

**Crooked Run Residential Working Group Meeting**  
Lord Fairfax Community College  
January 28, 2016

***What will the residential working group do?***

This group, which is typically made up of local homeowners, Health Department and local government staff, will review strategies for reducing bacteria coming from failing septic systems and straight pipes (pipes directly discharging untreated sewage) into the river. In addition, the group will identify strategies to address bacteria contributed by pet waste in the watershed.

***Questions for discussion by the working group:***

- 1) Do you think many homeowners are aware of septic system maintenance needs? What are some ways we could reach people with information about properly maintaining their septic systems?
- 2) Would a septic tank pump out program be a useful tool for identifying failing septic systems? If so, should it be limited to homes within a certain distance from the creek?
- 3) How can straight pipes in the watershed be located (e.g. stream walks, float trips etc)? Are there particular areas where outreach efforts should be focused?
- 4) Are there many homeowners with alternative waste treatment systems in the watershed? If so, are the maintenance needs for these systems well understood?
- 5) Are there many opportunities to connect failing septic systems to public sewer in the watersheds?
- 6) Rain gardens are special gardens designed to capture runoff from surfaces like driveways and rooftops. They are great for water quality and can serve as attractive landscape features.
  - Are there neighborhoods where you think a rain garden program could take off?
  - Is there an active garden club to partner with on a rain garden program (or other organization in the watershed)?



*A rain garden catching runoff from a rooftop on a home in Lexington, VA*

- 7) What are some outreach strategies that could be used to encourage people to pick up after their pets?
- 8) Are there locations that would benefit from a pet waste station in the watersheds (e.g. public parks near the river, neighborhoods with homeowners associations that could assist with maintenance)?
- 9) Would there be much interest in establishing a volunteer monitoring program for bacteria in the watersheds? This could be a tool to get landowners involved in implementation, identify problem areas, and measure water quality improvements.

**Table 1.** Estimated failing septic systems and straight pipes in the watersheds. Note: The percent of total septic systems that are estimated as failing are shown in parentheses.

<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Total # Septic Systems</b>	<b>Estimated Failing Septic Systems</b>	<b>Estimated Straight Pipes</b>
Crooked Run	665	113 (17%)	1
West Run	632	138 (22%)	3
Stephens Run	837	189 (23%)	3
Willow Brook	200	45 (23%)	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,334</b>	<b>485 (21%)</b>	<b>7 (&lt;1%)</b>

***Contact information***

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