

Environment Corps

This document is from the library of materials assembled for the [E-Corps Online Handbook](#), a section of the [Environment Corps](#) website intended to assist faculty interested in adapting the program model to their own areas of interest and expertise.

**Stormwater Corps Pre/Post Semester Exercise:
Recommendations for Dietz Creek Watershed
(Spring 2023)**

Dietz Creek Watershed

Dietz Creek, a tributary of Chester Cove, runs through the center of Dicksonville, a coastal community in Southeastern Connecticut (CT). The Creek and the Cove have been deemed impaired by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for stormwater runoff related impairments. Janis Looney, LLC., a New York City development firm, wishes to build a new 35-unit affordable housing complex adjacent to a new shopping center within the watershed. Objections have been raised by the Dietz Creek Defenders, a local watershed group, and some members of the planning and zoning board about the impact of the proposal on water quality and/or “community character.”

Some background on the town and watershed:

- The Dietz Creek Watershed is moderately developed with about 20% impervious cover as of 2012.
- In some areas of Dicksonville stormwater drains into a separate storm sewer system, while in other portions it drains into a combined sewer system.
- In bigger rainstorms (typically more than 1.5”), the combined sewer system in the older part of town overflows and empties untreated sewage into the creek.
- The area downstream of the new shopping center, served by the separate stormwater system, has experienced an increase in flooding problems in recent years.
- Dicksonville’s Plan of Conservation and Development expired in 2020, but due to the pandemic has not yet been updated.
- The Town’s subdivision requirements have not been updated in 20 years and currently require the use of traditional stormwater management practices, including curb and gutter, a minimum of 2 parking spaces per dwelling unit, and connection to the municipal stormwater system. Deviations from those requirements require a variance request.

You have been hired by the town as a consultant land use planner to advise the planning & zoning commission about the situation.

- What kind of information would you like to know or investigate to help you prepare the commission?
- Who would you talk to about the situation and what would you ask?
- What potential strategies do you think could be suggested to the developers to help alleviate water quality concerns?
- What barriers are there to implementing those strategies?

Answer the questions here: <https://forms.gle/a4nget9Y4Kjc6Bu59>

You will revisit (and revise?) your answers near the end of the semester.