



14. **Recent repairs or upgrades to the tank or leach field?**  YES  NO If so, what and when? \_\_\_\_\_
15. **How well is your septic system functioning?**  
No Problems!      Some problems I can fix      Some problems I need a contractor to fix  
Major problems that need significant repair      My system is in failure and needs replacement
16. **What types of problems are you experiencing with your system (Circle all that apply)?**  
None      Odors      Surface Discharge      Clogging      Backups      Sluggish Plumbing
17. **What is your drinking water source?**  
Shared/Community Well——      Dug Well      Drilled Well      Lake      Bottled Water

Thank you for completing this survey! Please place the completed survey in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided and drop it in the mailbox. Rest assured this survey is anonymous and the data gained from this survey will be used to learn more about our piece of the lake to help keep it clean.

## Sample Letter to Homeowner

### Official Town Letterhead

Date

Dear Property Owner,

The Town of \_\_\_\_\_ is working to address water quality issues in (waterbody name)\_\_\_\_\_. Nutrients can come from a variety of sources including agriculture, roadways, lawn care chemicals and residential septic systems to name a few. Identifying the sources of nutrient inputs is the first step in addressing water quality issues in (insert waterbody or town name). The purpose of this survey is to gain a better understanding of the state of septic systems located in our town and the impact they could be having on our ground and surface waters.

Data from this survey will be used to evaluate the state of septic systems located on properties located **within 250ft of the shoreline** (or insert appropriate information). Participation in this survey is voluntary and anonymous, no identifying information is needed as the goal of this survey is not to single out home owners but to gain a better understanding of the lake as a whole. All you need to do is complete the 17 question, multiple choice survey enclosed, and mail back in the provided envelope.

Although a properly functioning, maintained septic system can help protect water bodies from pollution, over-use or lack of maintenance can allow nutrients or household chemicals to leach into surface water bodies or groundwater wells. Understanding the risk presented by septic systems is essential to any watershed management plan, especially in developed areas.

Thank you for your participation in this survey, your responses, as well as the responses of your neighbors will help us better understand the factors affecting our ground and surface waters and will help us plan for (town name's) future. Again, no identifying information such as name, address, or lot number is needed. The survey is completely anonymous.