

Large Community On-Site System Optimizes Development in North Carolina

NOWRA 2021 Onsite Wastewater

Mega Conference

By

Gary S. MacConnell, P.E.



**MacCONNELL
& Associates, P. C.**

501 Cascade Pointe Lane, Suite 103
Cary, North Carolina 27513
Tel: (919) 467-1239

Disclaimer

NOWRA's Disclaimer: The materials being presented represent the speaker's own opinions and do NOT reflect the opinions of NOWRA.

Case Study – Background

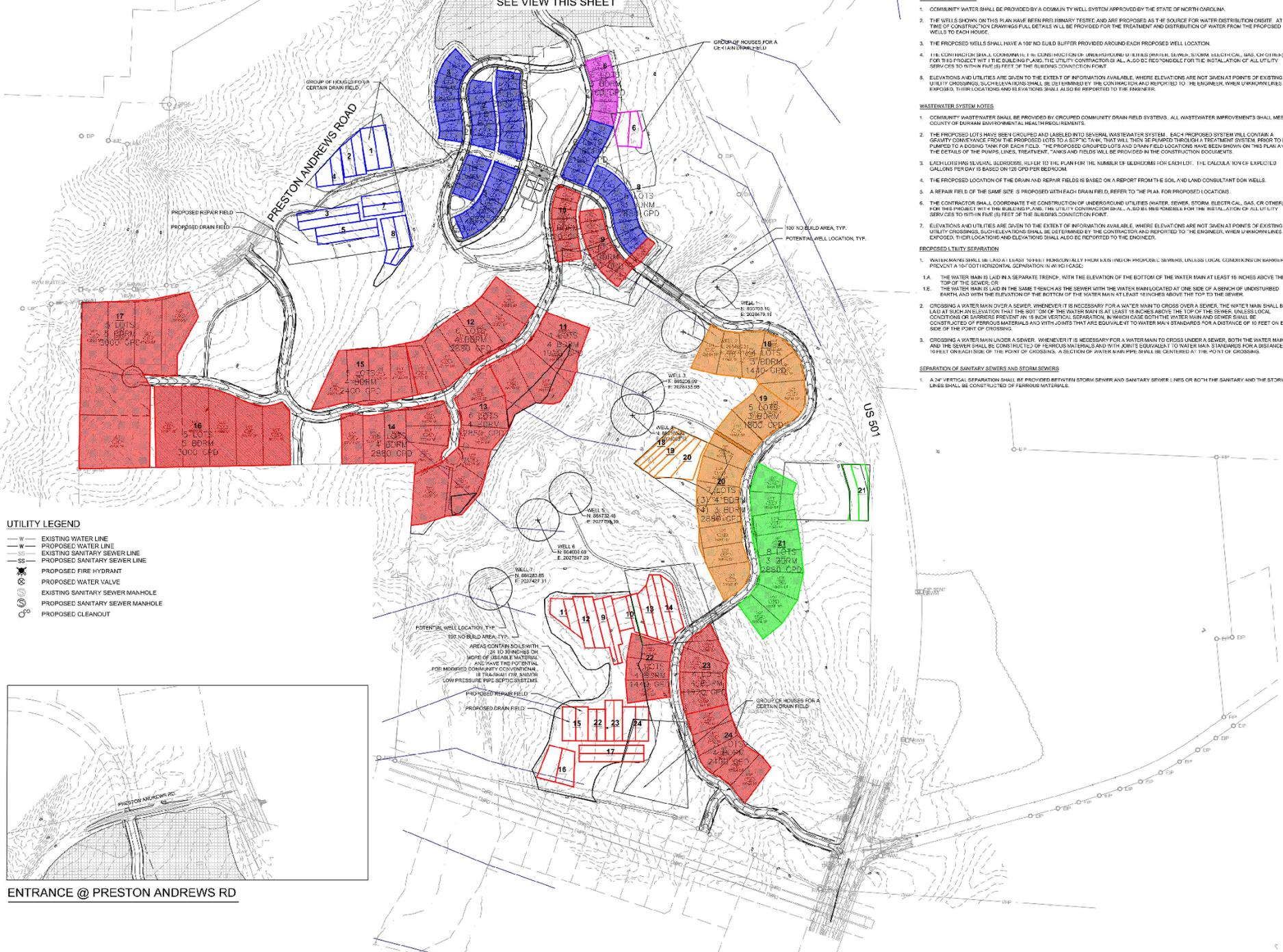
- First Time Developer: no experience in development.
- Original Site Engineer: little understanding of community on-site systems.
- Community Farm Concept.
- Conservation Subdivision with +50% open space
- Relatively small lots with majority of development open space.
- In more rural area of county.

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.
 2. THE WELLS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN HAVE BEEN PRELIMINARY 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 WELLS TO EACH HOUSE.
 3. THE PROPOSED WELLS SHALL HAVE A 150' NO BUILD BUFFER PROVIDED AROUND EACH PROPOSED WELL LOCATION.
 4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE CONTRACTOR FOR UNDERGROUND UTILITIES (WATER, SEWER, STORM, ELECTRICAL, GAS, OR OTHER) FOR THIS PROJECT WITH THE BUILDERS AND THE UTILITY CONTRACTOR(S) AS WELL AS THE ENGINEER FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ALL UTILITY SERVICES TO WITHIN FIVE (5) FEET OF THE BUILDING CONNECTION POINT.
 5. ELEVATIONS AND UTILITIES ARE GIVEN TO THE EXTENT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE, WHERE ELEVATIONS ARE NOT GIVEN AT POINTS OF EXISTING UTILITY CROSSINGS, SUCH ELEVATIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE CONTRACTOR AND REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER, WHEN UNKNOWN LINES ARE EXPOSED, THEIR LOCATIONS AND ELEVATIONS SHALL ALSO BE REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER.

- WASTEWATER SYSTEM NOTES**
1. COMMUNITY WASTEWATER SHALL BE PROVIDED BY GROUPED COMMUNITY DRAIN FIELD SYSTEMS. ALL WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS SHALL MEET COUNTY OF DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.
 2. THE PROPOSED LOTS HAVE BEEN GROUPED AND LABELED INTO SEVERAL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS. EACH PROPOSED SYSTEM WILL CONTAIN A SEWAGE CONDUIT FROM THE PROPOSED LOTS TO A SEPTIC TANK, THAT WILL THEN BE PUMPED THROUGH A TREATMENT SYSTEM PRIOR TO BE PUMPED TO A DRAINING TANK FOR EACH FIELD. THE PROPOSED GROUPED LOTS AND DRAIN FIELD LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN SHOWN ON THIS PLAN AND THE DETAILS OF THE PIPES, LINES, TREATMENT TANKS AND FIELDS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS.
 3. EACH LOT HAS SEVERAL BEDROOMS, REFER TO THE PLAN FOR THE NUMBER OF BEDROOMS FOR EACH LOT. THE CALCULATED 10% OF EXERCISED GALLONS PER DAY IS BASED ON 120 GPD PER BEDROOM.
 4. THE PROPOSED 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.
 6. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COORDINATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES (WATER, SEWER, STORM, ELECTRICAL, GAS, OR OTHER) FOR THIS PROJECT WITH THE BUILDERS AND THE UTILITY CONTRACTOR(S) AS WELL AS THE ENGINEER FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ALL UTILITY SERVICES TO WITHIN FIVE (5) FEET OF THE BUILDING CONNECTION POINT.
 7. ELEVATIONS AND UTILITIES ARE GIVEN TO THE EXTENT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE, WHERE ELEVATIONS ARE NOT GIVEN AT POINTS OF EXISTING UTILITY CROSSINGS, SUCH ELEVATIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE CONTRACTOR AND REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER, WHEN UNKNOWN LINES ARE EXPOSED, THEIR LOCATIONS AND ELEVATIONS SHALL ALSO BE REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER.

- PROPOSED UTILITY SEPARATION**
1. WATER MAINS SHALL BE LAID AT LEAST 10 FEET HORIZONTAL FROM EXISTING PROPOSED SEWERS, UNLESS LOCAL CONDITIONS OR BARRIERS PREVENT A 10-FOOT HORIZONTAL SEPARATION IN ANY CASE.
 - 1.A. THE WATER MAIN IS LAID IN A SEPARATE TRENCH WITH THE ELEVATION OF THE BOTTOM OF THE WATER MAIN AT LEAST 18 INCHES ABOVE THE TOP OF THE SEWER OR
 - 1.B. THE WATER MAIN IS LAID IN THE SAME TRENCH AS THE SEWER WITH THE WATER MAIN LOCATED AT ONE SIDE OF A BENCH OF UNDISTURBED BATH AND WITH THE ELEVATION OF THE BOTTOM OF THE WATER MAIN AT LEAST 18 INCHES ABOVE THE TOP OF THE SEWER.
 2. CROSSING A WATER MAIN OVER A SEWER, WHENEVER IT IS NECESSARY FOR A WATER MAIN TO CROSS OVER A SEWER, THE WATER MAIN SHALL BE LAID AT SUCH AN ELEVATION THAT THE BOTTOM OF THE WATER MAIN IS AT LEAST 18 INCHES ABOVE THE TOP OF THE SEWER, UNLESS LOCAL CONDITIONS OR BARRIERS PREVENT AN 18 INCH VERTICAL SEPARATION, IN WHICH CASE BOTH THE WATER MAIN AND SEWER SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OF FERROUS MATERIALS AND WITH COUPLERS THAT ARE EQUIVALENT TO WATER MAIN STANDARDS FOR A DISTANCE OF 10 FEET ON EACH SIDE OF THE POINT OF CROSSING.
 3. CROSSING A WATER MAIN UNDER A SEWER, WHENEVER IT IS NECESSARY FOR A WATER MAIN TO CROSS UNDER A SEWER, BOTH THE WATER MAIN AND THE SEWER SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OF FERROUS MATERIALS AND WITH COUPLERS 10' TO WATER MAIN STANDARDS FOR A DISTANCE OF 10 FEET ON EACH SIDE OF THE POINT OF CROSSING. A SECTION OF WATER MAIN PIPE SHALL BE CENTERED AT THE POINT OF CROSSING.

SEPARATION OF SANITARY SEWERS AND STORM SEWERS

1. A 2' 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.

- UTILITY LEGEND**
- W — EXISTING WATER LINE
 - W — PROPOSED WATER LINE
 - SS — EXISTING SANITARY SEWER LINE
 - SS — PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER LINE
 - ⊕ — PROPOSED FIRE HYDRANT
 - ⊕ — PROPOSED WATER VALVE
 - ⊕ — EXISTING SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE
 - ⊕ — PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE
 - ⊕ — PROPOSED CLEANOUT



ENTRANCE @ PRESTON ANDREWS RD

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.

Wastewater System Design Criteria

Criteria	Influent	Permit Effluent	Design Effluent
3-4 Bedroom Homes	141		
ADF GPD	60,960		
Adjusted ADF (75%)	45,720		
BOD ₅ (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

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 contracted through HOA.
- 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.

Standards NSF / ANSI

Test	NSF/ANSI 40	NSF/ANSI 245	NSF/ANSI 350
	Domestic	Nutrient	Reuse
CBOD 5-Day	25 mg/l		10 mg/l
TSS	30 mg/l		10 mg/l
Nitrogen Reduction		50 % Reduction	
Turbidity			5 NTU
Bacteria (e-coli)			14 CFU/100ml
Chlorine Residual			0.5 - 2.5 mg/l
pH	6 - 9		6 - 9



ADDITIONAL
PARTS INSIDE



DO NOT TOP LOAD!

CONSEAL

CONCRETE SEALANTS

DO NOT TOP LOAD!
CONSEAL
CONCRETE SEALANTS





DOOSAN

DMS



Effluent Disposal: Subsurface Drip Irrigation

- Aesthetically pleasing.
- 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.

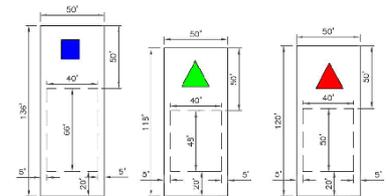
Engineer Option Permit

- Engineer, Soil Scientist, and Installer take liability through Insurance.
- County and State have No Liability.
- Local Health Department only evaluates for completeness, no detailed review.
- Permit issued within 15 days or deemed permitted.

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.

PROPOSED LOT TYPES

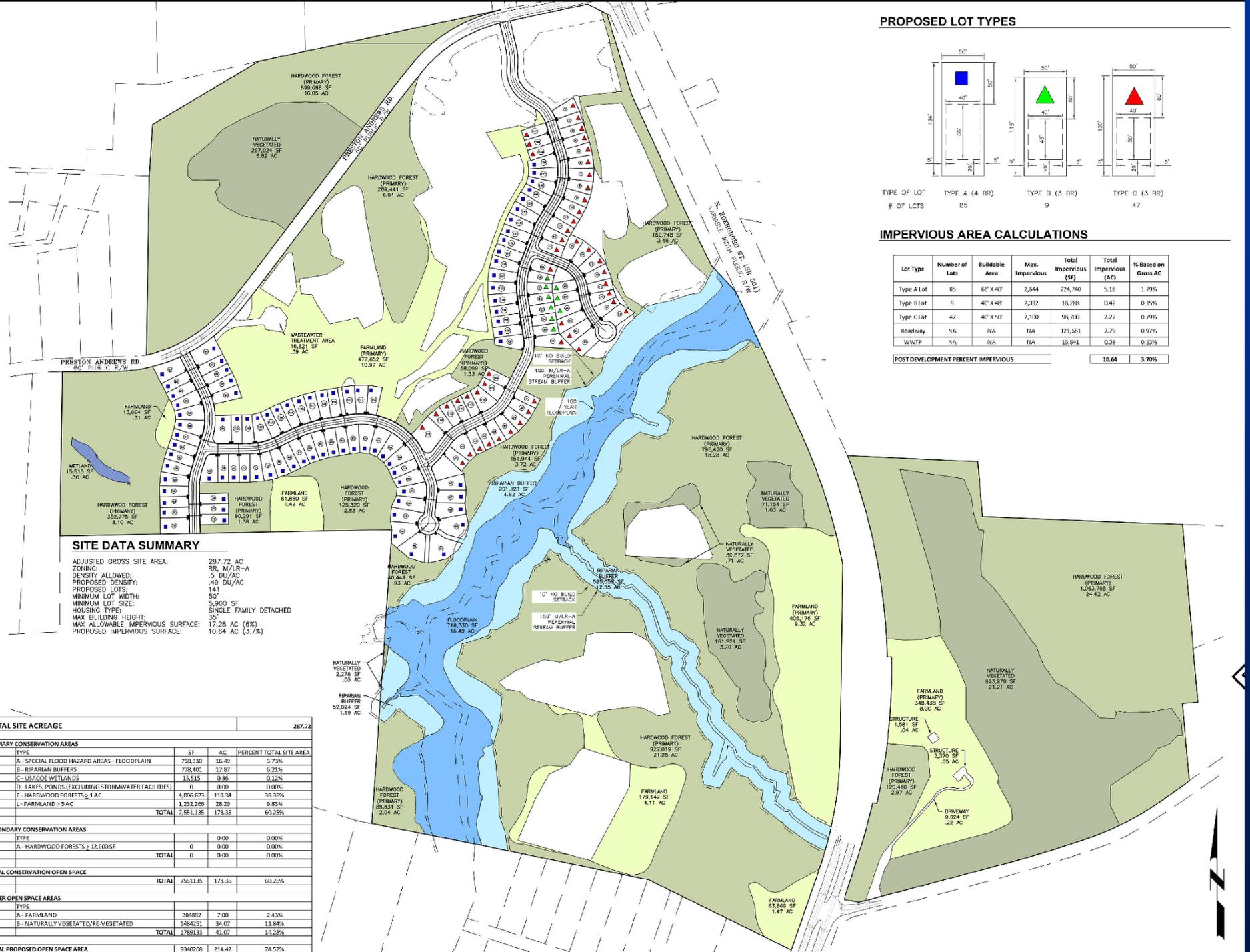


TYPE OF LOT	TYPE A (4 BR)	TYPE B (3 BR)	TYPE C (3 BR)
# OF LCTS	85	9	47

IMPERVIOUS AREA CALCULATIONS

Lot Type	Number of Lots	Buildable Area	Max. Impervious	Total Impervious (SF)	Total Impervious (AC)	% Based on Gross AC
Type A Lot	85	66' X 40'	2,544	214,740	5.16	1.79%
Type B Lot	9	40' X 48'	2,032	18,288	0.42	0.15%
Type C Lot	47	40' X 50'	2,100	98,700	2.27	0.79%
Roadway	NA	NA	NA	121,561	2.79	0.97%
WWTP	NA	NA	NA	16,841	0.39	0.13%

POST DEVELOPMENT PERCENT IMPERVIOUS: 10.64 3.70%



SITE DATA SUMMARY

ADJUSTED GROSS SITE AREA:	287.72 AC
ZONING:	RR, M/LR-A
DENSITY ALLOWED:	.5 DU/AC
PROPOSED DENSITY:	.49 DU/AC
PROPOSED LOTS:	141
MINIMUM LOT WIDTH:	50'
MINIMUM LOT SIZE:	5,900 SF
HOUSING TYPE:	SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED
MAX BUILDING HEIGHT:	35'
MAX ALLOWABLE IMPERVIOUS SURFACE:	17.28 AC (6%)
PROPOSED IMPERVIOUS SURFACE:	10.64 AC (3.7%)

TOTAL SITE ACREAGE 287.72

PRIMARY CONSERVATION AREAS			
TYPE	SF	AC	PERCENT TOTAL SITE AREA
A- SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS - FLOODPLAIN	718,330	16.49	5.72%
B- RIPARIAN BUFFERS	778,402	17.87	6.21%
C- USACE WETLANDS	15,515	0.36	0.12%
D- LAKES, PONDS (EXCLUDING STORMWATER FACILITIES)	0	0.00	0.00%
F- HARDWOOD FORESTS > 1 AC	4,806,629	110.34	38.35%
L- FARMLAND > 5 AC	1,232,265	28.23	9.83%
TOTAL	7,551,135	173.35	60.25%

SECONDARY CONSERVATION AREAS			
TYPE	SF	AC	PERCENT TOTAL SITE AREA
A- HARDWOOD FORESTS > 12,000 SF	0	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL	0	0.00	0.00%

TOTAL CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE			
TYPE	SF	AC	PERCENT TOTAL SITE AREA
TOTAL	7,551,135	173.35	60.25%

OTHER OPEN SPACE AREAS			
TYPE	SF	AC	PERCENT TOTAL SITE AREA
A- FARMLAND	304882	7.00	2.43%
B- NATURALLY VEGETATED/RE-VEGETATED	1484251	34.07	11.84%
TOTAL	1789133	41.07	14.28%

TOTAL PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AREA			
TYPE	SF	AC	PERCENT TOTAL SITE AREA
TOTAL	9340268	214.42	74.52%



WATER SYSTEM NOTES

1. COMMUNITY WATER SHALL BE PROVIDED BY A COMMUNITY WELL SYSTEM APPROVED BY THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.
2. THE WELLS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN HAVE BEEN PRELIMINARILY TESTED AND ARE PROPOSED AS THE SOURCE FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION ON-SITE. AT THE TIME OF CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS, FULL DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF WATER FROM THE PROPOSED WELLS TO EACH HOUSE.
3. THE EXISTING WELLS SHALL HAVE A 10' NO BUILD SETBACK PROVIDED AROUND EACH LOCATION.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COORDINATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES (WATER, SEWER, STORM, ELECTRICAL, GAS OR OTHER). THE UTILITY CONTRACTOR SHALL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ALL UTILITY SERVICES TO THE EDGE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.
5. ELEVATIONS AND UTILITIES ARE GIVEN TO THE EXTENT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE. WHERE ELEVATIONS ARE NOT GIVEN AT POINTS OF EXISTING UTILITY CROSSINGS, SUCH ELEVATIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE CONTRACTOR AND REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER. WHEN UNKNOWN LINES ARE EXPOSED, THEIR LOCATIONS AND ELEVATIONS SHALL ALSO BE REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER.
6. CONTRACTOR MAY REPURPOSE EXISTING METERS AND APPURTENANCES TO NEW LOCATION.

WASTEWATER SYSTEM NOTES

1. COMMUNITY WASTEWATER SHALL BE PROVIDED BY A COMMUNITY DRAINFIELD SYSTEM. ALL WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS SHALL MEET COUNTY OF DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.
2. THE PROPOSED LOTS HAVE BEEN GROUPED INTO SEVERAL COLLECTION SYSTEMS. EACH COLLECTION SYSTEM WILL CONTAIN A GRAVITY CONDUIT FROM THE PROPOSED LOTS TO A SEPTIC PUMP TANK THAT WILL THEN PUMP THE WASTE TO A CENTRALIZED TREATMENT SYSTEM. THE TREATED EFFLUENT WILL THEN BE PUMPED TO VARIOUS DRAINFIELDS THROUGHOUT THE SITE. THE DETAILS OF THE PUMPS, LINES, TREATMENT, TANKS, AND TIELDS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS.
3. EACH LOT HAS 3-4 BEDROOMS. REFER TO THE PLAN FOR THE NUMBER OF BEDROOMS FOR EACH LOT. THE CALCULATION OF EXPECTED BALLONS PER DAY IS BASED ON 120 GPD PER BEDROOM. THE DRAINFIELD IS SIZED BASED ON 90 GPD PER BEDROOM (PER APPROVED 25% FLOW REDUCTION).
4. THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF INITIAL AND REPAIR DRAINFIELDS IS BASED ON REPORTS BY DON WELLS L.L.S. OF SABC.
5. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COORDINATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES (WATER, SEWER, STORM, ELECTRICAL, GAS OR OTHER). THE UTILITY CONTRACTOR SHALL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ALL UTILITY SERVICES TO THE EDGE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.
6. ELEVATIONS AND UTILITIES ARE GIVEN TO THE EXTENT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE. WHERE ELEVATIONS ARE NOT GIVEN AT POINTS OF EXISTING UTILITY CROSSINGS, SUCH ELEVATIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE CONTRACTOR AND REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER. WHEN UNKNOWN LINES ARE EXPOSED, THEIR LOCATIONS AND ELEVATIONS SHALL ALSO BE REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER.

PROPOSED UTILITY SEPARATION

1. WATER MAINS SHALL BE LAID AT LEAST 10 FEET HORIZONTALLY FROM EXISTING OR PROPOSED SEWERS, UNLESS LOCAL CONDITIONS OR BARRIERS PREVENT A 10-FOOT SEPARATION IN WHICH CASE:
 - 1.1. THE WATER MAIN IS LAID IN A SEPARATE TRENCH WITH THE ELEVATION OF THE BOTTOM OF THE WATER MAIN AT LEAST 18 INCHES ABOVE THE TOP OF THE SEWER; OR
 - 1.2. THE WATER MAIN IS LAID IN THE SAME TRENCH AS THE SEWER WITH THE WATER MAIN LOCATED AT ONE SIDE OF A BENCH OF UNDISTURBED EARTH AND WITH THE ELEVATION OF THE BOTTOM OF THE WATER MAIN AT LEAST 18 INCHES ABOVE THE TOP OF THE SEWER.
2. CROSSING A WATER MAIN OVER A SEWER WHENEVER IT IS NECESSARY FOR A WATER MAIN TO CROSS OVER A SEWER, THE WATER MAIN SHALL BE LAID AT SUCH AN ELEVATION THAT THE BOTTOM OF THE WATER MAIN IS AT LEAST 18 INCHES ABOVE THE TOP OF THE SEWER. IF LOCAL CONDITIONS OR BARRIERS PREVENT AN 18 INCH VERTICAL SEPARATION, BOTH THE WATER MAIN AND SEWER SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OF FIBROUS MATERIALS WITH JOINTS THAT ARE EQUIVALENT TO WATER MAIN STANDARDS FOR A DISTANCE OF 10' ON EACH SIDE OF THE POINT OF CROSSING.
3. CROSSING A WATER MAIN UNDER A SEWER, WHENEVER IT IS NECESSARY FOR A WATER MAIN TO CROSS UNDER A SEWER, BOTH THE WATER MAIN AND SEWER SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OF FIBROUS MATERIAL AND WITH JOINTS EQUIVALENT TO WATER MAIN STANDARDS FOR A DISTANCE OF 10' FEET ON EACH SIDE OF THE POINT OF CROSSING. A SECTION OF WATER MAIN PIPE SHALL BE CENTERED AT THE POINT OF CROSSING.

SEPARATION OF SANITARY SEWERS AND STORM SEWERS

1. 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 FIBROUS MATERIALS.
2. AN 8' HORIZONTAL SEPARATION SHALL BE PROVIDED BETWEEN STORM SEWER AND SANITARY SEWER LINES.



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.

Questions?



MacCONNELL
& Associates, P. C.