



Washington Park, NC Community Meeting February 10, 2026

Introductions

- Washington Park
- Beaufort County
- Rivers and Associates
- MDB, Inc.
- Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP)
- Mid-East Commission
- NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure (NC DWI)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD)

Goals of the Community Meeting

1. Introduce Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap initiative.
2. Discuss history of this project and why the Town desires a wastewater solution.
3. Review the wastewater alternatives from the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).
4. Review potential funding options.
5. Answer questions and get feedback from residents.

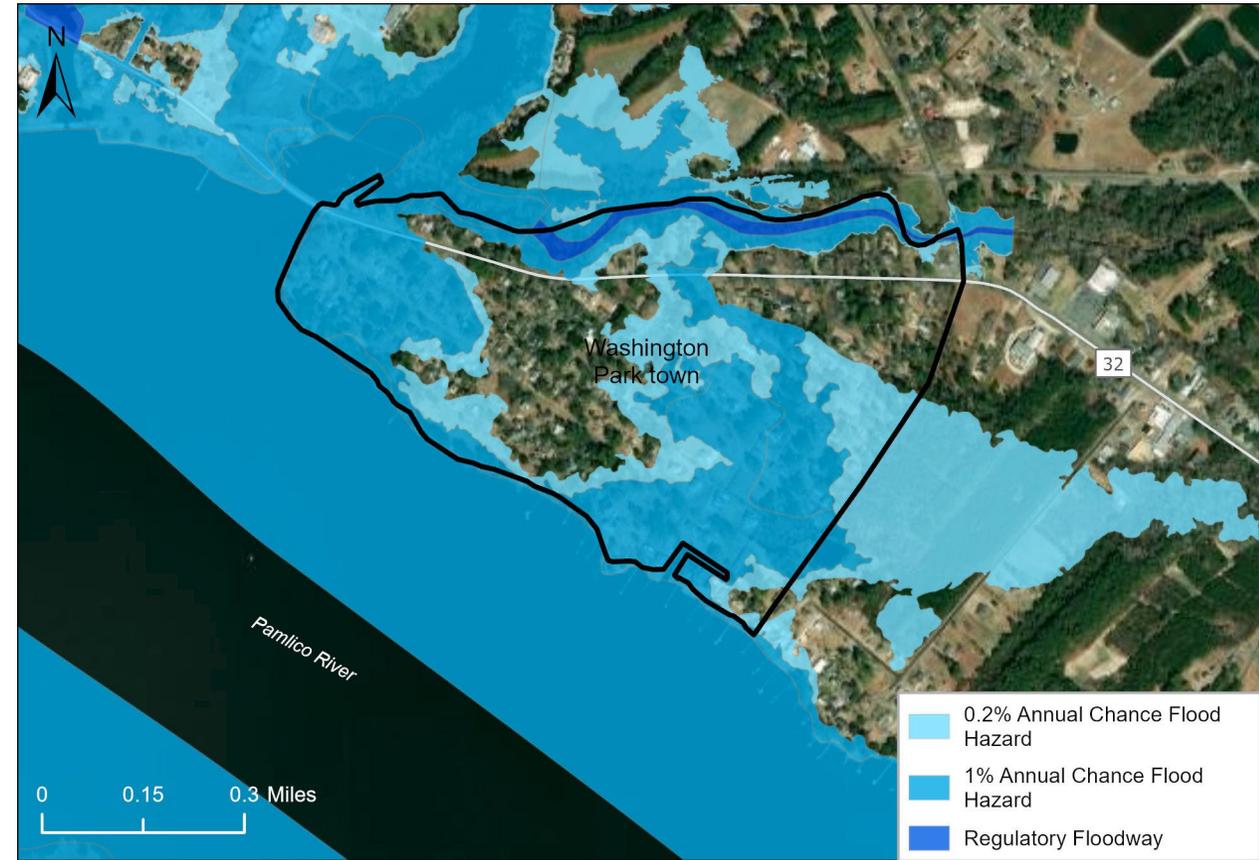
Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Initiative (CAWAG)

- No-cost technical assistance to communities with failing septic systems.
- Supporting communities across the U.S. and its territories.
- EPA funds Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER), community meetings, and contractors to support development of wastewater solutions.



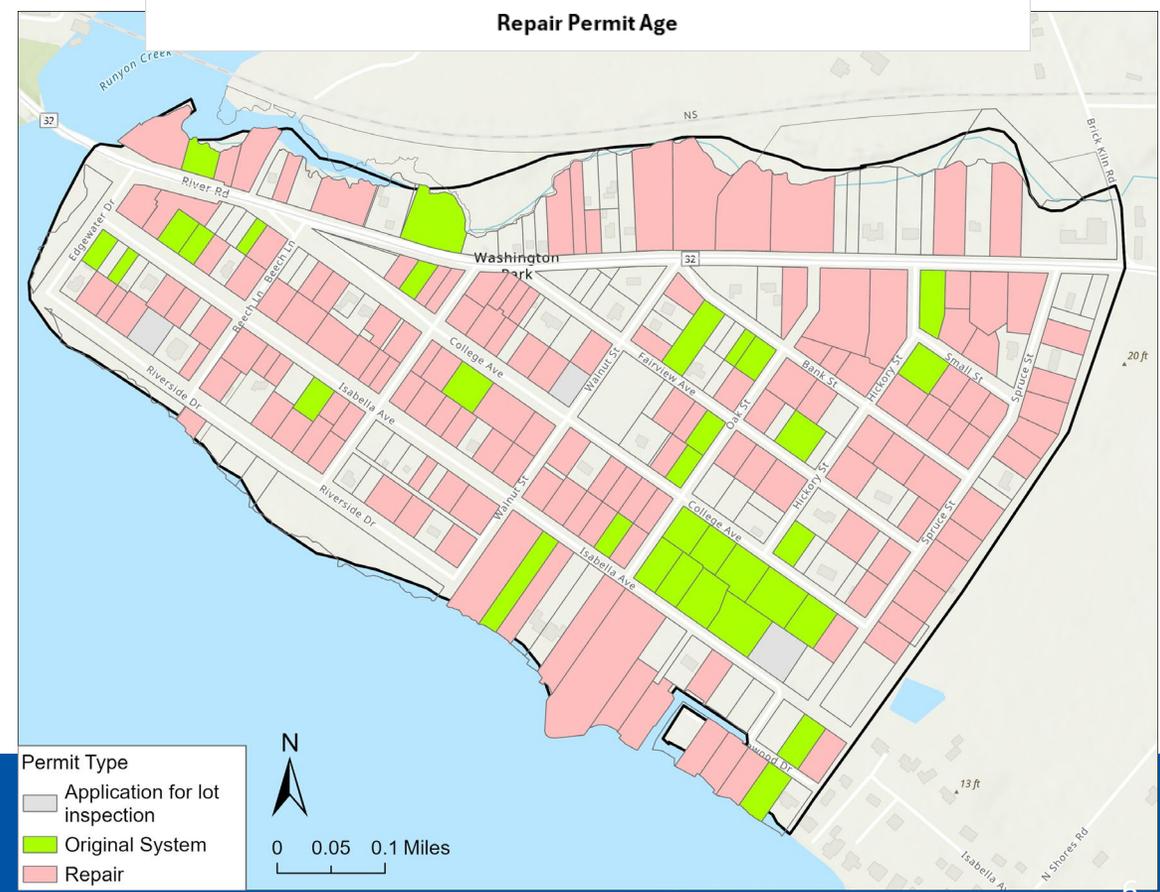
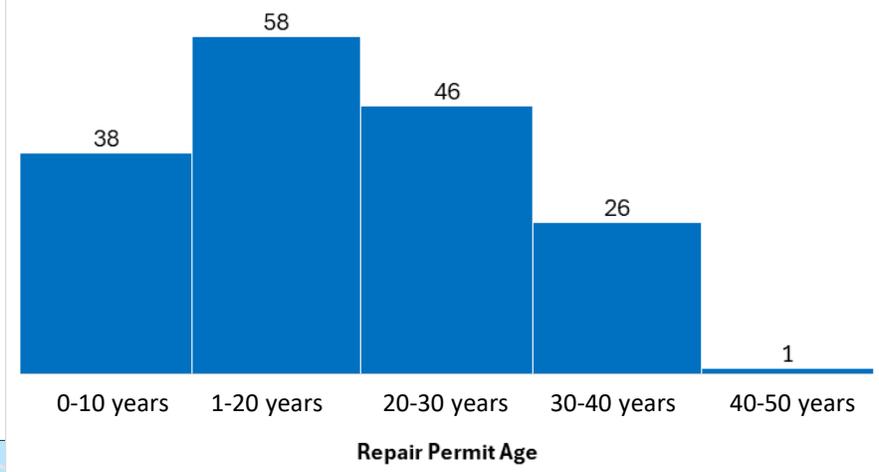
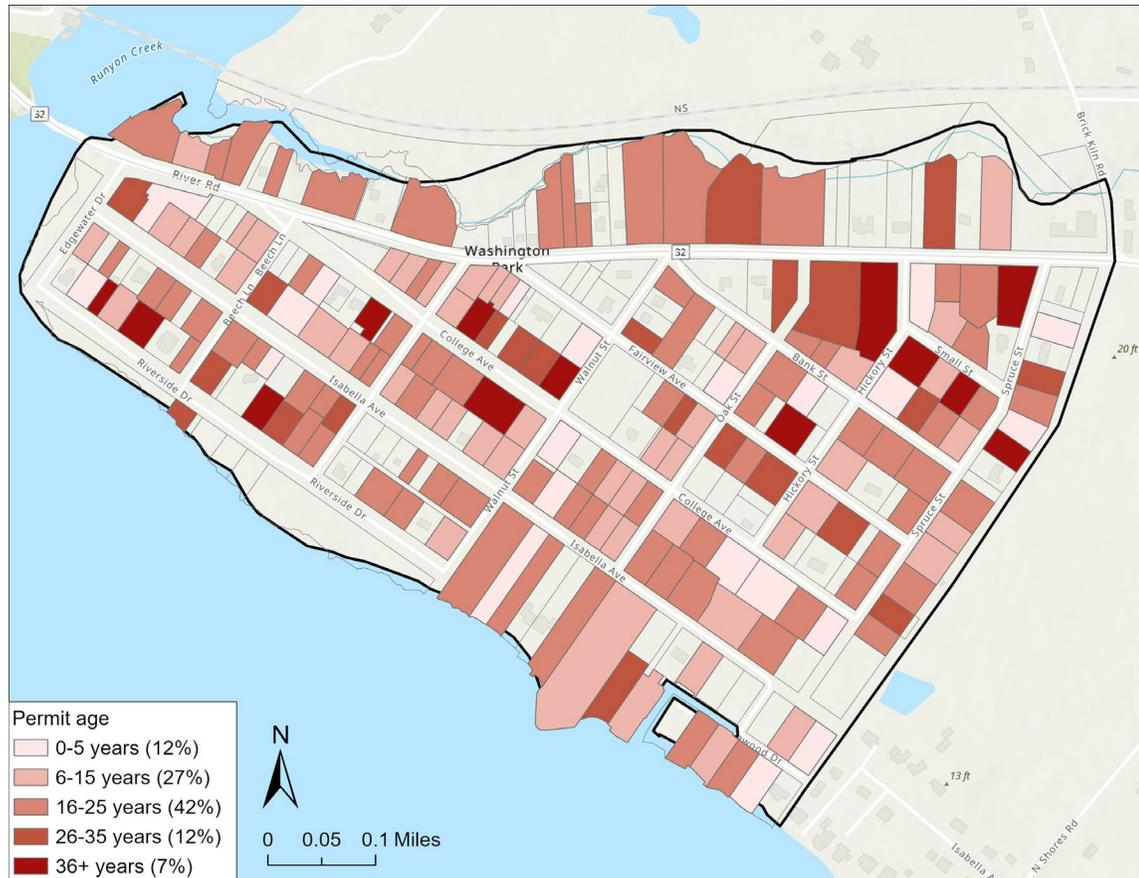
Background

- Town participated in NC Resilient Coastal Communities Program, which cited future concern for septic system vulnerabilities due to rising groundwater table.
- Ongoing drainage and green infrastructure improvement projects.



Majority of Washington Park is in the floodplain.

Septic System Permit review



Wastewater solution options

Option 1: No action.

Option 2: Repair and upgrade existing septic systems.

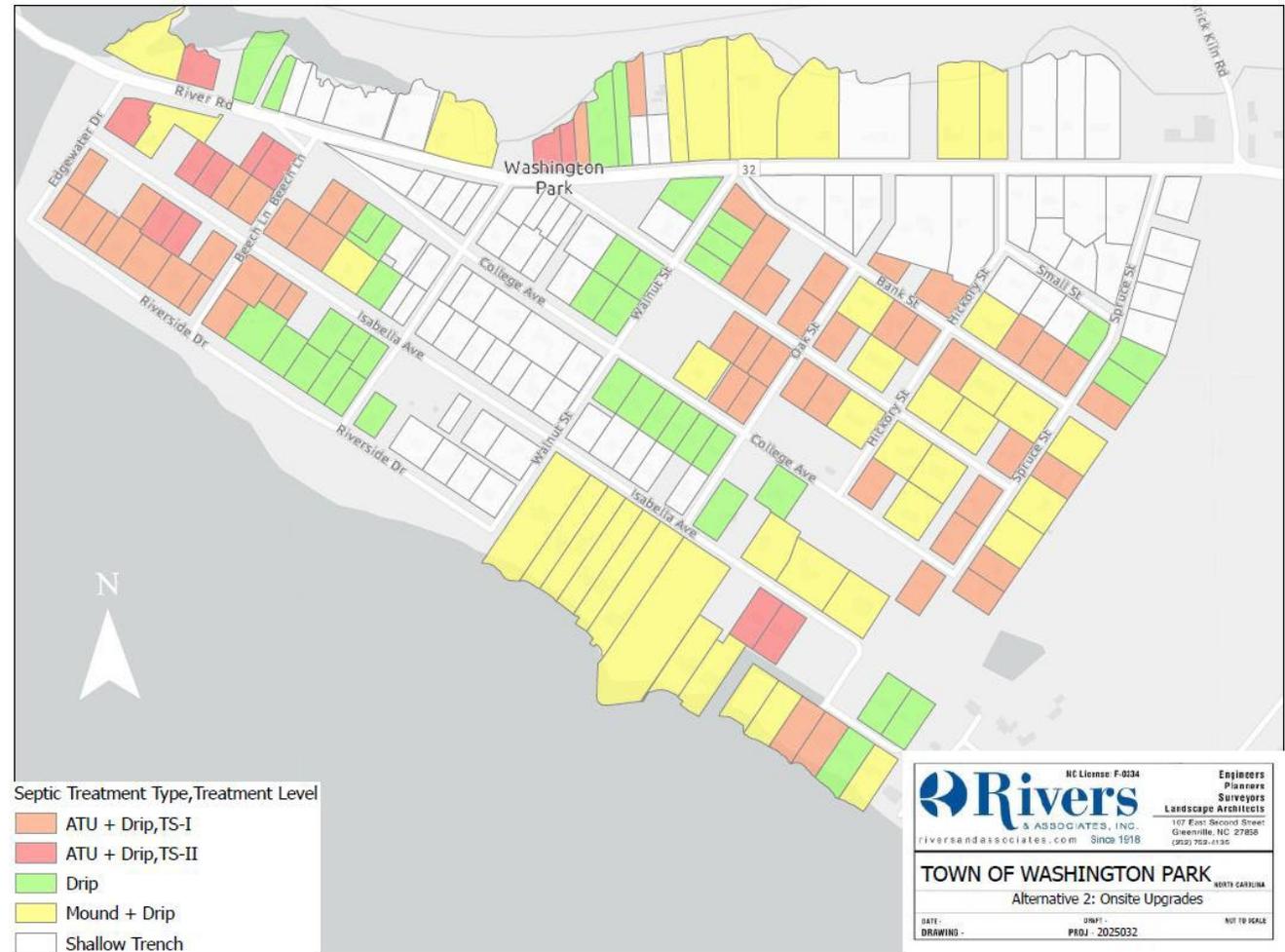
Option 3: Connect to City of Washington's sewer system.

Option 1: No action.

- Homeowner responsible for septic system repairs and costs.

Option 2: Repair and Upgrade Existing Septic Systems

- Varies by site conditions.
 - Parcel size
 - Topographic elevation
 - Soil type
- Repair/replacement types:
 - Conventional/shallow trench
 - Subsurface drip
 - Drip + fill
 - Advanced pretreatment unit + drip
 - TS-1 and TS-2 options



Option 3: Connect to City of Washington's sewer system.

- Grinder pumps installed at each home.
- Low-pressure sewer with road right-of-way.
- Tie-in to City of Washington sewer via existing force main at Brick Kiln road.
- Total capital cost = \$7.1M.



Potential costs

Option 2

Septic System Repair and Maintenance

Pipe and connection repairs	\$1,000–2,000
Drain field repairs	~\$10,000–15,000
Septic pump replacement	~\$500–1,200
Septic tank pump out	~\$350–400

Septic System Upgrades

\$4,300 - \$33,150*

*dependent on soils, lot size, and elevation

Option 3

Sewer Costs

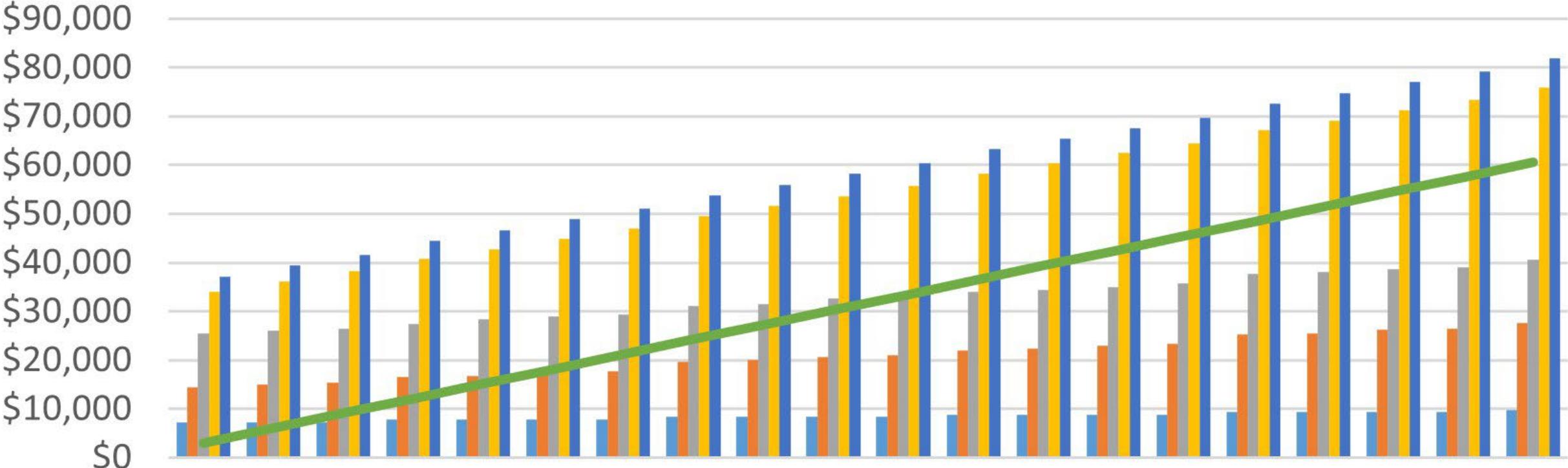
- Tap fee (one time)
- Monthly sewer bill (ongoing)

Monthly Sewer Bill

% Grant*	Total Monthly Bill
100%	\$98.86
60%	\$160
40%	\$191

*dependent on federal funding available

20 Year Homeowner Cost Comparison



- Shallow Trench
- Drip Distribution
- DD + Mound
- ATU (TS-I)
- ATU (TS-II)
- Alternative 3



Potential funding sources

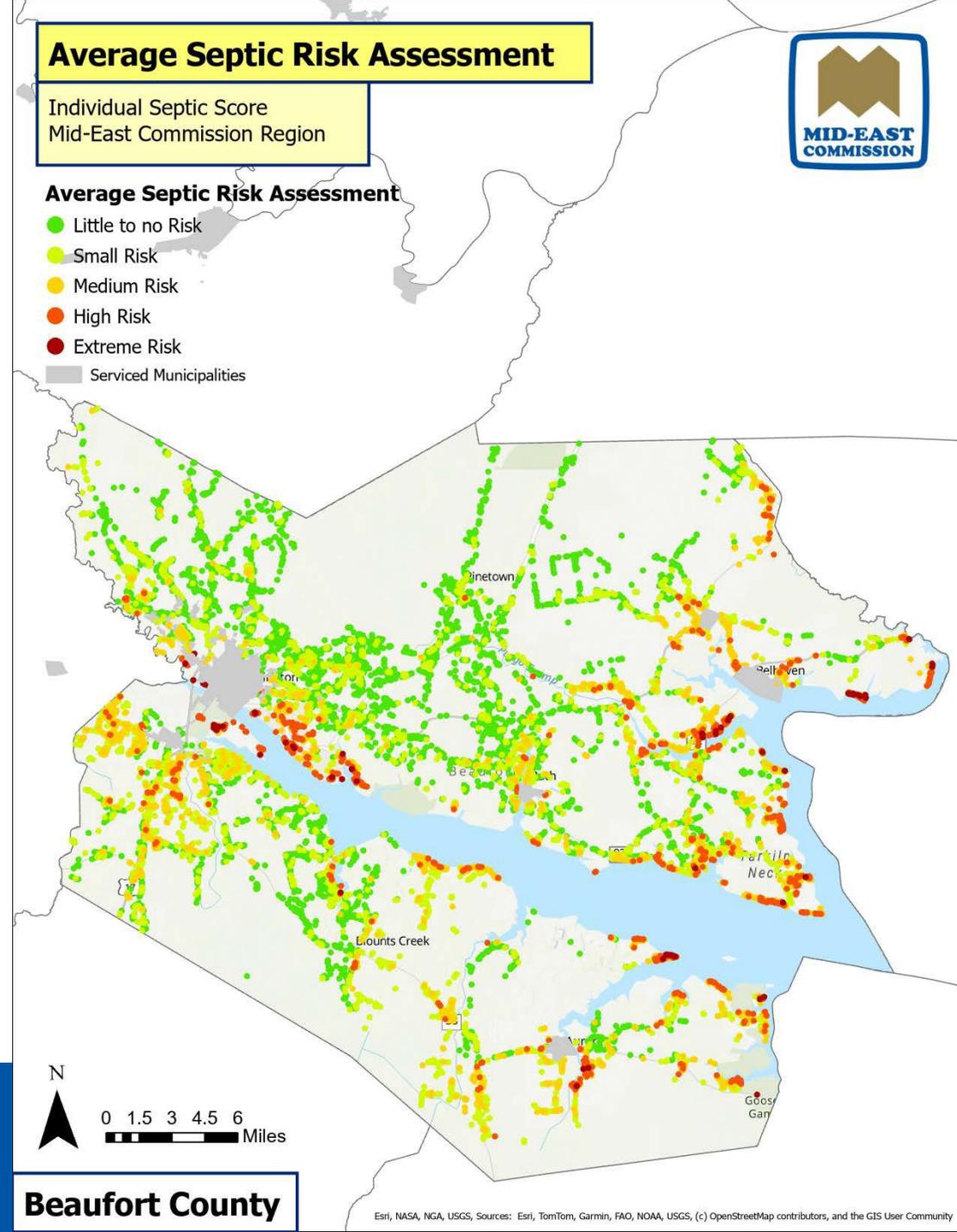
- Option 2: Repair and Upgrade Existing Septic Systems
 - SERCAP Individual Household Loans (*active*)
 - CWSRF Decentralized Pilot Program (*active*)
 - Establish a Washington Park Septic Maintenance Program
- Option 3: Connect to City of Washington's sewer system
 - CWSRF (potential principal forgiveness/grant)
 - USDA (loan only)
 - Other

SERCAP Individual Household Loan

- Loans of up to \$15,000.00 for installation of a New Well or Septic System (standard or alternative) or repair of an existing Well or Septic System.
- Loan Recipient must own and occupy the property.
- Property must be located in a rural area.
- Individual Household Well or Septic System may not be used to substitute water/wastewater from a public system.
- *Individual Household Well or Septic System May Not be Associated with the Construction of a New Home.*
- Must not exceed Maximum Income Limit of \$88,600.

CWSRF Decentralized Pilot Funding

- Beaufort County awarded \$250,000 to fund septic system repairs.
- Anticipate program being active in late spring to early summer.
- Criteria:
 - 1st priority: Receives Medicaid or EBT (food stamps) or household is under 80% of the NC Median Household Income (\$55,923)
 - 2nd priority: Less than NC Median Household Income (\$69,904)



Septic Maintenance Program – Nags Head, NC

- The program offers free services and financial assistance for having systems pumped out, repaired, or replaced.
- Provides non-emergency free septic system inspections to homeowners that have conventional septic systems that are sized less than 3000 gallons per day.
- The town also offers low-interest loans for those who need to make repairs.

Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!



Preventative Maintenance!



System age and tree roots are likely the biggest causes of failure in Washington Park

Next steps



Public input survey



Determine preferred option



Apply for funding

Questions?