

Sustainable Burkittsville Update!

Pump Em' Out Challenge



CHALLENGE: Will Burkittsville Homeowners Help *Improve* Community Water Quality by Routinely Pumping out their Septic Systems?

2015 GOAL: 10 Septic Tanks Pumped by December 31, 2015.

ACTIONS:

1. Read the back to learn why septic pumping is important. Then take a moment to review the [Septic Tank Manual](#) written by Frederick County Health Department.
2. Call a Septic Pumping Service and Pump 'Em Out! (See back)
3. Tie the Blue "Clean Water" Ribbon to your mailbox if you have recently pumped or after pumping your septic system.
4. Tell Kim you Pumped It Out! gardengatemom@yahoo.com

REWARD: Improving water quality for yourself and your neighbors!

Also, your household will be featured on the "Pump Em' Out" *Honor Roll!*

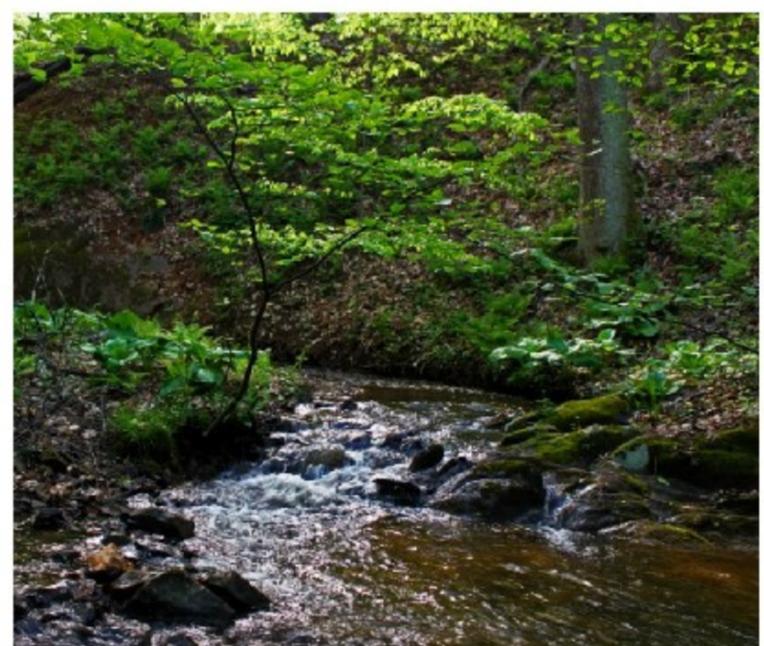


Photo courtesy of Kai Hagen

Questions? Comments?

Contact Kim — gardengatemom@yahoo.com

Here's Why!

Pump 'Em' Out Challenge

A Few Suggestions...

Countrywide Septic Service

(240) 415-9800

\$245

Must be easily
Accessible

Frederick Septic

(301) 698-1033

\$270

Must be easily
Accessible

TE Crummit Jr. Septic Service

\$250

Up to 1,250 Gallons

Tri-County Pump Service

(301) 662-5220

(301) 432-0330

\$265

Up to 1,000 Gallons

QUESTION: Why Should Septic Tanks be Pumped Out Every 3—5 Years?

ANSWER: When homeowners don't take care of their septic systems properly, they can become a nuisance for the surrounding ecosystem. Wastewater that is not properly treated can contaminate surface and groundwater and threaten public health. According to the University of Minnesota Extension, improperly treated sewage can be the culprit behind the spread of hepatitis, dysentery and other diseases resulting from pathogens in drinking water, while also compromising the purity of lakes and streams. Additionally, flies and mosquitoes that are attracted to and breed in wet areas where sewage reaches the surface can also spread disease.

Improperly treated sewage can also lead to increased nitrates in local water supplies, which is dangerous for infants, pregnant women and those with already compromised immune systems. In and around lakes and streams, this influx in nitrates can lead to plant growth out of whack with the local ecosystem's ability to handle it, resulting in oxygen-free "dead zones" devoid of marine and riparian life altogether. *(From Scientific American, January 28, 2010)*

**So Take the
Pump 'Em Out Challenge
and call a Septic Service Today!**

**Then tell Kim you did!
gardengatemom@yahoo.com**