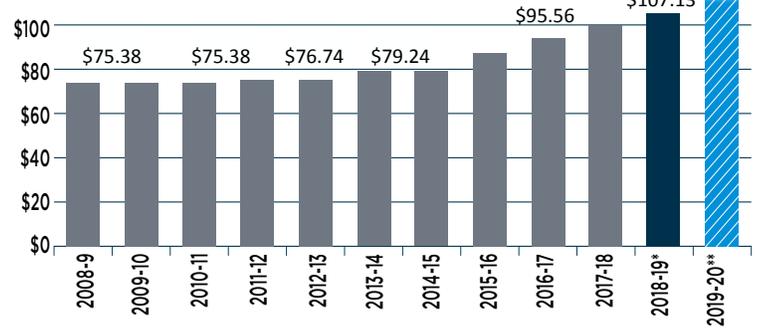


Utility Rates:

Past & Future

Between 2008 and 2015, municipal utility rates were essentially steady. In 2013, the City initiated plans to update its water and sewer masterplans last revised in 2001. The plans identified several significant utility projects required to protect and enhance the City's water supply and wastewater system. A five-year rate plan was adopted in 2015 to support these needed projects.

Cumulative Water, Sewer, & Storm Water Base Rates



*Adopted Rates Take Effect July 2018 | **Planned future rate increase per 2015 plan

The City of Hood River plans over \$13 million in water/sewer system capital improvements over the next five fiscal years.

Recent Infrastructure Projects

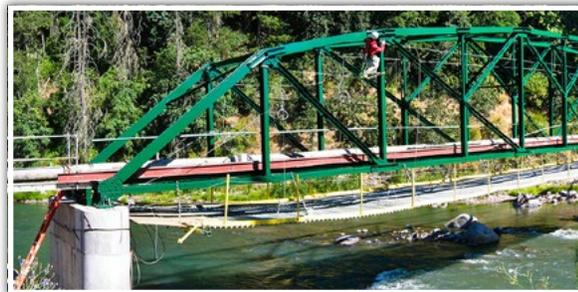
Riverdale Reservoir

The 60-year-old Riverdale Reservoir was fully renovated 2014. The new reservoir holds 5 million gallons of water, or the equivalent of 2.5 days of drinking water for the City's utility customers. In the event that the City's water source is compromised, the Riverdale Reservoir would provide public works crews time to repair any issues without interrupting water supply to residents.



Water Transmission Line

The 20-mile waterline from the City's water source near Mt. Hood was fully replaced 2014. The 1929 line leaked heavily and was in grave risk of failure in the event of an earthquake. The City's new line can now transport enough water to support Hood River's growing population over the next 75 years. The project was financed with a federal loan that will be repaid with water rate revenue over the next 32 years.



New Wastewater Outfall

The City moved its wastewater outfall to a new confluence zone in 2016, bringing it farther into active currents and away from more populated recreational areas. The projects outfall line extends under the Hook waterfront trail and over 300 feet into the Columbia with an in-water buried diffuser pipe that carries the treated wastewater. See additional details on the back of this flyer.



Utility Rate Assistance Program (URAP)

In 2008, the City Council created the Utility Rate Assistance Program to assist low-income rate payers with their utility bills. Households with incomes less than 60% of the area median are eligible for a 30% discount on sewer charges and a 40% discount on water charges.

The URAP program is administered by the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC). Contact MCCAC for more information at (541) 386-4027 or at 205 Wasco Loop #101, Hood River, OR.

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2018-19 UTILITY RATES

Water Meter Monthly Base Fee

3/4"	39.04
1"	66.36
1 1/2"	117.13
2"	209.61
3"	417.69
4"	651.88
6"	1,299.92

Water Commodity Charge

Residential > 5,000 gallons/month per 1,000 gallons	2.42
Commercial > 0 gallons/month per 1,000 gallons	2.42

Stormwater Monthly Base Fee

3/4"	9.19
1"	44.38
1 1/2"	76.90
2"	84.12
3"	146.57
4"	294.18
6"	458.81

Sewer Monthly Base Fee

Residential Inside City Limits

3/4"	58.90
1"	99.90
1 1/2"	194.10
2"	311.70
3"	629.20
4"	982.23
6"	1,958.39

Residential Outside City Limits

3/4"	73.50
1"	124.90
1 1/2"	242.60
2"	389.60
3"	787.10
4"	1,227.30
6"	2,447.50

Sewer Non-Residential Commodity Rates

Per 1,000 gallons	
Low BOD <401	2.56
Medium BOD <801	3.84
High BOD > 800	5.10

**RED highlighted 3/4" base fees
represent 90% of rate payers**

What am I paying for?

It's tempting in any municipality to take infrastructure for water and sewer for granted because much of the delivery system is underground and out of sight. However, these systems are exceedingly complex and are, in many cases, aging. They have been added to and modified over the years and failures and repairs are common and necessary. In a perfect world the entire system would be updated and replaced at once but that is not possible (or economically feasible) if we are to maintain reliable, uninterrupted service. Therefore, as budgeting allows, the city identifies areas of critical need and schedules repairs/replacement over many years.

Many of these projects are time consuming and expensive but the results are infrastructure designed and built to benefit the community for decades to come.

The sewer outfall project completed recently is a good example.

The new outfall was needed to address the accumulation of treated wastewater near the shoreline and nearby recreational use areas due to the formation of a reverse-current eddy caused by the flooding that created the "Spit" in 2006. This new system extended the current treated effluent pipe under the Hook road and farther into the active river currents near Wells Island.

The project involved extensive engineering and planning, coordination and permitting with local, state and federal agencies, evaluating alternative outfall locations, performing a mixing zone analysis, modifications to the existing chlorine contact chamber, 2,000 feet of 36-inch pipe along the Port of Hood River's Hook area, and the 300 feet of in-water buried diffuser pipe.

Upon completion of this now *hidden* project, the City of Hood River partnered with the Port to build a pedestrian and bike walkway that connects the Hook Boat Launch to the Waterfront Trail.



Why aren't rates based on usage only?

The City of Hood River's utility rates reflect the costs of the utility. Our community is fortunate to have access to an abundant water source that requires little treatment and relies on gravity for delivery to City reservoirs. Similarly, gravity primarily conveys waste to the City's treatment plant. The majority of Hood River utility costs are dedicated to maintaining and repairing a fixed distribution system to homes and businesses, regardless of the volume that flows through it.

Customers are encouraged to conserve water to protect natural stream habitat. However, the City's rates are not currently designed to influence behavior, but to mirror shared costs necessary to keep the system safe and reliable.

How do we compare?

Hood River's base rate of \$107 for water and sewer are similar to many other cities in Oregon, including Mosier, The Dalles, Bend and Yachats based on a 2017 utilities survey by the League of Oregon Cities.

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