Septic Tank Pump-out Program

May 2022 –October 2023

SAVE MONEY

&

HELP KEEP OUR LAKE

CLEAN NOT GREEN

SOUTH LAKE RECREATIONAL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

THIS PROGRAM CAN SAVE YOU $ AND HELP THE LAKE

Your South Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District in collaboration with Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, is striving to help the lake community with our toxic algae problem. We are doing our part to help reduce the various human contributions of nutrients that feed Lake Cascade bacteria.

Septic system owners can help by keeping their systems operating at peak performance.

On average, a standard summer-time septic tank pump-out costs $400-500 and is even more expensive in the winter. SLRWSD/VSWCD have obtained a State Source Water Protection Grant to reimburse 50% (up to $200 max) for inspection and pump out for an eligible residence.

To be eligible for this program, you must:

- Reside in the South Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District area of operation
- Have a septic system in need of pumping (has not been pumped in 5 or more years)
- Have a septic system located 1,000 feet or less from a surface water (the lake, springs or a tributary feeder stream and creeks)

Applications will be accepted until
October 31st, 2023

Program funding priority will be given to septic systems with drainfields within 100 ft of drinking water wells, followed by a first come, first serve basis until grant funds are expended.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality recommends septic pump-outs every 3-5 years.

To Participate Contact:

SOUTH LAKE RECREATIONAL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

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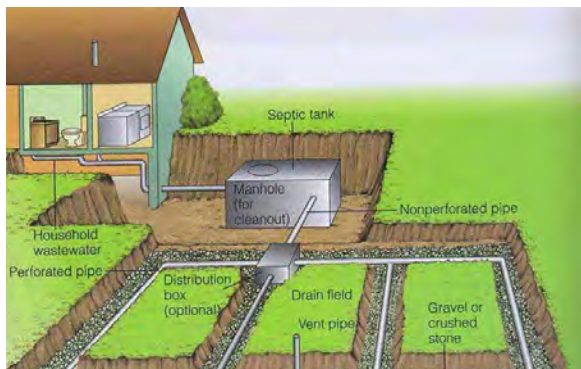
Funding made available through USEPA and IDEQ grant opportunity

Typical Septic Systems

Septic systems use a combination of nature and proven technology to treat wastewater produced by bathrooms, kitchen drains and laundry. A typical septic system consists of a septic tank and a drainfield.

Typical Septic System

Nutrient loading

A system that is not working properly can flood and/or short circuit, causing sewage to flow to the ground surface or release nutrient-rich and bacterial-laden wastewater into the groundwater.

Septic leach fields are notorious for contributing nutrient by-products into groundwater. The significant number of leach fields in the Lake Cascade watershed contribute many tons of nutrients that feed algae into the lake each year.

We all have a problem!

Lake Cascade has experienced significant toxic algae (cyanobacteria) blooms the past 4 summers. The blooms are a result of many factors, but one…nutrient pollution…can be reduced by the efforts of our landowners with septic systems. **The less leaching of these systems, the less added nutrients seep into our groundwater** as it works its way to the lake where it feeds toxic algae that can pose a significant public health threat to people and animals that come into contact with them.

Lake Cascade, Algal Bloom

"Help keep our lake clean... Not green"

You can help!

The more wastewater you produce, the harder your system must work. It needs time to separate the solids and the liquids. By reducing and balancing your water use, you can avoid leaching nutrients into Lake Cascade.

- ✓ Have the tank pumped every 3 to 5 years.
- ✓ Repair running toilets and leaky faucets.
- ✓ Conserve water usage.
- ✓ Take showers instead of baths.
- ✓ Use a garbage disposal sparingly.
- ✓ NO fats, grease, coffee grounds, egg/nut shells, etc. down the drain.
- ✓ Only run the dishwasher when full.
- ✓ Avoid washing several loads of laundry in one day.
- ✓ Choose the right size load; wash a small load on the 'small' water setting.
- ✓ Use septic safe toilet paper and phosphorus free soaps.
- ✓ Avoid flushing anything but human waste and toilet paper.
- ✓ NO facial tissues, dental floss, cigarette butts, condoms, female hygiene products, disposable diapers, pharmaceuticals, etc.
- ✓ NO chlorine or caustic drain cleaners. Use boiling water or hydrogen peroxide cleaners instead.