

The Pipeline

Spring 2021

Commissioner's Corner



Commissioner Pamela Maloney

Woodinville Water District Board Adopts 2021-22 Budget

The WWD provides essential water and wastewater (sewer) services to residential and commercial customers safely, reliably, and at the lowest responsible rates. The Board recently adopted the 2021-22 District budget which includes approximately \$56 million in water and sewer expenses. While it's always difficult to raise rates during uncertain economic times, rate increases are necessary now to support continued delivery of the utility services you rely on. This year will be the first increase to the District's portion of sewer bills in 6 years. These rates are effective February 1, 2021 and February 1, 2022.

	2021 Increase	2022 Increase
Water	6% = \$3.50/mo.	6% = \$3.80/mo.
Sewer (WWD portion increase, excluding King Co.)	3.0% = \$0.81/mo.	3.0% = \$0.84/mo.
Sewer (King County increase)	4.6% = \$3.35/mo.	Unknown

Note: Rate changes shown are for residential and commercial customers; dollar increases shown are estimated for a typical residential customer

The 2021-22 Budget emphasizes service priorities while deploying resources in a manner that assures a firm financial foundation. It reflects a combination of pay-as-we-go and appropriate debt service funding. It realizes our ongoing commitment to long range plan implementation and disciplined fiscal policies and management.

RATE STRUCTURES

District water rates will increase 6% (\$3.50 per month per average residential bill) in 2021 and 6% (\$3.80 per month average residential bill) in 2022. Water bills include a base charge intended to cover most of the District's fixed costs, and a consumption charge based on the volume of water each customer uses. To ensure enough revenues to cover fixed costs for water supply and system operation and maintenance, the rate adjustments will be applied to base charges only. Rates for volume consumption, which depend to a great extent on weather and economic factors beyond the District control, will not change.

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Woodinville Water District

Providing safe and reliable service with responsible rates since 1959.

Commissioner's Corner

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Sewer rates include a portion (~63%) to cover King County costs for wastewater conveyance, treatment and disposal, and a smaller portion (~37%) to cover the District's costs to operate and maintain local pipes and pumping facilities. King County costs are passed directly through to customers each year.

COST DRIVERS

Cost drivers reflected in these rate increases include:

- Regional Costs – WWD purchases our drinking water from Seattle Public Utilities under a long-term contract. SPU's wholesale rates to us will not increase during the 2021 – 2022 budget period. Purchasing wholesale water accounts for about 21% of the total water budget.
- The budget includes \$11.2 million water and \$2.2 million sewer capital investment projects, as recommended in WWD's water and wastewater comprehensive plans to replace aging infrastructure, system improvement such as for seismic resiliency and increased water flow), and to meet water quality regulatory requirements. Specific examples include completing improvements at the Hollywood Reservoir, upsizing the 144th Avenue NE water line, upgrades at the James Bard Reservoir, completing Sewer Siphon 1 and Siphon 2 projects, and construction of the Kingsgate Standpipe. Capital project costs comprise 27% and 15% of our total budgets for water and sewer, respectively.
- One-time costs for system operations: These include purchase of a smaller jet truck that can clean utility lines in densely developed areas with narrow streets, installing material and equipment carports to protect District equipment and reduce contaminated surface water runoff, replacing outdated financial management software, and adding a turn lane for ingress/egress safety at District offices.
- Staff salary and benefits costs: As with most organizations, salary and benefits comprise a major component of our budget, approximately 35%.

We have offset the above cost pressures helping to keep rate increases as low as possible:

- Reduced Sewer Public Utility Tax expenses to the Washington Department of Revenue by \$33,000 annually, through a re-evaluation of the District's sewer and trunk line allocation.
- Revised how the District processes and posts customer payments, resulting in approximately 20 hours per week labor savings, or 0.5 years of staff time annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Woodinville Water District strives to use the public's resources wisely and efficiently while providing reliable and safe water and sewer service to our customers. The District's adopted 2021-2022 Budget, financial policies, and our water and wastewater comprehensive plans can be found on our web site at www.woodinvillewater.com. You are welcome to call the District with any specific questions, at 425-487-4100.

Pamela J. Maloney, P.E.

Commissioner



Update Your Contact Information

You can now update your contact information on our website! Please help us contact you quickly in the event of a water or sewer emergency.

You can now update your contact information on our website or contact our Customer Service at customerservice@woodinvillewater.com or at 425-487-4100 and they can update your account for you.



Gardening Classes

The Saving Water Partnership sponsors free gardening classes in the spring and fall to help you create and maintain beautiful, healthy landscapes that use water wisely. For more information visit <https://www.savingwater.org/lawn-garden/gardening-classes/>



March 15-21, 2021

Fix a Leak Week

For more information visit
www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week

Fix Leaks, Prevent Water Waste

The faster you fix a leak, the better. Each day a running toilet with a medium sized leak can waste as much water as 15 showers. Yikes!

Bathrooms are a great place to start looking for leaks since over half of all home water use takes place in the bathroom.

Look, Listen, and Lift the Lid to Detect Toilet Leaks

- **Look** at the bowl of your toilet to see if water flows from the tank when you have not flushed. If water is dribbling into the bowl, you have a leak.
- **Listen** to the tank. If it sounds like it is re-filling even when you haven't flushed, that means you have a leak.
- **Lift** the top off your toilet's tank and check to see if the rubber seal or "flapper" looks worn out. If the rubber is cracking or not creating a complete seal, you have a leak.
- **Extra credit:** You can detect silent leaks with food coloring. Put food coloring or a dye strip in the tank, don't flush, and see if the color appears in the bowl. If it does, you have a leak.

Faucets

Turn the faucet on and off. Then, look and listen for water dripping out of the faucet or pooling around the base of the fixture.

Showerheads

Turn the showerhead on and look for any dripping water or stray sprays at connection points.

Tubs

Turn the tub on, then divert the water to the shower. If there is still a lot of water coming from the tub faucet it may be time to replace the spout diverter.

To fix leaks, call a local plumber or do-it-yourself using the videos and tools at: www.savingwater.org/indoors/fixing-leaks/how-to-videos/ Many of the repairs may be simpler than you think.

Digital Notice of Water Use!

Now is a great time of year to use your water bill and sign up for the Woodinville Water District WaterSmart Customer Portal at wwd.watersmart.com to help track your home's water use and for leaks before the summer watering season begins. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if your winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons (or 16 CCFs) per month.

Upgrading from older toilets could help your household cut 22% of your daily indoor water use and create significant long-term cost savings.

\$100 rebates available

Replace old toilets with rebate-eligible models

Program terms valid through December 31, 2021.

Go to savingwater.org/rebates for an online application and list of eligible toilets or call (206) 615-1282.

SAVING WATER PARTNERSHIP
Make a difference. Use water wisely.

INVESTING In Our Future

2021 Capital Improvement Projects

Please visit www.woodinvillewater.com for a complete list of the 2021 Capital Improvement Projects

1 East Ridge Elementary School Water Main Improvements

- **Project Location:** Water main will be replaced and upsized from the intersection of 223rd Avenue NE and NE 157th Street, southwest along 223rd Avenue NE, and then west along NE 156th Place onto the school site. From this point north approximately 380 LF, the water main will be replaced with 12-inch DI main, then turn 90 degrees west 411 LF, and tie into the existing water main located at the west boundary of the school property. A new 12-inch DI main will be designed to connect the dead-end water main on NE 166th Street east of 227th Avenue NE to the intersection of NE 166th Street and 232nd Avenue NE.
- **Project Description:** This Project is planned to increase the fire flow availability for the East Ridge Elementary School. The project consists of replacing approximately 1,700 feet of 8-inch ductile iron (DI) water main with new 12-inch DI main and installing approximately 800 feet of new 12-inch DI main onto the school property. This project also will add new 12-inch DI main to connect the dead-end water main on NE 166th Street east of 227th Avenue NE to the intersection of NE 166th Street and 232nd Avenue NE.
- **Project Status:** This project is in the early design phase. The engineer for this project is RH2 Engineering, Inc.

2 Turn Lane Project

- **Project Location:** On Woodinville-Duvall Rd, along frontage to District Campus.
- **Project Description:** This project will construct a center turn lane to assist District Staff & Customers ingress and egress from the site. The asbestos cement watermain in the frontage will be replaced with new ductile iron pipe.
- **Project Status:** This project is at the design phase.

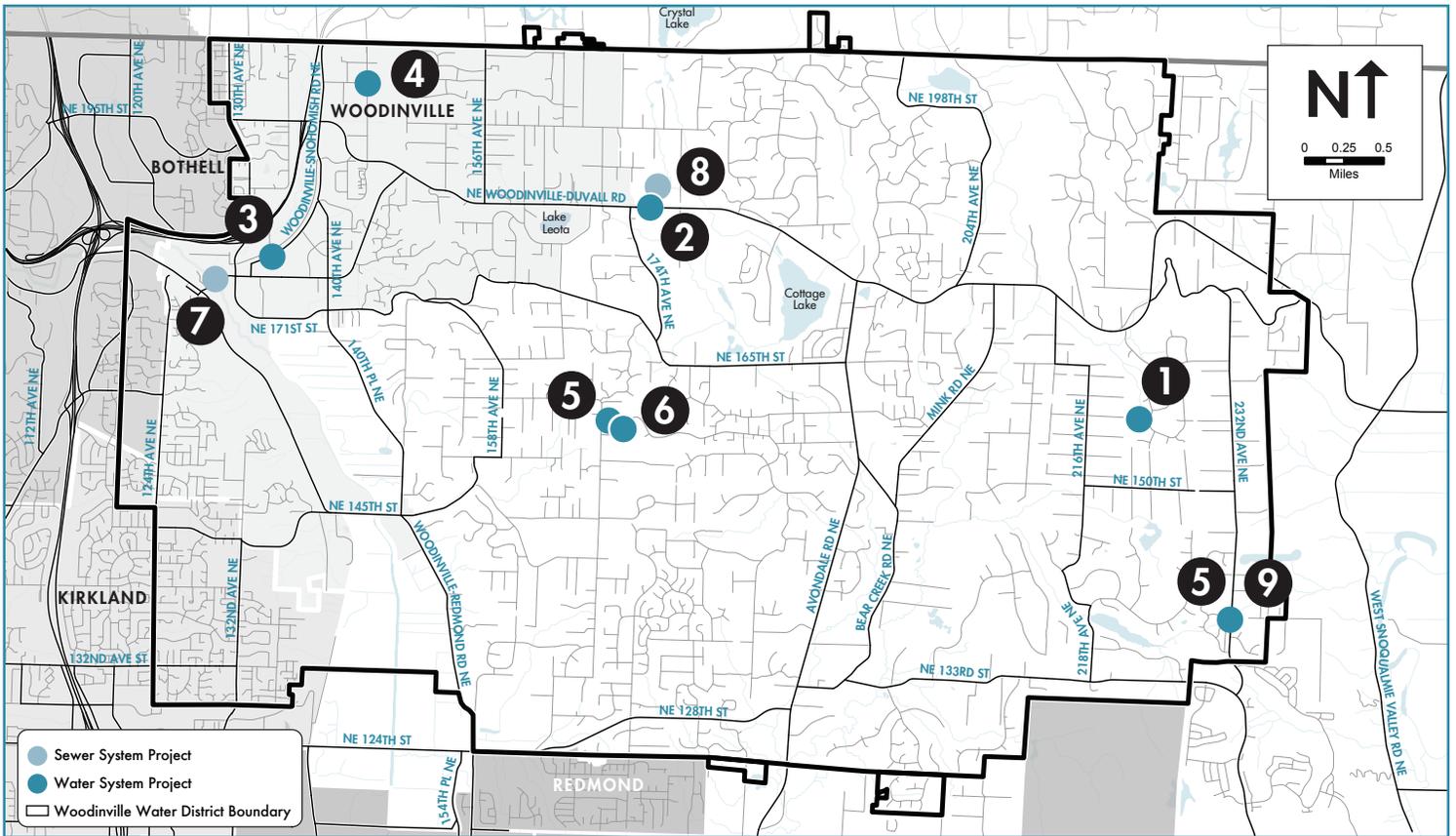


3 AC Water Main Replacement (D-5)

- **Project Location:** The project is located along Woodinville-Snohomish Rd, within the City of Woodinville. This project was formerly named NE 177th Place R&R Project.
- **Project Description:** This project will eliminate Asbestos Cement (AC) pipe and replace it with new 8-inch ductile iron pipe. The objective of this project is to eliminate AC pipe from the distribution system and to improve the reliability of the system and in the City of Woodinville downtown area.
- **Project Status:** This project is at the 50% design phase. The City of Woodinville approached the District about participating in the project to add City work to the project. This would add additional asphalt overlay and sidewalk improvements. District Staff are working with the City on an Interlocal Agreement defining roles and responsibilities on this project.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



4 144th Ave NE & NE 200th St
Pipe Upsize Project

- Project Location: The project is located along 144th Ave NE and NE 200th and within a private easement east of 144th Ave NE within the City of Woodinville.
- Project Description: This project will upsize and replace approximately 3700 feet of existing water mains with 12-in diameter ductile iron (DI) pipe along 200th St, 144th Ave NE, and through an easement east of 144th Ave NE. The purpose of this project is to increase fire flows in the area.
- Project Status: The construction for this project will begin in February 2021.

5 Replace Pumps/Motors at Hollywood and Ringhill Booster Pump Station

- Project Location: Hollywood and Ringhill Booster Pump Stations.
- Project Description: The pump/motors at the Ringhill BPS will be refurbished and reinstalled and the motors and pumps will be replaced at the Hollywood BPS.
- Project Status: This project is currently under construction.

6 Hollywood Reservoir Painting Project

- Project Location: Brookside Reservoir, 15546 168th Ave NE, Woodinville.
- Project Description: A Tank Industry Consultants evaluation of the Hollywood reservoir prepared in 2006, identified many maintenance related activities and upgrades required. Painting the interior and exterior of the reservoir along with other health and safety related items are to be addressed. District Staff have scheduled the Hollywood Reservoir to be the next in line for upgrades after the Brookside Reservoir.
- Project Status: This project is currently under construction. The painting of the interior of the tank was completed in mid-January 2021. The contractor will be painting the exterior of the tank starting in late-January. The work is expected to be complete by the end of March 2021.

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INVESTING

In Our Future *continued from page 5...*



7 Sewer Siphon 1 Reconfiguration Project

- **Project Location:** Sewer Siphon 1, Near the Sammamish River Bridge in the City of Woodinville.
- **Project Description:** Several improvements will be made to address operational issues at the siphon and to make the facility work more effectively and to be more easily maintained.
- **Project Status:** Under Construction

8 Update to the Comprehensive Sewer Plan

- **Project Location:** This project is located throughout the District in the Urban Growth Area (UGA).
- **Project Description:** This project will provide an update to the Comprehensive Sewer Plan (CSP). Flow data will be collected to determine the existing and future capacity of the sewer system. A new list of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects will be created. The financial health of the Sewer Fund will be reviewed to determine if there are adequate funds to support the CIP projects. Any new policies that have been adopted will be included in the update also. DEA, INC have been hired to perform this work.
- **Project Status:** The consultant is finishing the capacity related projects & is working on the maintenance reviews projects for the Capital Improvement Program.

PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION

9 REPLACE Generator at Ringhill BPS

- **Project Location:** Ringhill Booster Pump Station and Hollywood Booster Pump Station.
- **Project Description:** Replace the existing emergency generator with a new generator, automatic transfer switch, and variable frequency drives.
- **Project Status:** The new generator & one variable frequency drive have been replaced as of mid-January. It is expected that this project will be substantially completed by the end of March 2021.

If you have any questions for Woodinville Water District regarding any of these projects, please email Project Engineer, Christian Hoffman at choffman@woodinvillewater.com or call him at 425.487.4142.

Let Us Know About Life Support Issues Requiring Non-Interrupted Water Service

A reminder to all – please be sure to let us know if anyone in your household has a serious health condition requiring water to be available at all times, such as kidney dialysis. We make a note of this on your customer account.

Please contact Customer Service at 425-487-4100 or email customerservice@woodinvillewater.com

The Saving Water Partnership has a number of **free resources** for all types of businesses to help maximize water efficiency and cost savings. Resources include:

- ✓ **Rebates** on water efficient fixtures, such as toilets and commercial kitchen equipment.
- ✓ **Virtual water assessments** to identify the best water saving measures for your business.
- ✓ **Leak detection kits** to help you identify water waste at your business.

Go to savingwater.org/businesses or call (206) 733-9137 for more information. **We're here to help you save water.**





Tim Cantwell, District Water Quality Specialist, testing a backflow.

Keeping Water Safe with Backflow Protection

The District is responsible for providing clean safe drinking water to its customers. To ensure clean safe drinking water the District requires customers to have backflow protection on known hazard.

Typical hazards for residential customers; fire systems, lawn irrigation system, boilers, wells, spas, swimming pools, hot tubs, hose bibs, heat pumps, etc.

Typical hazards for commercial customers; boilers, x-ray equipment carbonation equipment, film processors, fire systems, dental equipment, etching tanks, dishwashers, ice makers, etc.

Backflow preventers protect your drinking water from contamination from these hazards. Water in the pipe can flow in reverse (backflow) when there is a drop-in pressure due to the use of hydrants for firefighting, main break, high usage, or backflow pressure. A backflow preventer keeps this from happening.

Why do I need to have the backflow preventer tested?

Backflow preventers fail, so it is important to have these backflow preventers tested to ensure they are working properly. The State of Washington and the District require these backflow preventers be tested each year and repaired if needed.

Who Does the testing?

To test backflow preventers in the State of Washington a person must have a Washington State Department of Health Certification as a Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT). There is a list of certified testers on our web page at www.woodinvillewater.com, click on Customer - Backflow/Cross-Connection and look for Backflow Tester List.

Now let the Woodinville Water District take care of the backflow testing for you.

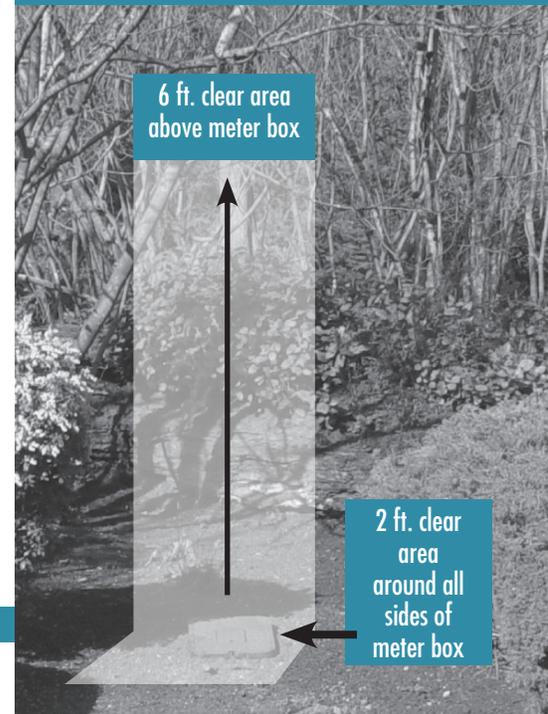
If you have a known backflow hazard residential customers have the option of signing up for the District's Backflow Testing Program, just fill out the form on our web page at www.woodinvillewater.com, and click on Customer - Backflow/Cross-Connection - Testing Program Application. Once the District receives the form, we will notify you that you are in the program and we will schedule the test for you. We will bill you on your water bill for the test, the cost is \$40. To make it easy we will leave you in the program each year until you ask to opt out so each year the testing is taken care of for you.

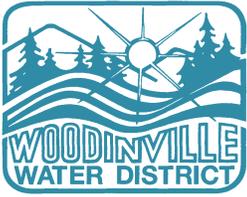
Spring Clean Up Time – Please Keep Clear Access to Your Meter

Most water meter boxes are located in a utility easement along the front of the property. Property owners are responsible for maintaining a clear pathway to and around the water meter. District policy provides guidelines for customers to follow that will allow our staff to quickly find and perform any necessary repairs on your meter.

As you begin your spring garden cleanup, take time to check the area around the water meter box. Please keep a two-foot area around all sides of the meter box and the space six-feet above the meter box clear. The path from the road to the meter box should also be cleared to a minimum of two-feet wide and six-feet high.

Please do not park cars or place any debris on top of the meter box. If your meter does not meet the minimum clearance requirements, you will be notified in writing. Failure to meet the minimum requirements after written communication has been sent may result in fines to your account. If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service Department at 425-487-4100.





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The Pipeline is distributed quarterly and is designed to keep Woodinville Water District customers up-to-date on water related issues, projects, and conservation education. The District welcomes your feedback and your suggestions for future stories.

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Hours of operation: Monday – Friday,
 8:00am – 4:30pm
 Closed Sat, Sun & Holidays

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