a while, the poop starts to release methane, a greenhouse gas that is 30 times more toxic than carbon dioxide and creates a ton of air pollution
- Dog waste contains **E. Coli**, a bacteria that can contaminate water. When people drink the contaminated water, they can get severe kidney and intestinal diseases. **About 40% of Americans don't pick up their dog's poop.**



This student-drawn picture depicts a student testing the local water that has been contaminated with dog waste.