

Board Byline: Investing in a Safe and Reliable Water Future

By: Susan Keil, Board Chair

Water plays an essential role in our daily lives, from brushing our teeth in the morning to watering our gardens. We often take for granted our access to clean water and wastewater services. However, these services become vulnerable to failure if we don't maintain our infrastructure. It's essential that we take proactive measures to address the issues facing our aging systems so that we can continue to provide our community with the services that sustain us every day.

Oak Lodge Water Services (OLWS) continually evaluates its infrastructure and identifies necessary updates through its Master and Capital Improvement Plans. As part of our commitment to transparency, we want to highlight some key capital improvements from the last year.

These investments are expected to last for 75 years, providing reliability for decades to come. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that these critical improvement projects continue.

Recent Capital Improvement Projects

Lift Station 2 Rebuild

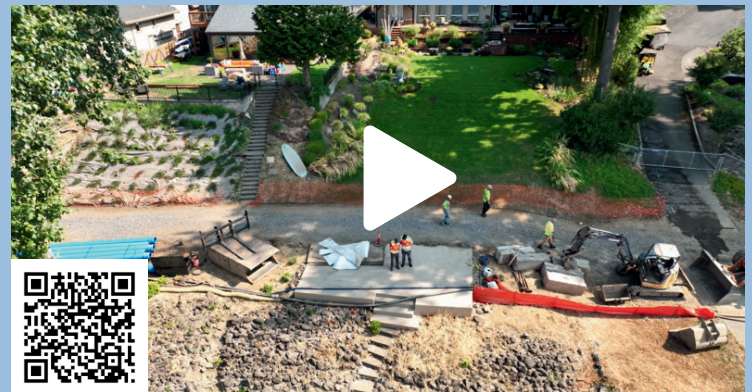
A new lift station is under construction, adding more efficient and reliable pumps to reduce the potential for sanitary sewer overflows.

Hillside Sewer Line Replacement

Staff was spending an increased amount of time clearing blockages caused by a sewage line that had shifted 6 feet underground. Last year, it was replaced, which greatly reduced the amount of time needed for maintenance.

28th Loop Water Line Replacement

This project increased the size of an old water line, allowing us to meet water demands for customers and the local fire department.



Scan to see the scale of the Hillside project

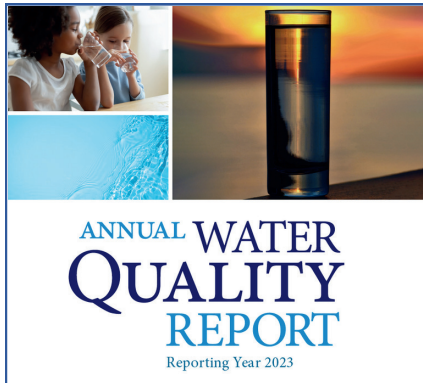
What Does This Mean for My Rates?

On May 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., the OLWS Board of Directors will meet to adopt the budget with a proposed rate. The public hearing for the proposed rate will take place on June 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., followed by final rate adoption. Public participation and comment are welcome at both meetings. The annual budget process determines what rate increase will be required in the upcoming fiscal year to support important capital improvements to your water, wastewater, and watershed protection infrastructure.

New rates will be effective July 1, 2024. You can attend meetings via Zoom or in person at 14496 SE River Road. Please visit OakLodgeWaterServices.org for more information on how to attend and submit public comment.

2023 Water Quality Report Now Available

As part of our commitment to providing our customers with the best quality water, OLWS conducts regular tests to ensure that our water meets all health standards. We are pleased to announce that in 2023, OLWS continued to meet or exceed all regulatory requirements.



Scan to read
the full report



Also available at:

OakLodgeWaterServices.org/water-quality-report

Get Personalized Lawn Recommendations

Ready for some gorgeous grass? Answer a few questions at www.LevelUpLawn.org, a partnership with Oregon State University's Extension Service, and they'll send you recommendations based on your answers.

Looking for quick and easy routines that make short work of a lush green lawn? Fill out a few quick questions to get the best tips for you and your yard!

in partnership with Oregon State University Extension Service leveluplawn.org

Monthly Billing Starts in July

Starting in July, we will move from bimonthly to monthly billing to make it easier for our customers to manage their water usage, budget their expenses, and detect leaks earlier.

Customers are currently on two billing cycles. If you're receiving this in your May bill, you'll receive one more bimonthly bill in July; your first monthly bill will arrive after August 1 for just July usage. If you're receiving this in your June bill, your first monthly bill will arrive after July 1 for just June usage.

Have questions? Call or email us at **(503) 654-7765** or billing@olws.org. Visit our site for FAQs and more.

Make Your Voice Heard

You're invited to attend OLWS Board meetings. You can join via Zoom or in-person at 14496 SE River Road. Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on:

May 21 | June 18

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 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.

Stay Connected

If you're interested in learning more about OLWS projects happening in your area, visit the Active Projects page on our website:

OakLodgeWaterServices.org/active-projects



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