

Protecting Drinking Water Through Septic Infrastructure Management in Northwood, NH

Septic Outreach Survey
Results

STRAFFORD
Regional Planning Commission

RESPONSE RATE

Septic Outreach Survey Results

SEPTIC SURVEY RESPONSE RATE

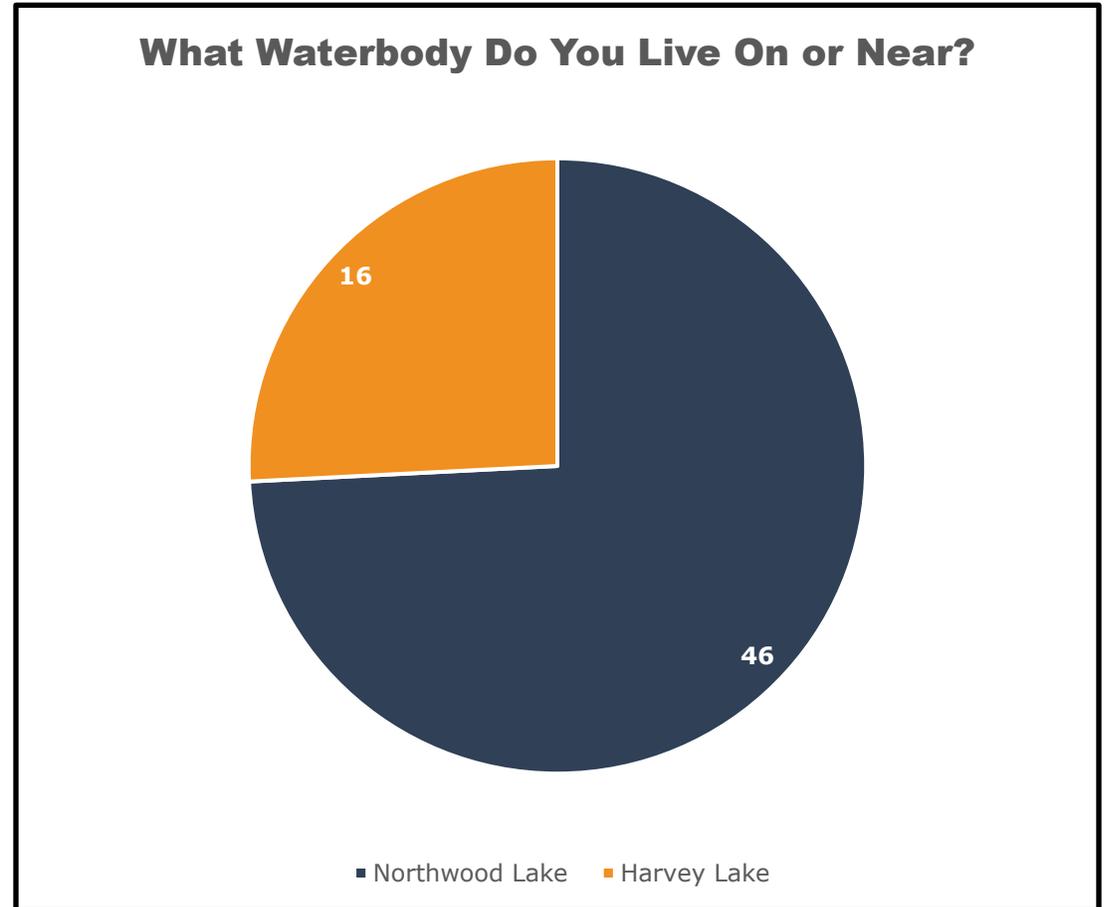
- 341 developed parcels within the study area
- 62 survey responses received
- 18% response rate

GENERAL INFORMATION

Septic Outreach Survey Results

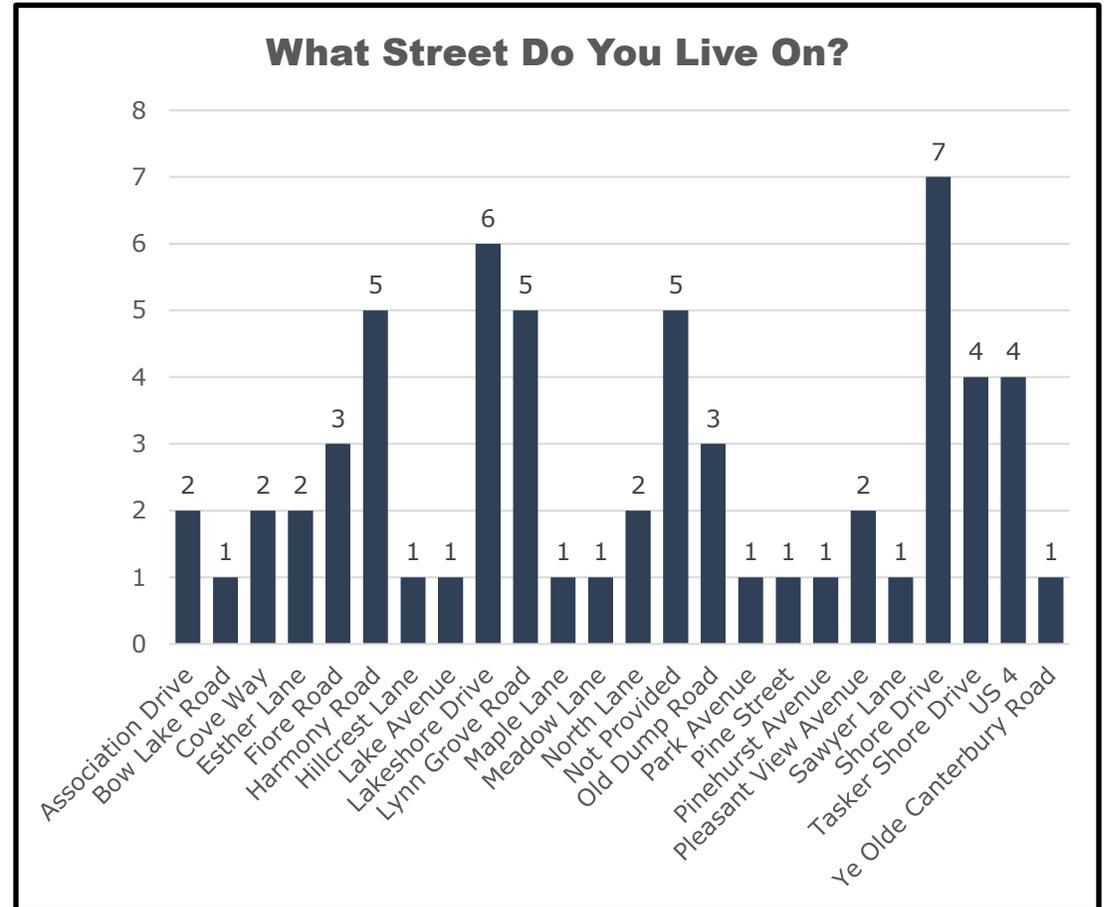
WHAT WATERBODY DO YOU LIVE ON OR NEAR?

What Waterbody Do You Live On or Near?	
Waterbody	Count
Northwood Lake	46
Harvey Lake	16
Total	62



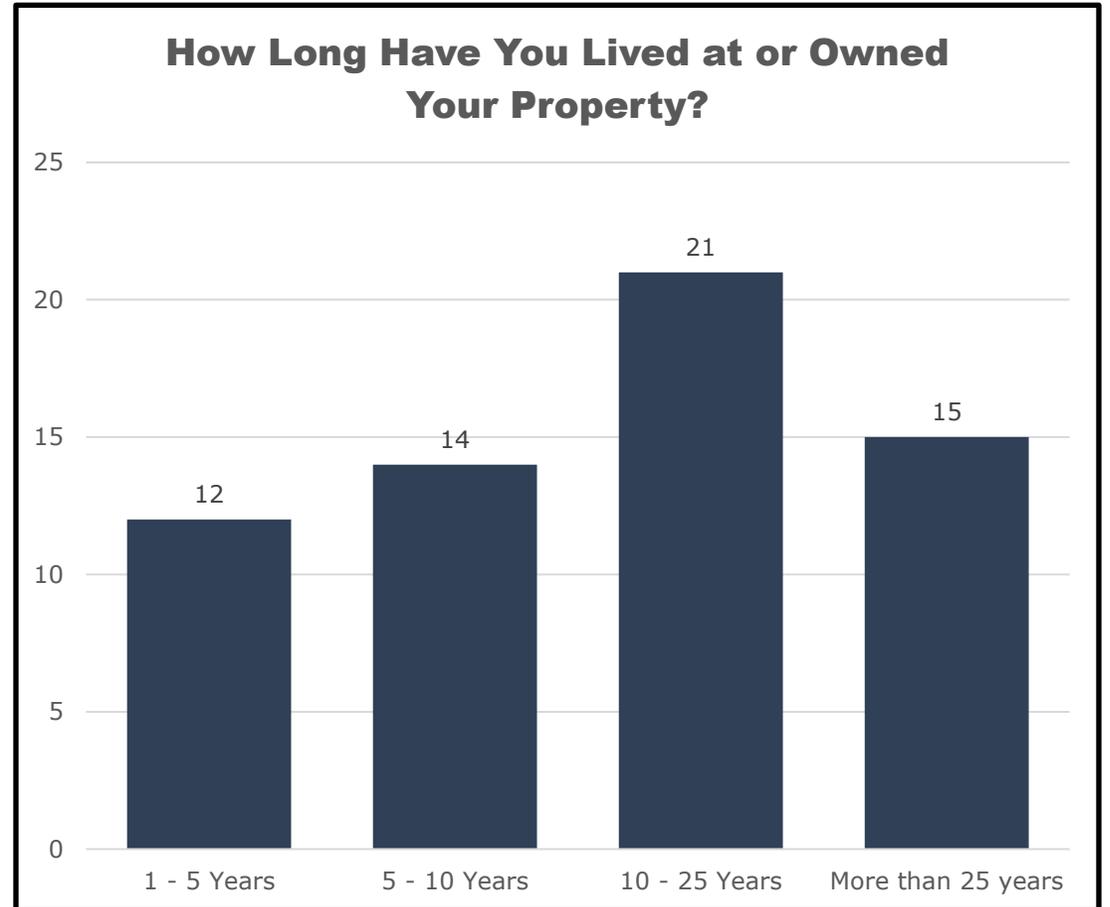
WHAT STREET DO YOU LIVE ON?

What Street Do You Live On?	
Street	Count
Association Drive	2
Bow Lake Road	1
Cove Way	2
Esther Lane	2
Fiore Road	3
Harmony Road	5
Hillcrest Lane	1
Lake Avenue	1
Lakeshore Drive	6
Lynn Grove Road	5
Maple Lane	1
Meadow Lane	1
North Lane	2
Not Provided	5
Old Dump Road	3
Park Avenue	1
Pine Street	1
Pinehurst Avenue	1
Pleasant View Avenue	2
Sawyer Lane	1
Shore Drive	7
Tasker Shore Drive	4
US 4	4
Ye Olde Canterbury Road	1
Total	62



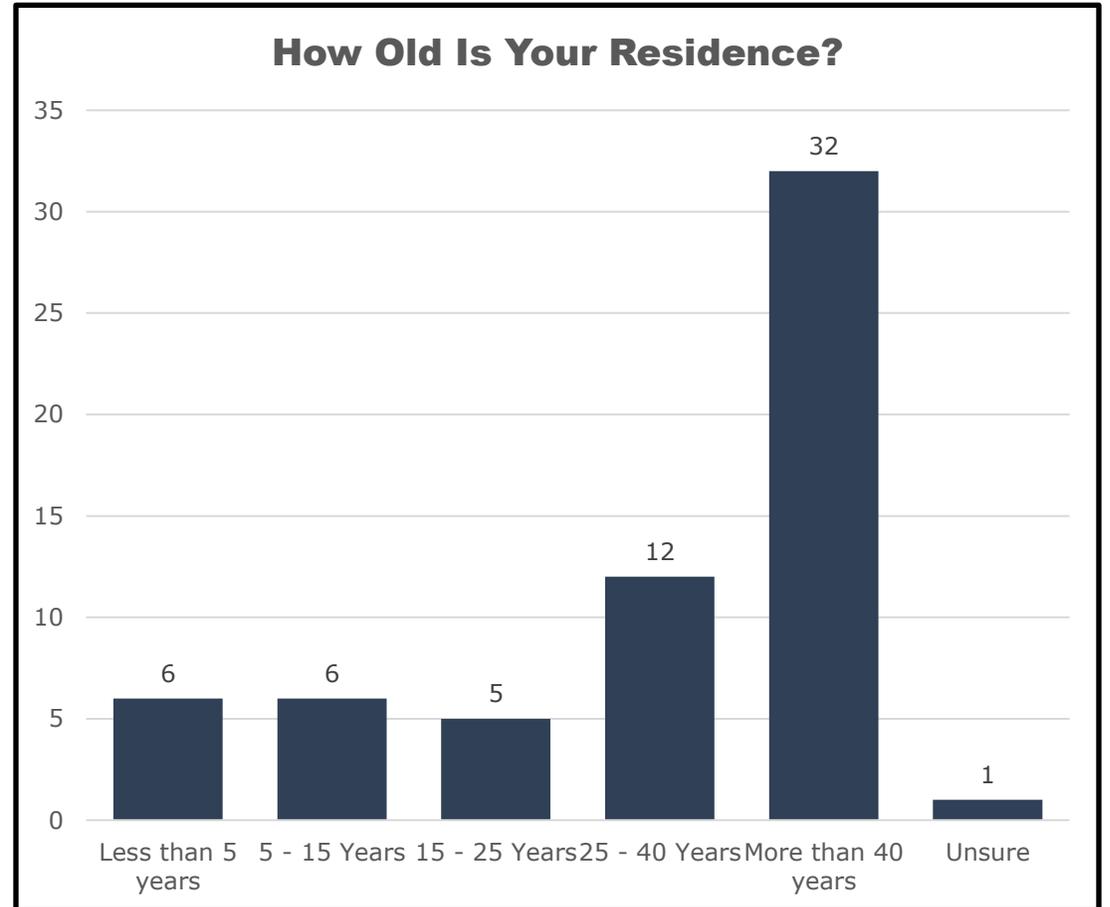
HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AT OR OWNED YOUR PROPERTY?

How Long Have You Lived at or Owned Your Property?	
Years	Count
1 - 5 Years	12
5 - 10 Years	14
10 - 25 Years	21
More than 25 years	15
Total	62



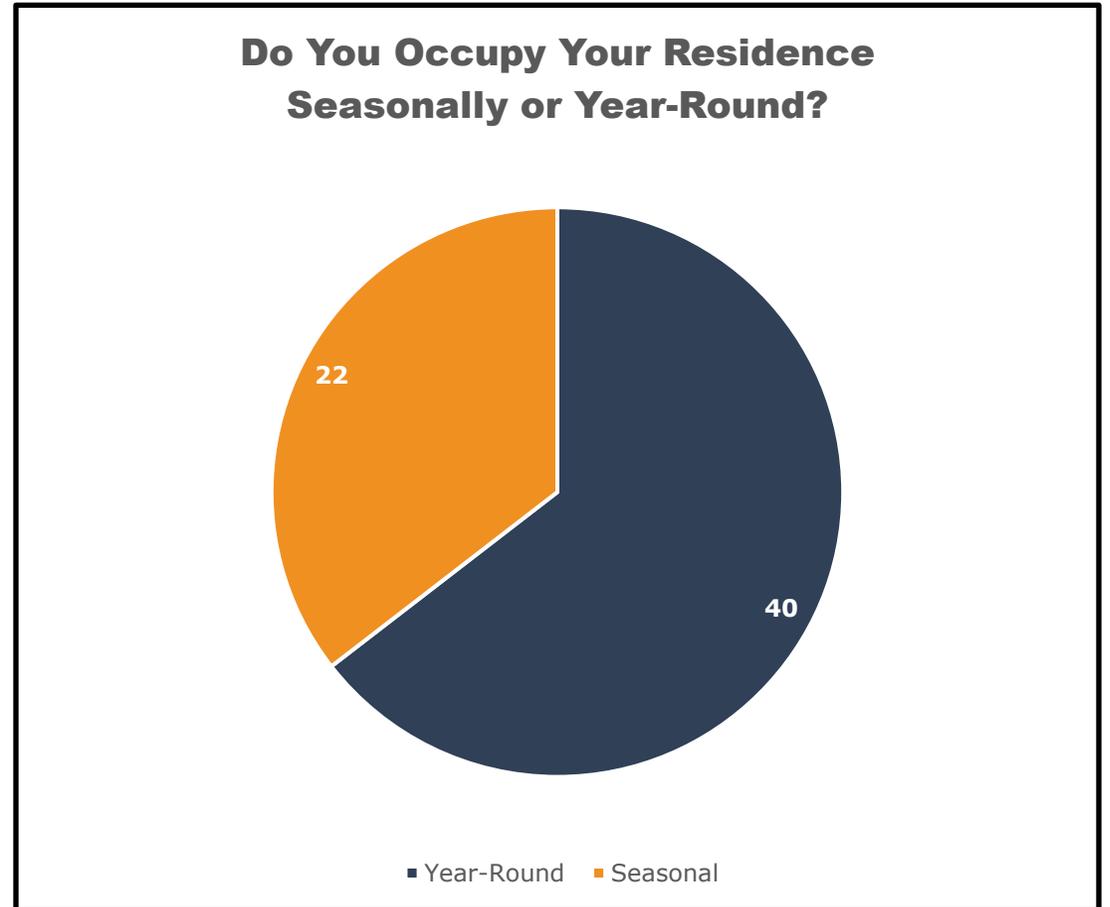
HOW OLD IS YOUR RESIDENCE?

How Old Is Your Residence?	
Age	Count
Less than 5 years	6
5 - 15 Years	6
15 - 25 Years	5
25 - 40 Years	12
More than 40 years	32
Unsure	1
Total	62



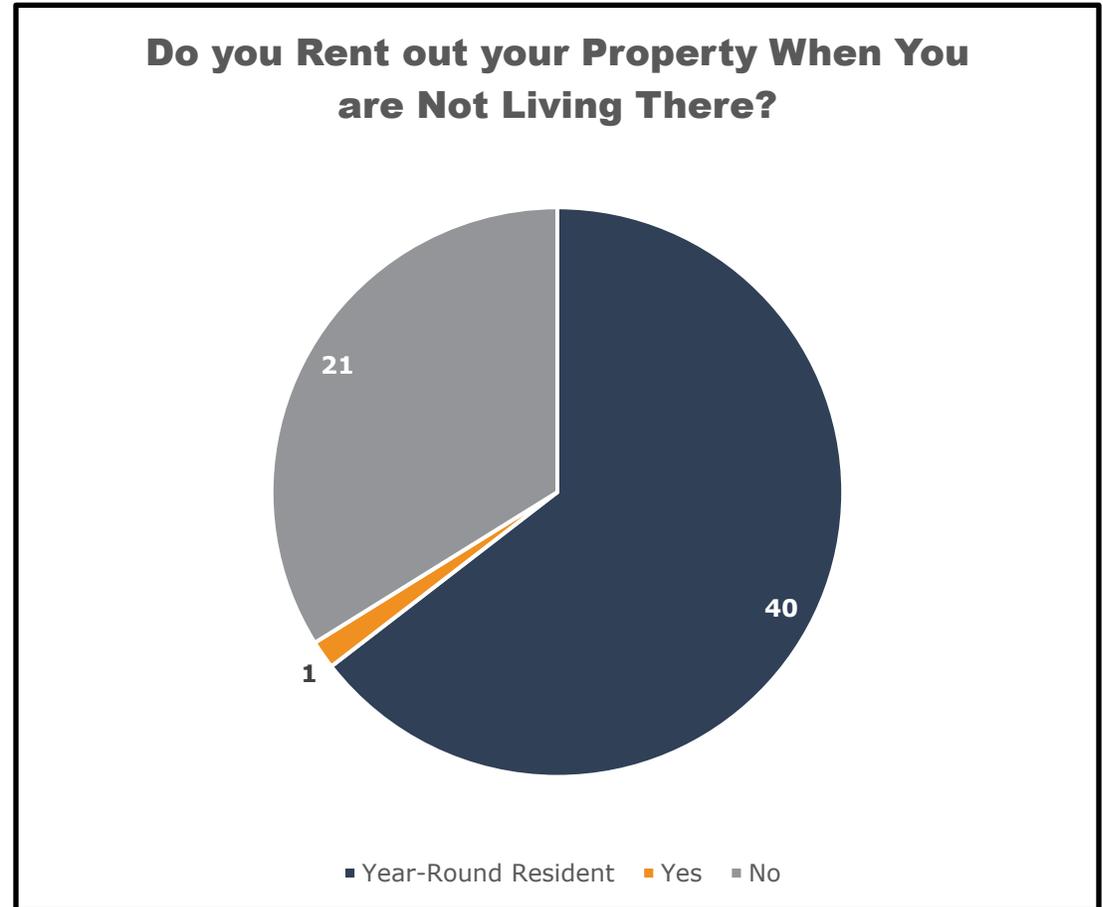
DO YOU OCCUPY YOUR RESIDENCE SEASONALLY OR YEAR-ROUND?

Do You Occupy Your Residence Seasonally or Year-Round?	
Answer	Count
Year-Round	40
Seasonal	22
Total	62



DO YOU RENT OUT YOUR PROPERTY WHEN YOU ARE NOT LIVING THERE?

Do you Rent out your Property When You are Not Living There?	
Answer	Count
Year-Round Resident	40
Yes	1
No	21
Total	62

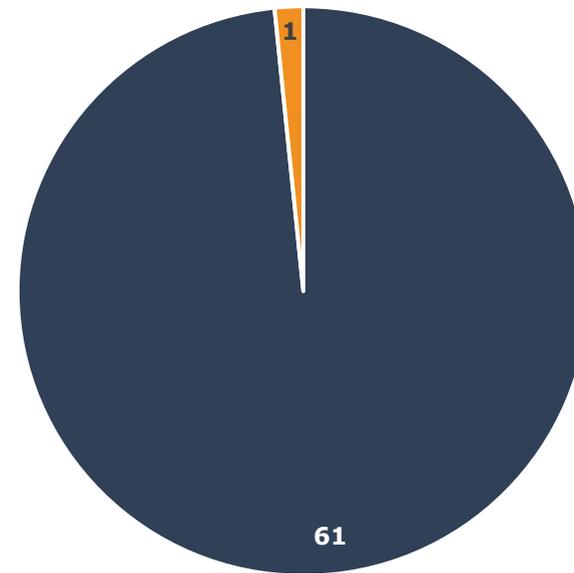


APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY WEEKS OF THE YEAR DO YOU RENT YOUR PROPERTY?

Approximately How Many Weeks of the Year do you Rent Your Property?

Answer	Count
0 Weeks	61
6 months	1
Total	62

Approximately How Many Weeks of the Year do you Rent Your Property?



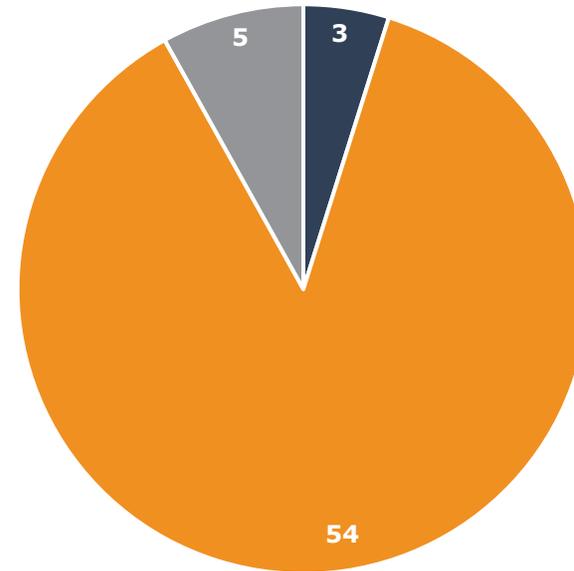
■ 0 Weeks ■ 6 months

DO YOU HAVE ANY ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADU) ON THE PROPERTY?

Do You Have an Accessory Dwelling Unity (ADU) on the Property?

Answer	Count
Yes	3
No	54
No Response	5
Total	62

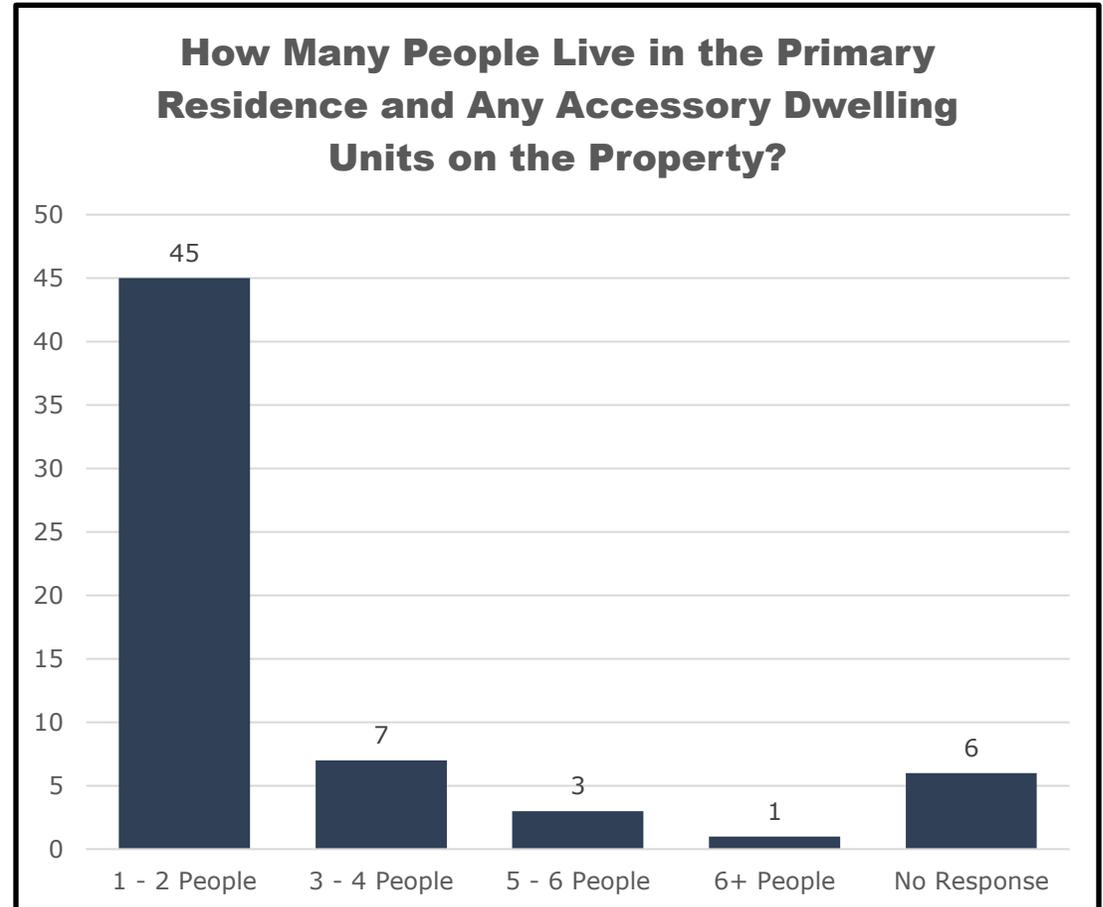
Do You Have an Accessory Dwelling Unity (ADU) on the Property?



■ Yes ■ No ■ No Response

HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN THE PRIMARY RESIDENCE AND ANY ADU'S ON THE PROPERTY?

How Many People Live in the Primary Residence and Any Accessory Dwelling Units on the Property?	
# of People	Count
1 - 2 People	45
3 - 4 People	7
5 - 6 People	3
6+ People	1
No Response	6
Total	62

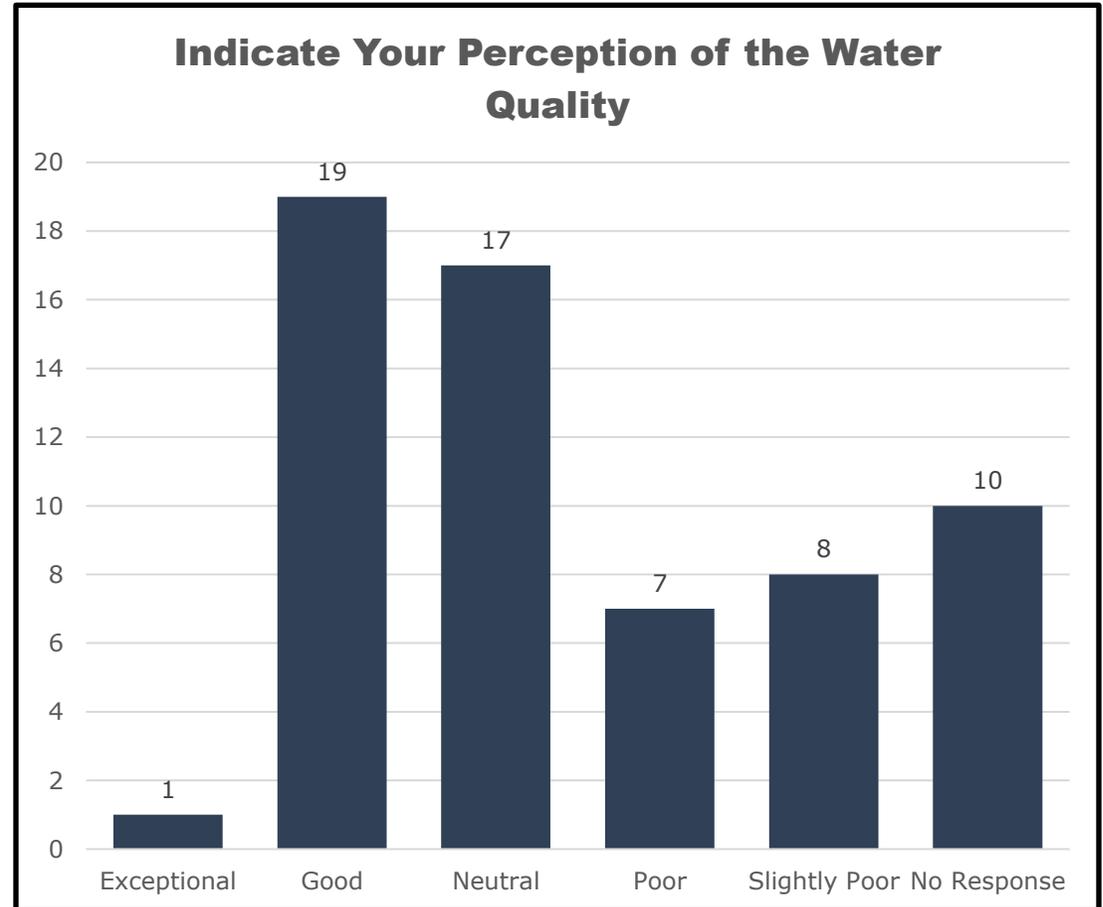


WATERBODY WATER QUALITY

Septic Outreach Survey Results

INDICATE YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE WATER QUALITY

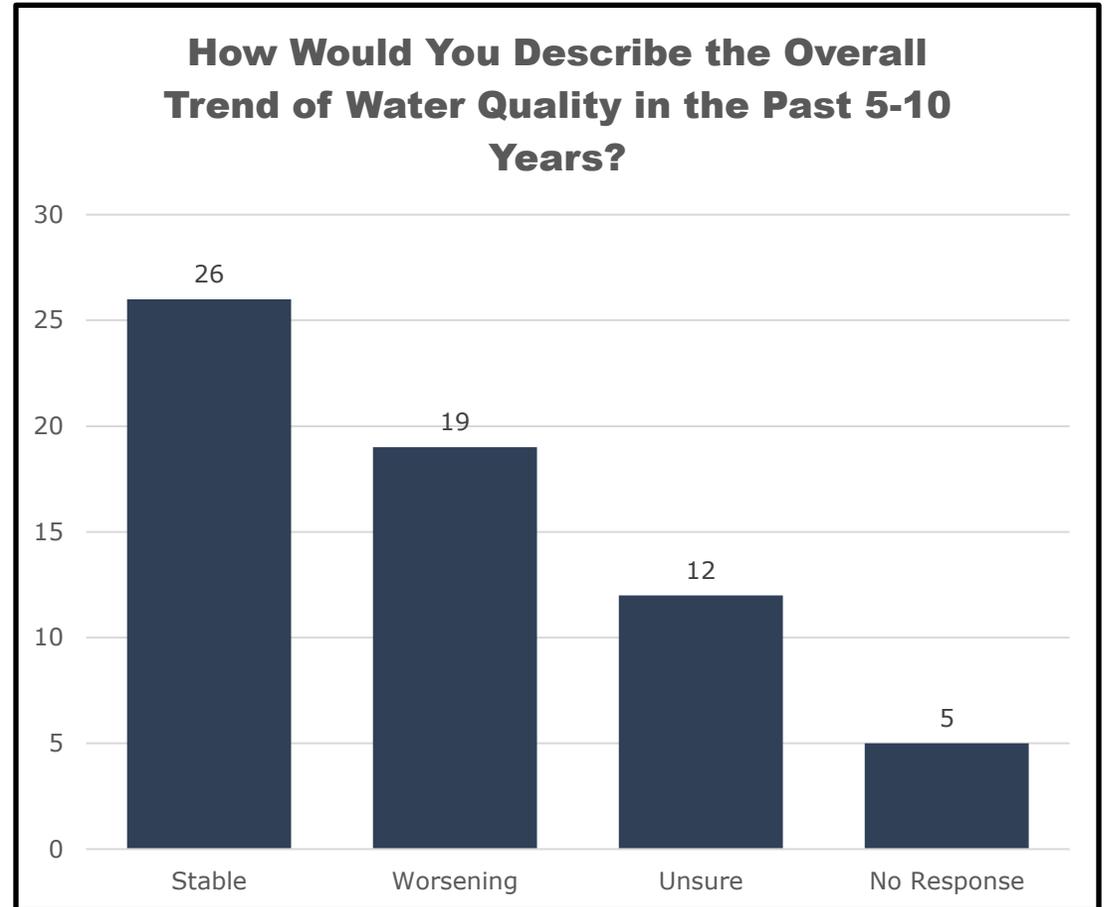
Indicate Your Perception of the Water Quality	
Answer	Count
Exceptional	1
Good	19
Neutral	17
Poor	7
Slightly Poor	8
No Response	10
Total	62



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE OVERALL TREND OF WATER QUALITY IN THE PAST 5-10 YEARS?

How Would You Describe the Overall Trend of Water Quality in the Past 5-10 Years?

Answer	Count
Stable	26
Worsening	19
Unsure	12
No Response	5
Total	62



PROPERTY WASTEWATER SYSTEM

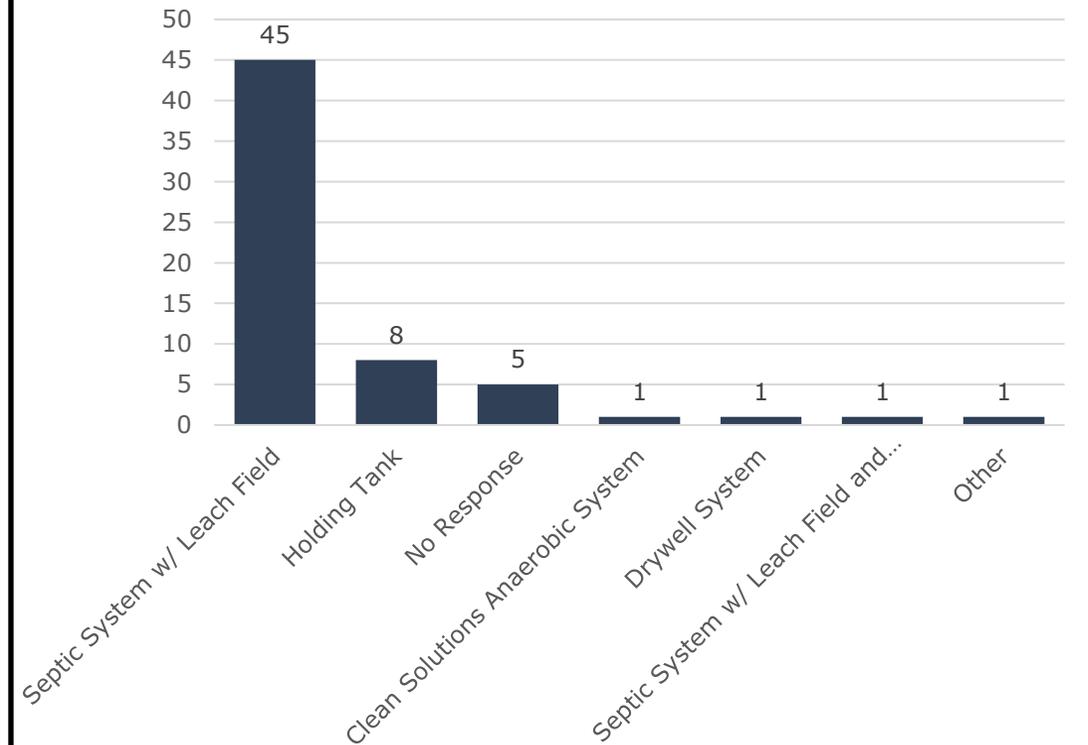
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WHAT TYPE(S) OF WASTEWATER SYSTEM(S) ARE ON YOUR PROPERTY?

Check the Type(s) of Wastewater System(s) on Your Property

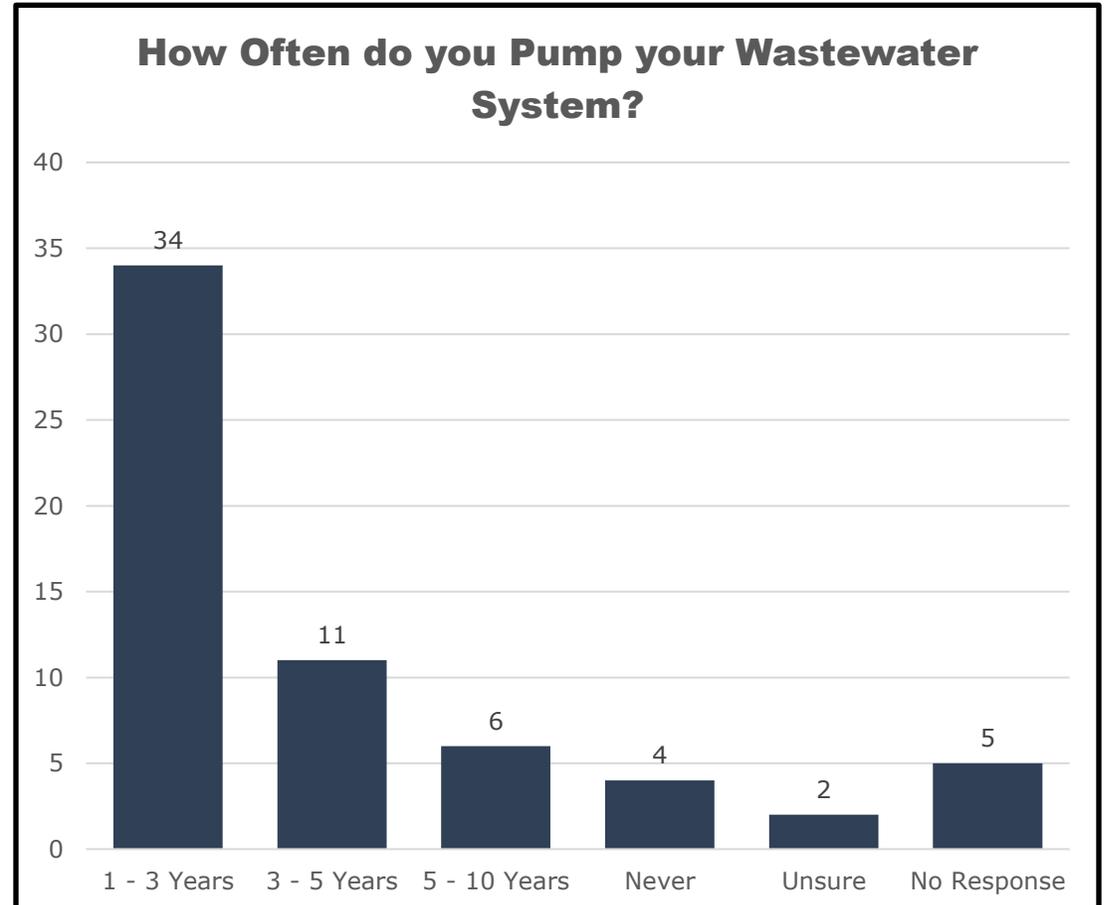
Wastewater System Type	Count
Septic System w/ Leach Field	45
Holding Tank	8
No Response	5
Clean Solutions Anaerobic System	1
Drywell System	1
Septic System w/ Leach Field and Composting Toilet	1
Other	1
Total	62

Check the Type(s) of Wastewater System(s) on Your Property



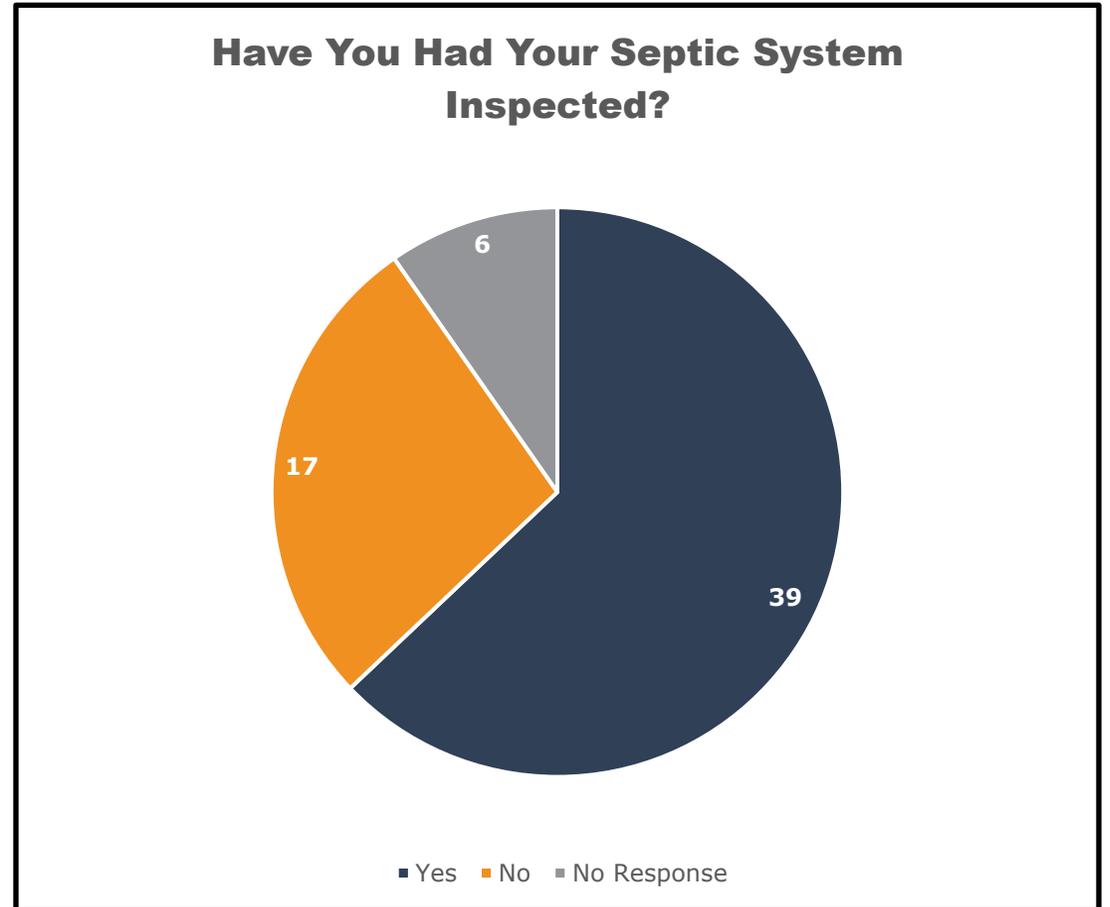
HOW OFTEN DO YOU PUMP YOUR WASTEWATER SYSTEM?

How Often do you Pump your Wastewater System?	
Answer	Count
1 - 3 Years	34
3 - 5 Years	11
5 - 10 Years	6
Never	4
Unsure	2
No Response	5
Total	62



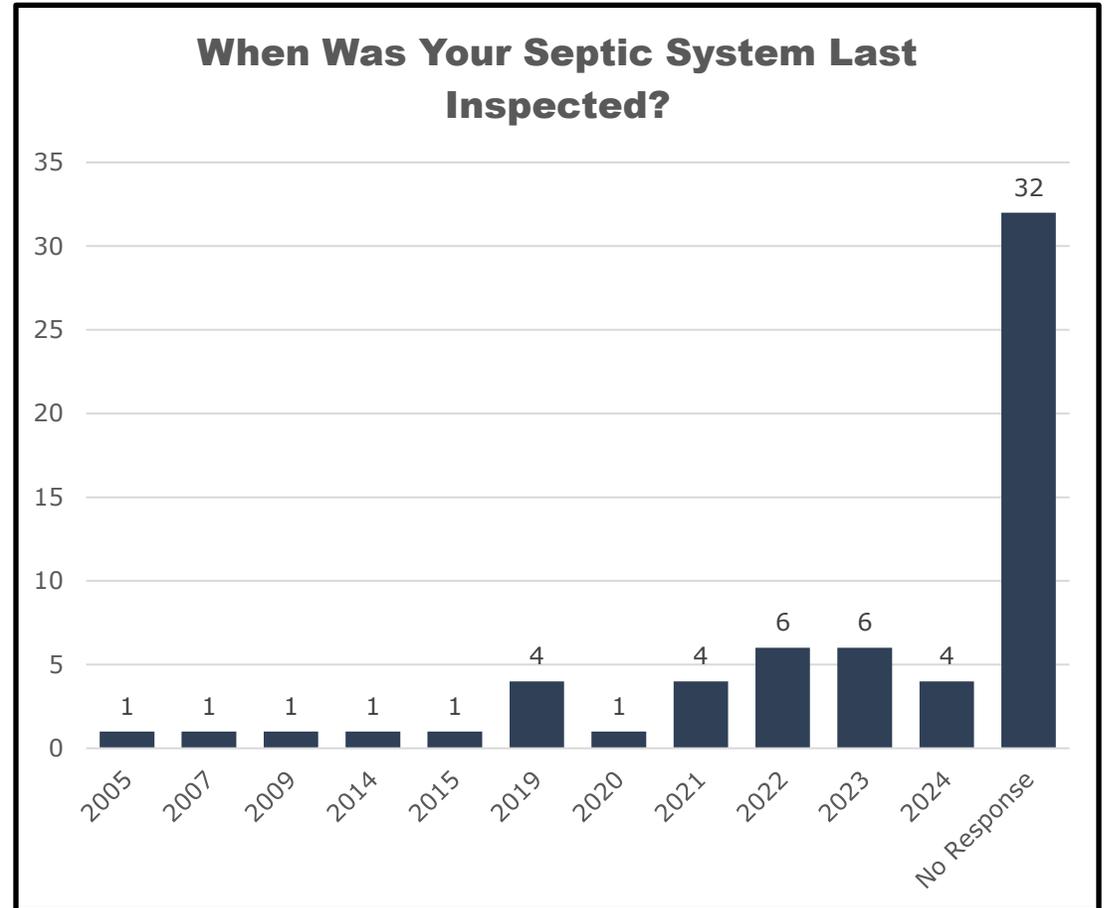
HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTED?

Have You Had Your Septic System Inspected?	
Answer	Count
Yes	39
No	17
No Response	6
Total	62



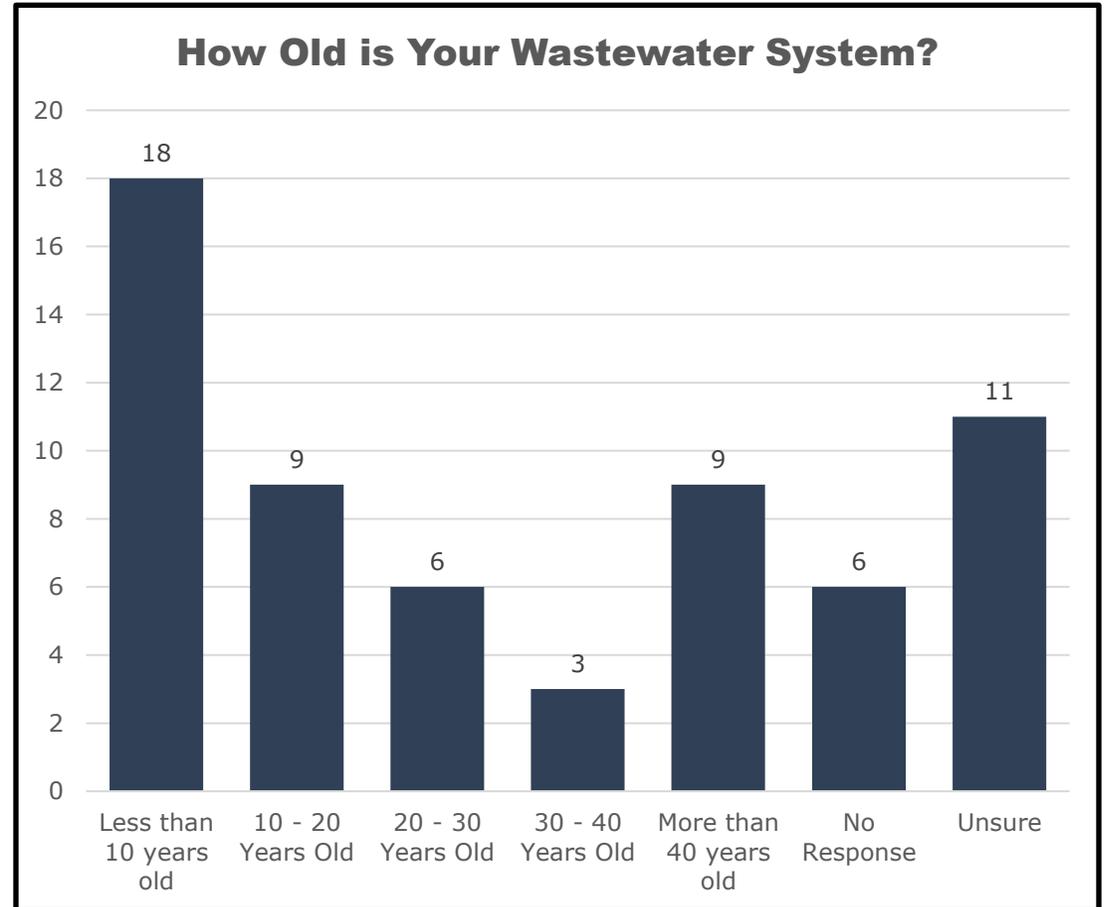
WHEN WAS YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM LAST INSPECTED?

When Was Your Septic System Last Inspected?	
Answer	Count
2005	1
2007	1
2009	1
2014	1
2015	1
2019	4
2020	1
2021	4
2022	6
2023	6
2024	4
No Response	32
Total	62



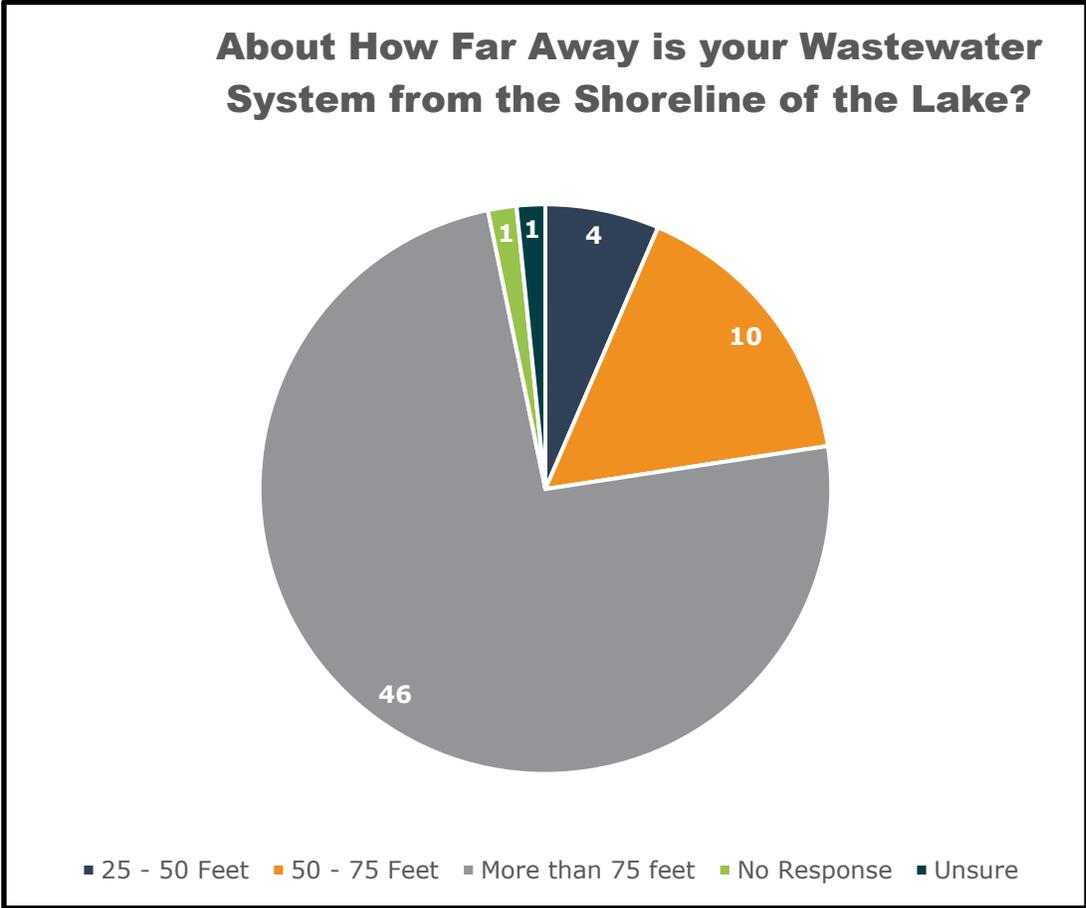
HOW OLD IS YOUR WASTEWATER SYSTEM?

How Old is Your Wastewater System?	
Answer	Count
Less than 10 years old	18
10 - 20 Years Old	9
20 - 30 Years Old	6
30 - 40 Years Old	3
More than 40 years old	9
No Response	6
Unsure	11
Total	62



ABOUT HOW FAR AWAY IS YOUR WASTEWATER SYSTEM FROM THE SHORELINE OF THE LAKE?

About How Far Away is your Wastewater System from the Shoreline of the Lake?	
Answer	Count
25 - 50 Feet	4
50 - 75 Feet	10
More than 75 feet	46
No Response	1
Unsure	1
Total	62

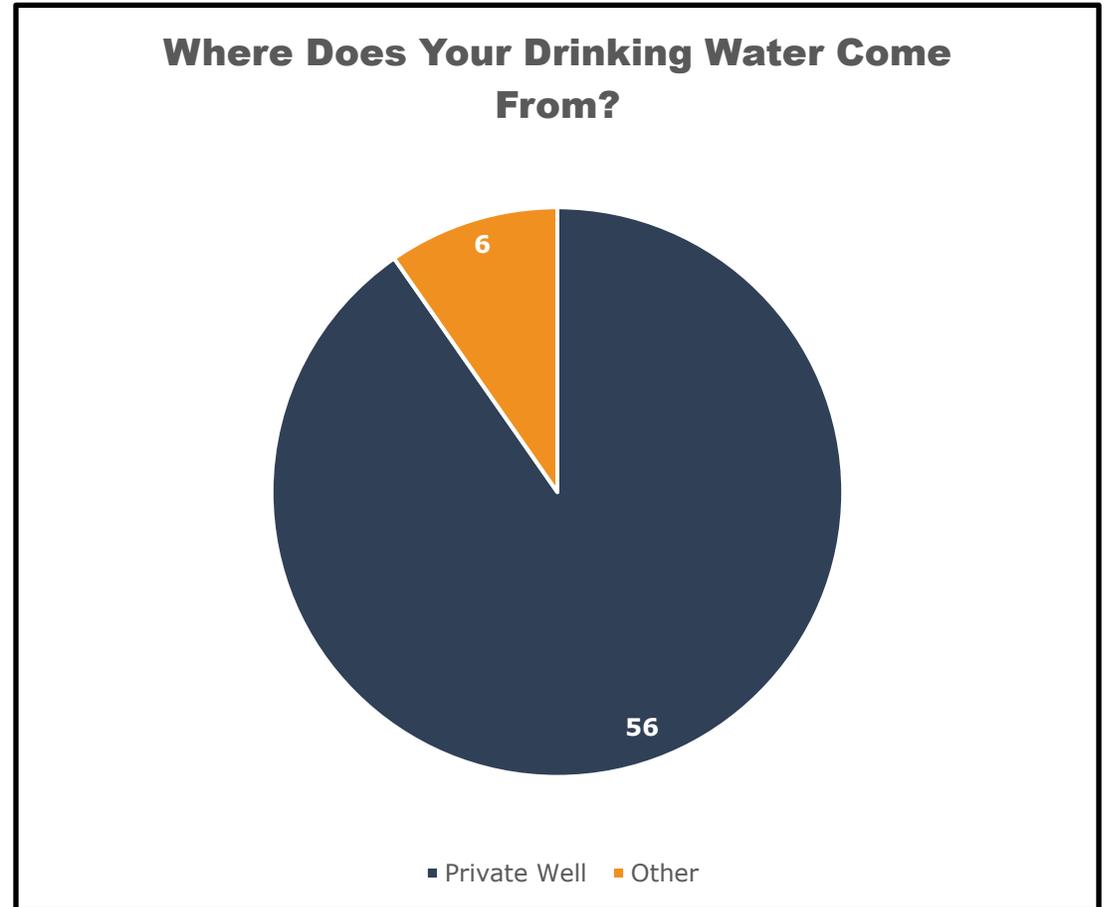


DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS

Septic Outreach Survey Results

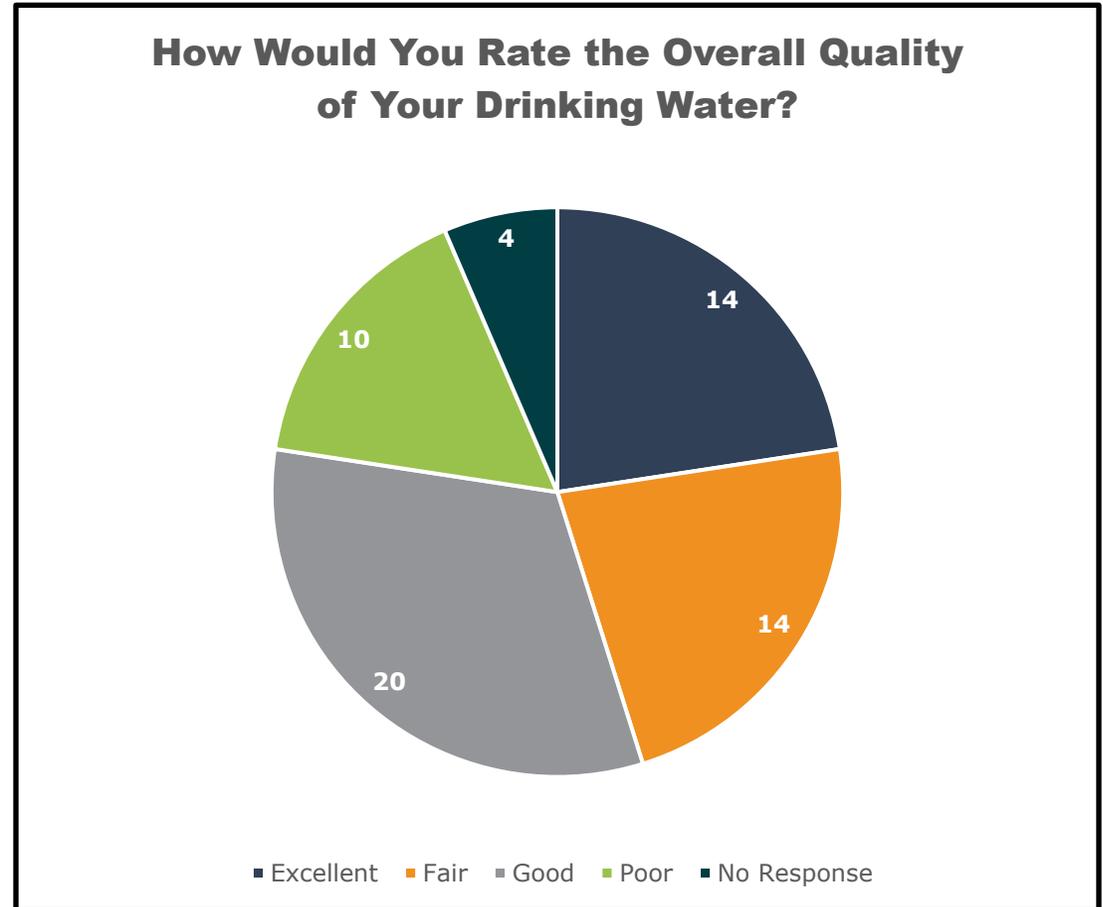
WHERE DOES YOUR DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?	
Answer	Count
Private Well	56
Other	6
Total	62



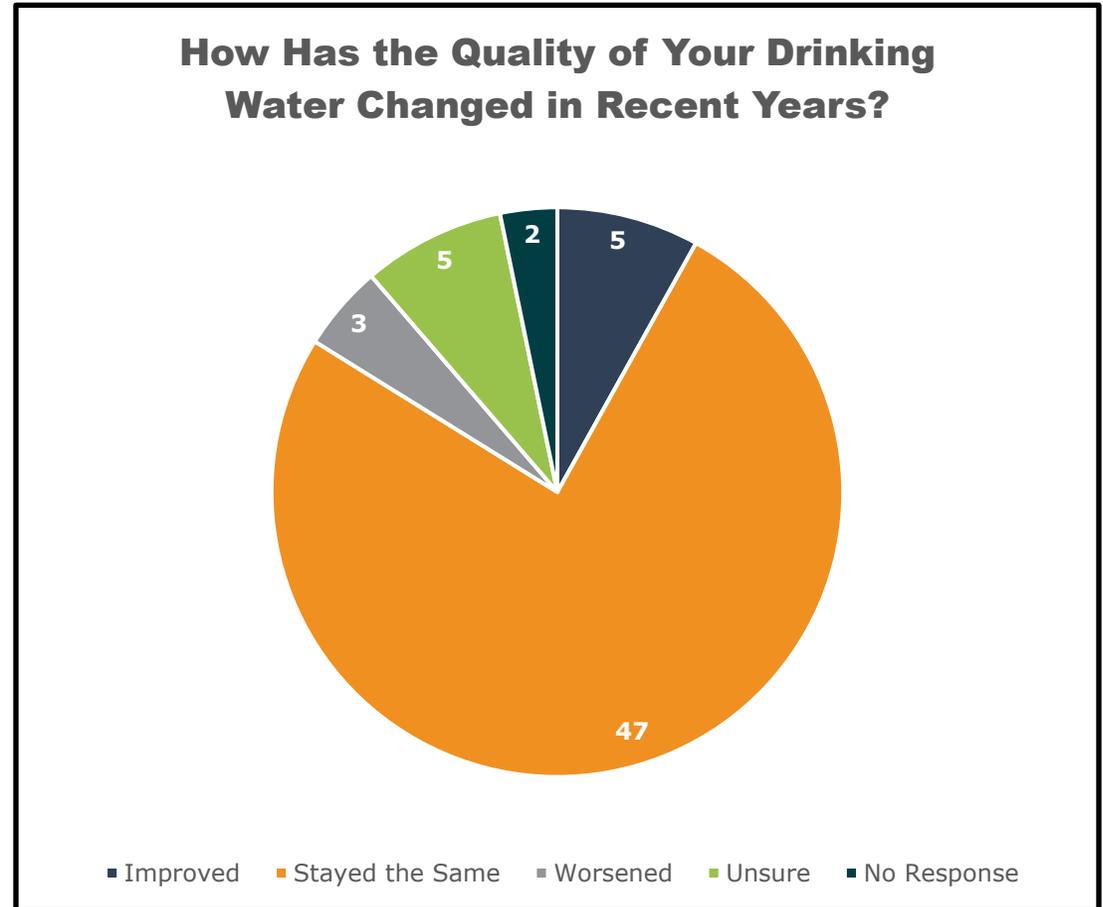
HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE OVERALL QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER?

How Would You Rate the Overall Quality of Your Drinking Water?	
Answer	Count
Excellent	14
Fair	14
Good	20
Poor	10
No Response	4
Total	62



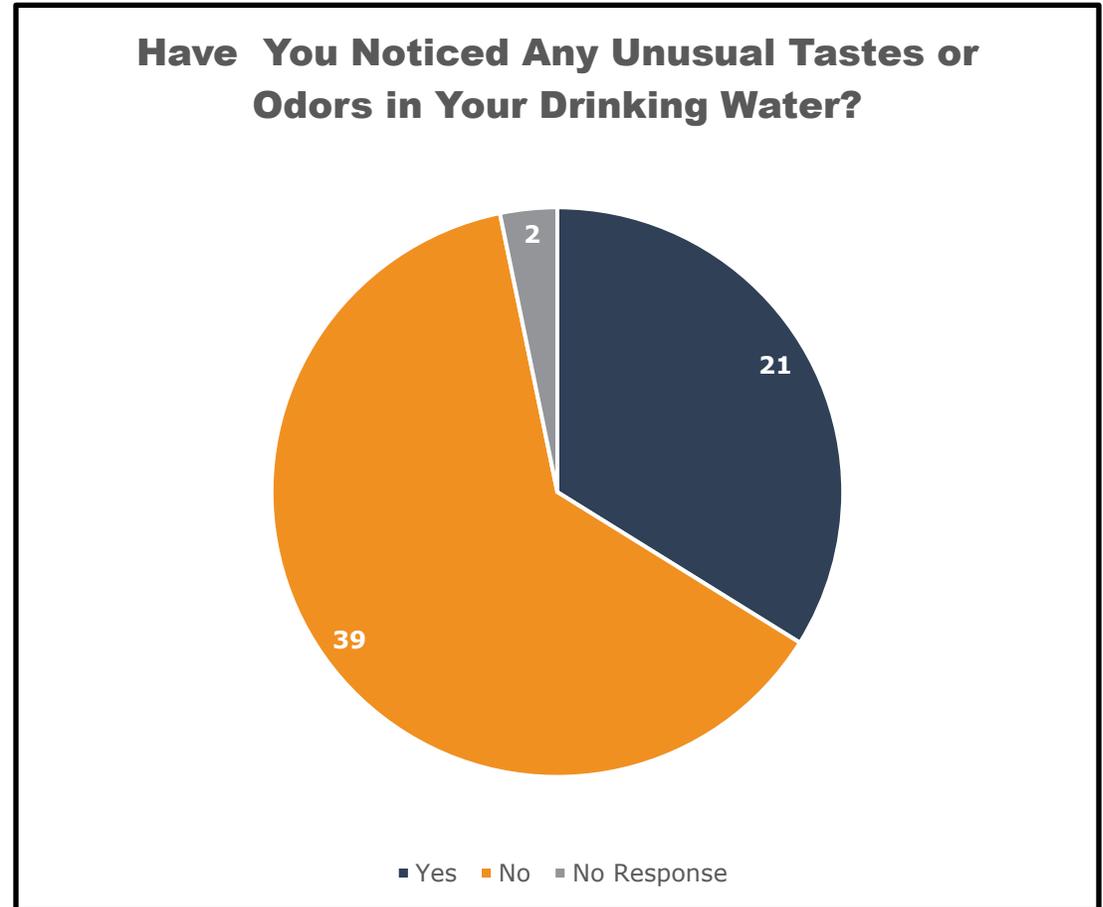
HOW HAS THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER CHANGED IN RECENT YEARS?

How Has the Quality of Your Drinking Water Changed in Recent Years?	
Answer	Count
Improved	5
Stayed the Same	47
Worsened	3
Unsure	5
No Response	2
Total	62



HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY UNUSUAL TASTES OR ODORS IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Have You Noticed Any Unusual Tastes or Odors in Your Drinking Water?	
Answer	Count
Yes	21
No	39
No Response	2
Total	62



FEEDBACK FROM OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS

Septic Outreach Survey Results

WHAT UNUSUAL TASTES OR ODORS HAVE YOU NOTICED IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

- 1 respondent indicated a **Metallic** smell/taste.
- 2 respondents indicated they have **Iron** in their drinking water.
- 2 respondents indicated they have **Manganese** in their drinking water.
- 3 respondents indicated they have a “**Rotten Egg Smell**”
- 1 respondent indicated they have **Sulfur** in their drinking water.
- 1 respondent indicated they have **Sulfur and Iron** in their drinking water.
- 1 respondent indicated they have a **treatment softener**.
- 1 respondent indicated they have a **filtration system that does not help**.

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK, INFORMATION, OR COMMENTS.

- Key Takeaway – Comments here were across the spectrum.
 - Many say they have had their drinking water tested and it is perfectly drinkable.
 - Many say they have had their drinking water tested and it is NOT drinkable.
- I have included all comments to this question on the following slides:

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK, INFORMATION, OR COMMENTS.

- “Did install water filtration system to take out iron.”
- “Had new septic system put in in 2023. NH State also approved new system.”
- “Had the water tested and it is drinkable.”
- “Had well water tested in 2023, quality was excellent.”
- “Hard to explain. Have to run faucet water a bit to get clear.”
- “Heavy Magnesium.”
- “I bought this house in November of 2023. I had renters for the winter and I returned from Florida in May. When I purchased this house the water did have a strange smell like sulfur. I took a sample down to McBrides in Epsom, and they said it was safe to drink but due to the smell I don’t drink it. The smell only appears if I go away for the weekend and then return. This house is an older house so when I come back in May from Florida I’ll have it looked at again.”
- “I do not have a well. We use lake water for shower and toilet and kitchen sink. Live there 30 weeks per year. Wastewater system is pumped 3 times each summer and is inspected every time it is pumped.”

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK, INFORMATION, OR COMMENTS.

- "I have a large filter system on my drinking water. Lots of iron."
- "I have recently installed a water cleansing/purifying system in my house so that the rotten egg smell is no longer an issue."
- "Installed new water softener and filter and the water still smells really bad. We do not drink the water. We occupy the property every weekend."
- "Lake has had more cyanobacteria in the past two years than any other years."
- "Leach field is about 200 feet from lake."
- "New Fugi Clean septic installed Nov 2021."
- "New septic system installed in 2021. New well drilled in 2023 and water filtration system installed in 2023 as well."
- "Road and housing developments uphill (inland) from Fiore Rd have caused massive wastewater floods to wash out shoreline lots nearly every springtime for the last five to ten years. A ditch and settling pond system is desperately needed along the southern side of Fiore Rd to treat this runoff."

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK, INFORMATION, OR COMMENTS.

- “Septic was installed in 1973, but there is no as-built at Town Hall. Thus, we don't know exactly where the tank and leach field is. Tentative plans to tear down and build a new home here in 2025. If that happens, septic system will be replaced.”
- “Tested for arsenic.”
- “The occurrence of cyanobacteria seems to be increasing and needs to be addressed.”
- “Three (3) new septic systems installed by adjacent properties in past two (2) years.”
- “Water is high in iron so we don’t drink it. Only coffee after boiling for the press.”
- “We are a 27 unit cooperative called Loon Estates. Within the last year we have had 4 new leach fields installed with many new septic tanks and pumps (only one fairly newer system remained.) Presently share an older well system with typical Northwood water (high in iron and manganese) but having a new well drilled within the next 6 months. All this done through government loans and grants.”
- “We do not drink the water. We bring bottled water to drink.”
- “We do not use our well for drinking. We are not sure of the quality.”
- “We had a water purification system installed in 2019.”

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK, INFORMATION, OR COMMENTS.

- “We have a water softener system that removes the iron, particles, and sets the pH to 7. Our septic sets on the original grade level, and the leach field is 5-gallon boxes buried in sand above the original grade.”
- “We have owned the property for five years and completely rebuilt the house 1 year ago.”
- “We use two different grades of sediment filters for the incoming water (20 micron then 5 micron). We then have a purifying ceramic filter for drinking water which we then finally run through a Brita pitcher. For the shower we use a 12+ stage filter at the shower head. We occasionally test our water quality either through kits or through the state testing lab.”
- “We were told not to drink the water when we bought the house. It has high iron & magnesium which is known to cause neurological shakes. We do not drink it. We bought a cooler and keep 5-gallon jugs of water in it from another source.”