



News from the Salt

No matter where you live in the state, we can help....

Kentucky Watershed Management activities are coordinated by basin coordinators from around the state. Their job is to serve as facilitators for coordinating agency activities and as a point of contact for local organizations interested in addressing clean water issues in your basin. For information contact your basin coordinator or see water.ky.gov/watershed/Pages/Basins.aspx on the web.

Events

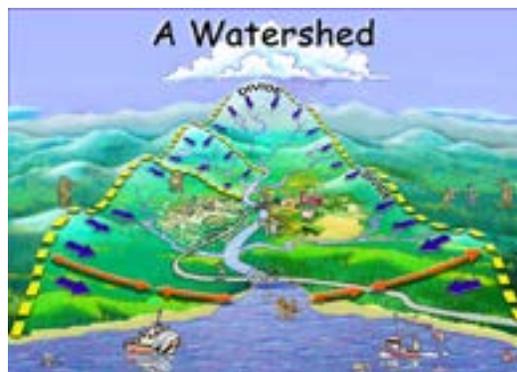
March 26
 The Salt River Watershed Watch Annual conference will be held at Vogt Hall on the University of Louisville campus. The conference fee is \$20 and event kicks off at 5pm.

KY Division of Water
 200 Fair Oaks Lane, 4th Floor
 Frankfort, Ky
 Visit: water.ky.gov
 Call: (502) 564-3410



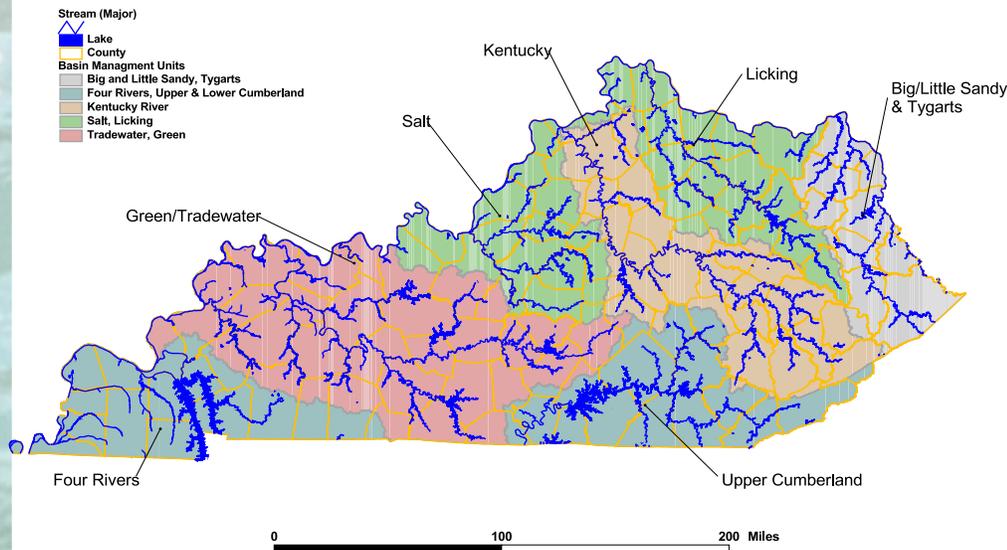
WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that flows off the surface of the land, or soaks into the ground, drains to the same water body. This can be one of several different types of water bodies, such as a channel, stream, river, lake, estuary or ocean. Watersheds can be as small as a few acres draining into a stream or as large as several states draining into a river or ocean. Very large watersheds are often called basins.



The Salt River Basin and the five minor Ohio River tributaries flow through portions of 19 Kentucky counties and drain some 5,200 square miles of land, representing 13% of the state. The main stem of the Salt River is approximately 150 miles long and flows through portions of 15 counties. T

Major River Basins of Kentucky





News from the Salt

Publication of Watershed Management Branch

Events

April 4

The Beargrass Creek Alliance will be removing invasive plants at the Louisville Nature Center beginning at 10am. Be sure to dress for the weather. All necessary tools will be provided. For more information check out the Kentucky Waterways Alliance website at <http://kwalliance.org/>

April 11

The Salt River Watershed Watch has scheduled three training workshops for folks who are interested in becoming new volunteers. The first workshop is Saturday, April 11 in Meade County. To register for a training workshop and for additional information about other training dates and locations contact Jonann Plamer at Joann.Palmer@ky.gov

May 9

Join us for a Project WET and Project Learning Tree workshop Saturday, May 9 at the Olmsted Parks Conservancy. The workshop will run from 9-3:00pm and the cost is \$45. If you would like more information or to register please contact Sarah Wolff at sarah.wolff@olmstedparks.org

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HIGHLIGHTS

We all do this everyday; probably, well hopefully, more than once a day, yet we never think about it? Any guesses... Well, if you answered flush the toilet, than you are correct. Many of the residents in the Salt River Basin, and across Kentucky, live in unsewered areas and rely on septic systems to handle their wastewater. While on-site sewage treatment can be effective, proper installation and maintenance are necessary. In this article written by an expert on the subject matter, Dr. Brad Lee an Extension Specialist with the University of Kentucky, he describes the all important first step to maintaining a septic system, locating it!

LOCATING A SEPTIC SYSTEM

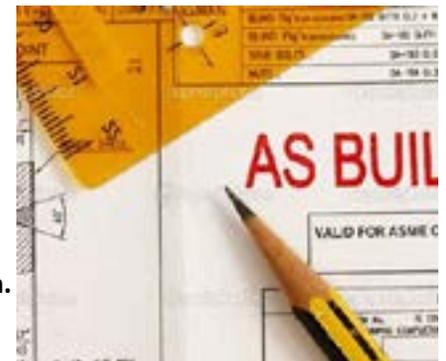
by Brad Lee, PhD

A septic system is commonly made up of two main parts, a septic tank and a soil absorption field. A network of underground pipes via a distribution box or a manifold connects these two parts. Often when new homeowners with little rural living experience move into a house outside of centralized sewer they are unaware they have a septic system and have little idea of where that system is located. It is important for rural homeowners to understand they are responsible for operating and maintaining their septic systems in a safe manner. The first step in knowing how to operate and maintain their septic system is to know where their septic system is and what type of system they have.

Steps to locate your septic tank

Step 1: Obtain a copy of the "as-built" diagram of the septic system

All modern septic systems are required by law to have an "as built" drawing with components and distances from benchmarks noted on the drawing. A copy of this information may be with the information you received when you purchased the house. Alternatively, contact the local health department to determine if they have this information. Once you obtain this information, contact an authorized septic system inspector or septage pumper to service the septic system. If this information is not available, proceed to step 2.



To read the article in full please go to http://water.ky.gov/watershed/Documents/Salt_River/LOCATING_A_SEPTIC_SYSTEM-draft.docx