

WHAT ARE THE YELLOW FLAGS?

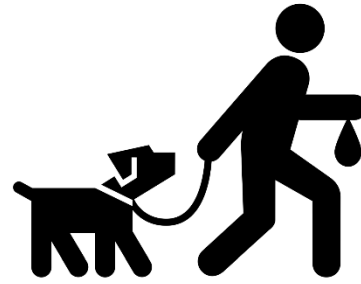


Each flag shows where un-scooped dog poop was recently left on the trail.



Dog poop is not fertilizer. It's raw sewage that spreads disease to pets and people and pollutes our drinking water.

BRING EXTRA BAGS. SCOOP EVERY POOP. DISPOSE OF IT PROPERLY.



“Scoop It, Bag It, Carry It Out”

New Visual Campaign Highlights Impact of Pet Waste at Mount Agamenticus and nearby trails and preserves

York, Maine — A renewed community outreach effort is underway within the Mount Agamenticus Conservation Region to address the growing issue of pet waste on trails, trailheads, and parking areas.

Throughout the month of April, visitors will notice yellow pin flags placed in areas where pet waste, unbagged or bagged and left, have been found. These flags, along with signs at popular trailheads and high-use areas, are visible reminders of the collective impact pet owners have at these special places.

This initiative is a collaborative effort between the York Parks and Recreation Department, York Water District, Kittery Water District, Great Works Regional Land Trust, and York Land Trust. Together, these partners are working to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and the overall trail experience across the region.

Making the Invisible Visible

Pet waste is often overlooked or assumed to be temporary—but it accumulates quickly in high-use areas. The placement of flags this spring is intended to visually demonstrate the scale of the problem and its impact on shared outdoor spaces.

These markers serve as a simple but powerful reminder: waste left behind doesn't disappear. It spreads along trails, impacts water quality, and affects every visitor who follows.

“Scoop It, Bag It, Carry It Out”

At Mount Agamenticus and many nearby trail systems and preserves, there are no trash receptacles. The areas operate under a Carry In/Carry Out trash policy, which includes pet waste. Visitors must take waste with them when they leave.

Responsible pet owners know that protecting the trails is part of the experience:

- Bring more bags than you think you'll need
- Pick up promptly
- Carry waste out and dispose of it properly

Why It Matters

Dog waste is not a natural fertilizer. Unlike wildlife, dogs consume processed diets, resulting in waste that is high in nutrients, bacteria, and parasites. Left on the ground, it can:

- Wash into streams, ponds, and drinking water supplies
- Degrade trail conditions and create unsanitary environments
- Spread bacteria and parasites harmful to people, pets, and wildlife

It's the Law

Under the Town of York Animal Control Ordinance (effective November 2, 2010), pet owners are required to remove and properly dispose of animal waste and must carry a waste removal bag at all times. Violations may result in fines of up to \$250 per offense.

Most Visitors Are Doing the Right Thing

The majority of visitors already follow responsible practices—bringing bags, picking up after their pets, and carrying waste out. This campaign builds on that shared standard and encourages everyone to be part of the solution.

Even a small amount of missed waste can quickly become a widespread problem. Leaving pet waste or bagging and leaving it trailside—even temporarily—still contributes to environmental damage and a diminished visitor experience.

Protecting these Resources is a Shared Responsibility

Mount Agamenticus and surrounding conserved lands are community treasures. Clean trails, healthy ecosystems, and a positive visitor experience depend on the choices each person makes. Every small action makes a difference. By picking up and properly disposing of pet waste, visitors help safeguard the region's natural beauty and public health.

For questions or more information, please contact outreach@agamenticus.org