

Wolcott Wastewater: Feasibility Study and Village Solutions

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Services / Expertise

Water Resources Management
Community Wastewater Planning
Hydrogeologic Investigations
Water Quality Monitoring
Wastewater Feasibility Study

Markets

Municipal client

Project Location

Wolcott, Vermont

Duration

2003-present

Project Owner

Town of Wolcott

Project ID#

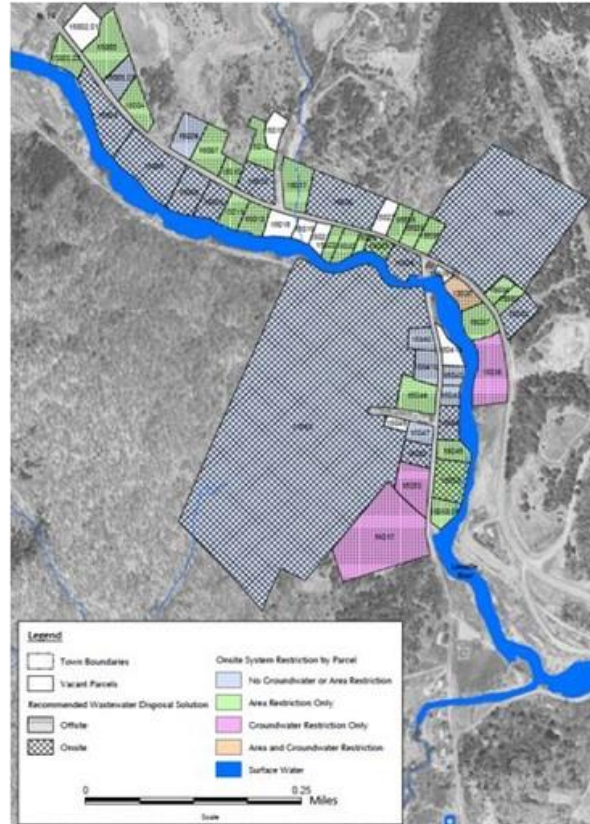
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Project Manager

Peter Lazorchak, PE, LEED AP
plazorchak@stone-env.com

Project Team

Amy Macrellis



A map of onsite system constraints and recommended solutions developed for the Town of Wolcott as part of the wastewater feasibility study.

WASTEWATER treatment and disposal in the Town of Wolcott has occurred historically through private individual septic systems. Unfortunately, in densely populated areas, a combination of small lot sizes and difficult environmental conditions can create septic system problems that may result in the contamination of groundwater and surface waters, including the Wild Branch and the Lamoille River.

In 2003-2005, the Town of Wolcott hired Stone and an engineering partner to conduct a wastewater feasibility study for the Villages of Wolcott and North Wolcott. Stone performed a detailed evaluation of the existing onsite wastewater treatment systems to determine each system's present condition and ability to be replaced onsite, as well as identified properties that would potentially benefit from connection to an off-site system.

Based on the needs identified in the first task, the team researched and reviewed collection, treatment and disposal system alternatives that could potentially solve Wolcott's future wastewater needs and identified potential cluster system sites. A total of 11 different off-site wastewater dispersal alternatives were developed using various



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types of collection systems, and the least expensive option for each village was evaluated further to determine total project costs and first-year operations and maintenance costs. However, the costs for designing, constructing, and operating the identified village-scale solutions were too high for the Town to consider proceeding. Additional funding options and potential costs per equivalent user were developed and recommendations were made for proceeding with and possibly funding on-site solutions on individual lots or in small, shared wastewater treatment systems.

Wolcott's situation mirrors that of many unsewered Vermont villages—where a lack of wastewater treatment capacity hampers compact development, adaptive redevelopment, and economic vitality. In recognition of this issue, the state, led by Vermont DEC, started a Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative. In 2018, they secured a Northern Border Regional Commission grant to help identify cost effective wastewater solutions for the villages of Wolcott, East Burke, and West Burke, providing models for other villages throughout Vermont. Both Stone and Birchline are now supporting the Lamoille County Planning Commission (Coordinator) as expert advisors and technical support for Wolcott's Wastewater Coordinator team.

Stone is now supporting the Lamoille County Planning Commission (Coordinator) as expert advisors and technical support for Wolcott's Wastewater Coordinator team. As the Consulting Engineer for the Wolcott Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative, we are working with the Town to develop targeted wastewater engineering solutions and prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report that will include system alternatives, financing and management options, and estimates of probable cost.

