

Connections

July/August 2015



Using technology to provide reliable service, save money and protect the environment

Proactive maintenance of sewer system is a high priority for the District. It helps ensure we continue to provide reliable, cost-effective service to our customers and protect the environment. Sometimes, however, creative problem solving is required to maintain the system in the least impactful and most cost-effective way. This is especially true when working in sensitive areas like creek corridors.

A Special Pig to Protect the Creek

Cleaning the pipelines under Salmon Creek Greenway presented a unique challenge. Traditional methods involve pushing a "pig," or pipe-sized buoy, through the pipe to remove any build up. The risk is that the pig can get stuck and need to be dug out, which would not be feasible under Salmon Creek.

Instead, the District used a new technology called "ice pigging." This is a very effective and low-risk method for cleaning pipes. A slurry of slushy ice is pushed through to scour the pipe, carrying with it any sediment and built up material on the walls of the pipe. After days of careful planning, this maintenance task is completed in just a few hours without disturbing surrounding natural areas or impacting service to residences. There is also no risk of the pig getting stuck – the ice will simply melt away. Ice pigging is cutting-edge technology in the wastewater industry and perfect for high-value habitat areas like Salmon Creek.

New Pipe, No Trench

Sewer lines under Cougar Creek, to the north of 119th Street, needed to be repaired. To reduce the environmental footprint of construction, the District used cured-in place pipe technology to rehabilitate the sewer line without digging any open trenches. This approach involves inserting a flexible, resin-saturated sock through existing pipes and then "inflating" and curing it with boiling water to create a solid, permanent pipe within the original line. The cured-in-place pipe not only provides environmental benefit, but also saves rate payers money by not requiring excavation-intense construction.

Technology in Action

Ice Pigging



Ice pushed through pipe

Water and sediment come out the end

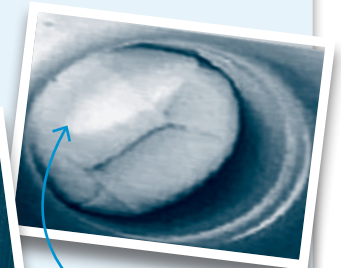


Cured-in-Place Pipe

Flexible tube inserted into existing pipe



Hardened by curing with boiling water



Final pipe will last for many decades

Never seen an ice pig? Visit our website for photos and videos of the ice pig cleaning and cured-in-place pipe processes.

www.crwwd.com/technology

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday,
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Weekends
& Holidays

Emergency?

Call 24/7:
360-750-5876

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Grease in the pipes

Many people may think fats, oils, grease and grit – known as F.O.G.G. – get into the sewer system mainly from restaurants. However, much of this material comes from homes. F.O.G.G. does not dissolve once it gets into the system; instead, it builds up and gets caught in pipes, increasing the chance of sewer backups. To reduce this risk, The District increases maintenance activities, which also increases operational costs.

Catching a million pounds of F.O.G.G.

To protect the system and ensure reliable service, the District's F.O.G.G. management program works with restaurants to install grease removal devices. These can range from 25-gallon tubs under sinks to 2000-gallon tanks buried outside. The devices stop most grease and solids before they enter the system.



Accumulations of F.O.G.G. require increased maintenance and expense

It is estimated that the District's F.O.G.G. management program keeps more than a million pounds of grease and grit from entering the sewer system each year.

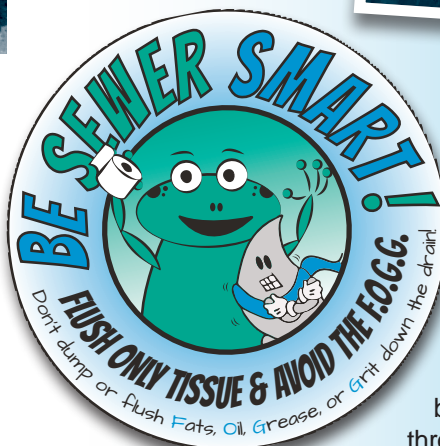
What you can do at home

Managing F.O.G.G. at home is important to reducing maintenance costs for our sewer system. If all residential customers discharge just 0.1 pounds per day down their drains, it is equivalent to the one million pounds saved from all restaurants combined. Remember that some foods, such as egg shells, vegetable material, mayonnaise and cooking grease, should never be put down the drain – even if you have a sink disposal. Scraping food and grease from dishes and containers into the garbage helps prevent F.O.G.G. from entering our sewers. For more tips on becoming a sewer-friendly household, visit: www.crwwd.com/service-tips.html.

Frog and F.O.G.G. are out and about!

District mascots, Frog and F.O.G.G., made their debut on the big stage (literally) at the Hazel Dell Parade of Bands in May.

The District's float featured a stagecoach done up in grand style, with Frog and F.O.G.G. greeting parade-goers from the driver's seat.



If you missed it, the Clean Water Express will ride again in the Ridgefield and Battle Ground parades to help teach kids about wastewater and the environment. Coloring books featuring Frog and F.O.G.G. will also be available at events throughout the summer.

Calendar of Events

July
4

Ridgefield Parade
& Felida
Children's Parade

July
18

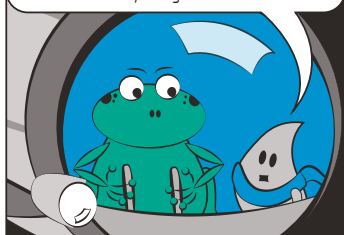
Battle
Ground Harvest
Days Parade

August
4

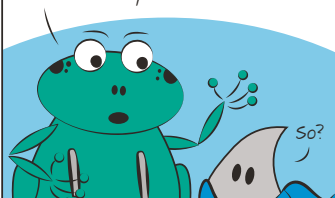
Ridgefield
National
Night Out

Frog and the F.O.G.G.

Okay, I'll come along in your sewer sub thingy, but I don't know why you care about my origins so much.



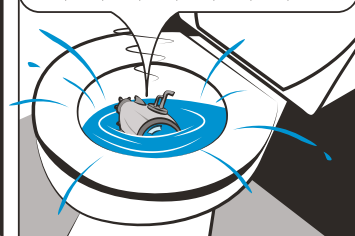
F.O.G.G., how we treat wastewater is a matter of public health and safety. Carelessly dumping FATS, OIL, GREASE and GRIT down the kitchen sink adds cost for everyone and compromises how well the system works.



... So it's OUR mission is to scrub the sewer of grease and root out wrongdoing! Caring for our sewer is a matter of civic duty!



AAAAAAAH!



What's the matter? You look a little flushed. Stop it.