

# Homeowners Onsite Sewage Disposal Public Education Project Wayne County, Michigan

THE ROUGE RIVER PROJECT  
A WORLD CLASS EFFORT

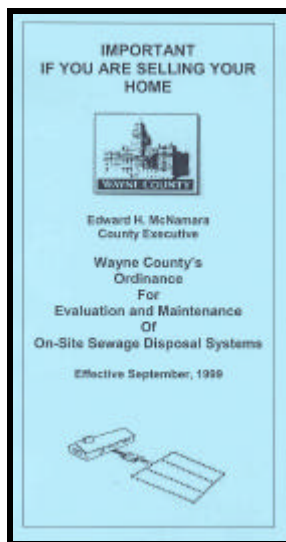


BRINGING OUR RIVER BACK TO LIFE

A publication of the Wayne County Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project  
Information Date: October 2002

## Objective

The Homeowners Onsite Sewage Disposal (OSDS) Public Education Project developed and provided educational information to homeowners to help them understand how their OSDS works, how to maintain it and what is involved in evaluating it at the time of a property transfer. The developed material continues to be used with applicants that apply for a new or replacement OSDS and those who are selling a property that has an OSDS.



## Owner

Wayne County Environmental Health Division

## Location

Wayne County

## Dates

Start July 1999  
Complete September 2002

## Total Project Cost

\$13,195

## Demonstration Aspects

- During surveys of OSDS conducted by the Wayne County Environmental Health Division personnel, it was determined that most homeowners knew very little about their OSDS. Having knowledge about their OSDS would help owners maintain them in a satisfactory condition. The educational material developed under this grant has increased the knowledge of homeowners about their OSDS.
- Implementation of a new county ordinance requiring the inspection of an OSDS at the time of sale of a property provides another opportunity to educate homeowners, realtors and others about OSDS. Seminars and field consultations were successful in demonstrating the usefulness of the educational materials developed under this grant.

## Project Highlights

- Easy to understand material about OSDS was developed and provided to homeowners.
- 500 VHS video tapes titled, "Septic System Maintenance Pure and Simple" were purchased and provided free to homeowners that obtained a permit to install a new OSDS.
- A homeowner education package was assembled. This package included a folder titled "Home Owner Onsite System Record

Keeping", the video on septic system maintenance, copy of the Wayne County Ordinance for inspection of properties with OSDS at the time of sale and brochures describing the operation and maintenance of OSDS. The "Home Owner Onsite System Record Keeping" folder is helpful for keeping maintenance, pump out and repair records. This package is being distributed at the time of final inspection of a new or repaired OSDS.

- Other folders were purchased and made available that describe the operation and maintenance of OSDS.

## Major Elements

- The VHS video tape, "Septic System Maintenance Pure and Simple" features a description of a typical septic tank with a soil disposal system. It describes the operation of the system, do's and don'ts of the system and what to do if there is a problem. The video was produced by Environment Canada and was distributed as part of the final inspection of OSDS.
- The "Home Owner Onsite System Record Keeping Folder" provides a place to record and store information about the septic system, its maintenance, a description of the system, information about contractors who worked on the system, how to locate the parts of the system and a safety checklist.
- Other pamphlets that describe OSDS include, "Home Sewage Disposal", "DemoInfo Septic Systems", and "A Reference Guide Your Septic System for Homeowners."
- The material has been used in five seminars for realtors and homeowners and during field consultations.
- A brochure titled "Important If You are Selling Your Home" was developed by the Wayne County Environmental Health Division to inform people what to do when selling their home with an OSDS. It addresses the responsibilities of the homeowner, realtor, municipality, health department, and evaluator.

## Project Results

- The educational package for homeowners has been distributed to 500 homeowners and has been found to be very useful. The Wayne County Environmental Health personnel have received many compliments about the package.
- The information has been helpful in introducing the new Wayne County ordinance on OSDS inspection at the time of sale of a property having an OSDS to realtors, septic haulers, evaluators and homeowners. Over 1000 copies of the brochure, "Important If You Are Selling Your Home" have been distributed.

To obtain further information on the Rouge Project, including documents, maps and general information, visit us at.

<http://www.rougeriver.com>

## Acknowledgements

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