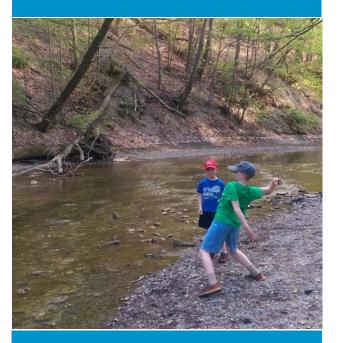
## DID YOU KNOW???

- There are nearly 11,000 Home Sewage Treatment Systems, often called Septic Systems, in Cuyahoga County, and over 235,000 in Northeast Ohio.
- According to a 2013 report by the Ohio Department of Health, 38% of the Home Sewage Treatment Systems in Northeast Ohio are failing.
- According to the same 2013 report, 49% of discharging systems the most common type of system in Cuyahoga County are failing. Discharging systems lack a leach field, instead discharging directly to the environment after passing through a septic tank or other form of pretreatment.
- Failing Home Sewage Treatment Systems pollute our water with <u>bacteria</u>, <u>phosphorus and household chemicals</u>.
- Properly maintaining your Home Sewage Treatment System contributes to the health of our <u>water</u>, <u>families and</u> communities.

Look inside for tips on how you can Do Your Part - Be Septic Smart!



## Failing Septic Systems Pollute Our Water



Do Your Part -Be Septic Smart!



Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit No.
3666

## op 10 Ways to

- a qualified professional or according to your state/ Have your system inspected every three years by local health department's recommendations
- Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years
- Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain
- (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead Discard non-degradable products in the trash of flushing them

SAM

- Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank
- Follow the system manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives
- Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system
- Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains
- Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low- or phosphate-free
- inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area) Prevent system freezing during cold weather by

For more SepticSmart tips, visit www.epa.gov/septicsmart



