

# Ithaca dog owners want to compost pooches' poop to reduce dog park waste

Published: Sep. 19, 2009, 12:52 a.m.

[https://www.syracuse.com/today/2009/09/ithaca\\_dog\\_owners\\_want\\_to\\_comp.html](https://www.syracuse.com/today/2009/09/ithaca_dog_owners_want_to_comp.html)

By [Maria Welych](#)



Heather Ainsworth / AP

Cheryl Kramer deposits her dog's waste into a Cayuga composting bin at the Treman Marina Dog Park in Ithaca, NY. The park is among the first in the country to organize a dog waste composting effort to help reduce the waste of some of the 50,000 dogs that visit the park annually. The Tompkins County Dog Owners Group and Cayuga Compost hope to market usable compost within the next two or three years.

Ithaca, NY

A group of Upstate New York dog owners thinks it has can profitably compost the tons of dog doo left behind by the roughly 50,000 canines that use the city's pooch park each year.

"There was a large Dumpster at the park, and it was just always overflowing with plastic bags of dog poop. The amount was unbelievable," said Leon Kochian, a spokesman for the not-for-profit volunteer group involved in funding the project, a Cornell University biology professor and owner of a yellow Labrador retriever. "Ithaca has a reputation as a green community. ... It made sense to us to find a way to compost and spare the landfill from all the plastic bags."

If their pilot project is successful, the Tompkins County Dog Owners Group and Cayuga Compost hope to market usable compost within the next two or three years.

More importantly, finding a use for the billions of pounds of pooch poop produced yearly in the United States could also lead to a significant reduction in the amount of waste material sent to landfills, said Kochian.