

Board Byline

By Susan Keil, Board President

Oak Lodge Water Services (OLWS) provides a high level of service to customers in the form of reliable drinking water, wastewater, and watershed protection services. This spring, the Budget Committee held public meetings and worked together to keep any rate increases to a minimum. The volunteers on the Budget Committee, who are also customers, had a deep understanding of the challenges everyone has faced over this past year. Through the process the Budget Committee found opportunities for cost reduction in 11 areas such as computer maintenance and equipment rentals to keep the rate adjustment to a minimum.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank our Budget Committee and everyone who provided comments at the June 21, 2022 public hearing on the proposed \$4.60 per month increase for the average residential customer's monthly cost*. The rate increase was adopted and will cover supply cost increases, mandatory wastewater improvement projects, and other system improvements needed to continue to provide reliable, high-quality services. These rates are effective on July 1, 2022. Below is a breakdown by service:

- Drinking Water \$0.79 per month
- Wastewater \$3.81 per month
- Watershed Protection \$0.00 per month

OLWS is a special district that provides three essential water services to nearly 29,000 people in a roughly 6.5 square mile area of unincorporated Clackamas County as well as parts of Gladstone and Milwaukie. As a self-sustaining local government agency, OLWS focuses every dollar and every day on maintaining reliable drinking water, wastewater, and watershed protection services. Ongoing investments in OLWS' infrastructure are necessary to keep customers and the environment safe and respond to new regulatory standards.

**The District defines its average residential customer as a single-family residence with a 5/8-inch water meter, monthly water consumption of 6 CCF (hundred cubic feet),*

winter average water consumption (averaged as a calculation of wastewater billing) of 6 CCF, and 2,500 square feet of impervious (non-porous) surface (one equivalent service unit or ESU) for watershed protection billing.

Create a Healthier Water Community

Thank you for all that you do to help make our water safer and healthier. Here are three summer activities that make a difference and protect our waterways.

1. If you keep a lawn, consider letting it go dormant in the summer and fertilize with a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer just once in the fall. Find out about your lawn style at [WhatsYourLawnStyle.org](https://www.whatsyourlawnstyle.org)
2. Remember to pick up after your pet — bacteria left behind from pets can flow into our creeks and rivers without treatment.
3. Washing your car? Remember to keep all soapy water on the grass and out of the storm drains — or take your vehicle to a car wash.

Authority Update

The Board of Directors has been seeking to reorganize OLWS as a Joint Water & Sanitary Authority. On May 5, 2022, the Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners approved the transition from a District to an Authority. Registered voters will have the opportunity to elect the first governing body of the Oak Lodge Water Services Authority at the Special Election on August 23, 2022. For questions on the Authority, please contact Alexa Morris, Outreach & Communications Specialist, at (503) 353-4219 or by email at alexa@olwsd.org.

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:

- July 19, August 16 and September 20

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

Get a FREE Landscape Water Audit to Help Save Water and Money

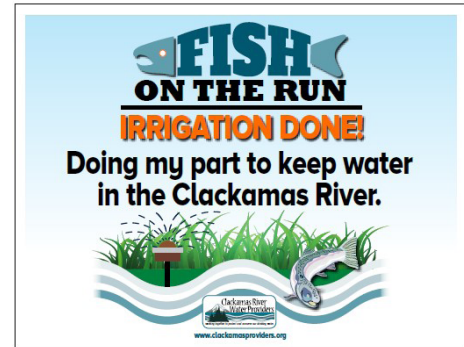
The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) offers free Landscape Water Audits during the watering season (May-October) for water customers. Water use in our community more than doubles during the summer months due to outdoor watering. A landscape water audit is one way to get your irrigation system and landscape on track and running right.

Saving water and saving money is what a landscape water audit is all about. The CRWP Landscape Auditor will assess your lawn and garden areas, irrigation system and more. Residential landscape water audits often include but are not limited to:

- A walk through your yard/gardens including all lawn area.
- Making note of existing soil types, plant material, naturally available water, and sun exposure.
- Locating the water meter, noting any existing leaks from the meter throughout the irrigation system.
- Locating the irrigation controller, making note of the make/model as well as the current schedule.

When the audit is complete you will receive a detailed report with all recommendations recorded such as irrigation and controller schedule adjustments for better water efficiency, and maintenance of existing plant material giving you the tools you need to better manage your outdoor water use.

The audits are available on a first come first serve basis. The audits will be approximately 1.5 hours, please be available to do the walk through with the auditor. The auditor will practice social distancing requirements. To schedule your free landscape water audit contact Christine at christine@clackamasproviders.org or call (503) 723-3511.



Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done

The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) is a coalition of municipal drinking water providers that get their drinking water from the Clackamas River — which includes Oak Lodge Water Services — is asking customers to help keep water in the Clackamas River by reducing or shutting-off outdoor watering for the fall fish runs.

In addition to providing drinking water to over 300,000 people the Clackamas River is also home to migrating salmon and steelhead virtually year-round. Most of the year there is plenty of water in the river, however summer is the time of year when the Clackamas River is flowing at its lowest levels, because of limited rain fall. As our summers are getting longer and hotter, making sure there is enough water in the river for the fall fish runs is becoming more challenging.

Beginning mid-August visit ClackamasProviders.org to learn more about the summer watering campaign. Take the "Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done" pledge and receive a free yard sign (image above) to let your neighbors know you're saving water for fish in the Clackamas River.

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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