

Board Byline: Saving Money on a Major Treatment Plant Upgrade

Balancing infrastructure needs with customer costs remains a top priority for the Board. Adding tertiary treatment is one of the most significant capital improvements in our current plan.

The project was originally scoped at **\$14M**, making it the single most expensive capital improvement in our current plan. We're pleased to report that the construction and engineering contracts were recently awarded for approximately **\$12.5M** – significantly below the original estimate.

We have also secured **\$5M** in external funding, including a \$3M state grant and \$2M in DEQ loan forgiveness.




After grants and loan forgiveness, the remaining project cost is approximately **\$7.5M**.

Why is adding tertiary treatment necessary?

Oak Lodge is allowed to discharge treated water into the Willamette River through a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permit. To meet new permit requirements, we need to be able to clean wastewater to an even higher standard.

Our new tertiary treatment facility will incorporate ultra-fine filtration technology capable of removing substances that our current equipment cannot treat. The result is **improved protection of local waterways, compliance with new DEQ requirements, and avoidance of costly fines.**

Drivers of Cost Savings

- State funding:** \$3 million grant 
- Competitive bidding:** Lowest-bid procurement system encourages contractor competition 
- Loan forgiveness:** We've qualified for \$2 million in DEQ loan forgiveness 



Additional Capital Project Updates

Several water and sewer system improvement projects are underway.

Oatfield Road Water Main Replacement Project

We're replacing more than 16,000 feet of water main pipes along Oatfield Rd. Phase 1 is about 90% complete as of mid-February.

Glen Echo (LS6) Sewer Improvements Project

In the Glen Echo area, we're working to replace aged sewer mains. Pipe work is expected to finish by the end of February.

Courtney Ave. Sewer Improvements Project

Slated to start in mid-February, we'll replace manholes and sewer mains along Courtney Ave and some nearby side streets.

Find out more at: oaklodgewaterservices.org/active-projects



Upcoming Budget Meetings Open to the Public

The Budget Committee, comprised of members of the public and the OLWS Finance Director, will be meeting soon to review the fiscal year 2027 proposed budget. Each session includes a public comment period where community members can share their thoughts and ask questions. This year's meetings are on the following dates:

- April 7:** Initial Budget Committee meeting
- April 9:** Budget Committee deliberations
- April 16:** Budget Committee deliberations
- May 12:** Projected budget adoption

More information to come on our website:
oaklodgewaterservices.org/meetings

Discounted Storm Drain Cleaning Available to Businesses

Oak Lodge offers the Storm Drain Cleaning Assistance Program (SCAP) to help businesses protect local watersheds.

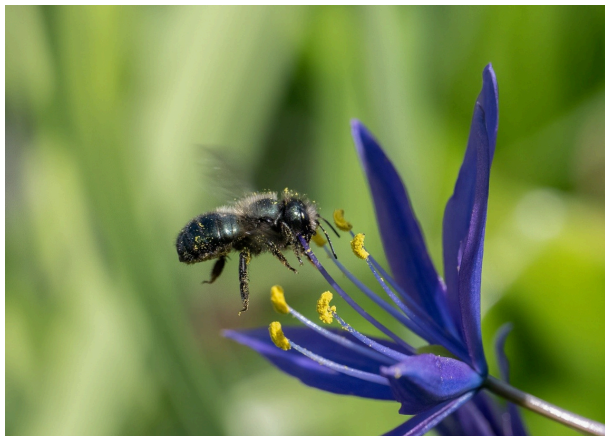
Storm drains require regular cleaning to function properly. The \$55/drain program fee covers the removal of pollutants and debris from standard parking lot drains, allowing clean water to flow through the stormwater system.

Registration is open March 1 - April 30:
oaklodgewaterservices.org/SCAP



Questions? Contact us at info@olws.org.

Get Ready for Gardening Season!



Consider Water and Pollinator-Friendly Plants

Adding native plants to your garden is one way to conserve water, as they're adapted to our region's unique conditions. Our friends at the Backyard Habitat Certification Program can help audit your current yard and suggest improvements.

More details at: backyardhabitats.org

Choose More Efficient Watering Options

Rebates for efficient watering technologies are available through our partners at Clackamas River Water Providers to help you save water and money.

clackamasproviders.org/conservation-rebates

Upcoming Annual Maintenance Reminders

Customers who have a backflow prevention device or a private stormwater facility maintenance agreement will receive a testing or maintenance reminder this spring.

Keep an eye out for these communications for more information.

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, or if you notice a sewer spill or witness illegal storm drain dumping.

Board Meetings

You're invited to attend OLWS board meetings. Join via Zoom or in-person at 14496 SE River Road. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 P.M.:

March 10 | April 14 | May 12

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