

Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan

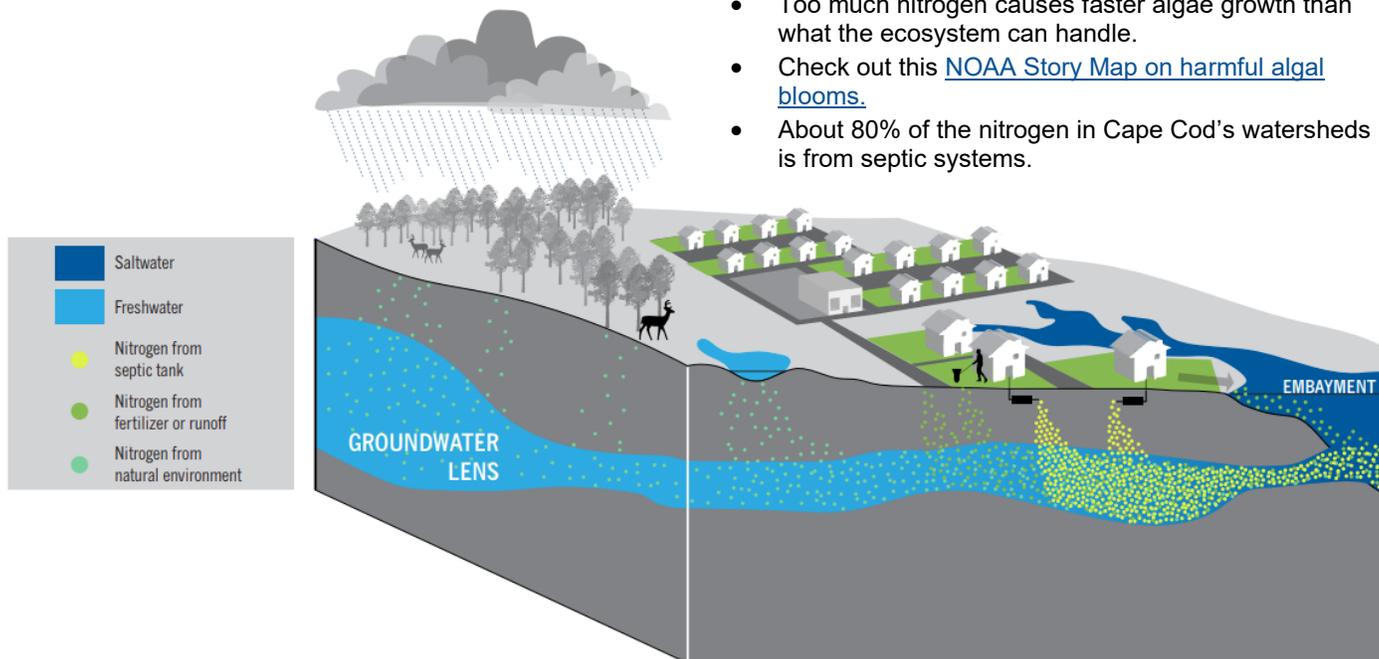
Town of Bourne, MA

It's All Connected: Nitrogen and Water Quality

Update: 09/18/2021

Nitrogen is the #1 Threat to Water Quality

- Too much nitrogen causes faster algae growth than what the ecosystem can handle.
- Check out this [NOAA Story Map on harmful algal blooms](#).
- About 80% of the nitrogen in Cape Cod's watersheds is from septic systems.



"How Nitrogen Moves Through A Coastal Watershed" Source: Cape Cod Commission

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FAST FACTS

Nitrogen makes up 78% of Earth's atmosphere

Each person excretes approximately 6.4 lbs of nitrogen each year

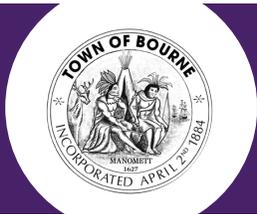
True or False

- ⇒ *Septic Systems remove all nitrogen.*
⇒ **False!** Most Title 5 systems only remove bacteria. Some advanced septic systems, or IA systems, remove nitrogen, but not all nitrogen is removed.
- ⇒ *Only people who live on the coast need to worry about Nitrogen Pollution.*
⇒ **False!** On Cape Cod, everyone contributes to the same aquifer that is the source of our drinking water. Reducing nitrogen pollution is a shared problem with shared solutions.
- ⇒ *There is nothing we can do to stop Nitrogen Pollution.*
⇒ **False!** There is a lot you can do to reverse nitrogen pollution starting today. Head to the [EPA Nutrient Pollution webpage](#) to see what you can do in your home and in your yard. Check the [Town CWMP webpage](#) to see what you can do in your community.

Source: Cape Cod Groundwater Guardians

Prepared By:



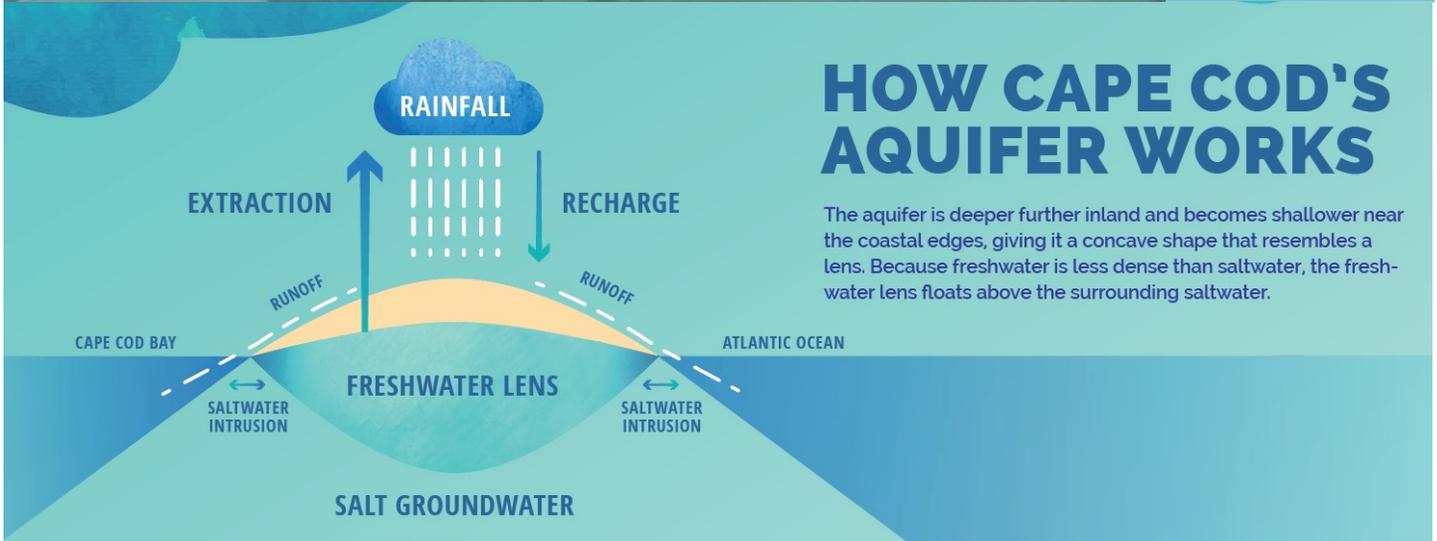
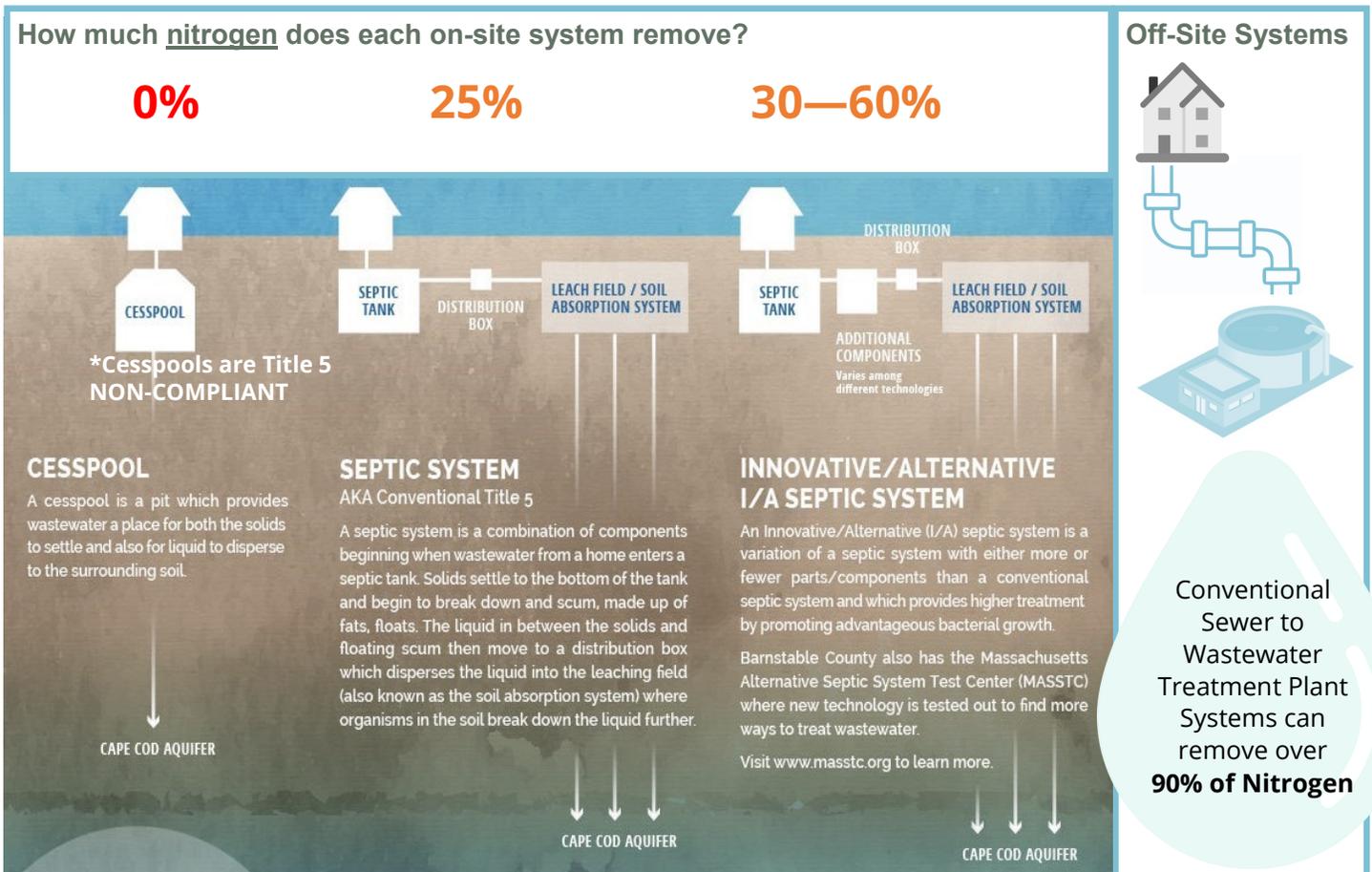


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Town of Bourne, MA

It's All Connected: Onsite Systems and Nitrogen Removal

Update: 09/18/2021



Infographic Source: Cape Cod Groundwater Guardians and Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment, www.capecodgroundwater.org