

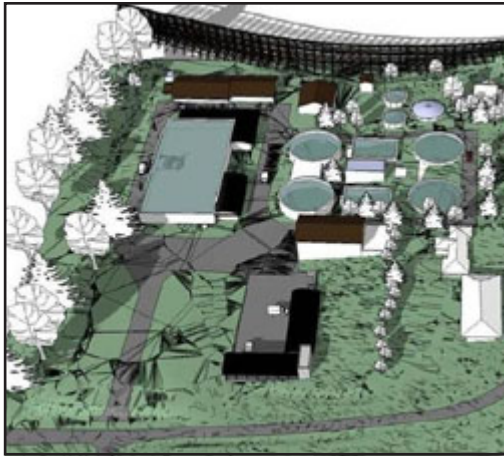
# Re-Investing for Healthy Rivers



www.oaklodesanitary.com

## Wastewater and Surface Water

### Building Momentum



The District's Predesign Project is nearing completion. This means that we have a pretty good idea what the treatment plant project will build, what it will cost, how we will finance it, and what the rate impacts will be on the District's customers. The District's Board and staff committed earlier this year to keeping the project costs at or below \$50 million. We have succeeded in that regard, reducing project costs from

\$80 to \$50 million. We also committed to a target sewer rate of \$42 per month or less in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. We are actively pursuing Federal Stimulus and State Revolving Funds (SRF) which, if successful, will achieve a sewer rate of less than \$37 per month in FY 2013. With Stimulus and SRF assistance we will potentially save \$18 million in sewer rates. In March 2005, the Citizens of the Oak Lodge Sanitary District voted overwhelmingly to maintain their independence from Clackamas County in sanitary sewer services. Today's engineering and financial analyses prove the wisdom of that decision with County sewer service rates rising much faster and higher than Oak Lodge rates. We have designed a fiscally responsible solution to our District's long-term wastewater treatment needs that is affordable for our ratepayers. If you would like more information or a presentation on the project and its financing, please call or write to J. Michael Read, the District's General Manager (503-653-1653).

### Upcoming Events

**April 16th:** Clackamas County Land Use Hearing for the Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. (9:30am in the Development Services Building Auditorium, 150 Beaver Creek Road, Oregon City)

**May 16th:** Stringfield Family Park Grand Opening. Come tour the water quality features! (1-3pm @ Stringfield Family Park on Naef Road )

**June 6th:** Naturscaping Workshop. More details on the back! (9am-1pm @ OLSD Administration Office)

### DISTRICT GOALS

- Produce clean water for the lowest possible customer rate.
- Meet all regulatory requirements.
- Implement wastewater plant improvements that are safe, efficient and easy to operate.
- Inform and involve customers and the public.
- Keep costs within project budgets.
- Be a good neighbor: minimize impacts of construction and operations.

The Board of Directors of Oak Lodge Sanitary District would like to thank the Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (MPCAC) for their perspectives and support as we move forward with our treatment plant upgrade project. At the March 19th MPCAC meeting, the committee voted unanimously to support the District in moving forward with financing the project with Revenue Bonds. Timely resolution by the District to finance the project will take advantage of Federal Stimulus and State Revolving Fund (SRF) monies and potentially save our ratepayers as much as \$18 million in sewer rates over the next 16 years.

## GET INVOLVED

District customers are invited to attend the regular monthly meetings of the Oak Lodge Sanitary District Board of Directors.

Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, starting at 6:30 pm, at the District administration office. Announcements and agendas are posted on-line at [www.oaklodesanitary.com](http://www.oaklodesanitary.com)

### Board of Directors:

Paul Savas, President  
William Wild, Vice President  
Jim Martin  
Doug Woods  
David Seigneur

## LEARN MORE

To find out more about Oak Lodge Sanitary District and its programs, visit the District's website at [www.oaklodesanitary.com](http://www.oaklodesanitary.com) or phone (503) 653-1653.

Oak Lodge Sanitary District  
14611 SE River Road  
Oak Grove, Oregon  
(503) 653-1653

oak lodge  
sanitary  
district

## What is Surface Water Management?

If you mention the word drainage; the first thought that comes to mind is flooding. In reality surface water involves both the conveyance of rainwater combined with improving the health of our streams and rivers. As a surface water utility, Oak Lodge Sanitary District improves the water quality of our watersheds.

Since 1992, the Clean Water Act requires the District to undertake the following activities:

- **Provide maintenance of the surface water system such as catch basin cleaning or ditch cleaning.**
- **Implement development standards that avoid adverse surface water impacts associated with new development.**
- **Prevent and correct illicit discharges of pollutants to our waterways**
- **Prevent sediment associated with construction activities.**
- **Implement specific water quality improvement mechanisms, such as riparian improvements, to improve the health of our streams.**
- **Monitor parameters such as bacteria that measure watershed health.**
- **Conduct a public education program to prevent pollution.**

In addition to the above regulatory measures, the District's surface water capital improvement program has provided drainage facilities to areas without adequate service. The District expended over \$4 million in the last decade to improve surface water facilities servicing large sections of the watershed.

In order to accomplish these tasks, the District charges a \$6/month surface water fee per residential, commercial or industrial impervious surface unit. Often an individual homeowner only considers drainage facilities associated with a

particular property, but in fact this household contributes to a much larger watershed comprising of catch basins, pipes, streets, culverts, and stream corridors. Every lot in the District contributes to a water body since all water must eventually reach the Willamette River.

Historically half of the districts funds went towards capital projects with remaining fees going towards operations and maintenance activities. New permit requirements increase operational demands, reducing the ability to implement the district's capital program. With diminishing funds, the District still has many outstanding capital improvements.

During the last 17 years, the District has improved the surface water in our watersheds, but the many remaining problems shadows this progress. The District continues the on-going efforts to improve water quality in our streams and rivers.

## We Have the Cure for Your Garden Fever!

Oak Lodge Sanitary District is working together with East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District to host a Naturescaping Workshop on June 6, 2009 at 9:00am. The Workshop will be held at the District Administration Office at 14611 SE River Road. Attendance is free but because space is limited you do need to register to reserve a spot if you wish to attend. The workshop focuses on concepts of naturescaping including time and maintenance savings, reduction and elimination of water and chemical use, increasing and improving wildlife habitat, watershed stewardship, basic site or project planning, as well as many other great gardening tips. Refreshments will be provided and each attendee will receive a native plant to take home to get started. Find out more information about naturescaping and register for the workshop at [www.emswcd.org](http://www.emswcd.org) or call 503-935-5368. We hope to see you there!

