

Elks Run Watershed

Jefferson County, WV

- 5.8 miles long
- Empties into Potomac River
- 18 square mile drainage area
- Karst terrain
- Drinking water source for Harpers
 Ferry and Bolivar
- Impaired for fecal coliform bacteria and biological criteria
- TMDL developed in 2008
- WBP approved in 2013; targets fecal coliform bacteria and sediment



Project Highlights

- Failing septic system repair (4 systems)
- Streambank stabilization (57 linear ft)
- Riparian buffer establishment (2.75 ac)
- Urban tree plantings (4.1 ac)
- Pet waste campaign (4 stations put in)
- Septic risk model refinement
- Cover crops (100 ac)
- Outreach events (3 in-person events)
- Water monitoring & molecular source tracking of bacteria
- Educational signage (4 signs)
- Demonstration rain garden design





Phase I 2011—2015

 Failing septic system repair, small streambank stabilization.

Federal 319	\$32,326
Match	\$21,551
Total	\$53,877

Phase II

2015-2019

- Original: septic system repair, pet waste campaign.
- Revised in 2018 to include tree plantings, demo rain garden design.

Federal 319	\$64,019
Match	\$48,377
Total	\$112,396

Phase III

2021—ongoing

• Septic repair, tree plantings, demo rain garden.

Federal 319	\$96,800
Match	\$64,780
Total	\$161,580

Reductions

- 6.65E+12 CFU/year fecal coliform bacteria
- 41.3 tons/year sediment

Partnerships

- WV Conservation Agency
- Eastern Panhandle
 Conservation District
- WV Department of Environmental Protection
- Elks Run Watershed Group
- WV Rivers (Safe Water Harpers Ferry)
- Jefferson County Health Dept

• Downstream Strategies

Tree planting

- US Geological Survey
- WV Division of Forestry
- The Conservation Fund –
 Freshwater Institute
- The Downstream Project
- Harpers Ferry Water Works
- US Dept of Agriculture
- Jefferson Co Parks & Recreation