

# DRAFT

## SECTION XI: SOURCE WATER PROTECTION POLICY (SEPTIC SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS) Greenferry Water and Sewer District

### PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The Board of Directors of the District has developed this policy to protect the District's water source, a local area Aquifer which is recharged in part from the Cedar Creek drainage.

### Background

The Greenferry Water and Sewer District (District) was Declared and Organized by the District Court in and for the County of Kootenai on January 31, 1977 (see attached).

This policy is designed to protect the District's water source, including recharge water from the Cedar Creek Basin at the base of Blossom Mountain, and reflects provisions in place to protect our local area aquifer.

The policy also aims to help patrons understand the use and maintenance of all septic systems within the District boundaries and provides requirements for new and existing septic systems.

### Responsibilities

- The District, along with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), is responsible for the safety of drinking water for District patrons.
- Kootenai County has the legal responsibility for the protection and preservation of our local area aquifer and the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, as well as planning and zoning in the entire County.
- Panhandle Health is responsible for permitting and inspection of septic systems in Kootenai County.
- The District is responsible for developing and delivering information to all patrons on how to use and maintain waste systems and coordinating with Panhandle Health on septic system records and maintenance.

#### 1. Requirements for All Residences in the District

All residences in the District must meet Panhandle Health septic system requirements, including but not limited to drain field separation distance from the Spokane River and distance from Greenferry District source water wells.

#### 2. Requirements for current Residences within the Cedar Creek Basin

Existing homes with non-compliant septic systems will be accepted, grandfathered, unless there are changes in the property that require a permit from the county.

Approved February 24, 2025

In that case, the septic system must be reviewed by the District to determine necessary upgrades if any to their septic system.

All residences within the Cedar Creek Basin of the District will have septic tanks inspected to ensure their septic system is operating as designed by a licensed expert. If the sludge is 40% or higher, the operator will notify the owner (and the District) with the time the tank must be pumped. The first inspection will be performed by TBD, unless the tank has been pumped within the last 5 years, and the inspection will be required by August 1 of the fifth year since the system was pumped.

### **3. New Homes in the Cedar Creek Basin**

New construction in the Cedar Creek Basin will have additional requirements due to the potential for fouling the District's drinking water sources. These requirements are consistent with those established for the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

The Cedar Creek Basin is the area shown on the attached map, generally south of the Spokane River, to and including the Bella Ridge development, and from the East boundary of the District to Greenferry Road.

New septic systems in the Cedar Creek Basin will be required to have one of the following:

- A. No more than one residence with its associated septic tank and drain field on a five-acre lot.
- B. A treatment system that will result in no degradation of the aquifer.

If at any time these provisions are determined to be insufficiently protective of the District's water source, modification or additional requirements may be imposed.