



It's Your Doody!
Pet Waste Problem in Garden City
Silver Project by Girl Scout Troop 1187
Final Presentation to EAB



Jovana Marin
Dana Sievers
Manya Goyal
Juliet Conway

Presentation at EAB

- ✓ Request EAB for approval for Pilot Program (June through September)
- ✓ Create awareness via GC News
- ✓ Hold Pop Up Fundraising events through end of summer
- ✓ Get continuous feedback from the community via Google feedback form
- ✓ Present our findings in September to the EAB



May 21, 2025

A Special Thank You to



Environmental Advisory Board, Board of Trustees

- Michele B. Harrington, Trustee (Co-Chairperson)
- Jessica Tai, Trustee (Co-Chairperson)
- Elizabeth M. Bailey
- Kurt Ehrig
- Evelyn Fasano
- Celia Petersen
- Laurence J. Quinn
- John F. Reilly
- Amanda Shore
- Kelly Smith

Department of Public Works

John Borroni, P.E.

Superintendent of Public Works

Michael Connolly

Operations Dispatch

Municipal Service Yard

The Pet Club of Garden City

Key Food Marketplace

Department of Public Works: Working on the Signs



June 19, 2025

Installation of Signs and Pet Waste Dispensers



June 19, 2025

Installation of Signs and Pet Waste Dispensers



June 19, 2025

Routine Monitoring of Pilot Locations



July - Present

Routine Monitoring of Pilot Locations



July - Present

Community Awareness: Preparing for the Pop-Up Event



June, 2025

Community Awareness: Pop Up Event



July - August, 2025

Community Awareness: Pop Up Event at Key Foods



July - August, 2025

Community Awareness: Pop Up Event at Pet Club



July - August, 2025

Community Awareness: GC News



Friday, June 6, 2025 The Garden City News

Don't Use Your Library Voice. Environmental Board backs SPEAK UP! "It's Your Doody" initiative

The 2025 Garden City Public Library Survey is online now! It's your opportunity to share your thoughts on how the Library can better serve Village residents. The survey includes 30 quick questions and is open until June 30.

Two Ways to Participate:

- Scan the QR code included here on your phone

- Visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCP2025>

As a thank you for participating, you can enter your email address at the end of the survey for a chance to win an Amazon gift card. One response will be drawn at random after the survey closes.



Please note: Paper copies of the survey will not be available at the Library. However, you are welcome to stop by the Library and use a public computer or borrow an iPad to complete the survey on-site.

Your feedback is important. Help us grow and improve the Library's services, programs, and resources for the entire community.

Thank you for your input and support!



BY RIKKI MASSANO

The Garden City Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting on Wednesday, May 21, focused on a recurring community concern: pet owners failing to clean up after their animals. The board, chaired by Trustees Michele Harrington and Jessica Tai, emphasized the environmental and public health risks caused by pet waste left on sidewalks, in parks, on private driveways—and even in storm drains.

During the meeting, Girl Scout Troop #1187 presented its Silver Award project—a pilot initiative to install dog waste bag dispensers at select locations throughout the village, along with community outreach on responsible pet ownership. The Scouts also highlighted troubling local trends, such as discarded waste bags being found near storm drains, a practice that threatens water and soil quality and can spread disease and parasites.

Seventh grader Jovanna Marin, Many Goyal, and Juliet Conway from Garden City Middle School, and eighth grader Dana Slevers from Kellenberg Memorial High School, led

the presentation. Using a ten-question SurveyMonkey distributed via the Garden City Moms and Dads Facebook group, they gathered 30 responses, the majority of which confirmed dog waste is a community problem. Many respondents supported the idea of providing a free supply of disposal bags.

"One of the residents spotted four bags of pet waste and even stepped on it, while many others saw the storm drains being used as a disposal site for pet waste inside a plastic baggie. Another resident also claimed the storm drain on the southwest corner of Stratford and Sackville was used as a waste disposal site," Marin said.

The students developed the "It's Your Doody" pilot program to address the issue. In preparing their proposal, they researched signage and local pet waste laws in nearby communities including Mineola, Garden City South, Manhasset, Rockville Centre, and the Town of North Hempstead. They noted that these areas typically rely on a three-part strategy: public awareness, visible signage, and enforcement through fines.

The pilot was approved by the EAB.

See page 40

Environmental Board backs "It's Your Doody" initiative

From page 6

It will include installing dispensers at four high-traffic areas: the Garden City LIRR station, Grove Park, Hemlock Park, and Tullamore Park.

"We picked these parks because we've noticed a lot of dog waste in the area. The locations are scattered around town—this plan of action promotes less dog poop in all of Garden City," Conway said.

The girls proposed three dispenser options:

- Option A: A bag dispenser with an attached trash can (\$225 each)

- Option B: A dispenser without a trash can (\$150 each)

- Option C: A wall- or pole-mounted bag dispenser only (\$25 each)

The pilot will run from June through August, incorporating educational outreach and community engagement. One resident commented that despite existing trash cans at parks and stations, dog waste still appears regularly on grass and curbside areas. She noted that the presence of bags and receptacles does not guarantee compliance.

Trustee Harrington encouraged the Scouts to continue gathering feedback from the public, suggesting they expand their survey to include questions about the preferred placement of dispensers and signage. She also proposed new potential locations, including Oxford Boulevard, Garden Street, and North Avenue. EAB member Kurt Ehrig, who lives near North Avenue, offered to

sponsor a fifth pet waste station for that location.

Ehrig also raised concerns about misuse of the waste receptacles for general trash. The Scouts clarified that they will not be responsible for maintaining any bins. Superintendent of Public Works John Borroni confirmed that the selected parks already have trash cans nearby and said the bag dispensers could be mounted on DPW-supplied poles. The dispensers will not be attached to existing bins.

To raise awareness, the Scouts plan to host "pop-up" educational events and distribute materials at the Garden City Pool when the season opens on Saturday, June 14.

"Our goal is to inspire lasting change, following the examples in other communities as shown in our presentation. New York State Public Health Law 1310 states that every dog owner (or walker) needs to remove any of the pet's waste, or face a fine of up to \$250. This law is a reminder for all pet owners to clean up after their pet," Conway said.

Conway cited New York Public Health Law 1310, which requires pet owners to remove their animals' waste or face fines of up to \$250. The Scouts hope to remind residents of this law and encourage responsible behavior.

She continued, "We are also looking forward to increasing awareness via The Garden City News and our Google feedback form. Looking at the bigger picture, our Environmental Advisory

Board can help with advising on the NYS pooper scooper law and working with the Village to install signs indicating the fines."

EAB member Evelyn Fasano supported using signage that references specific sections of state law to emphasize the consequences of non-compliance. Trustee Tai reviewed relevant Village Code sections (55-12 through 55-14) and relayed Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson's recommendation that new signs include phrases like "subject to fines" or "subject to court appearance" to reinforce their authority.

EAB member John Reilly praised the Scouts' initiative and compared it to the successful leaf blower ban, which was implemented not for perfect compliance but to improve awareness and behavior.

"A lot of it is just raising awareness. With the leafblower ban we never looked to have 100% compliance but to just improve the situation substantially. This would be the same, with a goal of improving. This awareness campaign the scouts are doing will get people to be more compliant. It was an excellent presentation from the Girl Scouts (Troop #1187) as each one spoke very well. The idea of a pilot program brought to us represents a great way of solving a problem! We'll pilot it first, then it can be tweaked to become something the village will do as a whole," he commented.

Amanda Shore, a Farmingdale State College professor and EAB member, encouraged the Scouts to collect more

empirical data. She offered help with data analysis and suggested tracking tangible results, such as waste bag usage and before-and-after conditions at each site.

Shore told the Troop #1187 members, "You've obviously put a lot of time and research into this as you all did an excellent presentation. I suggest that the survey is a really good start because it's clear and it identifies the problem—and it can be used to look at the efficacy of the problem. But with having the pilot program at just four locations, I would like to see empirical data to really assess whether the (bag dispenser) program works. It really takes just a little walking around those parks and taking the before and after pictures, plus tallying the amount of bags used from what's left or noticing any unbagged waste there. We can really capture a visual assessment and not just people's perceptions of how bad this problem is, and I am willing to help you in the field and also with doing follow-up data analysis."

About to hit a milestone?

Share your life accomplishments with your neighbors! Put your engagement, wedding, or baby announcement in the paper, (and it's free of charge for subscribers!)

Email editor@gcnews.com

July - August, 2025



Community Awareness: GC News

Girl Scouts help keep the village clean



Dana Sievers, Juliet Conway, Manya Goyal, and Jovana Marin of Girl Scout Troop 1187 with one of the pet waste bag dispensers.

Dana Sievers, Juliet Conway, Manya Goyal, and Jovana Marin of Girl Scout Troop 1187 recently presented their Silver Award project, *It's Your Doody: The Pet Waste Problem in Garden City*, to the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB).

The project raises awareness about the ongoing issue of residents not always picking up after their pets. As part of their proposed solution, the Girl Scouts have launched a pilot initiative to install five pet waste bag dispensers throughout the village. This was made possible due to the positive feedback received by both EAB as well as the Department of Public Works (DPW) who helped the troop build and install the signs.

The troop welcomes community feedback on their pilot program. Scan the QR code and give your feedback.

If you would like to support the troop's efforts, please consider donating! All proceeds will go toward funding the dispensers and replenishing waste bags.

You can check out more details on



their project at various pop up events the troop has planned to raise awareness. These events will be held in the village throughout this summer. Or look for posts on Facebook GC Moms & Dad Group.

If you wish to send in a check, the can be mailed to: 105 6th Street, Garden City, NY

Environmental Tip of the Week

Addressing the Pet Waste Problem in Garden City

Have you checked out the brand new pet waste signs that have been put up in our community? As part of their Silver Award project, Girl Scout Troop 1187 has teamed up with the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to address the pet waste problem and has kicked off their proposed pilot program. This pilot program entails installing pet waste bag dispensers along with displaying the village code at five key locations all across the village: GC Train Station, North Avenue, Grove Street, Seventh St. - North & South side and Strawberry Field.

If you find yourself running out of pet waste bags, keep in mind the above 5 locations and look out for the pet waste bag dispensers!

Besides providing waste bags, these signs serve as reminders of the village code that all pet owners should adhere to.

Why It's Important to Pick Up

After Your Dog

- Protects local water systems: pet waste contains harmful bacteria

(like E. coli) that can wash into storm drains and pollute our drinking water.

- Prevents the spread of disease:



Dog feces can carry parasites and viruses (like roundworms and giardia) that can infect both humans and other pets.

- Keeps communities clean: Left-behind poop is unsightly, smelly, and it disrupts ecosystems and harms soil and plant life.
- Creates unsafe roads and sidewalks: a slipping hazard on sidewalks, trails, and lawns.

What Responsible Pet Owners Should Do

- Always try to purchase biodegradable waste bags and carry them with you when walking your dog.
- Dispose of waste properly in a trash can, not in storm drains.
- Follow the village code and make use of the pet waste bag dispensers installed in Garden City.

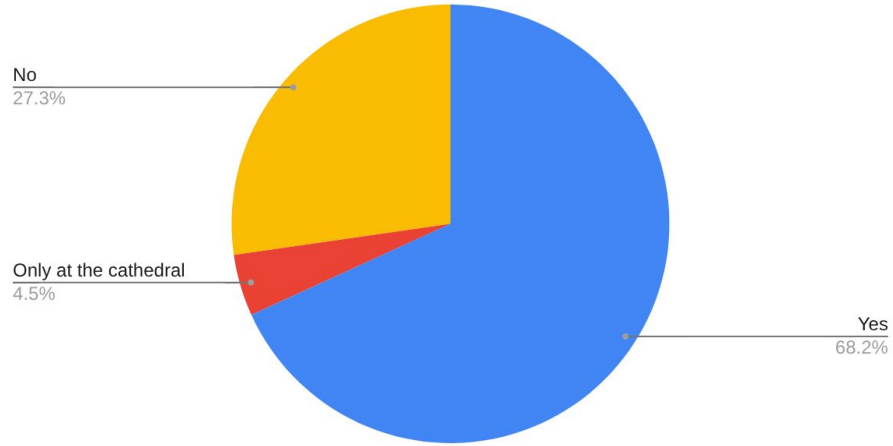
Girl Scout Troop 1187 worked hard on this community project and is looking forward to the positive changes their pilot program is about to bring to the village!

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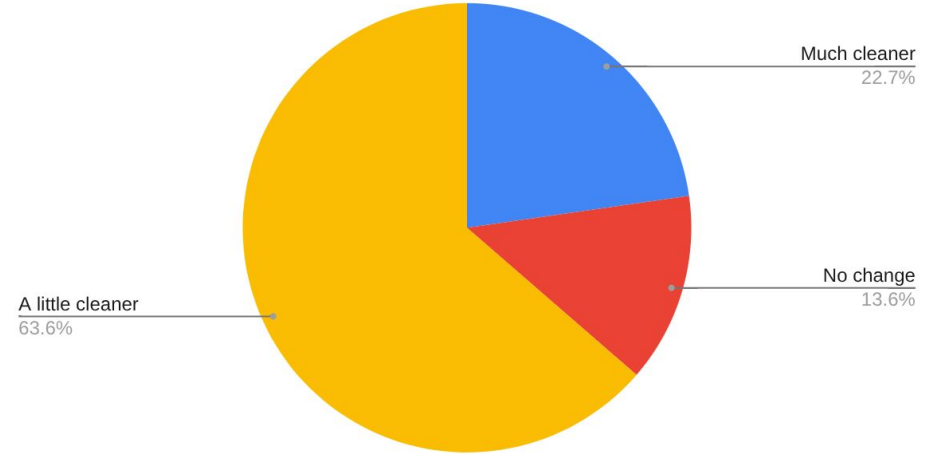
Survey Results & Feedback



Are you aware that dog waste bag dispensers have been installed in the community?



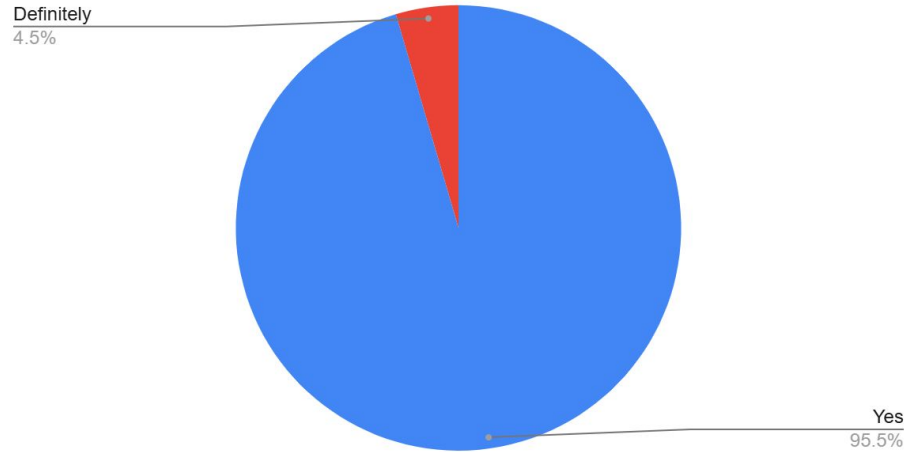
How clean do you find the community's sidewalks, parks, or trails now compared to a few months ago?



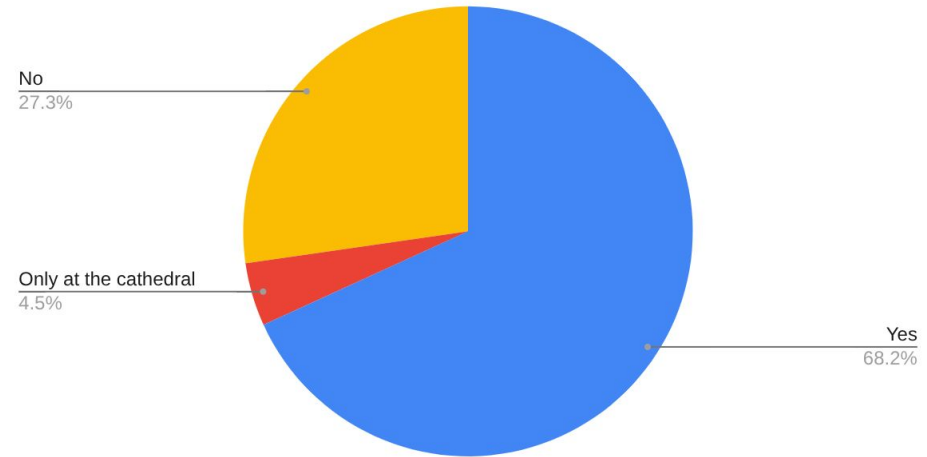
Survey Results & Feedback



Do you think the dog waste bag stations are a valuable addition to the community?



Are you aware that dog waste bag dispensers have been installed in the community?



Survey Results & Feedback



Install more signs with the Village Code on pet waste to help remind everyone to do their part.



Please keep the busy spots stocked—some fields are used a lot by dogs like me!

The bag stations are really helpful. More trash cans nearby would make them even better.



Paws up for the Girl Scouts!
This makes walks easier and our community nicer.

