

Clackamas County

Onsite Wastewater Program

HEATHER NIELSEN, RG, WWS



CLACKAMAS
C O U N T Y

Who we are

- ▶ Six Person Team

- ▶ 2 Permit Technicians
- ▶ 2 Soil Scientists
- ▶ 2 Senior Soil Scientists

- ▶ Contact us by:

- ▶ phone: 503-742-4740
- ▶ email: soilsconcern@clackams.us
- ▶ In person:

Development Services Building, 2nd Floor
150 Beavercreek Rd. (Red Soils Campus)
Monday through Thursday 9:00 – 2:00

What We Do

- ▶ Primary role is to act as an agent of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
 - ▶ Ensure folks and their projects are in compliance with DEQ rules
 - ▶ Administer OARs at the local level
 - ▶ Contract with DEQ
 - ▶ Onsite rules come from DEQ, not the County
- ▶ **Most important role:** act as a resource for the residents of Clackamas County

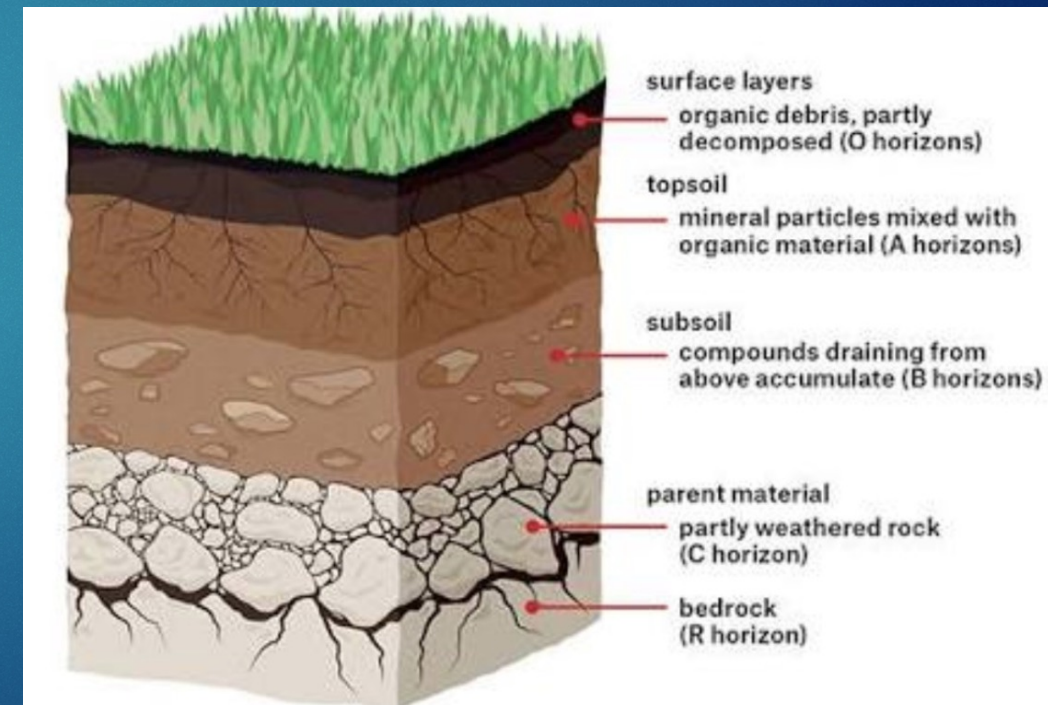
What We Do

- ▶ Perform record searches
- ▶ Conduct Site Evaluations
- ▶ Issue Permits/Inspect Installations
- ▶ Review requests for Authorization Notices
- ▶ Sign off on many Building Permit applications
- ▶ Coordinate with other County and local Departments
- ▶ Respond to complaints and work to correct identified violations

What about...

► Site Evaluations

- First step to find out if you can install a new system
- Replacement for percolation or 'perc' tests
- Requires 2-6 ~6' test pits per lot
- Looking at several factors:
 - Soil type and texture
 - Depth to groundwater/CAS
 - Site topography
 - Surface water
 - Historical usage



What about...

▶ **Site Evaluations**

- ▶ Many sites can be approved
 - ▶ System type depends on location and observed conditions
 - ▶ System must be installed in the approval area
- ▶ Some sites can not be approved
 - ▶ High groundwater
 - ▶ Too small of an area
 - ▶ Setbacks
 - ▶ Historical usage
 - ▶ May be able to appeal to DEQ

What about...

► **Construction Permits**

- New Construction Septic Permit – Installation of a new system for a new source
- Minor Repair – for replacement of tank or anything external other than absorption system
- Minor Alteration – adding or relocating a tank or other component other than absorption system
- Major Repair – replacing the absorption system or treatment unit
- Major Alteration – change or expansion in the absorption system or treatment unit

What about...

▶ **Authorization Notice**

- ▶ Required for some actions
 - ▶ Reconnection
 - ▶ Increasing flow
 - ▶ Change of use
- ▶ See if existing system is suitable for project – may be able to move forward w/o modifying the system
- ▶ Requires an Existing System Evaluation Report (ESER)

What about...

▶ **Building Permit sign off**

- ▶ Sign off from our department required for many projects in areas not served by sewer
 - ▶ Adding a building (as-built or Existing System Verification - ESV)
 - ▶ Footprint change to existing building (as-built or ESV)
 - ▶ Bedroom addition (may require a....)
- ▶ A Construction Permit or Authorization Notice may be necessary for some projects

COVID-19 and Your System

- ▶ COVID-19 (and other viruses) may be present in your system. Use proper PPE if you need to handle any part of your system and always wash your hands.
- ▶ You are likely home more than you were before the pandemic. You may need to pump your tank more often. Other maintenance may be required as well.
- ▶ Do not to flush anything besides toilet paper in to the system (no tissues, no wipes - even the “flushable” kind).
- ▶ Remember that your tank is an ecosystem. Excessive use of bleach, cleaners, and antibacterial products can damage the naturally occurring “good” bacteria in your tank.

Questions??

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Oregon City, OR 97045
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