Excess organic matter and nutrients in dog waste leads to water pollution and can spread disease to humans and marine life. As the waste decays in the river the organic matter breaks down and uses up dissolved oxygen and releases ammonia. This along with warm summer water can kill fish.

Many posters have been developed to educate the public about the importance of picking up after your pet. Now it's your turn! Use the box to the right to create a poster to encourage citizens to “Scoop the Poop” to help the Elizabeth River be safe for swimming and fishing by 2020.