



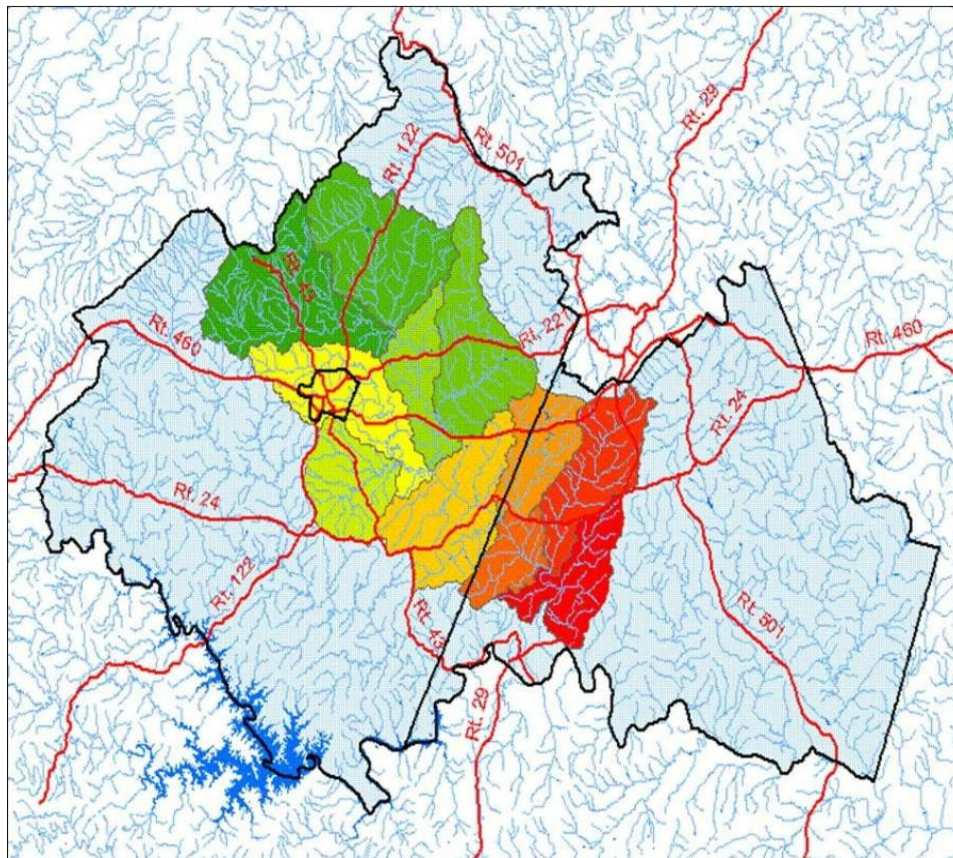
Big Otter River TMDL Cost-Share Program

The Big Otter River has been listed as an impaired waterway in Virginia. The cause of the impairment is the presence of too much fecal coliform bacteria. The bacteria is sourced from three areas: humans, agriculture animals and wildlife. The goal of the program is to reduce levels of bacteria from agricultural animals and humans entering waterways within the Big Otter River watershed. Though the watershed spans two counties, the Peaks of Otter SWCD administers this program for Bedford City and both Bedford and Campbell Counties.

TMDL stands for Total Maximum Daily Load, or the upper limit of pollutants a waterway can receive and still meet the criteria of being suitable for contact recreation by humans. Funding for this program began in 2006 and will be available through the end of 2011. Support for this program is provided through a grant with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, with funding provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Program Eligibility

In order to participate in the Big Otter River TMDL Program, an applicant's property must be located within the watershed and have a current water quality concern that can be address through the program. Residential applicants must have a current malfunctioning on-site sewage disposal system or straight pipe.



Big Otter River Watershed in green, yellow, orange, and red.

Program Guidelines

Most septic repairs involve replacing failed components and, at times, replacing the entire septic system. Options available to the property owner will be determined by their local Health Department. The District provides financial support for the property owner while the Health Department serves as the technical authority. The District can cost-share on-site septic system repairs or replacements only after the Health Department has determined the existing system has failed or a straight pipe exists.

Options available to property owner:

- Connection to public sewer
- Replacement of minor or major system components
- Installation of gravity or pump systems
- Alternative on-site waste treatment systems

Cost-share amounts:

- 50% standard cost-share on approved septic systems
- Increased cost-share is available to lower income families based on their adjusted gross income compared to the median family income for the property owner's residence locality

Application Process

- Contact the District to see if your property is located within the BOR TMDL Watershed.
- Contact your local Health Department to obtain a permit for work to be completed
- Sign the State Cost-share application at the District Office

The state application must be signed prior to construction beginning

Septic System Resources

[Link to POSWCD Residential TMDL Policy](#)
[Virginia Cooperative Extension](#)

offers many publications to help you understand the many different designs available to the property owner as well as septic system maintenance tips.

