



# Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center

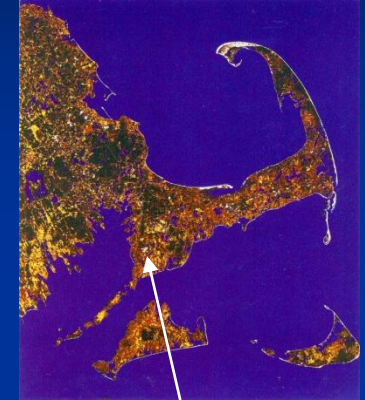
Operated by

**Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment**

In cooperation with

**Massachusetts DEP**

**New England Region EPA**



TEST CENTER



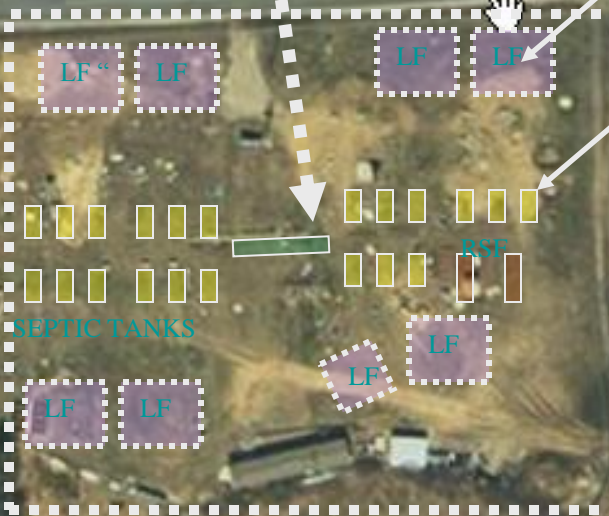
# Test Center from Space

Influent wastewater from residential housing

Experimental under-drained leaching area

Test cell location (typical)

Wastewater Treatment Plant



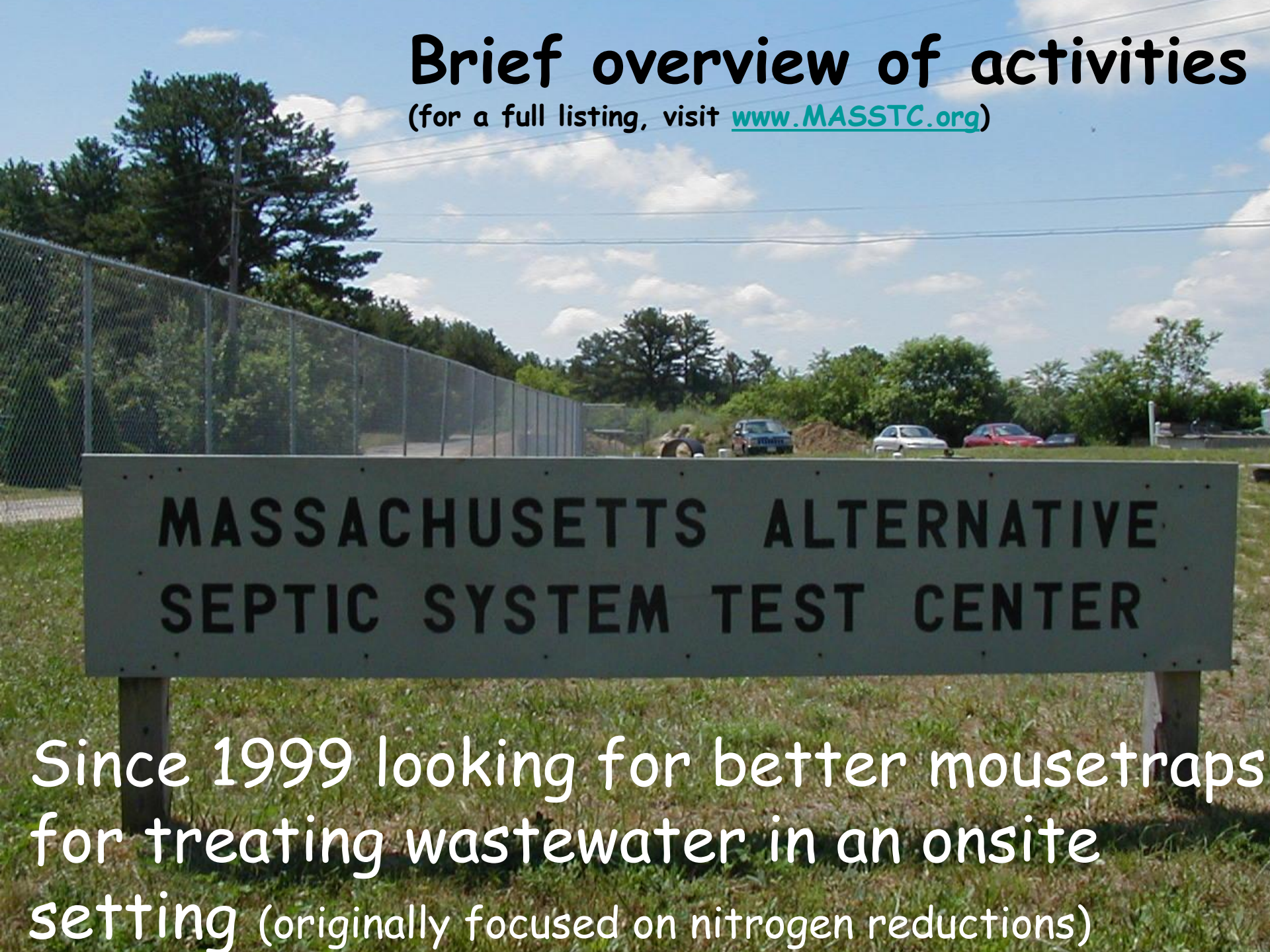
Test Center

~ 100 ft

**APPROXIMATELY 25 LOCATIONS FOR TESTING OF ONSITE SEPTIC SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES**

# Brief overview of activities

(for a full listing, visit [www.MASSTC.org](http://www.MASSTC.org))



MASSACHUSETTS ALTERNATIVE  
SEPTIC SYSTEM TEST CENTER

Since 1999 looking for better mousetraps for treating wastewater in an onsite setting (originally focused on nitrogen reductions)

# Funding Sources

- Vendor participation (base cost \$800/month – sliding scale to \$1200/month depending on sampling frequency);
- Grants for certain research projects (examples: Contaminants of Emerging Concern, non-proprietary nutrient removal);
- Charges to external grants (from colleges and universities)
- Barnstable County (through staff time)

# Brief overview of MASSTC activities

- Product testing under various accepted and requested protocols;
- Facilitate research and development of proprietary products;
- Conduct research on non-proprietary treatment strategies;
- Assist in the formulation of sampling protocols;
- Apply for and conduct grants relating to wastewater treatment technologies or strategies, and;
- Work with vendors to develop data for obtaining approvals from various jurisdictions.

# Process

First client contact is usually a phone call and discussion of our range of services.

## Client does not know appropriate testing protocol

- Meet to discuss goals and expectations;
- Advise client of options and make aware of standardized protocols;
- Draft sampling plan (with budget) and discuss with target regulators;
- Conduct sampling plan;
- Compile report.

## Client knows appropriate testing protocol

- If NSF protocol, advise client to contact NSF directly;
- If not NSF, compile draft budget and sampling plan;
- Meet with client to clarify goals and expectations.
- Conduct sampling;
- Compile report (if not NSF).

# Challenges

- Onsite wastewater testing centers require 365 d/year attention (not for the fainthearted)
- Directors need to make sure clients develop reasonable expectations for their efforts and expenditures.

# For early-stage companies.

- Know the universe of products that comprise the competition.
- Understand the regulatory frameworks under which your product will be approved.
- Go the extra mile with testing – anticipate the questions of regulators and gather the data to answer them.
- Find someone who can describe the theoretical basis on the product's treatment in a range of manners from highly technical to general public – hire them – keep them.
- Choose your representatives carefully.
- While patience is a virtue, when dealing with regulators it is also a necessity.



# Additional roles for test centers

- Assist in developing sampling plans at various stages of product development.
- Work with regulators to clarify information requirements (toward obtaining approvals).
- Compile data and performance reports for the various purposes.



Questions ?

[MASSTC.org](http://MASSTC.org)