



Septic Assistance Program (SAP)

The Ottawa Conservation District holds a grant for a septic assistance program in the Bass River and Deer Creek watersheds. Bass River and Deer Creek have both been documented by the Michigan DEQ as having excessive E. coli concentrations. This means there is bacteria in the water at concentrations that could sicken humans. Specially trained canines identified the presence of human waste (a source of E. coli bacteria) in numerous locations in both of these areas during the summer of 2014 (**Figures 1 and 2**). Septic systems that are not properly maintained and systems that are not working at all are the reasons that this human waste reaching the streams. The septic assistance program being administered by the conservation district can help landowners fix or properly maintain their septic systems by offering “cost share” to customers who sign up for assistance. Cost share is a way to alleviate costs for the landowners by offering financial assistance for up to 75% of the cost of the repair or replacement of the system. The money currently available is on a first come first served basis. Applications for assistance will be ranked based on certain criteria such as being located within the watersheds, distance to surface water (i.e. streams or lakes) and other factors. Those who are looking for assistance must fill out a septic assistance application available at http://www.ottawacd.org/bass_river.html scroll down and click on “septic assistance application,” The form can then be emailed or dropped off at our office located at 16731 Ferris St. Grand Haven, MI 49417. For any questions regarding the septic assistance program application or other conservation related inquires contact Jesse Grysen (616) 842-5852 ext. 125 or jesse.grysen@macd.org.

Figure 1.

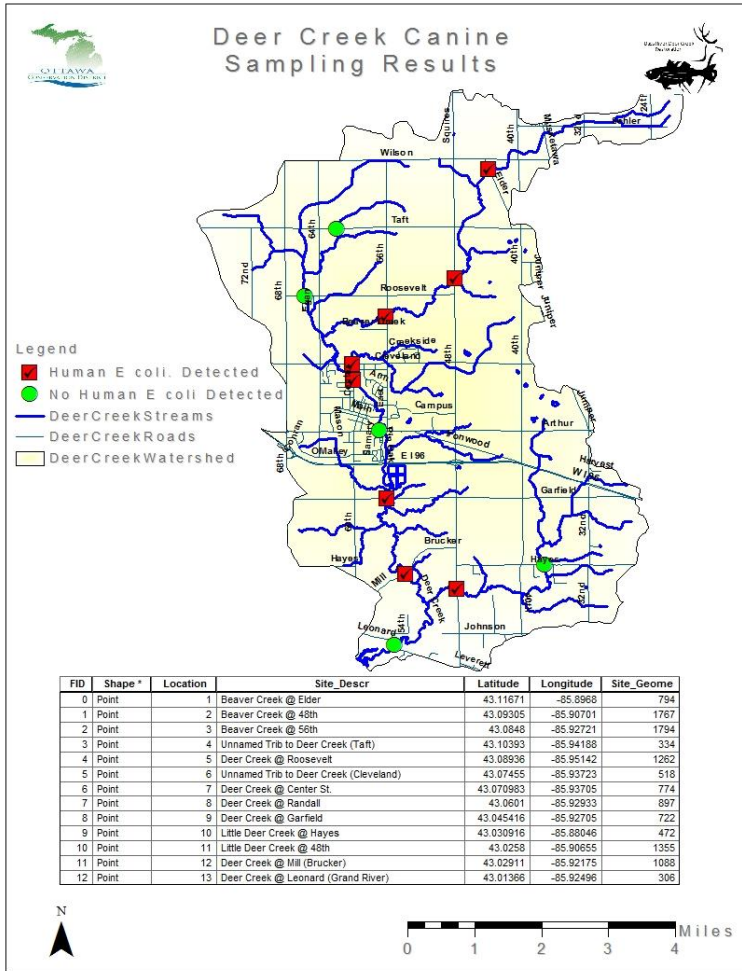


Figure 2.

