



Tiered Wastewater Rates and Discounts

Utility Advisory Committee
August 3, 2023

Wastewater Utility Rates

- Set by Wastewater utility independently based on their unique expenses, policy decisions and regulatory requirements.
- Cost of Service based for maintaining sewer collection system.
- Rate Studies performed during Master Plan (current Wastewater Plan adopted Oct 2020).
- Depending on housing type may or may not be paid directly by the occupants (Owner/Renter/Multi-Family).

Wastewater Rates

Residential and duplex bi-monthly wastewater rates

	Standard 2022	Discounted 2022	Standard 2023	Discounted 2023
City fee	\$46.96	\$29.06*	\$51.58	\$31.92
LOTT fee	\$86.98	\$86.98	\$89.60	\$89.60
Total fee	\$133.94	\$116.04	\$141.18	\$121.52

*Discounted wastewater rates are for those customers using less than 500 cubic feet of drinking water per bi-monthly billing cycle. This is about 8 cubic feet (60 gallons) of drinking water per day. Visit the [wastewater tiered rates](#) webpage for more information on the discount.

- Multi-family rates discounted 30% from standard residential rates

Tiered Wastewater Rates

- Average single-family drinking water use is 1,300 cubic feet (cf) per billing cycle. Most water annually goes to sewer system.
- A discount is offered for customers that use less than 500 cf of drinking water per 2-month billing cycle.
- Between 500-700 cf receive a prorated portion of the discount.
- 15-20% of accounts receive the discount.
- [Tiered Rates \(olympiawa.gov\)](http://olympiawa.gov)

How it works

- Most customers pay the full amount per month for the City portion of the wastewater bill.
- In the summer if more than 700 cf of water is used customer pays the standard rate.
- If the home is on a well, shared meter or water is supplied by another jurisdiction those customers are not eligible for the discount.

Context Considered: Rate Development

- The discount was determined with summer irrigation water considered. Discount is larger than if more people qualified year-round.
- Tracking summer irrigation use was determined to be too onerous for utility billing staff. Irrigation is typically only 2-3 months a year.
- Tiered rates were developed to be more equitable and affordable.

(Continued) Context Considered: Rate Development

- Utility does not save any money when less wastewater is discharged to the sewer.
- Tiered rates developed to be revenue neutral.



Questions/Discussion