

New Sewer and Stormwater Utility Rates

Following a multi-year public planning process, new sewer and stormwater rates will go into effect in January. The rate increases are necessary to replace aging systems and meet state and federal regulations.

The process began with the development of Sewer and Stormwater Comprehensive Plans that established the levels of service necessary to maintain our system. The plans also identify projects necessary to replace our aging infrastructure originally built in the 1950s and 1960s. The cost of operating the system, together with the cost of replacing infrastructure, adds up to the total cost to operate the two utilities.

After the Sewer and Stormwater Comprehensive Plans were completed, rate studies for both utilities were conducted to identify how the city would collect enough revenue to cover the costs. Since the city did not make all of the necessary increases during the recession, there is some catching up to do.

ally level out to the rate of inflation.

Please review the graphic with the total cost of the three utilities (water, sewer and stormwater) contrasted with comparable cities. Mountlake Terrace's new rates are just above the median for rates from the surveyed cities.

Our sewer system includes three sewer pump stations, 69 miles of main lines, 1,500 manholes and approximately 5,500 sewer connection laterals. The three sanitary sewer lift stations pump sewage from lower areas of the city to areas that allow gravity flow to the southwest corner of the city.

The city's Stormwater Division works to protect water quality, enhance habitat, control flooding, and comply with state and federal requirements. Your stormwater bill covers activities such as site inspections to ensure proper maintenance, street sweeping to remove

Monthly Combined Average Utility Rates

Jurisdiction	Sewer (5 ccf)	Water (6 ccf)	Stormwater	Total
Seattle	\$72.40	\$50.89	\$31.95	\$155.24
Kirkland	\$78.71	\$46.59	\$19.34	\$144.64
Shoreline	\$59.50	\$61.71	\$20.54	\$141.75
Lake Forest Park	\$81.21	\$38.00	\$18.65	\$137.86
Bellevue	\$67.93	\$47.19	\$11.78	\$126.90
Mountlake Terrace (2020)	\$48.45	\$52.29	\$22.33	\$123.07
Kenmore	\$59.30	\$36.80	\$16.04	\$112.14
Redmond	\$59.48	\$29.72	\$16.56	\$105.76
Bremerton	\$60.40	\$29.12	\$16.17	\$105.69
Edmonds	\$43.65	\$41.79	\$18.90	\$104.34
Snohomish County	\$62.67	\$25.91	\$10.17	\$98.74
Mountlake Terrace (Existing)	\$34.00	\$48.44	\$11.45	\$93.89
Lynnwood	\$46.17	\$27.99	\$13.12	\$87.28

Additional factors in the need to raise rates include: extreme inflation in construction, capital improvements needed at the Edmonds Wastewater Treatment Plant, decisions during the recession to keep rates low, and the federal government no longer contributing to local utilities like it had in the past.

Smaller increases are necessary in the following years and will eventu-

pollutants from roads, repair/replacement of damaged storm pipes and other structures, cleaning and maintenance of city facilities, storm outfall screening to find pollutant sources, spill cleanup response and public education, outreach and involvement.

For more information about city utilities and rates, please visit our "Utilities 101" webpage at www.cityofmlt.com/2052.



Thank you to Boy Scout Troop #60 for placing 364 storm drain markers in four hours on a Saturday in September. This Eagle Scout Candidate Project effort was led by Michael Frary with assistance from our Stormwater Program Manager Laura Reed.