



RCAP Solutions

Wastewater 101

A Community Guide to Bristol's Sewer System

Date: Wed October 21, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Holley Hall

1 South Street, Bristol, VT 05443

Training Description

Bristol's wastewater system currently has enough physical (hydraulic) capacity to serve the community. However, the system is limited by the amount of organic material measured as Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) entering the system. Elevated BOD levels reduce how much wastewater the system can effectively treat.

The Bristol Sewer system was designed to handle 20,000 gal per day but is maxed out at about 8,000 gal per day, which is only 40% of its capacity. If Bristol can decrease its BOD 50% (as a potential goal), it will result in a dramatic increase in available wastewater capacity to be utilized for growth of the downtown business community and sustainability of the sewer system. If BOD cannot be reduced, costly treatment options will be needed, and the expense would be split by all the wastewater system customers. Addressing BOD at its source is widely recognized as the most effective and cost-efficient solution.

Additionally, VTM Engineering will present on the Main Street water line design for Bristol East.

What topics will be covered at the training?

- Why Wastewater Matters
- Wastewater Basics
- Collection System 101
- How Treatment Works
- Inside Bristol's Sewer System
- Keeping the System Healthy

Questions? Contact Joshua Lochhead

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