

Re-Investing for Healthy Rivers



Wastewater and Surface Water

www.oaklodesanitary.com

Protecting Our Community's Watersheds and Streams

Oak Lodge Sanitary District is responsible for protecting and enhancing the District's watersheds and streams.

There are more than eleven miles of streams and ditches in the District that are impacted by the urban environment. Residents' everyday activities can impact water quality.

That is why District customers play a pivotal role and can take steps to keep local watersheds and streams clean and healthy. Visit www.oaklodesanitary.com to find out more.

Surface Water Management Program Awarded Nature in Neighborhoods Grant

The Boardman Creek Fish Habitat Restoration Project – highlighted in the Surface Water Management Strategic

Do your part!

- ✓ Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas.
- ✓ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and consider composting!
- ✓ Don't overwater your lawn.
- ✓ Select native plants and grasses.

Plan as a top priority project – recently received a \$485,000 Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant. The project replaces two fish-blocking culverts with bridges restoring natural flows and greatly improving fish passage in Boardman Creek.



Culvert replacement is key to fish habitat restoration.

This grant is funded by Metro's natural areas bond measure which supports projects that protect water quality, wildlife habitat and access to nature for future generations. The Metro Council awarded the grant to the District on May 19, 2011.

Tour Your Watershed!

You're invited! The entire community is invited to the 2nd Annual Watershed Tour hosted by the North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council Saturday, July 23rd, from 9:30am to 1:30pm. This summer we will be touring the basins within the Oak Lodge and Jennings Lodge areas. We'll visit parts of River Forest Creek, Boardman Creek and Rinearson Creek, and provide up to the minute information on what's happening in these precious watersheds we all hold in common.

We will gather at Meldrum Bar State Park. After the tour, we'll have a potluck picnic in the park and hopefully some live music to celebrate.

Please visit www.ncuwc.org for more information. See you there!

Protecting our community's watersheds and streams is at the core of Oak Lodge Sanitary District's service. We are committed to safeguarding our water resources, providing excellent customer service, and utilizing our resources efficiently. We are pleased to let you know we pursued and won a \$.5 Million grant to restore Boardman Creek and bring salmon back to our watersheds. That speeds up our River Road culvert replacement.

The Board's decision to move ahead with a surface water management rate increase is directly related to new federal requirements and input from the SWM CAC and customers to get going on water quality improvement capital projects like Stringfield Park and Boardman Creek.

As always, I encourage you to get involved! Visit our website www.oaklodesanitary.com, attend a Board of Directors meeting or volunteer for a committee. The Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the District's Administration Building at 14611 SE River Road.

William Wild
President, Board of Directors

Rate Increases for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

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 6:00 pm, at the District administration office.

Announcements and agendas are posted on-line at www.oaklodgesanitary.com

Board of Directors:

William Wild, President
 Jim Martin, Vice President
 Terry Gibson
 Tom Foeller
 Ginny Van Loo

LEARN MORE

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

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



Oak Lodge Sanitary District is raising Sanitary Sewer Services (SSS) and Surface Water Management (SWM) rates beginning in July 2011. SSS rates are increasing by 5.0% and SWM rates are increasing by \$1.00 per month. The reasons for the rate increase are detailed below for each of the programs.

Sanitary Sewer Services:

District expenses are going up due to several factors. Benefit costs, primarily medical and retirement expenses continue to increase at a rate that is greater than inflation. These costs are out of the District's control. However, the largest impact on the budget is the cost of paying the debt service on the Water Reclamation Facility Improvements Project which was approved by District voters in November 2009. Although the District is implementing a 5% rate increase, the actual revenue increase is less than \$40,000 or around 0.8%. This is due to the fact that our customers have significantly reduced their water consumption over the past year. The SSS rates reflected in the table above are based on average water usage of 6.0 ccf per month (4,488 gallons). The actual usage during the winter of 2010-2011 was 5.3 ccf per month (3,964 gallons). Customers who have reduced their water consumption over the past year will see a rate increase of less than 5.0%. The District has reduced the operating budget in the SSS program in next year's budget to minimize the rate increase.

Surface Water Management Services:

Oregon DEQ recently issued a new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit to the District. This new permit requires the District to perform additional operational, engineering, and monitoring activities. These mandated activities increase the cost of compliance with the permit. In anticipation of the new permit, the District developed a Surface Water Management Strategic Plan which serves as a guidance document for complying with permit requirements and for achieving the water quality protection and improvement goals of the program. Chief

City/Agency	SWM Monthly Charge		SSS Monthly Charge	
	Now	New	Now	New
CCSD #1	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$38.00	\$38.00
City of Milwaukie	\$9.00	\$10.64	\$31.06	\$33.23
City of Gresham	\$8.60	\$9.20	\$24.09	\$25.05
City of Oregon City	\$7.40	\$8.30	\$28.45	\$29.95
City of Portland	\$21.79	\$23.10	\$48.44	\$51.35
City of West Linn	\$4.57	\$4.82	\$25.74	\$26.40
City of Wilsonville	\$3.27	\$3.72	\$41.13	\$51.50
Average of Other Agencies	\$8.79	\$9.40	\$33.84	\$36.50
Oak Lodge Sanitary District*	\$6.00	\$7.00	\$31.06	\$32.61

*SSS charge based on average consumption of 6 ccf

among the objectives of the strategic plan is the restoration of the Boardman Creek Watershed. The FY 2011-2012 budget includes funding to begin the planning and engineering of improvements to the basin that will result in better water quality and restoration of habitat. The SWM program last raised rates in 2000. Costs have clearly gone up in the past decade and the District was at risk of eventually exhausting its capital reserve funds without a rate increase.

The Board of Directors and staff of the Oak Lodge Sanitary District recognize that these rate increases place additional financial burdens on some of our customers. The District is a very efficient utility which is continually striving to keep our rates as low as possible. Our customers who are in effect our shareholders deserve the highest quality services possible at the most appropriate cost of service. As demonstrated in the table, even with the District's rate increases in the upcoming fiscal year, rates remain well below the average for comparable utilities in our region.

The value of the services that our customers receive is best described as a daily cost. With the rate increases, our average customers each pay \$1.07 per day to remove and treat all of the sewage that is generated in their homes from laundry, dishwashers, showers, toilets and other sources. For surface water quality protection, each customer pays 23 cents per day to protect the water quality of the rivers and streams in our district from the impacts of pollution on the streets and runoff from property. These costs are a pretty good bargain when we consider the value that healthy rivers and streams bring to public health and the water environment.

