



Healthy people. Healthy places.

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01/03/2024

DAN EVERSON
DANE COUNTY PLANNING
CITY-COUNTY BUILDING ROOM 116
210 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD
MADISON WI 53703

Reference: Proposed Preliminary Plat – Swalheim Business Park
SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SECTION 27, TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 0711/273/0044/0

Onsite verification of soil testing conducted on the parcel noted above finds the proposed lots in this preliminary plat are of varying suitability for private onsite wastewater treatment system (POWTS) components to serve potential buildings on the property. Of 8 proposed lots tested, 4 were shown to be suitable for holding tank only as in situ soil is not suitable for any soil absorption system. Two additional proposed lots (Lot 4 and Lot 5) were not tested due to visible standing water on the ground surface.

Holding tanks can be a feasible solution to serve buildings with low or infrequent wastewater flow when in situ soils do not allow for a code-compliant soil absorption component. However, installing holding tanks into fully saturated soils for extended periods present the following challenges:

- Fully saturated soils can result in the tank floating or moving in the soil matrix. This is more true for a holding tank due to the pumping that is necessary to remove waste than for a traditional treatment tank that is designed to operate at the established flow line of the tank.
- Water-saturated soils increase the physical stress on the tank once installed and also increase the risk of cracking or compromised physical structure of the tank itself.

For the reasons noted above, the Department would recommend against development or placement of holding tanks on proposed lots 4 and 5 at this time. Soil and site evaluation in the future that shows a suitable area for either POWTS components or holding tanks may change this recommendation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 608-219-7639 or email at bmacomber@publichealthmdc.com Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Macomber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brandon Macomber, R.S.
Public Health Sanitarian