

SOUTH BRANCH ROOT RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

Financial Assistance Programs

SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT LOANS

The purpose of this program is to replace existing septic systems that are malfunctioning and releasing pathogens and excess nutrients into streams and ground water. Milkhouse waste systems are also eligible. Improperly treated sewage has bacteria and other organisms that can cause illness and disease in humans. Average concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria in the South Branch of the Root River and its tributaries from 1999 to 2002 were two to ten times higher than the water quality standard. As many as 40% of the wells in the watershed may have bacteria present based on Fillmore County statistics. Drinking water should have no bacteria present to be safe for drinking.



Replace this (left)

With this (below)



Project Sponsors:
Fillmore County
Mower County

- In the South Branch Root River Watershed Project area, there are an estimated 394 rural households. Of these, 63 have permits on record since 1996 for new septic systems, leaving 331 that could potentially be polluting.
- Septic systems that are an imminent public health threat due to sewage being discharged directly to the land's surface must be corrected within 10 months of being identified according to current rules.

- Only replacement of existing systems is allowed. Systems with new home construction are not eligible.
- Loans of up to \$7,500 for trench systems or \$10,500 for mound or at-grade systems are available for ten years at 4% interest in Fillmore County and at 3% interest in Mower County.
- Property taxes must be current and the loan applicant must own the property.
- Loans are placed as a special assessment on the property taxes and are recorded as a lien on the property.
- Loans must be paid off if the property is sold or refinanced.

SOUTH BRANCH ROOT RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

Fillmore County Zoning Office
P.O. Box 655
Fillmore County Courthouse
Preston, MN 55965
(507) 765-3325

Mower Environmental Services
1105-1/2 NE 8th Ave.
Austin, MN 55912
(507) 437-9527