Optimizing Site Development with On-Site Wastewater and Stormwater Systems by Gary S. MacConnell, P.E. NCDEQ – Stormwater Program 2024 Webinar Series (May 15, 2024)



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I know we would all rather be fishing, but....

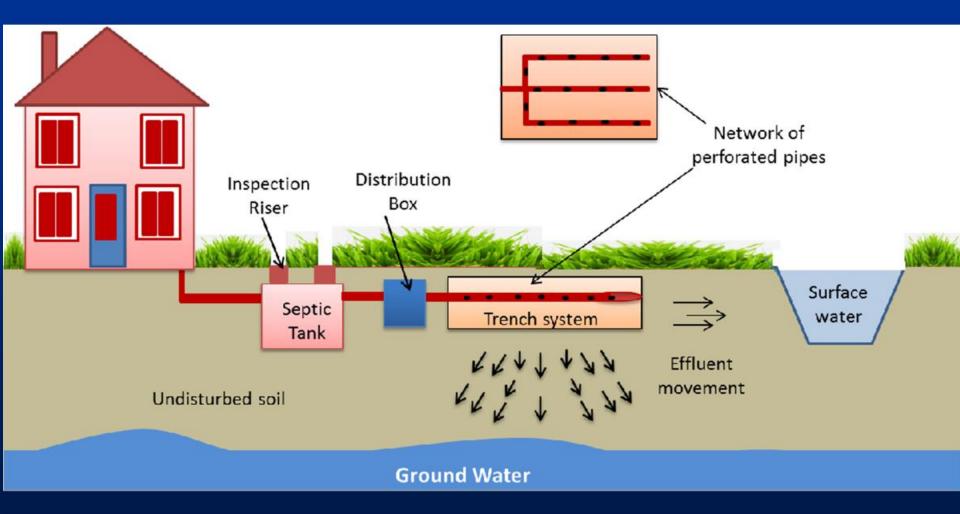


Presentation Overview

- Developments without Public Wastewater.
- Overview of Onsite Wastewater Options.
- Stormwater Minimum Design Criteria and Stormwater Control Measures <u>Not</u> Reviewed
- On-Site Wastewater Stormwater Conflicts.
- Model/Methodology to Optimize Design (PPPPPP).
- Case Studies



Conventional Gravity System



Why On-Site Community System

- POTW is not available.
- Often preferred over individual on-site systems.
- Allows for concentrated development (cluster, conservation, etc.) .
- Maximizes open or natural areas.
- Environmentally friendly (groundwater recharge, irrigation of natural or landscaped areas, reuse, other).
- Operation and maintenance often provided by private utility or contractor.

Site Restrictions

- Soil Restrictions.
- Setbacks: Wells, Property Lines, Water Features, Land Features, Pool, Easements, etc.
- Challenging Topography.
- Contiguous Available Area.
- Client's Unrealistic Expectations.



Soil Restrictions

- Depth to Bedrock or Restrictive Layer.
- Depth to Seasonal High Water.
- Bad Soils.
- Disturbed Soils or Fill.
- Other.



Regulations

- NCDHHS Subsurface
 - 15A NCAC 18E: WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DISPERSAL SYSTEMS
- NCDEQ Surface
 - 15A NCAC 02T: WASTE NOT DISCHARGED TO SURFACE WATERS
 - 15A NCAC 02U: RECLAIMED WATER



Benefits of Reuse, Advanced Pre-Treatment

- Increase Loading.
- Decrease Setbacks.
- Beneficial Reuse: Irrigation, Etc.
- Allows for Drip and Spray Irrigation.
- Fencing may not be Required.



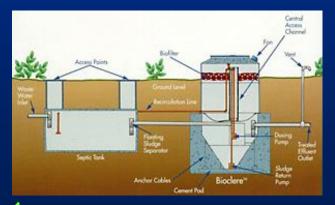
Reuse, Advanced Pre-Treatment

- Aerobic/Activated Sludge (Extended Aeration, Sequencing Batch Reactor, Etc.)
- Recirculating Media Filter.
- Membrane Bio-Reactor.
- Nutrient Removal.
- Disinfection: Chlorination or Ultra-Violet.



Aerobic Treatment











Recirculating Media Filter











Membrane Bio-Reactors









Methods Of Subsurface Dispersal

- Subsurface:
 - Conventional Gravity.
 - Pressure Manifold.
 - Low Pressure Pipe.
 - Chamber.
 - Panel Block.
 - Drip Irrigation.
 - Synthetic "Stone".
 - Sand Lined Trench.
 - Other.



Conventional Gravity





Pressure Manifold







Low Pressure Pipe (LPP)





Chamber System











Drip Irrigation



Synthetic Stone





Flow Equalization

- Reduce Treatment and/or Dispersal Requirements.
- Examples: Schools Churches, Camps, Etc.



Flow Reduction

- Regulations: NCDHHS & NCDEQ.
- Rules Based on Pre-Water Conservation Fixtures.
- Base on Fixtures and/or Historical Data.
- PE Documentation.
- Can Re-Rate System.



Conflicts with Stormwater and On-Site Wastewater

- Vertical and Horizontal Regulatory setbacks.
- Piping Conflicts and Separation.
- Use of better soils.
- Siting considerations.
- Can Re-Rate System.



Model to Optimize Design (PPPPPP)

(Prior Proper Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance)

- Site Features (Easements, Wetlands, Structures, Etc.)
- Local UDO/Zoning & Meet with Officials.
- Preliminary Soils Evaluation.
- Preliminary Well Site Approval and Drilling.
- NCDEQ, NCDHHS On-Site, & Local Rules.
- Concept Plan Based on Above.
- Preliminary Plat.
- Construction Plans and Permits.
 MacCONNELL
 & Associates, P. C.

Case Study – Background

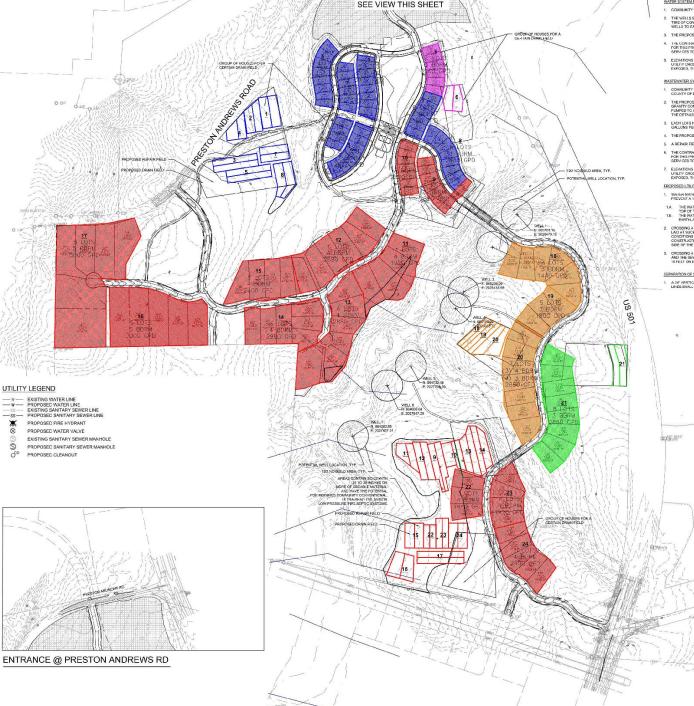
- First Time Developer: no experience in development.
- Original Site Engineer: little understanding of community on-site systems.
- Community Farm Concept.
- Conservation Subdivision with +50% open space
- Relatively small lots with majority of development open space.
- In more rural area of county.

We Became Part of the Original Team Late in the Process

- We were brought to the Team at the request of the Soil Scientist who did not have confidence in Site Engineer with respect to on-site systems.
- Site Engineer had already developed and gotten approvals for site plan.
- No consideration for suitability of soils nor how much area would be required for drain fields.
- Soils work was not completed.
- Only responsible for water and wastewater systems.

Problems with Original Site Plan

- Houses/Roads/Farm Area Located in Better Soils.
- Areas designated for Drain Fields were arbitrary.
- Not enough Drainfield Area to Support development.
- Drip Lines running up gradient, not on contour.
- Subdivision laid out as if it was on municipal sewer.
- NCDOT roads with curb and gutter which were not in line with price point of homes.
- Wastewater Collection System had to be routed around Stormwater and Other Structures.



WATER SYSTEM NOTES

- 1. COMMUNITY WATER SHALL BE PROVIDED BY A COMMUNITY WELL SYSTEM APPROVED BY THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.
- THE WELLS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN HAVE BEEN PRELIXINARY TESTED AND ARE PROPOSED AS THE SOURCE FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION ONSITE. AT THE TIME OF CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FULL DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF WATER FROM THE PROPOSED WILLS TO EACH HOUSE.
- 3. THE FROPOSED WELLS SHALL HAVE A 10I' NO SUILD BUFFER PROVIDED AROUND EACH PROPOSED WELL LOCATION.
- 4. THE CONTRACTOR STALL COMMANDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND UTLINES (WATER, SEMER, STORM, ELECTRICAL, GAS, CRIOTIER) FOR THIS PROJECT WITH THE DUILDING PLANS. THE UTHENT CONTRACTOR STALL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ALL UTLITY SERVICES TO WITHIN FING STREET OF THE BUILDING CONNECTION FORT.
- ELEVATIONS AND UTLITIES ARE GIVEN TO THE EXTENT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE, WHERE ELEVATIONS ARE NOT GREEN AT POINTS OF EXISTING UTILITY CROSSINGS, SUCH ELEVATIONS SHALL SE DETERMINED BY THE CONTINUOTOR AD REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER. WHER UNRIGONAL DRUGS AND EXPOSIDE THEIR LOCATIONS AND ELEVATIONS SHALL AS DE REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER.

WASTEWATER SYSTEM NOTES

- 1. COMMUNITY WASTEWATER SHALL BE PROVIDED BY CIRCUPED COMMUNITY DRAIN FIELD SYSTEMS. ALL WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS SHALL MEET COUNTY OF DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.
- 2. THE REPORTSED LOTS HAVE BEEN CRUPPED AND LABELED INTO SEVERAL WASTEMATIRE SYSTEM. SEC4 REPORTSED SYSTEM YELL CONTRAL GRAWT CONSERVATE FROM THE REPORTSED LOTS TO SYSTEM TAK, THAT AULI, THAT RE (PREVENT DIRGUMAL RESEARCH SYSTEM REPORTSED PLARED TO A DOSING TAKEN FOR EACH FELD. THE PROFOSED GRAUPED LOTS AND DYARK FELD LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN SHOWN ON THIS FLAN AND THE CETTLA DO THE PLANSE, LINES TRATEMENT, TAKEN AND REDUCE ALL DE ROMONDED INTO SOLUTION THE SALAR AND THE CETTLA DOSING TAKEN FOR EACH FELD.
- 3 EACH LOTS HAS SEVERAL BEDROOMS, REFER TO THE PLAN FOR THE NUMBER OF BEDROOMS FOR EACH LOT. THE CALCULATION OF EXPECTED GALLONS PER DAY IS BASED ON 120 CPD PER BEDROOM.
- 4. THE FROPOSED LOCATION OF THE DRAIN AND REPAIR FIELDS IS BASED ON A REPORT FROM THE SOIL AND LAND CONSULTANT DON WELLS.
- 5. A REPAIR FIELD OF THE SAME SIZE IS PROPOSED WITH EACH DRAIN FIELD, REFER TO THE PLAN FOR PROPOSED LOCATIONS
- THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COORDINATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES INVATER, SEWER, STORM, ELECTRICAL, GAS, CRIOTHER) FOR THE PROJECT WITH THE BUILDING PLANS. THE UTILITY CONTRACTOR SHALL, ASD BE RESPONSED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ALL UTILITY SERVICES TO WITHIN THE (S) FEET OF THE BUILDING SCINNECTION FORT.
- ELEVATIONS AND UTILITIES ARE GIVEN TO THE EXTENT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE, WHERE ELEVATIONS ARE NOT SIVEN AT POINTS OF EXISTING UTILITY CROSSINGS, SUCH ELEVATIONS SHULL BE DETERMINED BY THE CONTINUE TO AND REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER, WHEN UNINOWITURES ARE EXPORED. THEIR LOCATIONS AND ELEVATIONS OF ULL ALGO DE TENDETIETO TO THE ENGINEER.

FROPOSED LTIUTY SEPARATION

- WATER MANS SHALL BE LAD AT LEAST TO FEET HORIZONTALLY FROM EXISTING OR PROPOSED SEVERS, UNLESS LOCAL CONDITIONS OR BARRIERS PROVENT A 10-FOOT LIGBIZONTAL SEPARATION IN WHICH GASE.
- THE KINTER MAN IN LAD IN A SPRARTE TRENCH, WITH THE ELEVATION OF THE BOTTOM OF THE WATER MAN AT LEAST 18 INCHES ABOVE THE TOP OF THE SKANEC, OR THE WATER MAN IS LAD IN THE SAME TERCHAS THE SPIREN WITH THE WATER MAN LOCATED AT ONE SIDE OF A SENAL OF UNDERSIDE BARTH, AGO WITH THE ELEVATION OF THE EDITOR OF THE WATER MAN AT LEAST 18 INCHES ABOVE THE TOP TO THE REWER
- COSTINUE AVAILED MAN TO THE AVAILABLE AVAILABL
- CROSSING A WATER MAIN UNDER A SEWER, WHENEVERT IT BECESSARY FOR A WATER MAIN TO CROSS UNDER A SEWER, BOTH THE WATER MAIN AND THE SEWER SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OF FERICUS WATER MAUS AND WITH JOUTS SOUTALENT TO WATER MAIN STANDARDS FOR A DISTANCE OF TO FEET OR BEAD STRUCT OF CROSSING. A SECTION OF WATER MAIN PER SINGLI BE CONTREMON AT THE "ONT OF CROSSING.

SEPARATION OF SANITARY SEWERS AND STORM SEWERS

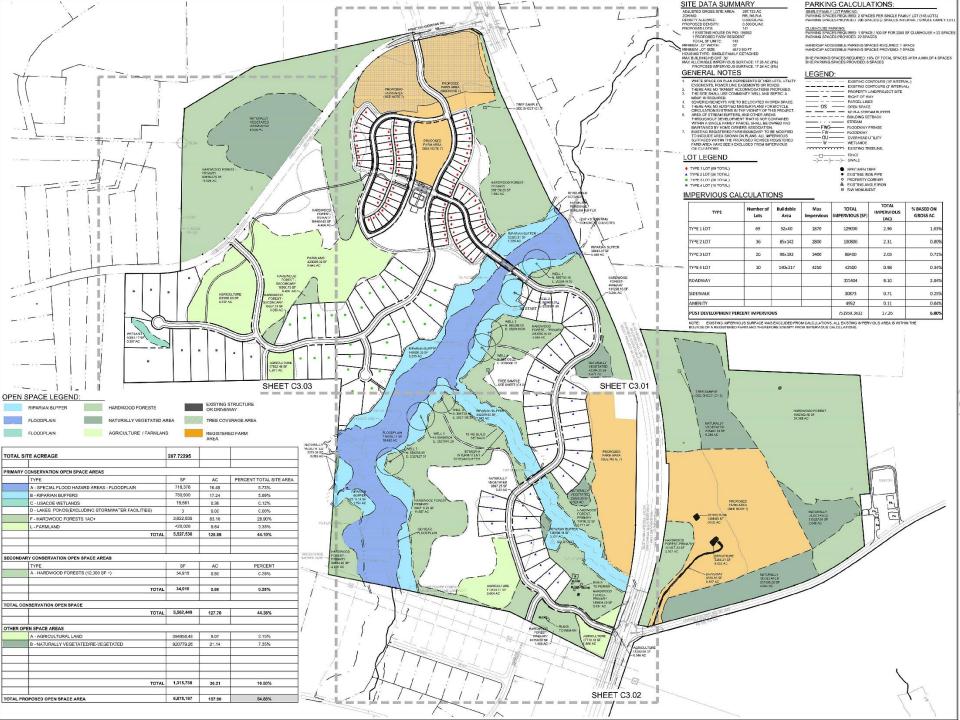
A 24" VERTICAL SEPARATION SHALL BE PROVIDED BETWEEN STORM SEWER AND SANITARY SEWER LINES OR BOTH THE SANITARY AND THE STORM LINES SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OF FERROUS MATERIALS.

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Revised Project

- Development on one side of creek.
- Same number of homes.
- Use better soils for drain fields.
- Do away with "Community Farm Concept".
- Keep Conservation Subdivision.
- Save as much infrastructure as possible.
- New portions use swales in lieu of curb and gutter.
- All drain fields on site.





Wastewater System Design Components

- Collection System: Modified STEP System with multiple lots on one offsite STEP tank.
- Wastewater Treatment System: Recirculating Media Filter with UV-Disinfection, proprietary system.
- Effluent Disposal: Subsurface Drip Irrigation.

Collection System: Modified STEP System

- Private 6-inch collection sewer with cleanouts in lieu of manholes
- Allows for a couple of emergency generators to be cycled in an emergency.
- Ensures proper O&M through private utility.
- Works well with topography.
- No tanks on lots.
- Reduces O&M with respect to pumping and pump replacement.

Wastewater Treatment System: Recirculating Media Filter

- Technology based on recirculating sand filter.
- Uniform plastic media.
- Only moving parts are pumps.
- UV Disinfection.
- Simple to operate and maintain.
- Expandable, can be phased.
- Reuse quality with nutrient removal (Certified: NSF 40, 245, and 350), although not required for permit.

Wastewater System Design Criteria

Criteria	Influent	Permit Effluent	Design Effluent
3-4 Bedroom Homes	141		
ADF GPD	60,960		
Adjusted ADF (75%)	45,720		
BOD5 (mg/l)	250	30.0	15.0
TSS (mg/l)	250	30.0	15.0
Ammonia (mg/l)	25.0		1.00
Nitrate/Nitrite (mg/l)	0.00	13.0	12.3
Total N (mg/l)	40.0	14.0	13.3
Total P (mg/l)	11.0		8.9
Fecal Coliforms (G.M #/200ml)	10^10	200	10







Effluent Disposal: Subsurface Drip Irrigation

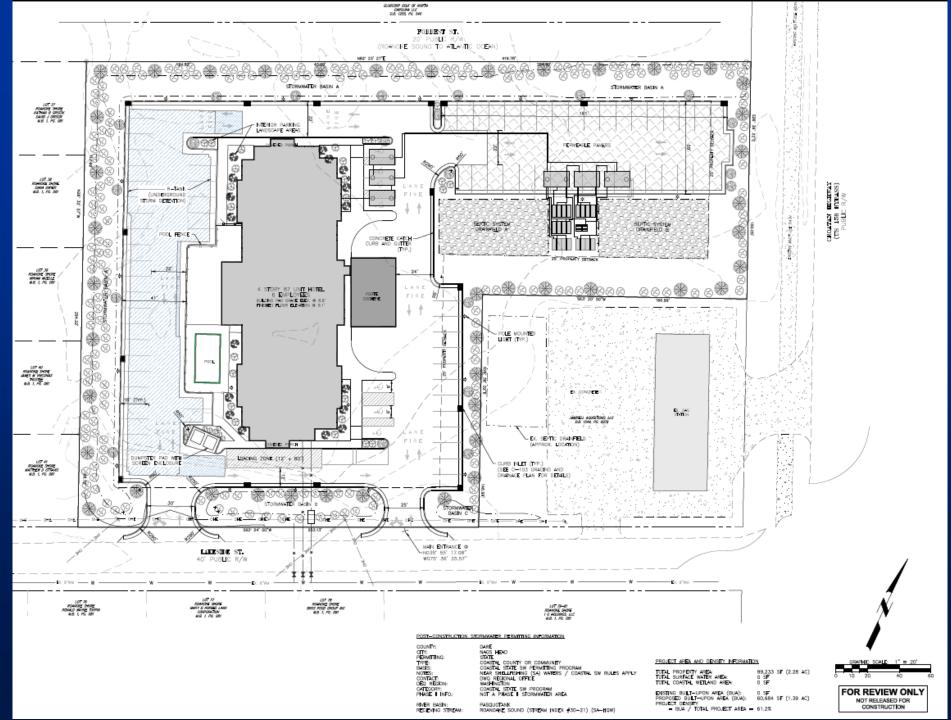
- Aesthetically pleasing, no visual impact.
- Fencing not required.
- Many zones with ability to modify dosing regimes.
- Dosing based on soils, lateral flow, and modeling.
- Forests and open fields.
- Alternate initial and repair fields.

Lessons Learned

- Experience matters.
- With large community on-site systems soils dictate design.
- Modified STEP systems provide benefits and cost savings.
- Recirculating media filters with drip irrigation are a good option for community systems.
- Use PPPPPP to optimize wastewater and stormwater design to be more cost effective.

Case Study – Motel at Coast

- Tight site.
- Setbacks from existing neighboring stormwater and on-site wastewater features.
- Potential conflicts with stormwater and on-site wastewater.



Case Study – Coastal Development

- Tight site.
- High seasonal groundwater.
- Poor soils.

Design Considerations

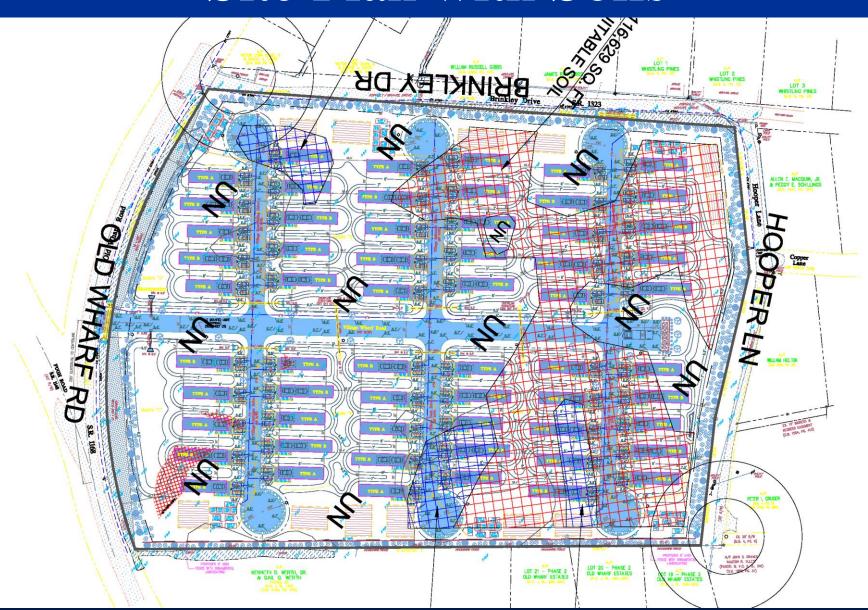
• Stormwater:

- Several infiltration basins.
- Need fill to maintain seasonal groundwater separation.
- Need to excavate poor soil and back fill with sand.
- On-site wastewater:
 - Engineer Flow Reduction.
 - Reduced loading rate (LTAR) with pre-treatment.

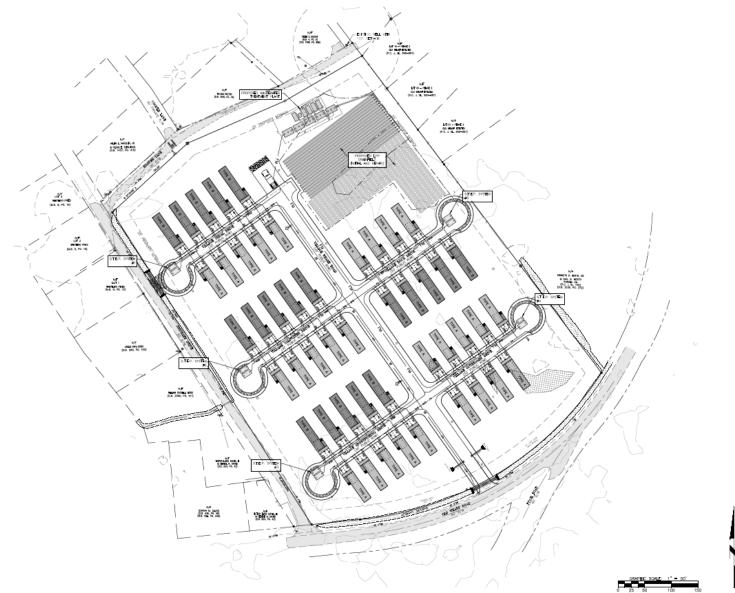
Proposed Site Plan



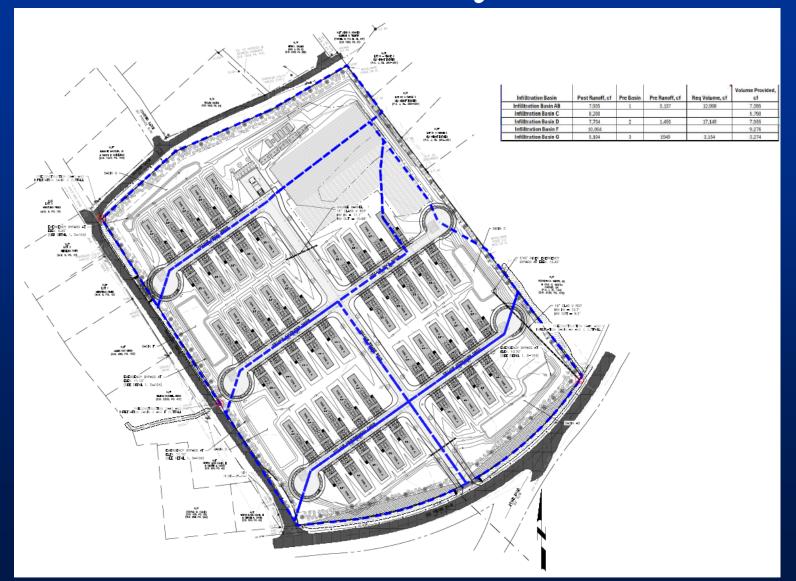
Site Plan with Soils



Wastewater System



Stormwater System



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