



Reviewing History, Shaping the Future

Charlestown's Wastewater Management Program

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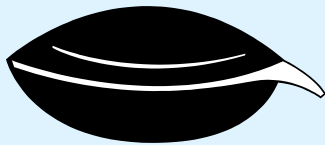
March 14, 2006

Why Charlestown?

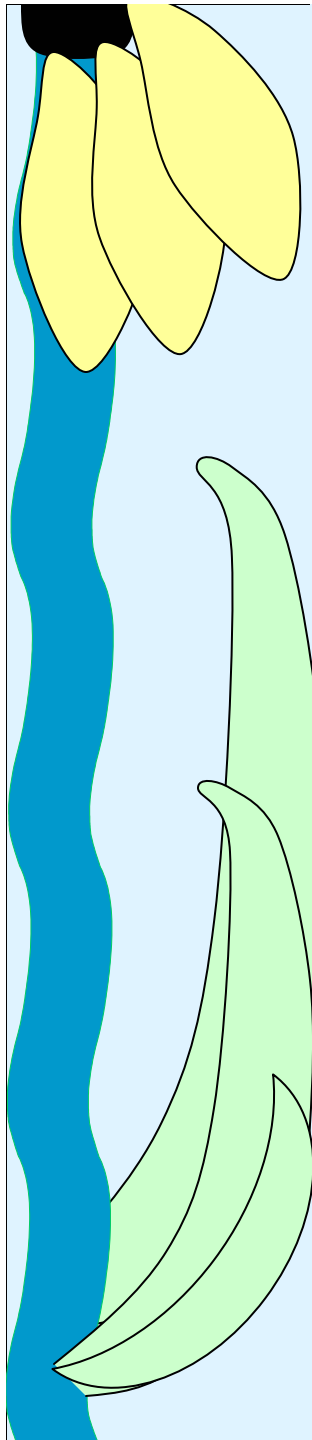


- A coastal town with 4,200 septic systems—entirely dependent upon groundwater for drinking water; no sewers; all ISDS and wells

- Concern about real estate values—small summer homes being converted to larger, permanent dwellings



- Concern due to shell fishing closures because of bacterial contamination—septic systems identified as the source

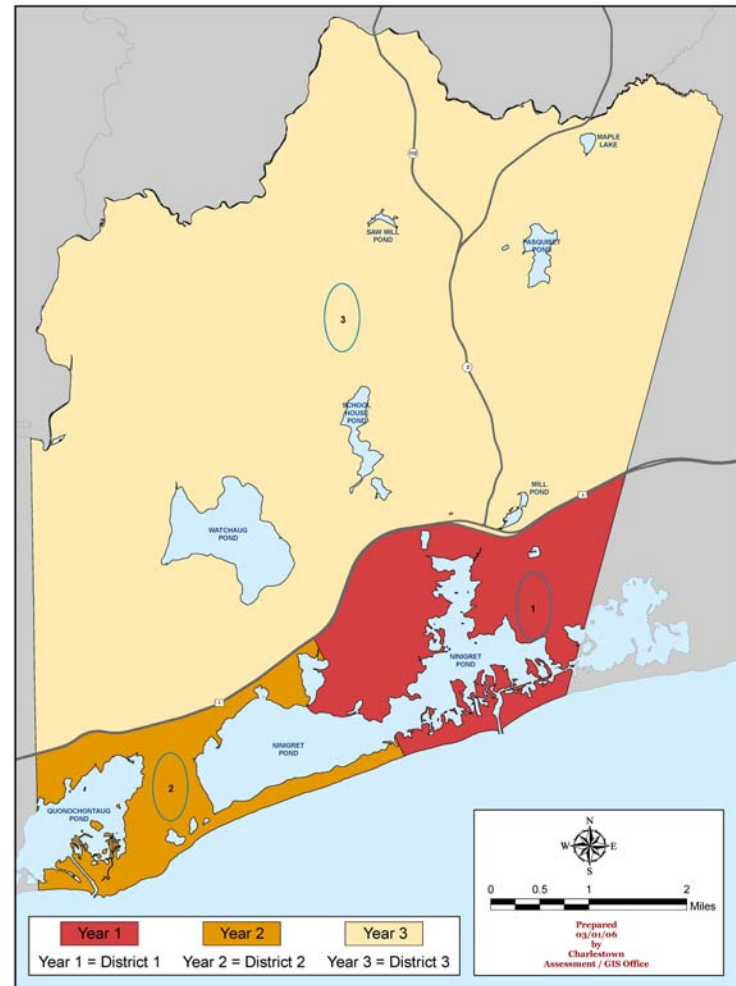


- 2004 -All systems owners required to complete FMI
- 2001 -Three inspection districts established to inventory all ISDS
- 2000 -Block Island/Green Hill Pond Project hired part- time Onsite Specialist
- 1999 -Wastewater Management Plan complete
-CSSLP approved
- 1998 -Ordinance revised to mandate inspection-based pumping
- 1994 -Wastewater Management Ordinance 252 enacted
-No staff hired yet
- 1993 -Money retained for inspections
-Wastewater Management Commission established
-House-to-house volunteer education program
-Volunteer pump-out program

Where We're At Today

- Three wastewater districts
- Routine Maintenance Inspections due
- Identifying and notifying substandard and failed systems

The Charlestown ISDS Inspection Schedule



Inspections By District

District 1

99% complete

22 failed systems, 128 cesspools

District 2

86% complete

18 failed systems, 175 cesspools

District 3

91% complete

12 failed systems, 65 cesspools

Town-wide Overall Completion

92%

Where We're At Today-Continued

- Revised ordinance, mandating cesspool phase-out and inspection-based ISDS maintenance (1-6 years)



- Web-based tracking program and paperless reports from service providers



- On-going public outreach
- Coordination with an array of organizations
- Integration into Town Departments
- Financial aid through RI Housing, DEM, RI Cleanwater Finance Agency
- Completed Septage Study

Issues We're Tackling Along the Way

- Staffing issues--
Clerical versus technical
- Maintenance is critical!
Tracking maintenance is just as important!
- Cesspools, Conventional, and I&A Systems
Enforcement issues!
- Performance-based standards for advanced
treatment
- What is a Wastewater Specialist's job
description? And how is it funded?

Where We're Headed

December 2006

Termination of EPA budgeting compels
creation of position

January-December 2007

Changing roles for Wastewater Specialist,
Wastewater Commission, and Town

Continued integration of CARMODY

May 2009

Deadline for cesspool phase-out

Future

Well and septic system locations with GIS
involvement

