

Connections

November / December 2021



The Value of S.E.R.V.I.C.E.

Part two: Stewardship

Join us for part two of this series as we explore the District's commitment to its values of S.E.R.V.I.C.E. In this newsletter we look at stewardship and some of the ways the District protects our natural environment and best manages the financial resources entrusted to us.

Taking Care of Our Environment

The District strives to safeguard the water resources in our region, which are vital to our quality of life and economic well-being. Communities along the Columbia River enjoy the recreation, livability, economic and environmental benefits it provides. The river and creeks in the area are also home to many species of fish, including salmon and steelhead which use the Columbia River to migrate between upstream spawning areas and the Pacific Ocean.

Environmental Stewardship: *Supporting the Statewide Water Quality Assessment*

Because treated wastewater, or effluent, is safely discharged into the Columbia River, we take stewardship of this iconic waterway seriously. The District, a member of the Discover Clean Water Alliance, partners with the City of Vancouver and together we monitor water quality in the Columbia River. We supported the process of updating the state's Water Quality Assessment by collecting and reporting relevant, accurate and up-to-date water quality data for the part of the Columbia River that flows through Clark County. We recently completed a two-year monitoring program to measure and assess dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, which is an indicator of overall river health. It showed clearly that the Columbia River meets WA Department of Ecology water quality standards. This is great news for the river and confirms our treatment systems are doing the job to protect the resource.



How you can be an active partner:

There are many ways you can help our watershed: first, educate yourself about where our water comes from and where it's going. Second, get involved by planting trees and improving our greenspaces. Learn more about watershed stewardship and volunteer opportunities at:

[thewatershedalliance.org/
portfolio/stewardship](http://thewatershedalliance.org/portfolio/stewardship)

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Weekends
and Holidays

Emergency?

Call 24/7:
360-750-5876

Commissioners

Norm Harker
Denny Kiggins
Neil Kimsey

General Manager

John M. Peterson, P.E.

Visit us online at www.CRWWD.com



Free Leaf Disposal COUPON

Prevent street flooding. Do NOT blow or rake leaves into the street.
Use this coupon for free leaf disposal from:

Vancouver & Clark County Residents Only - Please use face coverings/keep a distance - October 1 - December 31, 2021

DISPOSAL DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

H & H Wood Recyclers
8401 NE 117th Ave
Vancouver, WA
360-892-2805

McFarlane's Bark
8806 NE 117th Ave
Vancouver, WA
360-892-6125

**West Van Materials
Recovery Center**
6601 NW Old Lower River Rd
Vancouver, WA | 360-737-1727

Triangle Resources
612 SE Union St
Camas, WA
360-834-7253

This coupon must be presented at the drop-off site
and is for **LEAVES ONLY**, up to 5 cubic yards.

No trimmings, yard debris or mixed loads
with this coupon; these items will
be charged at the regular price.

Leaves must be emptied
from plastic or kraft bags.

Sponsored by:



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Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Zip: _____



City of Vancouver residents: Funding for your participation in this program is provided through your garbage rates.

Clark County residents: Funding for participation is provided by Clark County Public Works.

Proactively Protecting our Financial Assets

The District protects our financial assets through proactive planning, accountability and sound management. This ensures we have the funding, people and processes in place to successfully meet the business needs and ratepayers' expectations for fiscal stewardship. Long-range financial planning and rate management have allowed the District to maintain stable and competitive rates, a strong credit rating and funding for capital improvements even in tough economic times.

Excellence in Financial Accountability and Reporting

The District has received clean financial and accountability audits from the Washington State Auditor's Office for more than 30 straight years. This confirms compliance with all areas of financial reporting and that controls are in place to effectively safeguard the public's money. The District annually submits for and has received both the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). These awards are the highest form of recognition for budgeting, financial accounting and reporting given to municipal governments.

Maintaining Affordable Rates

Please note that the base monthly rate will increase by \$1 per month (2.4%) in January 2022 to \$42 per Equivalent Residential Unit. This follows the multi-year rate program adopted in 2018 to keep up with rising costs while still maintaining the lowest rates in the area.

How you can be an active partner:

Educate yourself about the cost of wastewater service and get involved by attending a Board meeting or join virtually on December 14 for the annual budget hearing. For more information about our finances, visit:

crwwd.com/about/financials

FROG & the F.O.G.G.

