

Drip Irrigation in Coastal NC

a review of recent cases where drip is the best fit

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it's a dynamic time for real estate
in **Coastal NC**

property values are soaring,

development is booming...

a site's **capacity**
to accept wastewater

strongly affects

it's
real estate value
and **development potential.**

for many cases in the current market,

subsurface drip irrigation

is

the design solution.

when is subsurface drip
chosen

as the disposal system **design solution**
for cases in coastal nc?

several typical cases...

(1)

limited good **soil**

for developer's

desired flow **volume:**

developer planning **subdivision** on tract

with small area of suitable soil

can design

a **central drip field in the good soil**

to **maximize loading rate** within subdivision.

(2)

good soil and adequate space,

but **sensitive**

environmental setting:

on Bogue Banks,

when the area available for **disposal** has

high relief dune topography and **maritime forest**,

drip lines can be trenched in

without flattening dunes or disturbing forest.

(3)

good soil, but

limited space available for disposal

due to

(3.1) **buffer restrictions** or

(3.2) **development pressure**

(3.1) limited space due to

buffer restrictions:

(with drip, buffer restrictions can be relaxed)

along Intracoastal Waterway
the **only suitable fill** (the best spoils)
is right next to the waterway,
within buffer zone.

downeast
parcels **surrounded** on several sides
by wetlands;
buffer losses are critical.

(3.2) limited space due to development pressure:

on Bogue banks, especially Emerald Isle,
huge rental homes (often 8 bedrooms per SFR)
footprint covers most area between CAMA line and property setbacks:
because

max number of bedrooms (highest flow)
generates most rental income

old motels along the beach
converted to new units:
parking area is at a premium;
disposal area must be minimized.

these are typical of current cases
in coastal nc

when

subsurface drip irrigation

was

the disposal system **design solution.**

these cases illustrate

that

although **drip systems** are expensive,

they become

cost effective

as property values rise

in Coastal North Carolina.