One Burke
Village Infrastructure Meeting
June 21, 2022

Online via Zoom

Dufresne Group
481 Summer Street, Suite 8
Saint Johnsbury, Vermont 05819
Tel: (802) 748-8605

On June 21, 2022 at 5:00pm, a meeting was held via Zoom video conference to discuss the Burke Water and Wastewater Study. The following individuals attended:

Individual	Representing
Todd Vendituoli	One Burke
Linda Lotti	One Burke
Cathie Wheeler	One Burke
Kevin Mack	One Burke
Lynnette Claudon	State of Vermont
Amy Macrellis	Stone Environmental
Andrea Day	Dufresne Group

Andrea Day has prepared the following summary of notes taken at the meeting. Please notify her if you have any corrections or additions to these minutes. Tasks to be completed as a result of this meeting are underlined.

I. A discussion of whether to resume in person meetings occurred and it was determined meetings would remain remote for now but it would be reviewed at each meeting.

II. The minutes from the May 23, 2022, meeting were approved.

III. **Water & Wastewater Study**

a. East Burke Update

i. The town is working on executing the Loan application for the Burke Mountain wastewater system appraisal and Phase 1 archaeological assessment of the 114 site in East Burke.

a. West Burke Alternatives

i. Summary of Selectboard Presentation on 6/20 – meeting went well, the selectboard was receptive. They are going to review the information and Andrea offered to attend a future meeting to answer any questions that come up. Linda noted that this is a very positive outcome because at the

beginning of the project the board was not very receptive at all.

ii. 60% report submitted to DEC 6/14/2022. Available at: 60% DRAFT Burke Water and Wastewater Study 2022-06-07.pdf

iii. Additional research to be done to determine how the reserve fund can be built, whether it has to come from users or if it can be spread across a wider group. How this relates to the management of the system (Village or Town or Fire District) also needs to be determined. Only users typically contribute to the reserve fund. Andrea will reach out to an attorney with expertise in this area.

iv. Lynnette gave an overview of the CWSRF and DWSRF fund history.

1. CWSRF is around 30 years old and was developed to fund projects that were required due to the Clean Water Act. Projects funded under CWSRF can be the result of an order from the State due to water quality impacts.

2. DWSRF is around 20 years old and was developed under a more voluntary format.

3. Reserve funds are not required under either program but are strongly recommended. As part of funding, planning in the form of a Fiscal Sustainability Plan needs to occur to show that the utility will have management and financial capacity to continuously function.

v. Once the selectboard determines how they would like to proceed, we can move onto wrapping up the report for West Burke,

vi. Additional public outreach and education will be needed moving forward to gain voter support for the project. Need to make sure residents are aware of the current funding opportunities for Village wastewater projects.

vii. Andrea, Amy, Lynnette and Bruce Douglass should meet to discuss the funding timeline.

viii. A press release should be provided once the grant award notice comes out. Perhaps Laura could assist with the press release.

b. Next steps

i. Field investigations in East Burke

ii. Draft report presentation for East Burke and wrapping up West Burke Report

iii. Finalizing East Burke report. Hoping for Fall/Winter wrap up of this phase of the project.

iv. Next phase is design which could proceed without a bond vote.

v. See attached work plan.

c. Funding

i. ARPA and IIJA updates from Lynnette.

1. One Burke members should sign up for newsletters from other funding agencies such as NBRC and VT EDA.

2. The Intended Use Plan (IUP) that will show the amount of funding being provided by CWSRF will be out by July 1. A grant award up to the cap is anticipated for this project.

3. Additional grant funding for the project in addition to CWSRF should be pursued.

4. ARPA grant end date is EOY 2026. The grant amount should be sufficient to cover design costs, landowner coordination, well siting and testing, etc.

IV. **Other items**

- One Burke
    - Board updates
        - Working on legalities and financial structure setup required for 501c3 formation.

- Town is looking at ways to purchase the old Post Office building. One Burke and the Town need to coordinate these efforts.
- Looking further into the special tax that could be added onto sales in Town.

V. **Next meeting**

a. July 19, 2022 at 5pm

b. Strawberry Festival - Friday June 24 4-7pm

i. One Burke Booth

1. Posters presented at the meeting are attached. Some will be in the form of handouts, others will be large format.
2. An update of the timeline poster that has been used throughout the project will be presented as well.
3. Next steps in the future should be included in the materials to educate people about what may be coming.

Burke Water and Wastewater Feasibility Study	
General Description:	Evaluation of the need, cost, and feasibility of public water and/or wastewater system in West Burke and a public wastewater system in East Burke.
Goal Completion Date	**Description**
Monthly	Attend monthly One Burke task force meetings - prepare and distribute agenda, take minutes (NBRC Task 1)
Ongoing	Tabulate volunteer hour logs (NBRC Tasks 1, 2, 4)
Summer 2022	E. Burke - Receive results of Phase 1 Assessment and Complete on-site testing for wastewater disposal system
Summer 2022	E. Burke - Complete preliminary sizing of the wastewater disposal system(s) and prepare a map showing locations.
Summer 2022	E. Burke - Develop cost estimates for wastewater alternatives including capital and life-cycle costs.
Summer 2022	E. Burke - For wastewater alternatives, summarize potential construction challenges, sustainability considerations and environmental impacts.
Selectboard meeting 6/21 Additional public meeting after selectboard	W. Burke - Present the water and wastewater alternatives in a public meeting. Gather feedback from the public to identify the preferred alternative. A "do nothing" alternative will be included. (NBRC Task 1)
Submitted 6/14/2022	W. Burke - 60% Report - Based on comments on the 30% report, update Preliminary Engineering Report - provide to the Task Force and VT DEC for review.
Summer 2022	E. Burke - 60% Report - Update report based on comments from 30% submittal - provide to the Task Force and VT DEC for review. (NBRC Engineer Task 2C)
Spring 2022	W. Burke - 60% Report - Receive comments back from the Task Force, RD and VT DEC for review. (NBRC Task 2B)
Summer 2022	W. Burke - For the selected water and/or wastewater alternatives - summarize the project schedule, permit requirements and total project cost estimate
Summer 2022	W. Burke - Based on the project area and total project cost estimate - for the preferred alternative, determine the estimated rates, financing and management options. (NBRC Engineer Task 2A)
Fall 2022	E. Burke - Receive Burke Mountain Valuation report
Fall 2022	E. Burke - 60% Report - Receive comments back on 60% Preiminary Engineering Report - (NBRC Engineer Task 2B)
Fall 2022	E. Burke - Present the wastewater alternatives in a public meeting. Gather feedback from the public to identify the preferred alternative. A "do nothing" alternative will be included. (NBRC Task 1)
Fall 2022	E. Burke - For the selected wastewater alternatives - summarize the project schedule, permit requirements and total project cost estimate
Fall 2022	E. Burke - Based on the project area and total project cost estimate - for the preferred alternative, determine the estimated rates, financing and management options. (NBRC Engineer Task 2A)
Summer 2022	W. Burke - 90% Report - Update report based on comments from 60% submittal - provide to the Task Force and VT DEC for review. (NBRC Engineer Task 2D)

Goal Completion Date	Description
Fall 2022	E. Burke - 90% Report - Update report based on comments from 60% submittal - provide to the Task Force and VT DEC for review. (NBRC Engineer Task 2D)
Fall 2022	W. Burke - 90% Report - Receive comments back from the Task Force, RD and VT DEC for review. (NBRC Task 2B)
Fall 2022	E. Burke - 90% Report - Receive comments back on 90% Preiminary Engineering Report - (NBRC Engineer Task 2B)
Fall 2022	W. Burke - 100% Report - Update report based on comments from 90% submittal - provide to the Task Force and VT DEC for review. (NBRC Engineer Task 2E)
Fall 2022	E. Burke - 100% Report - Update report based on comments from 90% submittal - provide to the Task Force and VT DEC for review. (NBRC Engineer Task 2E)

A Vision & Economic Development Strategy for West Burke

About the Economic Development Strategy

The West Burke Visioning and Economic Development Strategy establishes a vision for West Burke's future by identifying potential uses to be incorporated in a revitalized Village, and laying out steps to make that vision a reality. This work is an outgrowth of the efforts of One Burke & the Town of Burke to bring more vitality and investment to the Village.

The Possibilities

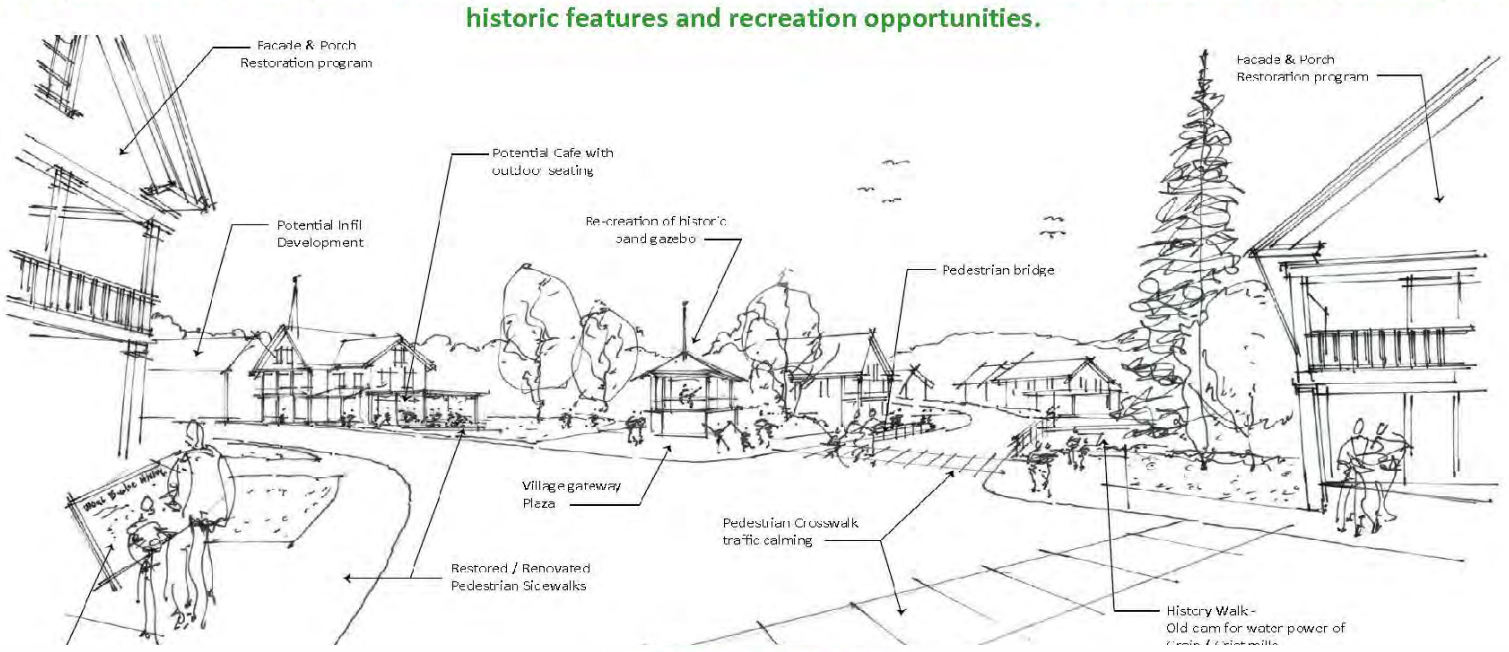
Market research for the Strategy identified opportunities for West Burke, including

- Outdoor Recreation & Food-related Businesses
- Housing
- Tourism-related Demand
- Small Scale Manufacturing
- Cultural Activities

The Vision

West Burke will be a mixed-use pedestrian-friendly village center providing goods and services to area residents as well as visitors in such sectors as hospitality & dining, services, outdoor recreation and housing to meet the needs of all residents.

The Village's physical development pattern will revive, reinforce and build upon West Burke's historic character while providing connections to historic features and recreation opportunities.

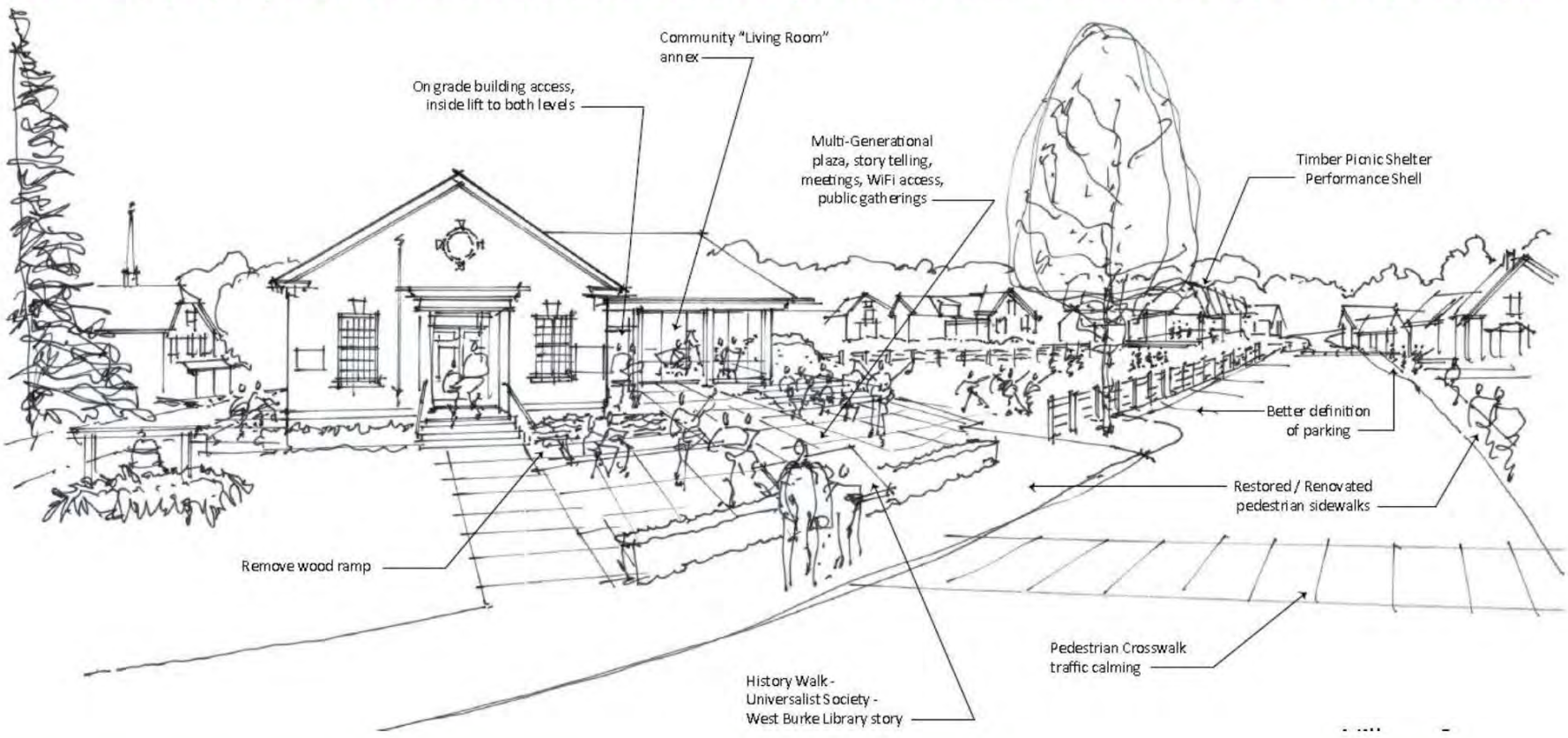


The Plan

Take on "catalytic" projects to build momentum for more investment in the Village:

- **Renovation of Library as Center for Community Activities**
- **Creation of a "West Burke History Trail"**
- **Restore historic streetscape (e.g., street trees & sidewalks)**

Work with property owners/investors in the core of the Village to secure technical & financial support for improvements



WANT TO SEE THE FULL REPORT? You can see it at the Town Offices, Mike's Gas in West Burke, Café Lotti in East Burke, the Post Offices in each Village or online at https://bit.ly/3u6G81I

Want to get involved?

Join us at the Task Force Meetings

3rd Tuesday of each month at 5pm

Burke Community Room at the Town Offices or Online via Zoom

Contact aday@dufresnegroup.com for more information

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Frequently Asked Questions

W ONE BURKE E

Why construct a sewer system to serve the Village?

Limited septic capacity in the village limits growth and development. The ability to add businesses and increase the number of housing units without additional wastewater capacity will limit the availability of affordable housing.

How will it be paid for?

The State of Vermont is currently offering advantageous funding for Villages developing community wastewater systems. The Vermont Clean Water State Revolving Fund has the following goals:

- Support the Village Wastewater Initiative by providing additional subsidy provisions for small, unsewered communities throughout Vermont.
- Village wastewater planning studies are funded with 100% loan forgiveness (grant) for up to $125,000.
- The General Assembly, in Section G.700 of Act 74 (H.439) of 2021, (a)(2)(A) appropriated $8,000,000 to the Department for SFY 2022 "to support the design and construction of up to 10 community-scale water or decentralized wastewater projects, or both, to support underserved designated centers"

Why now?

- The current priority being placed on Village wastewater and the available funding.
- Future water quality limitation on discharges to the Connecticut River.
- Aging individual wastewater systems increase water pollution risk.

How will this project benefit the Village and the Town as a whole?

- More options for property owners
- Improved development prospects will increase property values
- Potentially increased tax revenue
- Makes structures currently limited due to wastewater available for residential or business use
- Protect surface water quality and the environment
- Protects public health.

Why should I be interested in Village wastewater problems?

Increases potential uses for existing structures to support a vibrant, active village center.

Which properties could connect to the sewer system?

The study area includes the Village boundaries for both West and East Burke Villages and adjacent areas. If interest is shown by properties close to the Village, connections for those properties could be included.

Will a sewer connection increase property values?

Values of properties, particularly commercial properties, connected to a municipally or community wastewater system can be higher than those with on-site septic due to the increased potential use.

Work Completed to Date

- 2017 - Community Visit process identified water and wastewater infrastructure as critical to the revitalization of West Burke Village and to maintain the growth of East Burke Village.

- Grant funding awarded from:
  - USDA Rural Development in 2018
  - NBRC in 2019
  - State of Vermont Planning Advance in 2019

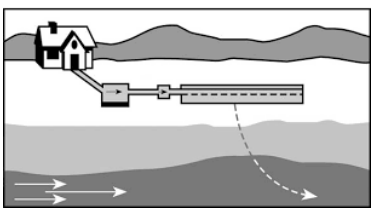
- 2021 - Visioning and Economic Development Study for West Burke Completed

- Surveys of property owners completed for both villages
  - West Burke
    - 5 of 8 (62%) Business Surveys Returned
    - 60% of business property owners indicated additional septic capacity would increase opportunity for their property
    - 40% think a municipal water system is desirable, 20% would be interested in connecting
    - 100% think a municipal wastewater system is desirable, 60% would be interested in connecting
    - 100% think a public water or wastewater system would increase economic development
    - 43 of 117 (36%) Residential Surveys Returned
    - 86% of residential property owners indicated the use of their property is not limited by septic needs
    - 19% think a municipal water system is desirable, 9% would be interested in connecting
    - 21% think a municipal wastewater system is desirable, 14% would be interested in connecting
  - East Burke
    - 7 of 22 (32%) Business Surveys Returned
    - 43% think a municipal wastewater system is desirable, 28% would be interested in connecting
    - 71% think a public water or wastewater system would increase economic development
    - 15 of 37 (41%) Residential Surveys Returned
    - 73% of residential property owners indicated the use of their property is not limited by septic needs
    - 53% think a municipal wastewater system is desirable, 33% would be interested in connecting
    - 40% think a public water or wastewater system would increase economic development

- On-site investigations and alternatives developed for West Burke

- On-site investigations for East Burke planned for Summer 2022

- Fall 2022 – Anticipated completion of Water and Wastewater Study for Burke Villages



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ONE BURKE

Wastewater Treatment

When considering moving away from private individual wastewater systems, Towns may consider utilizing either Centralized Wastewater or Decentralized Wastewater.

Centralized Wastewater

Typically used by larger municipalities and consists of a collection system (pipes, manholes, etc.) and a wastewater treatment plant. These systems typically require dedicated operations and maintenance staff.

- Allows property owners' greater flexibility to alter their property.
- Provides greater environmental protection through oversight by an operator and annual inspections.
- Risks and costs of a failure are likely less per property owner than they would be for a private septic system.
- Property owner maintenance requirements are limited to the sewer service.
- Extensive infrastructure is required for the new sewer collection system, sewer services, pumping station and force main (if applicable), and disposal system(s) at a significant capital cost.
- Regular maintenance and testing is required for public wastewater systems which results in ongoing expense for operation and maintenance.
- Property owner costs could increase significantly to fund the project.

Contact Andrea Day at Dufresne Group with questions
aday@dufresnegroup.com
(802) 748-8605

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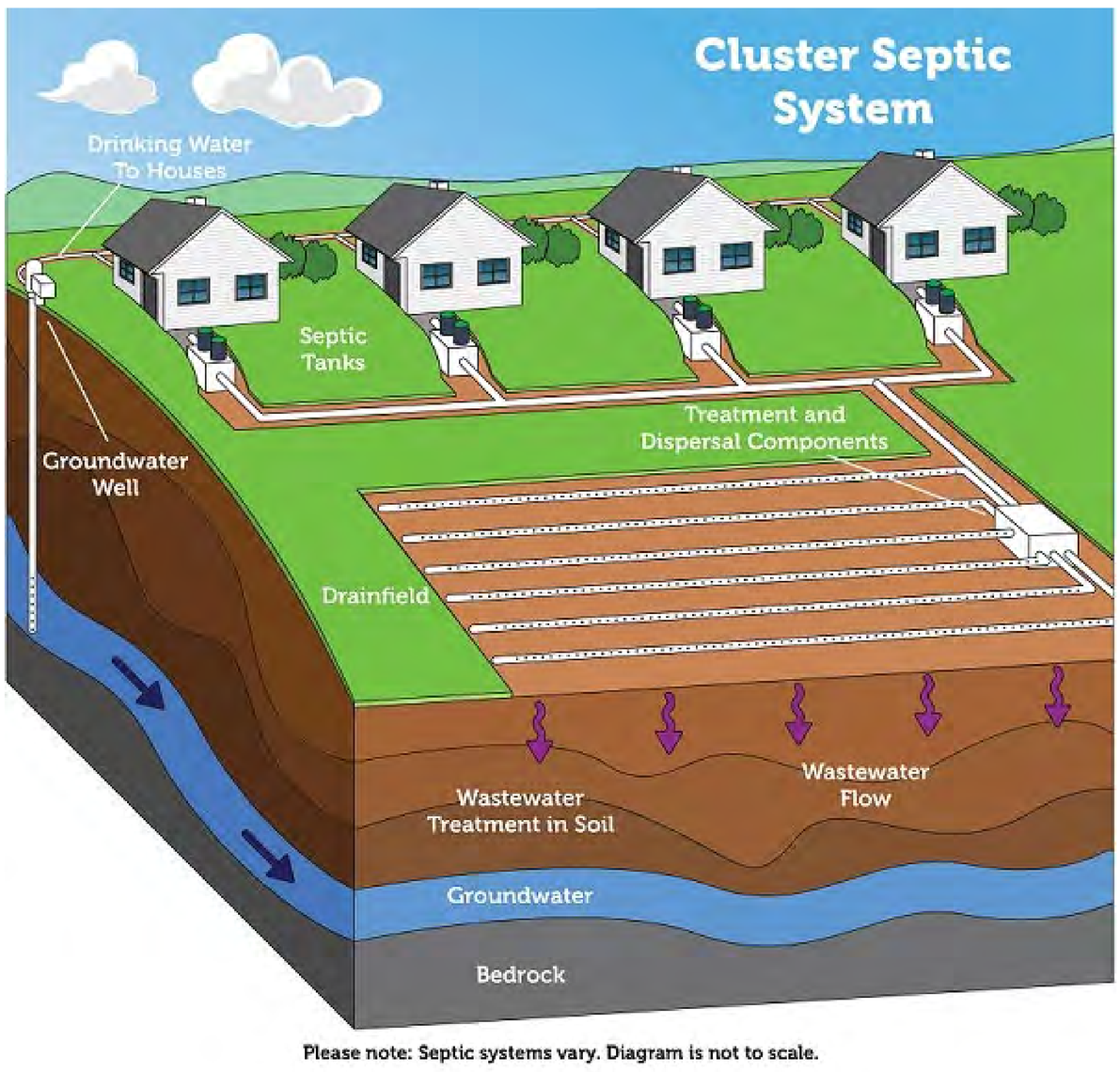
Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

Used by municipalities in rural and urban settings and consists of individual onsite septic systems, cluster systems, and/or alternative wastewater treatment.



Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

- Burke currently utilizes Individual Decentralized Wastewater Systems.
- Smaller initial investment than an equivalent centralized system.
- Less operation and maintenance costs than a centralized system.
- Frees up space and wastewater capacity for individual properties.
- Protects public health and the environment with improved operation and maintenance.
- Greater area required for treatment than compared to individual septic systems.
- Requires a second capital investment for property owners with existing on-site septics.
- Regular on-going maintenance costs.
- Fiscally and environmentally sustainable for the long term.

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aday@dufresnegroup.com
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What are the Current Needs in Burke?

More Affordable Housing

More Businesses

Increase Visitors

None, Fine as is

Other (write-in)

Would a community wastewater system in the Village have a positive impact on you?

Yes

No

Comments

Is a community wastewater system needed?

Yes

No

Comments

Would you be interested in connecting to a municipal wastewater system if one was developed?

In Village

Yes	No

Outside of Village

Yes	No

Vermont Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative

Wastewater Solutions for Burke and Wolcott

Villages form the heart of Vermont's rural communities, but more than 150 villages lack sewer systems, hampering revitalization. To overcome this challenge, a Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grant to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will help identify cost effective wastewater solutions for the villages of Wolcott, East Burke, and West Burke, providing models for other villages throughout Vermont.

What will the project do?

DEC will hire an energetic and highly qualified coordinator to work with each town's wastewater committee to:

- Lead community surveys, outreach, visioning and training
- Work with those experts that DEC will also contract, to conduct scientific studies and preliminary engineering
- Investigate funding and management options

Within three years:

- Burke and Wolcott will have a proposed village wastewater solution and the information necessary to decide on whether to implement it
- State agencies will learn how to improve funding, technical assistance and permitting programs and apply that knowledge to villages across the state

How will the work be funded?

- $219,213 – NBRC grant (federal funding)
- $112,000 – Regional Engineering Planning Advance from DEC (state funding)
- Volunteer hours from members of the Burke and Wolcott Wastewater Committees

How can wastewater solutions help?

Besides maintaining the value of village properties, wastewater solutions can help promote:

- Business expansion
- Redevelopment of underused and abandoned properties
- Housing options
- Community gathering places
- Public health and water quality benefits

Contact:

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):
Lynette Claudon – lynnette.claudon@vermont.gov
802-490-6226
Mary Clark – mary.clark@vermont.gov
802-585-4890

Types of Wastewater Solutions

In general, new village wastewater solutions are decentralized and involve in-ground disposal systems (leach fields). Projects can range in size from serving just one property to connecting a whole village,

Funding for design and construction may also be decentralized, with solutions implemented through a variety of means to reduce costs:

- State and federal infrastructure grants and loans
- Local bonds
- Coordinating with construction projects (housing, public buildings, business expansion etc.) to address the new wastewater needs along with the existing village needs.
- Funds to replace individual systems can be applied to a community system instead

Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative Partners

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Department of Health (VDH)

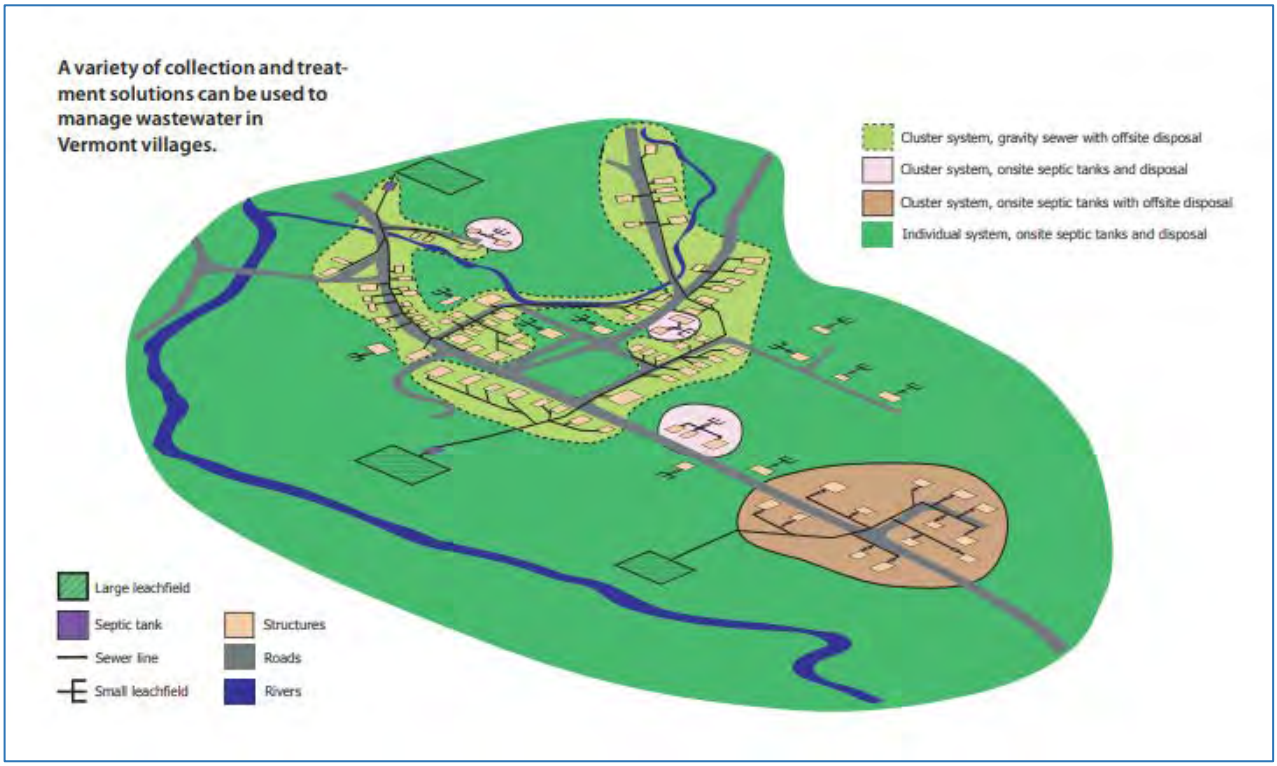
Regional Planning Commissions

R-CAP Solutions

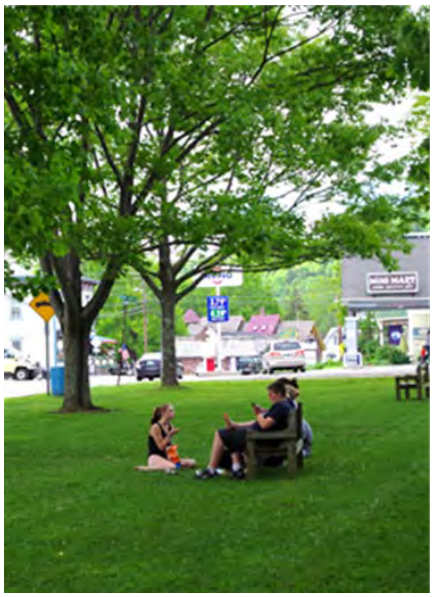
US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD)

Rural Water Associations (RWA)

DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS



VERMONT COMMUNITY EXAMPLES



ROCHESTER invested in a soil-based wastewater disposal field in the town green that supports businesses and homes in the village center.

WAITSFIELD started by installing a drinking water supply system serving Waitsfield Village and Irasville. Next they identified the pockets of soil in and around the villages that were suitable for wastewater disposal and worked with the landowners to make those areas available for use by village businesses and properties.

WARREN created a large community disposal area at the elementary school and two smaller shared systems to serve the village area. There remain a number of individual systems in the village that did not need to be replaced.

Infrastructure Task Force
Water and Wastewater Study Update

Fall 2022

- Final Report outlining Alternatives and Costs
- Present recommended project(s) in a public meeting
- East Burke
  - Complete site investigations
  - Complete preliminary sizing of wastewater disposal systems
  - Present alternatives to the selectboard
- West Burke
  - Work with Selectboard to identify preferred alternative

Summer 2022

What the is purpose of this project?

- West Burke has several properties that do not have enough room for a safe water and/or wastewater system. Replacement of existing systems or construction of new systems may not be possible or may be very costly.
- East Burke has a community water system but growth may be limited by the lack of a community wastewater system.
- The goal of this project is to better identify the water and wastewater needs of each village and develop solutions.

Why is this project important?

- Identify needs and limitations in each village
- Support revitalization of West Burke
- Community water and wastewater systems provide:
  - Additional options for re-use of existing buildings, particularly food and beverage use
  - Ability to expand existing structures to add an apartment or bedroom
  - Protection of water quality through regular operation and maintenance

W ONE BURKE E

Task Force Meetings
3rd Tuesday of each month 5pm
Online and at the Burke Community Room
Contact aday@dufresnegroup.com
748-8605 for more information

Stronger West Burke

Working to Strengthen the Foundation and Identity of West Burke

Water and Wastewater Study

Design and Construction (if approved – IIJA funding must be used by end of 2026)

Future

Town and voters determine how to proceed

Fall 2022

Finalize Recommendations and Present to the Public

Summer 2022

Present Alternatives to the Public

Develop Alternatives to Address Water and Wastewater

Identify the Water and Wastewater needs

Complete

Visioning and Economic Development Study

Well Water Quality Testing

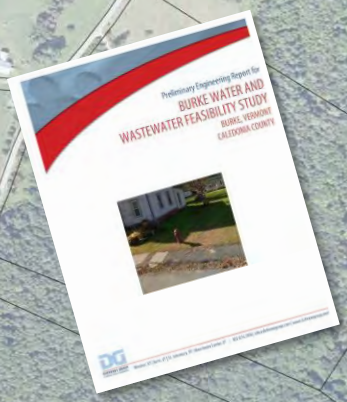
Gathering Data on Existing Systems

Water and Wastewater Surveys

Work with us to understand the options, associated costs, and consider the cost/benefit of all options. The Town has no commitment to move forward.

East Burke

Maintain the momentum



Summarize Findings for East Burke

Fall 2022

Present Alternatives to the Public

Develop Alternatives to Address Water and Wastewater

Summer 2022

On-site Testing

Identify the Water and Wastewater needs

Property owner surveys

Complete

Gathering Data on Existing Systems

Work with us to understand the options, associated costs, and consider the cost/benefit of all options. The Town has no commitment to move forward.

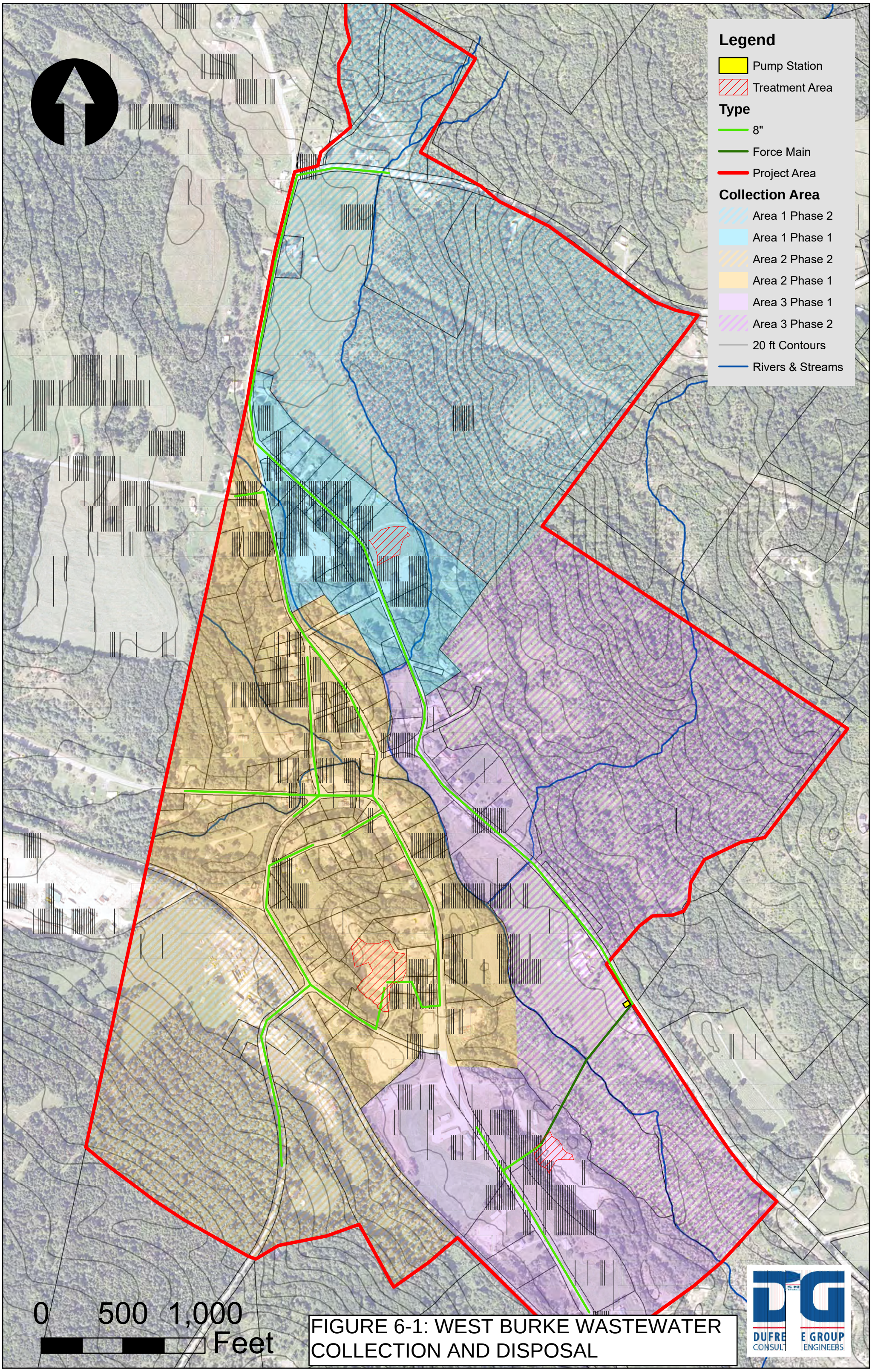


FIGURE 6-1: WEST BURKE WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL