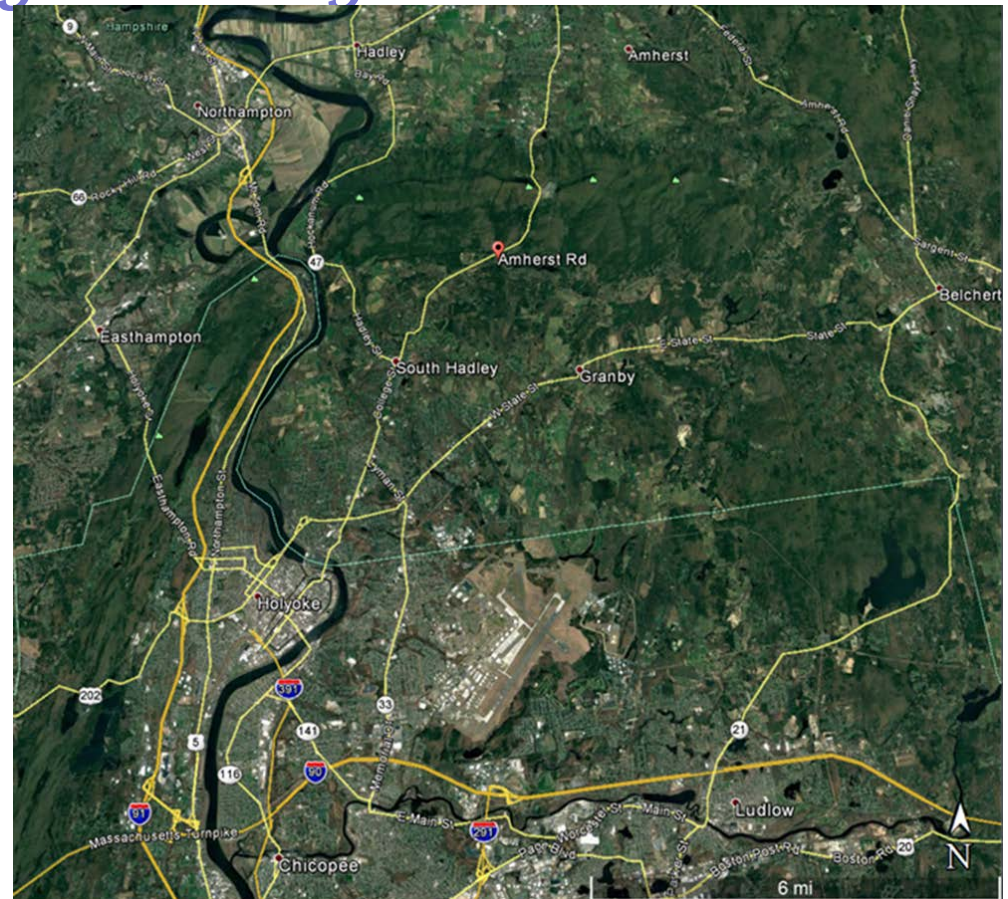




*Cost-Effective On-Site Groundwater Discharge  
Wastewater MA Project Achieving Effluent Total  
Nitrogen < 2 mg/L*

June 10, 2021

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## Project Site – History Granby Heights Association, Inc. (GHA)

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- 76-unit condominium in central MA Town of Granby, near Amherst
- Required in early 2000s by MassDEP to upgrade 17,000 gallons per day septic system to achieve effluent Total Nitrogen (TN) of < 10 mg/L
- Wastewater system designed, installed and operational by 2010 – using recirculating media filters and chemical (Micro C) addition
- Treatment system effluent TN 15+ mg/L



## Project Site – History Granby Heights Association, Inc. (GHA)

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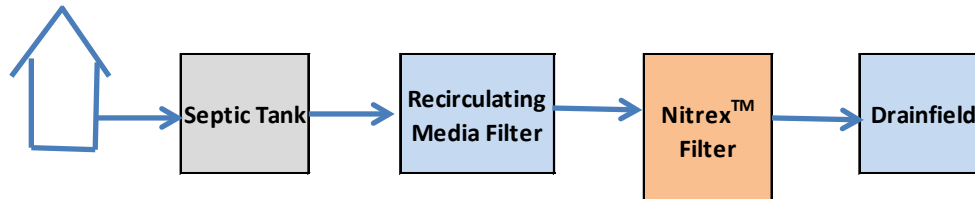
- MassDEP issues consent order
- GHA recovers damages from original design engineer
- Lombardo Associates, Inc. (LAI) retained to upgrade WWTP under design + equipment supply agreement. Owner retains local, trusted contractor on a time & materials agreement.
- LAI guarantees groundwater discharge permit compliance
- MassDEP approves use of Nitrex System
- Design starts October 2017 + Nitrex system operational in December 2018



# Nitrex™ for Nitrogen Removal

MassDEP Permitted Nitrex System

Simplified process Flow Diagram



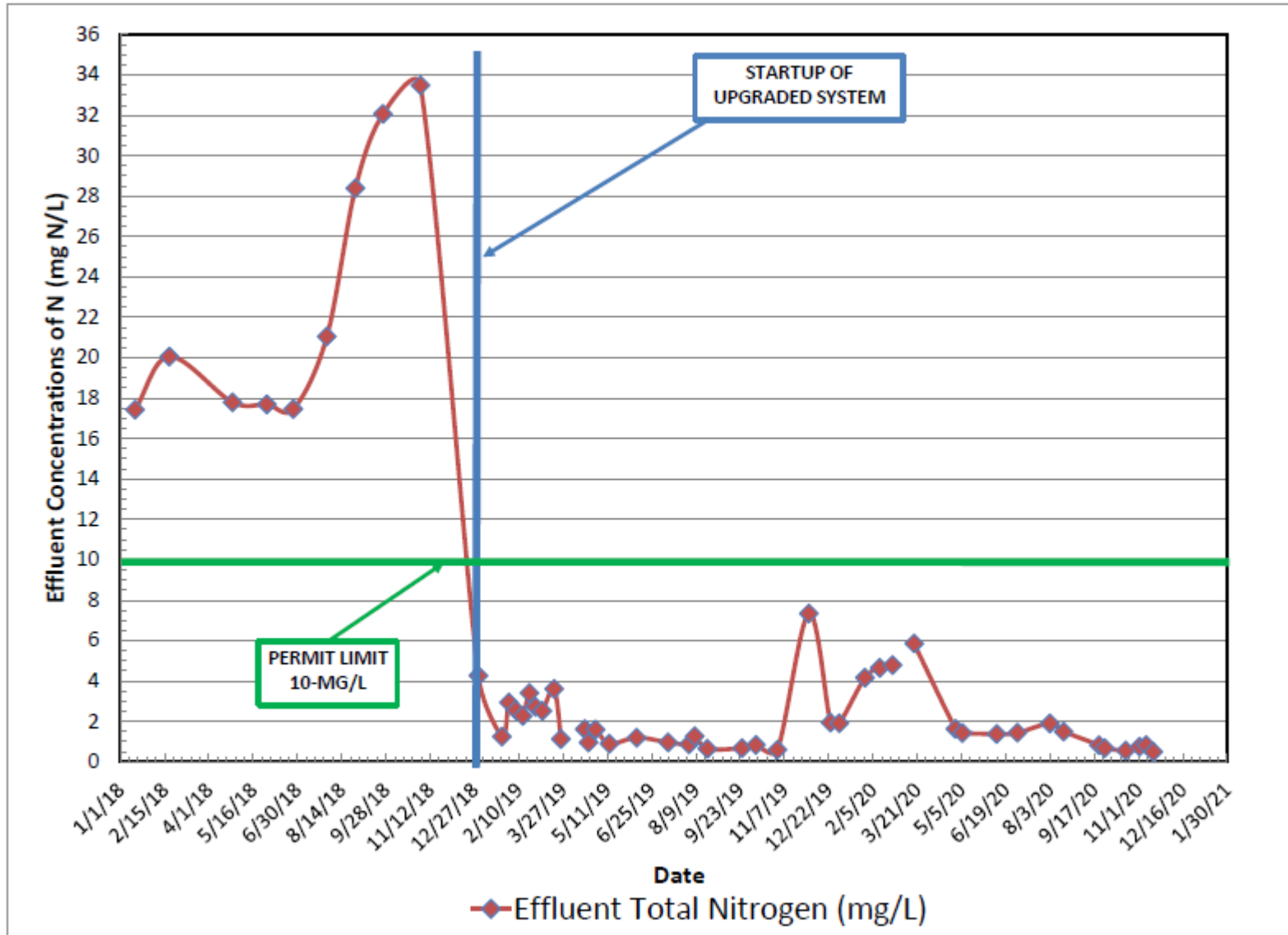
- **Passive, no chemical addition**
- **No sludge, other than septic tank septage**
- **No aeration**
- **Electricity mainly for pumps typically < 1 HP**
  - **Annual power use 17,500 kwhr**
- **Achieves TN < 10 mg/L, averaging < 2 mg/L**

# Treatment System Performance

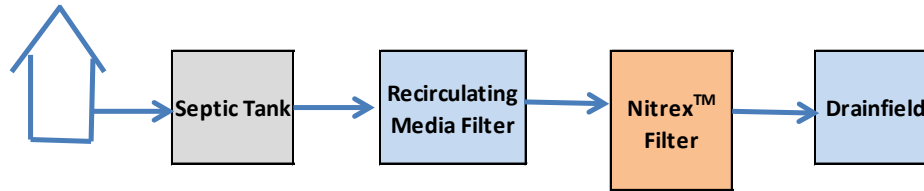
| Date     | Influent | Effluent |
|----------|----------|----------|
|          | Inf. TN  | Eff. TN  |
| 12/31/18 | 57       | 4.26     |
| 1/24/19  |          | 1.25     |
| 1/31/19  | 59.9     | 2.94     |
| 2/7/19   |          | 2.57     |
| 2/14/19  |          | 2.27     |
| 2/21/19  |          | 3.40     |
| 2/27/19  | 60.3     | 2.73     |
| 3/6/19   |          | 2.53     |
| 3/18/19  |          | 3.61     |
| 3/25/19  | 55.4     | 1.13     |
| 4/18/19  |          | 1.62     |
| 4/22/19  |          | 0.96     |
| 4/29/19  | 63.9     | 1.59     |
| 5/13/19  | 54.2     | 0.89     |
| 6/10/19  | 56       | 1.20     |
| 7/12/19  | 49       | 0.96     |
| 8/2/19   |          | 0.87     |
| 8/8/19   | 53.5     | 1.27     |
| 8/21/19  | 78.7     | 0.65     |
| 9/25/19  | 60.3     | 0.68     |
| 10/9/19  | 59.1     | 0.84     |
| 10/31/19 |          | 0.59     |
| 12/2/19  | 60.2     | 7.35     |
| 12/24/19 | 64.5     | 1.95     |

| Date           | Influent     | Effluent    |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
|                | Inf. TN      | Eff. TN     |
| 1/2/20         | 61.4         | 1.91        |
| 1/28/20        |              | 4.16        |
| 2/12/20        |              | 4.66        |
| 2/25/20        | 62.1         | 4.79        |
| 3/18/20        | 69.8         | 5.85        |
| 4/29/20        | 63.7         | 1.64        |
| 5/6/20         | 65.2         | 1.44        |
| 6/10/20        | 65.7         | 1.38        |
| 7/1/20         | 62.3         | 1.44        |
| 8/3/20         | 67           | 1.90        |
| 8/17/20        | 68.67        | 1.50        |
| 9/22/20        | 65           | 0.83        |
| 9/28/20        | 68           | 0.68        |
| 10/19/20       | 68           | 0.56        |
| 11/2/20        | 68           | 0.74        |
| 11/9/20        | 68           | 0.83        |
| 11/16/20       | 71.3         | 0.51        |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>63.34</b> | <b>2.02</b> |
| <b>Geomean</b> | <b>63.02</b> | <b>1.57</b> |

# Treatment System Performance



# Nitrex™ for Nitrogen Removal



- **Odor – foul gases collected via vent system piping and treated by activated carbon prior to discharge.**
- **Treatment system managed by a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) with internet connection to Engineer + Operator**
- **Daily reports electronically issued on system wastewater flows and process unit status.**
- **Alarm conditions are instantaneously sent to the facility operator and engineer with identification of alarm cause**



## PS-FE1

| PUMP # | RUN (MINS) | FLOW RATE (GPM) | # OF CYCLES | CALC FLOW (GPD) | TIME/CYC |
|--------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| P-1    | 105.03     | 36.0            | 84          | 3780.97         | 1.25     |
| P-2    | 105.00     | 36.0            | 84          | 3779.84         | 1.25     |
| TOTALS | 210.02     |                 | 168         | 7560.85         |          |

## PS-AX1

| PUMP # | RUN (MINS) | FLOW RATE (GPM) | # OF CYCLES | CALC FLOW (GPD) | TIME/CYC |
|--------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| P-5    | 360.43     | 56.0            | 99          | 20184.11        | 3.64     |
| P-6    | 359.33     | 56.0            | 98          | 20122.38        | 3.67     |
| TOTALS | 719.76     |                 | 197         | 40306.50        |          |

## PS-NF1

| PUMP # | RUN (MINS) | FLOW RATE (GPM) | # OF CYCLES | CALC FLOW (GPD) | TIME/CYC |
|--------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| P-7    | 272.30     | 28.0            | 21          | 7624.27         | 12.97    |
| P-8    | 278.25     | 28.0            | 20          | 7790.89         | 13.91    |
| TOTALS | 550.54     |                 | 41          | 15415.16        |          |

## PS-AX2

| PUMP # | RUN (MINS) | FLOW RATE (GPM) | # OF CYCLES | CALC FLOW (GPD) | TIME/CYC |
|--------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| P-3    | 205.99     | 62.0            | 103         | 12771.67        | 2.00     |
| P-4    | 205.26     | 62.0            | 102         | 12725.88        | 2.01     |
| TOTALS | 411.25     |                 | 205         | 25497.70        |          |

## PS-NF2

| PUMP # | RUN (MINS) | FLOW RATE (GPM) | # OF CYCLES | CALC FLOW (GPD) | TIME/CYC |
|--------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| P-9    | 289.24     | 28.0            | 23          | 8098.81         | 12.58    |
| P-10   | 244.26     | 28.0            | 22          | 6839.33         | 11.10    |
| TOTALS | 533.51     |                 | 45          | 14938.14        |          |

## PS-DF1

| PUMP # | RUN (MINS) | FLOW RATE (GPM) | # OF CYCLES | CALC FLOW (GPD) | TIME/CYC |
|--------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| P-11   | 62.31      | 66.0            | 6           | 4112.47         | 10.39    |
| P-12   | 66.44      | 66.0            | 6           | 4384.73         | 11.07    |
| TOTALS | 128.75     |                 | 7           | 8497.20         |          |

## NITREX STAGE 1 DAILY FLOW

| SV #   | FLOW (GPD) | SV OPEN (MIN) | SV RATE (SEC) | # OF CYCLES | CALC OPEN TIME |
|--------|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| SV-NX1 | 7431.2     | 191.30        | 0.0           | 304         | 0.00           |
| SV-NX2 | 7630.7     | 192.03        | 0.0           | 305         | 0.00           |
| SV-NX3 | 7607.1     | 179.63        | 0.0           | 307         | 0.00           |
| SV-NX4 | 0.0        | 0.00          | 0.0           | 0           | 0.00           |
| SV-NX5 | 0.0        | 0.00          | 0.0           | 0           | 0.00           |
| TOTALS | 22668.9    | 562.96        |               | 916         | 0.00           |

## NITREX STAGE 2 DAILY FLOW

| SV#    | FLOW (GPD) | SV OPEN (MIN) | SV RATE (SEC) | # OF CYCLES | CALC OPEN TIME |
|--------|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| SV-NX6 | 26.8       | 273.99        | 0.0           | 423         | 0.00           |
| SV-NX7 | 26.7       | 273.44        | 0.0           | 417         | 0.00           |
| TOTALS | 53.5       | 547.43        |               | 840         | 0.00           |

## ADVANTEX STAGE 1 TOTALS

| SV#    | FLOW (GPD) | SV OPEN (MIN) | SV RATE (SEC) | # OF CYCLES | CALC OPEN TIME |
|--------|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| SV-AX1 | 24035.6    | 362.57        | 0.0           | 196         | 0.00           |
| SV-AX2 | 23840.2    | 363.71        | 0.0           | 197         | 0.00           |
| TOTALS | 47875.9    | 726.27        |               | 393         | 0.00           |

## ADVANTEX 2 AND EFFLUENT

|                  |              |                    |            |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| FM-AX2 TOTAL GPD | 112732.5 GAL | EFFLUENT TOTAL GPD | 7699.2 GAL |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|

# Unit Process Monitoring and Alarm Systems – Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA)

| Unit Process                                      | Potential Mode(s) of Failure        | Monitoring Equipment / Data                                | Monitoring System / Operator Response  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Septic Tank / Flow EQ Tank                        | Pump Failure / Clogged filter       | Alarm Float HLA-1, Flow Meter FM-1, Current Sensor         | Adjust timer settings for PS-FE1 if high levels. Check pump / filter if flow rate is low.  |
| Recirculation Tank #1<br>Pump Station AX-1        | Pump Failure / Clogged filter       | Alarm Float HLA-2, Pump Current Sensors, Flow Meter FM-AX1 | Adjust timer settings if override / alarm float consistently is activated. Inspect pump filter and solenoid valves if flow is low. Inspect pumps if current draw is out of normal operating range. |
| 1st Stage Advantex Feed Solenoid Valves           |                                     |  |  |
| Recirculation Tank #2<br>Pump Station AX-2        | Pump Failure / Clogged filter       | Alarm Float HLA-2, Pump Current Sensors, Flow Meter FM-AX1 | Adjust timer settings if override / alarm float consistently is activated. Inspect pump filter if flow is low. Inspect pumps if current draw is out of normal operating range.                     |
| Recirculating Splitter Valves - 1st and 2nd Stage |                                     |  |  |
| 1st Stage Advantex Units                          | Clogged Inlet / Float Ball Failure  | Pump run times   | Inspect splitter valve / float ball assembly if pump run times vary significantly than what is expected for current timer settings   |
| 2nd Stage Advantex Units                          | Spray Nozzles / Distribution System | Flow Meter FM-AX1 / Real-time NH4 / NO3 Data               | Check nozzles for clogging / poor spray patters. Replace / clean as needed. Adjust timer settings to increse recirc. ratio if NH4 levels are high.   |
| Vent Fan / Heater                                 | Spray Nozzles / Distribution System | Flow Meter FM-AX2  | Check nozzles for clogging / poor spray patters. Replace / clean as needed. Adjust timer settings to increse recirc. ratio if NH4 levels are high.   |
| 1st Stage Nitrex Pump Station                     | Power loss / equip. Failure         | Air Temp. / Velocity Meter                                 | Check operation if temperature and/or velocity fall below normal operating range   |
| 1st Stage Nitrex Solenoid Valves                  | Pump Failure / Clogged filter       | Alarm Float HLA-3, Current sensor                          | Check pumps, filter if high levels occur or current is out of range  |
| 1st Stage Nitrex Filters                          | Valve Failure / Clogging / Leakage  | Flow Meter FM-NX1  | Check solenoid valves if flows are unusually high or low   |
| 2nd Stage Nitrex Pump Station                     | Clogged Collection Pipe             | Alarm Floats HLA-7 through HLA-9                           | Check effluent pipe if high level alarm is activated   |
| 2nd Stage Nitrex Solenoid Valves                  | Pump Failure / Clogged filter       | Alarm Float HLA-3, Current sensor                          | Check pumps, filter if high levels occur or current is out of range  |
| 2nd Stage Nitrex Filters                          | Valve Failure / Clogging / Leakage  | Flow Meter FM-NX2  | Check solenoid valves if flows are unusually high or low   |
| Final Discharge Tank & Pump Station               | Clogged Collection Pipe             | Alarm Floats HLA-10 & HLA-11                               | Check effluent pipe if high level alarm is activated   |
| Drainfield Distribution Valve                     | Pump Failure / Clogged filter       | Alarm Float HLA-6, Current sensor                          | Check pumps, filter if high levels occur or current is out of range  |
|   | Valve Failure / Uneven Distribution | Flow Switches DF-FS1 through DF-FS4                        | Check Distribution Valve if daily flow of any zone is significantly more/less than 1/4 the total effluent flow.  |



# O&M Requirements & Costs

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- ✓ **Operator visits 2 – 3 times per month**
  - **Typically half days**
  - **Benchtop samples/analysis**
  - **Cleaning spray nozzles**
  - **Cleaning filters**
  - **Operator labor fees very low**
  
- ✓ **Costs**
  - **Capital costs < \$25,000 / unit**
  - **25% of capital costs are placed in total equipment replacement fund (required in MA)**
  - **Annual Base O&M = \$400 / unit**
  - **Annual Repair & replacement funding = \$190/unit**



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GHA manager Steve Nally stated,

**“Granby Heights now has a system that not only has exceeded our expectations to achieve permit requirements but also has significantly reduced our annual operational costs.”**



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*Installation demonstrates that decentralized treatment systems can achieve effluent TN levels comparable to most sophisticated centralized facilities with minimal operator attention*



# Thank you for your interest !

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Pio Lombardo, P.E.

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Environmental Engineers/ Consultants

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