



2022 Sewer Connection Moratorium

FAQ

On January 14, 2022, the Utilities Trustees of Northport Village Corporation passed a moratorium for Calendar Year 2022 that prohibits permits to be processed or approved for new connections to the sewer system in order to provide time for the Village to study increased load on the sewer system. The text of the Moratorium can be found attached in Exhibit A.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Moratorium?

A moratorium is a “stop” on certain development activities.

2. What areas of the Village of Northport are impacted?

The Moratorium applies to any property within the village limits of Northport Village Corporation that is (or could be) served by the NVC Sewer System (the “NVC System”). See Attachment B for a map of the Village sewer system limits.

3. What type of Moratorium is the Northport Village currently in?

The Moratorium applies to projects in the NVC System that require a new connection to the Sewer System. Full details are described in the Moratorium found in Attachment A.

4. How long will the Moratorium last?

This Moratorium is for Calendar Year 2022. At the end of that period, It could be repealed or extended depending on the review and analysis of sewer systems’ capacity.

5. What is the Village’s sewer treatment capacity?

The Village’s Sewer Utility operates under a license from the federal EPA and the Maine DEP. This license includes limits for volume of discharge, and volume and concentration of various components such as Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), and Total Suspended Solids (TSS). Wastewater is decontaminated with chlorine and chlorine is neutralized chemically before discharge of effluent. Decontamination is monitored by sample testing. The wastewater undergoes primary treatment involving settling of solids in a series of settling tanks (which are periodically sludgewasted) and then chemical

treatment of the effluent. The system has capacity to handle the volumes received without fear of license violation, however soluble organic BOD load increases with the increase in summer population and has, at times, approached license limits.

6. How does the Village know when its sewer system capacity is being reached?

Village staff along with professional consultants provide sampling and testing of the effluent as required by the EPA. The Village also tracks sewer permits received through the development process to verify available capacity.

7. Is there anything that the sewer users can do to help minimize strains on the treatment system?

The Villages wastewater treatment system was designed to deal with sewage and wastewater from toilets, showers and tubs. Use of garbage disposals clearly adds a load of organic matter that adds to strain on the system; disposals should not be used. Garbage should be composted, not washed down the drain. Paints and organic compounds should never be flushed down the drain or toilet. Rice, noodles, coffee grounds, and bones should never be washed down they drain.

8. Who treats Northport Village's wastewater flows?

Wastewater generated by dwellings within the Sewer System service area is treated at the NVC Wastewater Treatment Plant adjacent to Ruggles Park near the wharf. All other wastewater is treated by private septic systems.

9. Why is it so critically important not to exceed the capacity of the treatment plant? If wastewater flows exceed the capacity of our current primary treatment plant such that there are multiple violations of our license, the NVC would likely be required to design and build a secondary treatment plant whose costs could exceed 10-15 million dollars. This would not only be beyond the means of the financial resources of the NVC, but the operation and maintenance costs of a secondary plant could not be borne by user fees on a 250 customer system. It is therefore critical to operate the wastewater treatment plant within limitations of the existing license.

10. How does Northport Village get out of a sewer Moratorium?

The Village needs time to study whether the current treatment system is at or near capacity. Within the next 12 months, the Sewer Utility will conduct research in order to analyze data from system use in all four seasons.

11. Did Northport Village expect the amount of growth it is currently seeing for land development activities that impact our Sewer system capacity?

Growth of the system by dwelling construction on buildable lots of record has been anticipated from the outset and was included in the engineer's estimations of size and demand when the system was built in 1986.

12. I have a vacant lot in Northport Village, can I build a new home and hook up to the sewer system?

Maybe. A new home can be built on a lot of record within the area served by the Sewer System only if a sewer permit was approved prior to the effective date of the Moratorium. If you have applied for and received a sewer permit, this Moratorium does not affect you. If your lot is large enough to allow for use of a private septic system, then you may not be impacted by this Moratorium.

13. I'd like to build a commercial building in the Village not knowing exactly what type of tenants I may have. Can I do this?

Maybe. New structures requiring connection to the sewer system are not currently allowed unless they have already obtained a sewer permit, or are on a private septic system. Commercial uses are also governed by the NVC zoning ordinance and only limited uses are allowed.

14. Does this Moratorium impact new water hookups?

No. This Moratorium does not impact water connections.

If you have any questions about the Moratorium, please contact the NVC Utilities Committee via email at: utilities-committee@nvcmaine.org

**Attachment A:
2022 Sewer Connection Moratorium**

The Northport Village Corporation has imposed a moratorium upon the receipt and processing of any sewer connection permits or any other application for other permits of any type which requires a new connection to the Northport Village sewer system.

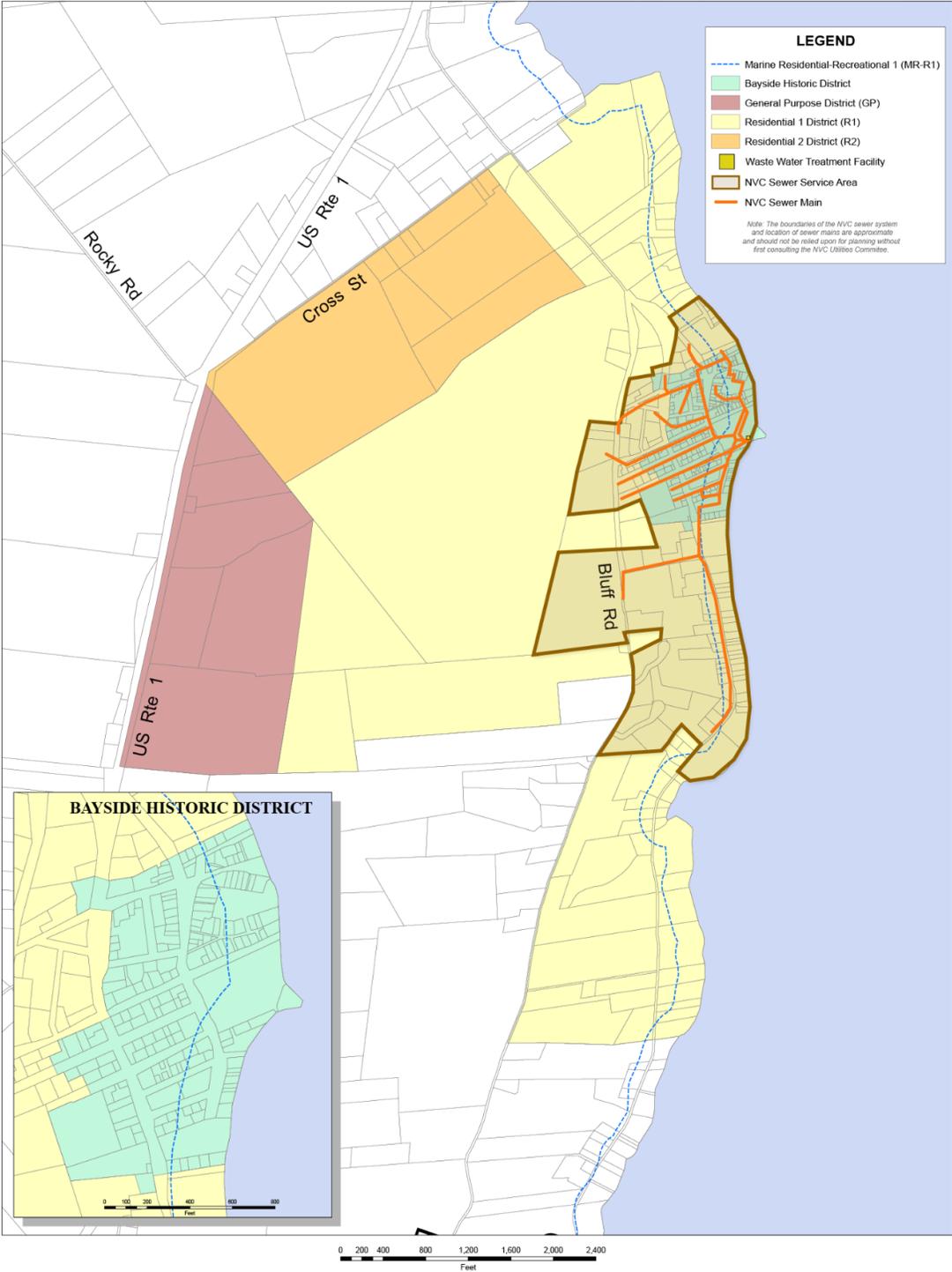
This moratorium shall be in place from January 14, 2022 until December 31, 2022.

This moratorium imposed shall be subject to the following exceptions:

A. This moratorium shall not apply to sewer connection permits approved prior to January 14, 2022.

B. This moratorium shall not apply to the processing and issuance of any permit or approval for a project that does not require any new connections to the Northport Village sewer system as determined by the Utilities Committee.

Attachment B: Northport Village Corporation SEWER SYSTEM MAP



Map data obtained from
Town of Northport and
Maine Office of GIS

Revised January 17, 2022

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