



**NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION**

New Septic Tank Pilot Project

Where

- Beaver Reservoir Watershed
 - Upper White River Basin/Beaver Lake Watershed, commonly referred to as the Beaver Reservoir Watershed
- Illinois River Watershed
- Buffalo River Watershed

What

- Sceptic Tank Repair and Replacement Program
- Loan/Grant Program
- Pilot Program - 3 Years
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (Construction)

Funding

State Program
Grant for
administration
of program

CWSRF Loan
with Principal
Forgiveness for
projects

Funding for Administration costs

Arkansas Department of Health (DOH) roles

- DOH has limited staff to perform inspections in each watershed

Initial confusion regarding NEPA/SERP

- The septic tank remediation projects that will be funded under this Septic Tank Replacement Pilot program are not considered "Treatment Works" because these projects will not be for "municipal sewage or industrial waste." As a result, NEPA, Davis Bacon and AIS do not apply.

Designers and Installers are busy, often our projects are waiting on designers and/or installers.

Pilot Programs Roadblocks and Speed Bumps

Selection of Managing Organizations

- ▶ Boots on the ground in each watershed to promote community involvement in the watershed.
 - ▶ Selected organizations with office or staff located in the watershed
- ▶ Each managing organization works within their watershed to promote their program to allow tailoring to the needs of each watershed.
- ▶ Allows the managing organizations to use the septic tank remediation program to promote watershed education.



Managing Organization Responsibilities

- ▶ Determining homeowner eligibility and income status
- ▶ Reviewing homeowner application to ensure all program requirements are met
- ▶ Working with Arkansas Department of Health (DOH)
 - ▶ DOH certifies that the septic system is failing or requires remediation
- ▶ Issuing notice to proceed to homeowner based on approved application
- ▶ Receiving and reviewing all contractor signed final invoices
- ▶ Submitting permits, construction invoices and pay requests to NRD
- ▶ Obtaining notarized Deeds of Trust and Promissory notes
- ▶ Filling Deed of Trust
- ▶ Loan servicing until loan is repaid
- ▶ Filing notarized deeds of release and remitting to homeowner
- ▶ Revolving loan receipts into future loans/grants

Project Applications

| INCOME LEVEL | GRANT | LOAN |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| <\$20,828 | 90% | 10% |
| \$20,829 - \$31,242 | 70% | 30% |
| \$31,243 - \$41,657 | 50% | 50% |
| \$45,726 - \$62,485 | 30% | 70% |
| \$62,486 - \$83,314 | 10% | 90% |
| >\$83,314 | 0% | 100% |

- ▶ Homeowners apply to Managing Organization
 - ▶ 0% Interest Loans - 10 years
 - ▶ Grants
 - ▶ \$30,000 Project Limit (typically \$3,000 to \$7,000 each)

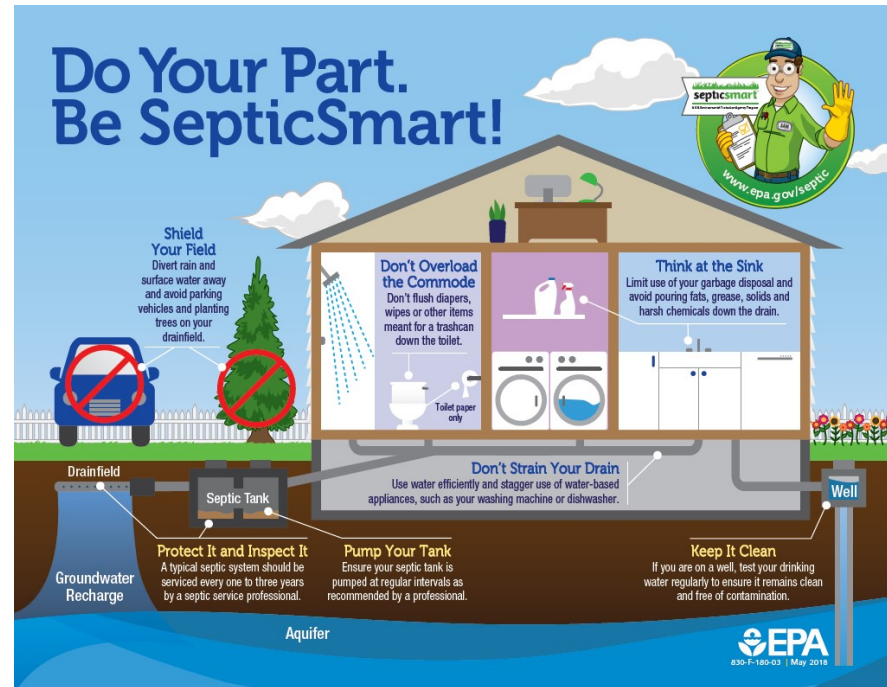
Homeowner Responsibilities

- ▶ Hiring a qualified licensed installer and, if needed, a soil scientist,
- ▶ Acquiring three quotes from licensed installers,
- ▶ Meeting all regulatory requirements,
- ▶ Providing a copy of all required paperwork including paid invoices for the service completed to the managing organization before requesting reimbursement,
- ▶ Agreeing to provide qualified operation and maintenance of the system during the project period,
- ▶ Allowing a deed of trust to be placed on the property to secure the loan portion of the reimbursement award, and
- ▶ Supplying documentation needed to establish ownership of property, proof of identity, and proof of income.



Pilot Programs Implemented

- ▶ Targeted Watersheds
 - ▶ Beaver Reservoir Watershed
 - ▶ HUC 11010001
 - ▶ Ozarks Water Watch
 - ▶ Illinois River Watershed
 - ▶ HUC 11110103
 - ▶ Illinois River Watershed Partnership
 - ▶ Buffalo River Watershed (on hold)
 - ▶ HUC 11010005
 - ▶ TBD





STRP Completed Project Farmington, AR - July 2021

► Project Summary:

- First-time homeowners were experiencing significant effluent seepage in the yard and backup in the home they had just purchased in the year prior.
- To get by, they were having to have the tank pumped far too frequently - 3 times in the 5 months leading up to remediation.
- They were blessed with a newborn daughter in February but were struggling to budget for the needed septic repair.
- The availability of this program allowed them to move forward ASAP with the repair.





IRWP Completed Project Photos

- Siloam Springs project, 9/25/21 start date: Note effluent backed up and surfacing through the lid of the old tank in the before picture on the left. Homeowners had just bought the house and were having to pump the tank every month (expensive!). The STRP Program assisted with the install of a new pump tank to move wastewater slightly uphill to a properly sited and sized lateral field (shown on the right prior to backfilling the trench lines).



Pilot Programs Accomplishments

- ▶ Illinois River Watershed
 - ▶ HUC 11110103
 - ▶ Illinois River Watershed Partnership (36 projects)
 - ▶ 7 remediation projects complete
 - ▶ 14 applications approved, waiting design and/or installer quote
 - ▶ 6 applications approved, in progress
 - ▶ 9 applications in process
- ▶ Matt Taylor
 - ▶ Septic Remediation Program Manager
 - ▶ (479) 790-3465
 - ▶ Illinois River Watershed Partnership (irwp.org)

Pilot Programs Accomplishments

- ▶ Beaver Reservoir Watershed
 - ▶ Ozarks Water Watch - 18 projects
 - ▶ 2 remediation projects complete
 - ▶ 2 applications approved, waiting design and/or installer quote
 - ▶ 14 applications in process
- ▶ Shelly Dare Smith
 - ▶ Program Manager
 - ▶ (579) 866-7220
 - ▶ www.ozarkswaterwatch.org



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