

Catoctin Creek TMDL Residential Program



Program Summary: 2005 through today

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BACKGROUND

- 1998 listed as impaired
- Total Maximum Daily Load developed
- VAC 62.1-44.19:7 Required to Develop and Implement a Plan to achieve fully supported status for impaired waters.
- Bacterial Source Tracking Human/livestock/wildlife
- LCHD estimates as many as 20 straight pipes may exist.
- Implementation plan developed with stakeholders – LCHD lead for Residential Septic

Straight Pipe



RESIDENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION

- Funding from EPA via DCR
 1. 5 types of projects
 - RB1 – Septic system evaluation (\$525) and pump out (\$200)
 - RB2 – Connection to public sewer - \$15,000
 - RB3 – Septic system repair - \$7,000
 - RB4 – Septic system replacement (conventional gravity or gravity with pump) - \$12,000
 - RB5 – Septic system replacement (alternative technology) - \$30,000
 2. 50%-75% cost share, depending on total family income

RESIDENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION

3. Education, Outreach, Management
 - Staffed by 5 over 5 years (Erin, Jamie, Keith, Scott and Matt)
 - 2 TV broadcasts
 - 3 Press releases
 - 6 Fairs
 - 5000+ Mailouts, Letters, Postcards
 - 4 Community door to door walks
 - 8 meetings (such as Hillsboro, Realtors, etc)
 - LCHD referrals
 - Stream activity (Kayak/canoe with Boy Scouts)

Surveying via canoe



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**Loudoun County
Health Department
703-777-0234**

Is time running out?
Your septic tank needs to be pumped out every 3 to 5 years so your pipes will not look like this picture. Sludge accumulates over time and will clog your septic system causing a backup or a failure. If you have an effluent filter in your septic tank, it needs to be cleaned out every 6 to 12 months. Please call one of the service providers listed on the back to ensure the longevity of your septic system.

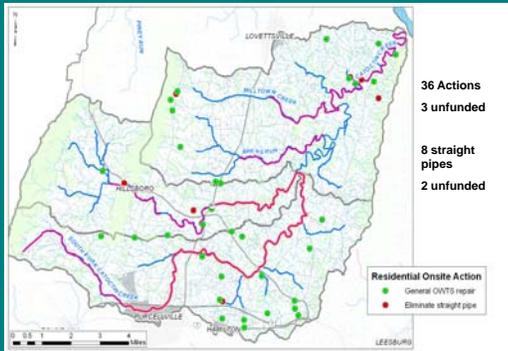


- Letter to all alternative system owners (285) in the watershed with no recent record of maintenance – big response
- Postcards to all conventional system owners in late 2008 as well as postcards alerting entire watershed of impending end of the grant program



- Information Booths – numerous appearances at various County Fairs and other outdoor related events

Accomplishments



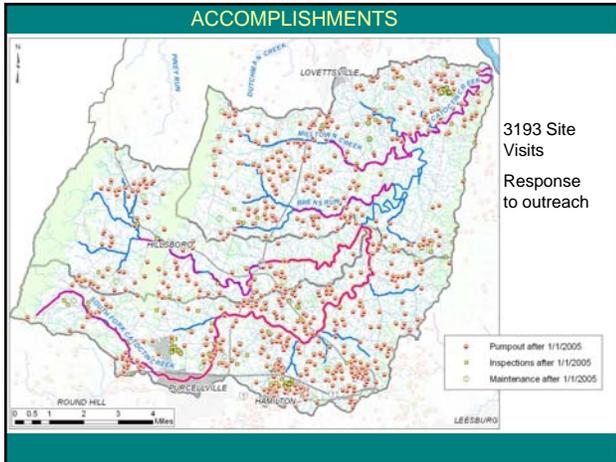
Straight Pipe



Puraflo Pad Installation – February 2007



February 2008



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 36 Projects Funded
- 3193 Site Visits by professionals

Watershed	Number of Systems	Site visits reported	Properties reporting visit	Percent sites with reported visit
Lower	1618	917	334	21%
North	632	378	145	23%
South	1879	1898	325	17%
Total	4130	3193	804	19%

- ### ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Thirty-six funded actions: 14 minor repairs, 13 gravity drainfields and 9 alternative drainfields.
 - High quality of service provided despite personnel changes
 - Awareness may have resulted in very positive response to County ordinance to require O&M on non-conventional onsite sewage systems.
 - Problem systems fixed and found that may not have been without the grant program
 - Quality of life improved for the recipients and the County in general

- ### LESSONS LEARNED
- Straight pipes = low/fixed income
 - Grant is taxable income to homeowner
 - Post Cards and letters are good communicator (be careful about addresses)
 - Most systems identified through LCHD referrals
 - Perform outreach early, especially to pumpers and realtors to increase referrals
 - Put a structure in place for processing of applicants

- ### Future Challenges
- State O&M Rules and loss of County rules
 - Use of Betterment Loans
 - County Water and Wastewater Management Plan
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- Hillsboro Situation – old homes, shallow soil, steep slopes, tiny lots, high probability of failure
 - Many homes with cesspools, old systems, possibly more pipes
 - 3 potential grant applicants – waiting for solution – but no longer source
 - Community System?

Future Challenges for Loudoun County Watersheds

- Small communities relying on septic
- Funding for other streams/straight pipes
- Small discharging systems
- Conventional system O&M
- Maintenance Reporting

Questions?

