

**Park Rapids, Minn. (9-23-2013) — Learn how proper septic system care can save you money**

Proper septic system operation and maintenance can save homeowners money while protecting the environment. With proper maintenance, septic systems can effectively treat wastewater for 20, 30, or more years. Improper maintenance can lead to system failure and the need for expensive repairs in 10 years or less. It is much cheaper to pump a septic tank on a regular basis, monitor water use, and regulate products that go down the drain than it is to replace a septic system drain field.

Properly designed, constructed, operated, and maintained septic systems reduce the levels of fecal coliform bacteria and nutrients discharged into our streams and groundwater. Elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria from human wastes are of special concern due to potential human health risks.

A free Septic System Care (Septic System Homeowner Operation and Maintenance Education, HOME) workshop will be offered on the morning of **Saturday, October 5**. The one and one-half hour workshop begins at **9:00 a.m.** and will be held at the **Northwoods Bank Basement Conference Room, 1200 East First Street, [Hwy 34E] Park Rapids, MN.**

This workshop is offered through the University of Minnesota Extension, Watershed Education Program and is sponsored by Hubbard County Extension. For more information contact Sally Shearer, Hubbard County Extension at 218-732-3391 or [sshearer@umn.edu](mailto:sshearer@umn.edu).

Pre-Registration is requested; walk-ins are welcomed.

-----

**Source: Eleanor Burkett, Extension educator/specialist in water resources, U of M Extension Regional Office, Brainerd, MN (218)828-2326, [burke044@umn.edu](mailto:burke044@umn.edu).**

*University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.*