
Darby Creek Septic System Best Management Practices Implementation Plan

List of technologies to be installed

BMP: Pumpout, repair, or replacement of residential septic system

Selection process

The septic pumpout, repair, or replacement BMP was selected based on its potential impact on water quality of Darby Creek. The main goal of the septic BMP is to reduce the bacteria load originating from residential sources in the upper watershed area. The strategy will be centered on identifying septic maintenance issues, offering a greatly reduced service of repairing or replacing a septic system up to \$6000 total cost, septic pumpouts, and raising awareness about septic maintenance issues.

The Oldham County Health Department is a participating agency on the project; new septic systems and repairs to existing systems require their approval. Their expertise and local knowledge is invaluable.

Applicants for repair or replacement must complete a site evaluation application at the Oldham County Health Department during normal Environmental office hours from 8-11am, Monday through Friday. Applicant must provide a site drawing showing all current and proposed structures at the time of application submittal and pay the site evaluation fee of \$100.00. The property owner will need to sign an Owner Affidavit indicating the number of bedrooms in the residence. A temporary electrical release sticker will be issued, if needed, for structures on a private onsite sewage disposal system except mobile homes.

The Certified Inspector will evaluate the site to determine if the parcel of land and current septic system require a repair, or replacement. A copy of the site evaluation will be made available to the applicant.

For repair or replacement, once the site is approved, the Certified Installer must obtain the installation permit for the onsite sewage disposal system.

A proposed onsite sewage disposal system drawing is required from the Certified Installer. The onsite sewage disposal system installation permit fee is included with the cost of the site evaluation and will need to be submitted before the permit is issued. Once the permit is issued an electrical release sticker for permanent service will be provided, if needed. A copy of the permit will also be provided to the KY State Plumbing Inspector. The State Plumbing Inspector must have a copy of the septic permit as part of the plumbing permit process. The State Plumbing Inspector issues permits for water service, inside plumbing and/or sewer line from the structure to the septic tank to a Licensed Plumber or a Homeowner.

A final inspection of the system will be done once the installation is complete and before it is covered.

For a pumpout, repair, or replacement, a minimum of two bids must be submitted by the applicant to KWA Project Manager, and the potential award recipient will be encouraged to accept the best and lowest bid. In some instances, a repair permit may be obtained for replacement installations that meet repair guidelines. The repair permit is \$100 and must be obtained by the Certified Installer from the Oldham County Health Department. The applicant is responsible for this fee. The onsite sewage disposal system repair installation will be inspected by the Certified Inspector when weather and soil conditions are conducive. Only when all inspections are completed and approved will the funds be authorized to be disbursed, directly to the Certified Septic Installer.

BMP technologies eligible for installation are as follows:

- a. Septic system pumpouts
- b. New septic tank and conventional leach lines to be installed in original or approved fill soil areas
- c. New septic tank and leaching chambers to be installed in original or approved fill soil areas
- d. Existing septic tank and new conventional leach lines to be installed in original or approved fill soil areas
- e. Existing septic tank and new leaching chambers to be installed in original or approved fill soil areas
- f. Addition of conventional leach lines or leaching chamber to existing systems which are surfacing sewage
- g. Alternative systems as submitted and approved; mandatory operation and maintenance contracts
- h. Any of the above systems with a pump tank and a pump to transfer the effluent from a

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lower tank to a higher lateral field if necessary

401 KAR 5:037 requires persons who own/operate septic systems to have a Groundwater Protection Plan (GPP). Applicants will be informed of requirement and given the “Homeowner’s Septic System Guide and Record Keeping Folder” from the KDOW website. The Project Manager will request to see a completed GPP at the time of a site visit. If alternative onsite sewage system technology is used, the Health Department’s Operation and Maintenance requirements must be met and a written contract received prior to issuance of permit.

The Septic Repair or Replace BMP Plan of Action is as follows:

1. Homeowner submits application for the Darby Creek Septic Program to Project Manager (mail or email). Applicants are encouraged to contact Project Manager directly with questions about program or application and selection process.
2. The Project Manager reviews the application. She will contact applicant if approved or not approved to continue with inspection. Final approval for project will happen after inspection takes place.
3. Health inspector schedules site evaluation, conducts evaluation, and takes picture of discharge.
4. Health inspector forwards the information and any photos to Project Manager with comments on potential impact on water quality (based on distance to creek, particular septic situation, and incidence of nearby karst features).
5. Applicant is asked to provide two installer bids from certified installers for onsite work to be completed and sends information to Project Manager.
6. Application packet and site are reviewed. Candidate is notified of project and certified installer approval.
7. Project Manager makes a site visit, meets land owner, and requests to see copy of GPP.
8. Permit is obtained.
9. Installation begins, and photos are taken. Homeowners pay required amount (20% of total cost) directly to Certified Installer after discussing cost with Project Manager.
10. Disbursement is authorized and sent directly to installer upon completion.

**Note that the onsite sewage disposal system installation permit fee (\$100.00) will not be included in the total cost of the project. The applicant is responsible for these fees and is not eligible for reimbursement from KWA or project partners.*

How selected BMPs will be targeted to specific locations

- BMP selection criteria will include:
 - potential load reduction based on distance to the creek, location within prioritized subwatersheds, and known karst features. Previously collected water sampling data and land use data will also be used in this analysis.
 - landowner willingness to participate in watershed planning project
 - landowner willingness to complete a Groundwater Protection Plan (GPP); if over 10 acres, an Ag Water Quality Plan as well

All interested parties will be asked to complete an application including questions to address the above concerns. The applications will then be ranked based on the above criteria. The program is not being limited to a specific subwatershed, but weight will be given to sites in more impacted subwatersheds. Applications will be carefully reviewed and site visits made to determine which locations would provide the biggest improvement to water quality in Darby Creek. The final decision will be made by the KWA Executive Director and Watershed Program Director in collaboration with the DOW technical advisor and Health Department Inspector.

An initial application period of 90 days will be put into place. If there are funds remaining or too few applicants, an additional application period will ensue.

A secondary project goal is outreach and education in the watershed about water quality issues, particularly nonpoint source pollution. Applicants will be asked to participate on the Darby Creek Watershed Team and/or participate in watershed planning and outreach activities.

Financial plan of action

The grant funding will be used to implement septic pumpouts, repair, or replacement BMPs in the Darby Creek Watershed to improve water quality. To facilitate participation, there will be an 80/20% cost-share for pumpouts, repairs or replacements, which may be waived at KWA's discretion. A total of \$6000 may be spent per project. This means a total of \$4800 of federal money and \$1200 match for each project. The targeted number of repairs or replacements is three, with any additional funds available targeted for pumpouts. Future budget amendments may be appropriate if community interest requires more funding for implementation.

Notification process to DOW

As this plan is implemented KDOW NPS Section shall be updated and have ability to approve the number and specific types of system repairs made prior to their installation. This notification shall take place as needed and be sent electronically.

Application for Septic Repair or Replacement Best Management Practices

(please complete both sides of application)

Owner's Name _____

Occupant's Name (if different): _____

Address of Property (include distance to creek): _____

Phone and email:

Briefly describe your septic system situation (including any known problems, number of people in the household, type of leach field, type of tank, and approximate date of last pumpout).

Are you interested in serving on the Darby Creek Watershed Team? Do you have a particular area of interest?

Have you completed a Groundwater Protection Plan (GPP) or an Agricultural Water Quality Plan? 401 KAR 5:037 requires persons who own/operate septic systems to have a Groundwater Protection Plan. An Agricultural Water Quality Plan is applicable if you own 10 acres or more and you perform commercial agricultural activities (i.e. excludes large garden for family consumption, even if you use tractor and apply chemical pesticides/herbicides/ fertilizers).

Cost

The cost to the homeowner will be a percentage of the overall cost, depending on action need (repair or replacement, etc). This will most likely be an 80/20 cost share between KWA and the applicant. All final costs will be agreed upon by homeowner and KWA before any work is done. The homeowner will pay their portion of the project directly to the certified contractor.

Maintenance agreement with landowner

Throughout this application and implementation process, the landowner will be required to communicate directly with the Project Manager. Upon selection for participation in the KWA septic BMP program, the landowner will be required sign the following statement:

I certify that the above information is true and correct. I hereby request for payment to be made to installer for work on my property to the extent that KWA has determined that the practice has been performed. I have 60 days after project approval to obtain two bids and meet with Health Inspector. I agree to refund all or part of funds paid by KWA, if, before expiration of the practice’s life span specified above, I (a) destroy the practice installed, or (b) cease to use practice for its intended purpose, or (c) voluntarily relinquish control or title to land on which the practice has been installed and the new owner and/or operator does not agree, in writing, to properly use and maintain practice for the remainder of its specified life span. I agree to follow recommended septic maintenance for the life of the septic tank, pumping out every three to five years.

I agree to allow photos or video of my property to be taken and used for KWA purposes. I understand that before I am eligible for work to begin, I must: (1) Complete a Groundwater Protection Plan and (2) Agree upon and sign contract.

Applicant Signature

Date