

Board Byline: Your Support of Our Water Future

Water holds a critical role in our lives, from brewing our morning coffee to enjoying a day by the pool with loved ones.

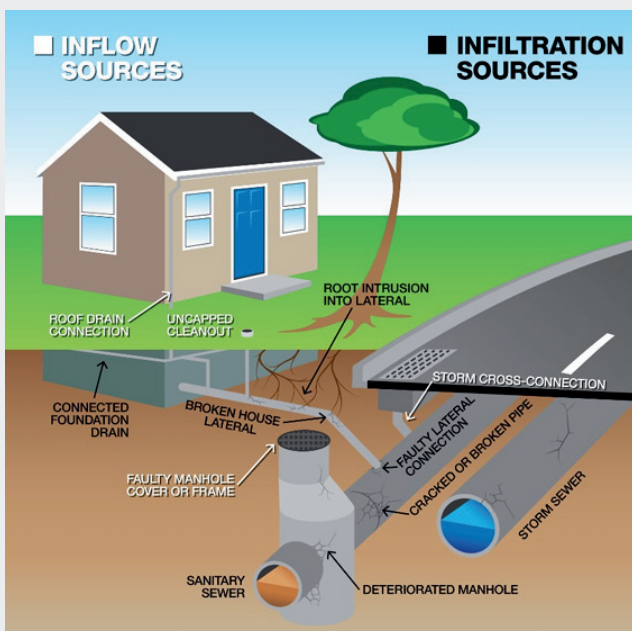
To maintain our current quality of life, it is essential to invest in our water and wastewater infrastructure. The approval of the Financial Year 2025 Budget reflects a commitment to a secure water and wastewater future for our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed and provided feedback at the June 18 public hearing on the proposed increase. The new rates will help fund essential infrastructure updates, ensuring reliable service delivery for years to come. These changes will take effect on July 1, 2024.

The average residential customer (using between 5 and 6 ccf per month) who receives drinking water, wastewater, and watershed protection services from OLWS can expect their total monthly bill to increase by **\$14-16/month**. An average customer who only receives drinking water service from OLWS can expect their bill to increase by **\$4-5/month**. You can find out more about your bill at OakLodgeWaterServices.org/rates-and-charges.

The decision to raise rates is never taken lightly. As Board members, we also are Oak Lodge customers and community members. We understand that with the costs of many goods and services rising, every dollar of your bill counts. We remain steadfast in our commitment to fiscal responsibility while making the much-needed improvements necessary to sustain our community's quality of life.

Oak Lodge currently offers two financial assistance programs for eligible customers. We invite you to get in touch with our team to discuss available options. Find out more at OakLodgeWaterServices.org/financial-assistance or by calling (503) 654-7765.

Susan Keil
Board Chair



What's Wrong With Our Infrastructure Anyway?

We've talked at length about necessary infrastructure updates, but what's causing the issues? This month, we're shedding light on one of the key problems: **inflow & infiltration, or I&I**.

I&I is a problem where old, damaged wastewater pipes become inundated with excess water during storms. Cracks in the pipes allow groundwater to seep in causing much higher-than-normal volumes. The sudden influx can overwhelm the treatment plant systems, sometimes causing sewage to overflow into the river.

Replacing faulty pipes reduces frequent, costly "Band-Aid fixes" and protects our precious rivers by keeping raw sewage out. Learn more about our improvement projects at OakLodgeWaterServices.org/active-projects.

Working Together for a Water-Friendly Summer

Did you know that water use jumps by 30% in the summer? If you're interested in conserving water but aren't sure where to start, we've compiled some water-friendly ideas for your summer gardening and more.

Sign Up for a Weekly Watering Number

One of the biggest water waste culprits is watering too much, too often. Sign up for a Weekly Watering Number to get a customized watering recommendation based on weather and area. Visit regionalh2o.org/wwn to get started.



Limit Irrigation to Support the Salmon

Healthy water levels affect not just us, but the wildlife who call our rivers and streams home. Our friends at Clackamas River Water Providers recommend reducing or ceasing outdoor watering by early September for the fall salmon migration.



Plant a Lush, Native Backyard Habitat

If you've walked around the community, you may have seen Certified Backyard Habitat (BH) gardens! We partner with BH to encourage residents to use native plants in their garden. These plants need less water and fertilizer to thrive in our climate. Find more information at: backyardhabitats.org/enroll/



Take an Afternoon to Check for Leaks

Household leaks waste both water and money. Take a few hours to check your fixtures for leaks; doing so can save you hundreds of dollars throughout the year! Need some help getting started?



Visit OakLodgeWaterServices.org/how-to-detect-a-leak for step-by-step guides.



Your Rates in Action

Boardman Sewer Line Replacement



Throughout the budget season, we have emphasized the need for crucial improvements to safeguard our water future. Our comprehensive plans identify areas where infrastructure is failing, allowing us to implement repairs.

One of these improvements involves a sewer line that runs beneath a wetland area near Boardman Ave & Arista Dr. This fall, we will begin work on rerouting this line.

The result? By rerouting the line away from the wetlands, we will eliminate future impacts on the natural area and improve system performance.

Make Your Voice Heard

You're invited to attend OLWS Board meetings. Join via Zoom or in-person at 14496 SE River Road. Meetings will be held at 4:00 p.m. on:

July 9 | August 13 | September 10

Find more details at OakLodgeWaterServices.org or email info@olws.org for assistance.

Emergency Contact Information

Our team is available 24/7 at **(503) 654-7765**. Please call us if you see water gushing from the street, ground, or from a manhole. Also contact us if you notice a sewer spill or witness illegal storm drain dumping.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
[@OakLodgeWater](https://twitter.com/OakLodgeWater) for news and updates.



Interested in Touring Our Wastewater Treatment Plant?

Join us to learn how wastewater from our homes is cleaned before it's returned to the Willamette River.

