

Board Byline — We're Investing in Our Infrastructure to Comply with State Regulations

By: Susan Keil, Board Chair

We want to keep you updated on active projects in our community. OLWS' wastewater treatment facility needs a significant upgrade to comply with new Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standards for discharge in the Willamette River. The most pressing needs are:

- 1) building a third level of treatment called a tertiary filtration facility at the existing OLWS Wastewater Treatment Plant, and
- 2) reducing inflow and infiltration in the wastewater collections system. This will help prevent sanitary sewer overflows, alleviate undue pressure on the entire system, thereby extending the life of the wastewater treatment plant and collections system.

During the Board of Directors meeting on July 18, 2023, the Board approved a contract to complete design of the tertiary filtration facility.

You have the opportunity to see the inside of the tertiary filtration facility by scanning the QR code below and taking a virtual tour. To learn more about this project, please see the additional insert in your bill. If you would like to take an in-person tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant please email Outreach and Communications Specialist, Alexa Morris at alexa.morris@olws.org.

SCAN FOR VIRTUAL TOUR



bit.ly/virtual-tour-olws



Photo of the Tertiary Filtration Facility

Your OLWS Bill — With the recent rate increase as of July 1, 2023, the Board has set a goal to move to monthly billing. Right now, nearly all OLWS customers receive a bi-monthly bill. OLWS will keep you updated as we work to transition to monthly billing. If you would like to start monthly payments now, please contact a Billing Specialist by email at billing@olws.org or call (503) 654-7765.

National Preparedness Month

The United States observes National Preparedness Month each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

Save the date! OLWS will be hosting a community pop-up event with Oak Lodge Community Emergency Response Team (Oak Lodge CERT) on **Saturday, September 16 from 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM** at Awakening Coffee for National Preparedness Month. Grab a free 12oz coffee of your choice on us, pick up emergency preparedness resources, and learn more about how to get involved with Oak Lodge CERT.

The Oak Lodge CERT is a group of trained volunteers who want to build our community to be more resilient during emergencies. OLCERT provides a variety of opportunities for education and trainings. To get involved email info@OakLodgeCERT.org or follow them on Facebook [@OakLodgeCERT](https://www.facebook.com/OakLodgeCERT).

Stormdrain Cleaning Assistance Program

OLWS coordinates the Stormdrain Cleaning Assistance Program (SCAP) discount program to assist area businesses. Stormdrains require regular cleaning to remove pollutants and prevent flooding. The discounted flat fee of \$60 (per drain) covers removal of debris from standard parking lot drains. Register now at OakLodgeWaterServices.org/scap. The program is open September 1 - October 31, 2023. Questions? Contact alexa.morris@olws.org or call (503) 353-4219.



Once a Year - Fall Fertilization

The time to apply fertilizer is when the grass is growing more roots than blades. You can help protect water quality and have a healthy lawn if you fertilize just once a year. Choose a high-quality fall fertilizer containing slow-release nitrogen and apply it according to the directions in September/October. This will promote growth in the spring and protect our waterways. With your help, we can reduce the amount of chemicals used on our home gardens and lawns.



Community Participation

You're invited to attend OLWS Board meetings. The public may attend through Zoom video conference or in-person (14496 SE River Road). The upcoming meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on:

September 19 | October 17 | November 21

Learn how to attend at OakLodgeWaterServices.org or email info@olwsd.org for assistance.

Emergency Contact Information

Our team is available 24 hours a day at (503) 654-7765. If you see water gushing up out of either the street, ground, or from a manhole, please call us. Use the same number if you notice sewer spills or if you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain.



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[@OakLodgeWater](https://twitter.com/OakLodgeWater) for news and updates.