Dog Waste Composting Pilot

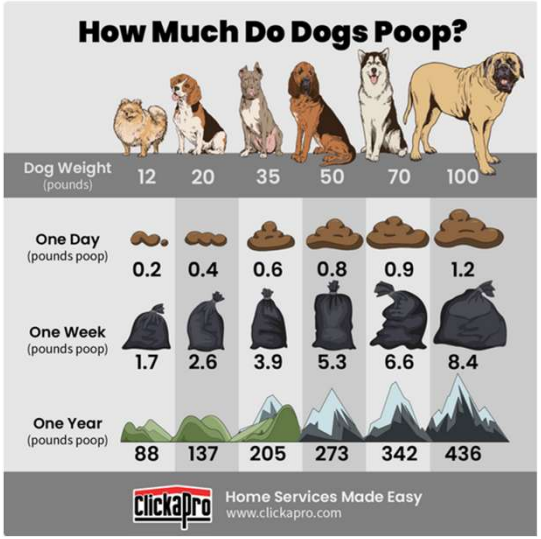
Presented to the Town of Lyons Board of Trustees
By Eva Guenther, Parks & Recreation Committee
February 17, 2026

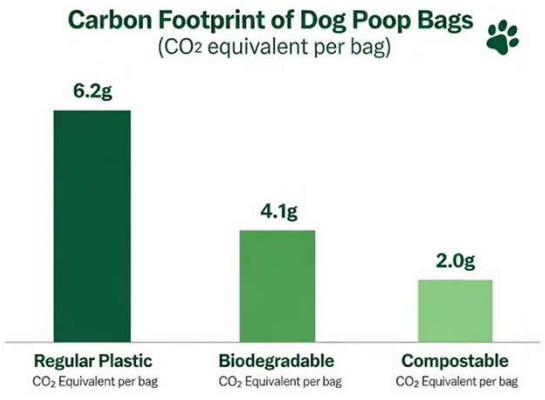
Agenda

- Dog Waste & Plastic Dog Waste Bags
- Benefits of Composting Dog Waste
- The Front Range's Successful Model
- Proposed Pilot Scope & Cost
- Proposed Pilot Roll-out
- Q&A

Dog Waste & Dog Waste Bags

- **Dog Feces in Landfills**
  - Dogs produce between 88 to 436 pounds of feces per year, on average 273 pounds, approx. 3-4% of waste in landfills
  - Annual estimate for ***only*** **Lyons dog park**: approx. 5,000 pounds/~2.5 metric tons
  - Does *not* compost in landfills, is broken down by anaerobic bacteria producing methane, turning into nutrient waste ("garbage juice") that has to be treated
- **Plastic Bags in Landfills**
  - Remain in landfills for ~500-1,000 years
  - Produce methane in landfills
  - Leach micro-plastics into soil
  - "Mummify" dog waste and pathogens in the bag
  - Annual bag estimate for ***only*** **Lyons dog park**: 30,000
  - Plastic bags are made from petroleum and the production releases CO2 emissions (6.2g per bag), consumes water (1.2l per bag), and energy (0.05 kWh per bag)





Benefits of Composting Dog Waste

- **Dog Feces Composting**
  - Composting in high-heat (commercial) composting sites creates nutrient-rich soil promoting plant growth
  - Allows the soil to act as a carbon sink rather than a source of atmospheric emissions
  - Reduces municipal solid waste
- **Compostable Dog Waste Bags**
  - Composting dog feces requires the use of fully compostable bags (ASTDM6400/EIN13432)
  - Fully compostable biodegrade within 90 days
  - Does not leach micro-plastics into the soil
  - Production:
    - Made from renewable, plant-based materials
    - Typically produce 30-40% fewer greenhouse gas emissions during manufacturing.

Front Range's Successful Model

- **Successful model** started in 2012 based on evidence-based approach
- **Current locations:** Boulder County Open Space & Mountain Parks (20+ trailheads) , City of Louisville City of Lafayette, Town of Eerie, Town of Superior
- **Service Providers:** Local small business Pet Scoop; local part of global EnviroWagg Environmental Pet Waste Network (EPWN)
- **Set-up:** Dog waste can & ASTM 6400 compliant compostable bags
- **Output/Impact:** Solid waste in landfills reduced, negative environmental impact reduce, nutrient-rich potting soil improving plant growth

Existing Programs: Key Partners

- **Enviro Pet Waste Network (EPWN)** is a global network helping communities adopt eco-friendly ways to keep dog and cate waste out of landfills and reduce its environmental impact.
- **EnviroWagg** is an EPWN program that:
  - **Composts** Colorado dog waste into a safe nutrient-rich soil amendment that greens up plants.
  - Conducts research and development at the **composting site in Longmont** to understand processing, testing, and applying composts that uses dog waste as primary feed stock
- **Pet Scoop** is a Denver based small business, (Professional Animal Waste Specialist (aPAWS) member) serving Colorado across Denver Metro and Northern Front Range communities for 30 years. Providing dog poop composting haul since 2012.

Proposed Pilot – Roll-out

- **Duration: 6 months/26 weeks** (April – September 2026)
- **Location: Dog park** at Bohn Park
- **Scope: Weekly haul of dog waste from dog park by Pet Scoop and composting by EnviroWagg**
- **Set up:**
  - **Two** 25gallon dog waste **trash cans** (provided by Pet Scoop free of charge)
  - Stock dog waste **bag dispensers** with **fully compostable dog waste bags** compliant with CO's SB23-253 (ASTM6400/ENI3432).
  - Sign no-commitment **service agreement** with Pet Scoop
- **Communication & Education Strategy**
  - Clearly label dog waste trash cans
  - Clearly label other trash cans
  - Set up signage at dog park with info about the pilot
  - Post article about pilot on town website & newsletter
  - Publish article in RedStone Review
  - Participate in Sustainable Futures Earth Day Week (wk of April 19-26)
  - In person presence at the dog park *(possible collaboration w/Student Advisory Committee)*
- **Monitor & Data Collection**
  - Check for and remove contamination: PetScoop
  - Collect output/impact data: PetScoop *(possible collaboration w/Student Advisory Committee)*
  - Status check-ins at monthly PRC meetings
- **Post Pilot Report Out and Next Step**
  - Summary, data, lessons learned
  - Roll-out

Proposed Pilot – Cost (Estimate)

- Service agreement with Pet Scoop:
  - **$80 per week** – Two 25-gallon cans (provided for free) @$25 each + $30 transportation fee (for now) = Total: $2,080
  - **~1 cent each -** 15,000 fully compostable dog waste bags (ATSMD6400) = Total: $1,080

    Diff. in cost to current (budgeted) plastic bags: +$429.89
  - **Total cost of pilot: $3,160** (for 26 weeks)

    Minus diff for plastic bags: $2,730
- **Cost Savings**: Reduced solid waste, ltd reduced ToL labor emptying dog waste containers (and picking up uncollected dog waste)
- **Impact**: Approx. 2,500-3,000lbs less solid waste; reduction of environmental impact; less uncollected dog waste through public education campaign

Pilot – Cost (Estimate)

	Current	Pilot	Difference
Dog Waste Bags	$650	$1,080	+$430
Dog Waste Disposal	Ltd. ToL staff labor	$0	-Ltd
Dog Waste Haul	$575	$2,080	+1,505
Total	**$1,875**	**$3,160**	**+$1,935**

- **Impact**:
  - Approx. 2,500-3,000 lbs less solid waste during the pilot
  - Reduction of environmental impact
  - Increased pick-up outside of park due to education campaigns

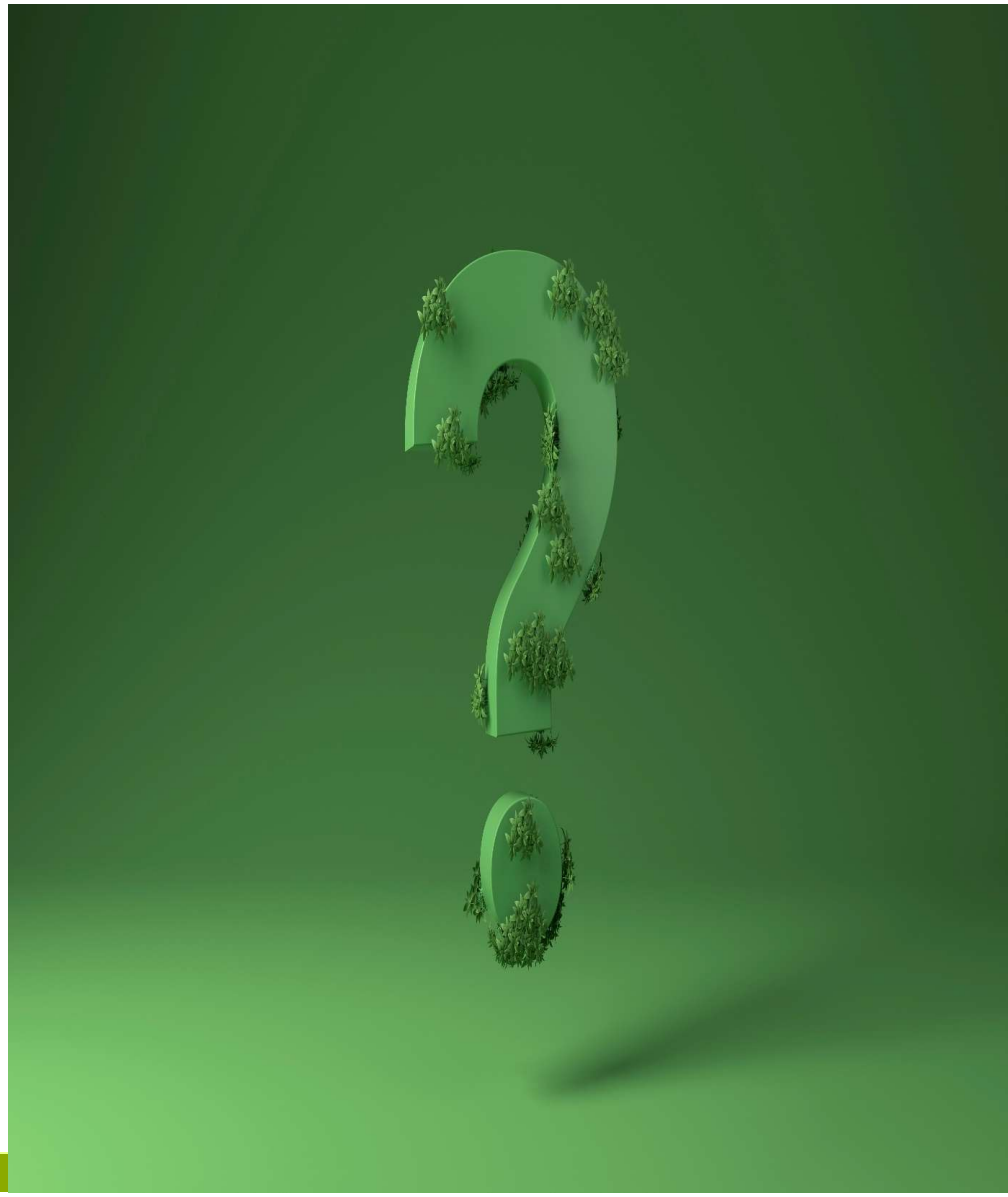
Post Pilot – Annual Cost (Estimate)

	Current	Future	Difference
Dog Waste Bags	$1,300	$1,920	+$620
Dog Waste Disposal	Ltd. ToL staff labor	$0	- Ltd
Dog Waste Haul	$1,150-$1,7250	$4,160**	+$3,010
Total	**$2,450**	**$6,080****	**$3,630**

**Note: If transportation fee is waived, approx. $4,520 annually (Difference: +$2,070)

- **Impact**: Approx. 5,000 lbs less solid waste annually and reduction of environmental impact.

Questions?



Reference

- **Other Front Range Programs**
  - **Boulder City & Boulder OSMP (since 2014):** https://bouldercolorado.gov/services/dogs-osmp
  - **Town of Erie (since 2024) :** https://www.erieco.gov/1280/The-Boneyard-at-Reliance-Park
  - **City of Lafayette (since 2019):** https://www.lafayetteco.gov/2388/Great-Bark-Dog-Park-Compost-Program
  - **Town of Superior (since 2015):** https://www.coloradohometownweekly.com/2015/03/23/composting-doo-doo-part-of-superior-dog-park-to-do-list/
  - Related opinion piece about efforts in Denver: https://coloradosun.com/2025/08/12/opinion-denver-dog-poop-program/
- **Service Providers for Other Front Range Programs**
  - **Pet Scoop,** service provider for the program: https://www.petscoop.com/
  - **EnviroWagg**: Enviro Pet Waste Network (WPWN) program that composts Colorado do waster into a safe and nutrient rich soil amendment that greens up plants. https://www.epwn.org/post/envirowagg-s-colorado-green-partners
  - **Soil Rejuvenation:** Dog Poop Composting site in Longmont: http://soilrejuvenation.com/

Reference

- **Evidence Base/Background Reading**
  - Background Reading:
    - Environmental Pawprint of Dogs as Contributor to Climate Change (2025) - https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/15/21/3152
    - Connections: Is Dog Poop the Final Composting Frontier?(2025) https://www.biocycle.net/connections-is-dog-poop-the-final-composting-frontier/
    - Biodegradable vs Compostable vs Regular Dog Poop Bags: Environmental Impact Guide - https://gogostik.com/biodegradable-vs-compostable-vs-regular-dog-poop-bags/?srsltid=AfmBOoq4LAaNea9sApNBQrNojH1kydTynW8Ho8fG4NLbcKtPG3FF5shp
  - Evidence Base:
    - End-of-Life Management of Biodegradable Plastic Dog Poop Bags through Composting of Green Waste (2022) - https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9028863/
    - Do Not Throw Pet Feces Away: Composted Manures Obtained from Dog and Cat Feces Contain High Nutrients and Effectively Cultivate Plants (2024) - https://www.mdpi.com/2313-4321/9/6/123