

# Westford Community Wastewater Disposal Project

**STONE**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
100% EMPLOYEE-OWNED

## Services / Expertise

Water Resources Management  
Hydrogeologic Investigations  
Decentralized Wastewater Management  
Community Wastewater Feasibility & Design  
Public Outreach and Facilitation  
ArcGIS Analysis

## Markets

Municipal Clients  
Regional Planning Commissions  
Rural Communities

## Project Location

Westford, Vermont

## Duration

2006–Present

## Project Owner

Town of Westford, Vermont

## Project ID#

06-1854, 13-224, 16-130, 18-021, 19-161,  
20231017

## Project Manager

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## Project Team

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*Stone's analysis and presentations are helping residents, community boards, and stakeholders make decisions about connecting to a proposed community wastewater system for Westford's historic Town Common area.*

STONE is advancing or supporting several village-scale, soil-based wastewater infrastructure projects—helping communities develop solutions that allow modest growth and redevelopment in unsewered villages and designated growth centers.

One project advancing to a final design after over a decade of careful planning and collaboration is in Westford, Vermont. In 2006–2007, Stone conducted a wastewater feasibility study for Westford's Town Center zoning district, an area of 78 properties (roughly 1,000 acres), most developed with single-family residences. Although the Town Center is Westford's designated growth center, the area's natural features make increasing development density challenging, even on large lots.

Stone and an engineering partner conducted a needs assessment for the Town Center to determine whether each property could support an onsite system under the current local zoning ordinances and state wastewater disposal rules. We also conducted a survey, where respondents indicated either that they were not interested in further developing their properties or suggested new uses without constructing a more extensive community wastewater treatment system. Considering the limited feasibility and local interest in a community wastewater disposal solution, we recommended several alternative strategies for managing wastewater and supporting the Town's land use goals in the Town Center zoning district.

In 2013, as part of a zoning update for the Town Center, Stone evaluated the potential for siting community leachfields on three Town- or institutionally owned sites and completed a capacity analysis for one site where soils were suitable for a small mound system. Stone continued to support the Town's efforts to secure treatment capacity in 2015–2017, when an opportunity to purchase capacity became available as part of the "Jackson Farm and Forest" project, including one of the most promising sites from the feasibility study. Stone's hydrogeologic investigations demonstrated that the site could support a new wastewater system with a capacity of approximately 12,600



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gallons per day. The property transaction, which preserves working lands and secures wastewater capacity for future Town use, closed in late 2017.

Stone then worked with the Town to advance plans for the design, funding, and construction of a community wastewater system, leading to the VT DEC Indirect Discharge Program issuing a Preliminary Capacity Determination for the community wastewater disposal site under Vermont's Indirect Discharge Rules—the first to be so approved.

Our team's and the Town's sustained efforts resulted in a \$2.3-million design and construction funding award through Vermont's Village Water and Wastewater Initiative. In early 2022, Stone took over as the engineering firm of record and led the closure of preliminary engineering (Step 1) and environmental review phases, enabling Vermont ANR to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Facilities Plan Approval. Stone is now working with the Westford Planning Commission, Selectboard, property owners in the service area, and funding and permitting agencies to advance design and financial analysis steps before a bond vote.

