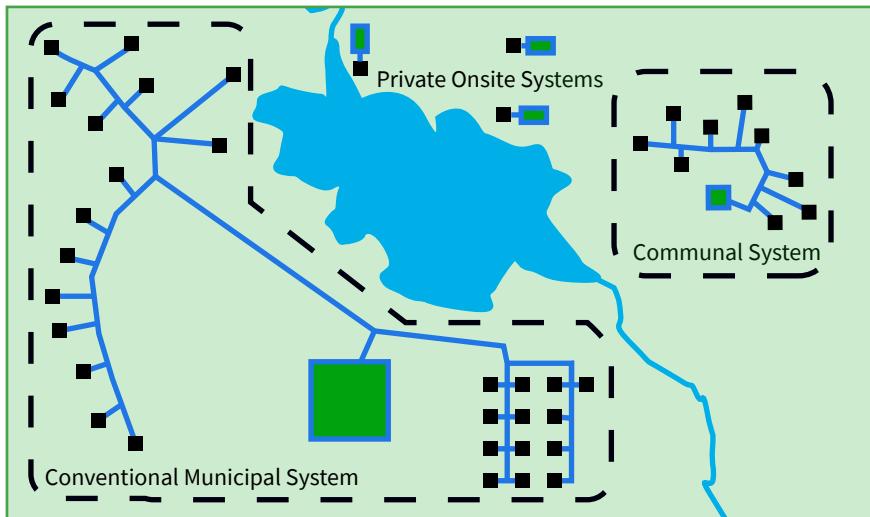


# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COMMUNAL SERVICES

## WHAT ARE COMMUNAL SERVICES?

Communal services are shared drinking water and sewage systems that provide water and wastewater treatment to clusters of residences and businesses. Communal systems are also sometimes called “decentralized systems” or “cluster systems”. While operating on the same basic principles as conventional municipal services, communal services are not connected to a single central facility. Instead, ‘right-sized’ facilities treat water and wastewater close to where it is needed or created. Communal services can be less expensive than centralized municipal services and reduce the need to pipe water or wastewater over long distances. They are also more environmentally-friendly than private on-site services (i.e. well and septic).

The three types of systems are shown schematically below:



Many different options exist within the broad category of communal servicing. Systems may be municipally- or privately-owned, using several different ownership and operation models. There is a growing range of treatment technologies that can be used for communal servicing. The distinguishing feature is that communal services treat water and wastewater close to where it is needed.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

A key benefit of communal services is that they represent alternative water and wastewater servicing approaches that can provide the County and Townships with the innovative technology and flexibility to accommodate growth and achieve planning, environmental, and economic development objectives.

Communal services can provide numerous community benefits and opportunities:

- New development on smaller lot sizes that are a better ‘fit’ into the existing fabric of a village or hamlet;
- Developments within villages or hamlets that are dense enough to promote walkability, lower-carbon lifestyles, and efficient use of other municipal services and infrastructure;
- More housing within walking distance of mainstreets and commercial cores, to assist in strengthening the local economy;
- Infilling and redevelopment along mainstreets, to promote vibrant community hubs, and on brownfield sites;
- Commercial or industrial development and possible creation of a business park;
- Development of a broader range of housing types, such as seniors’ homes and outdoor lifestyle communities to support aging in place;
- Increased opportunities for mixed-use development, and for home-based businesses; and
- Rural and waterfront development that protects the County’s water quality and natural heritage.

For more information on communal services in the County of Frontenac, visit [www.frontenac.ca](http://www.frontenac.ca) or contact:

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## POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT ON COMMUNAL SERVICES

The figures below illustrate an actual 28-hectare residential development in the County with private on-site services, compared to the development potential which could be enabled through the implementation of communal services, representing nearly four times the density.

### INDIVIDUAL SERVICING

**Legend**

- House
- Septic Field
- Tree
- Wetland
- EP Zone
- Single-Detached House
- Road



### COMMUNAL SERVICING

**Legend**

- Townhouse
- House
- Building
- Tree
- Wetland
- Treatment System
- Communal Septic Field
- EP Zone
- Commercial
- Apartment Complex
- Single-Detached House
- Townhouse
- Road

