

# Connections

July/August 2019



## Columbia River Water Quality

**Part one of a two-part series: Going above and beyond to protect our health, the environment and our community's economic future.**

The Columbia River is vital to our quality of life and economic well-being. Many species of fish, including salmon, steelhead and trout, use the Columbia River to migrate between upstream spawning areas and the Pacific Ocean. Communities along the river enjoy the recreation, livability, economic and environmental benefits it provides. Because the District and the City of Vancouver discharge treated wastewater, or effluent, into the Columbia, we take stewardship of this iconic waterway seriously.

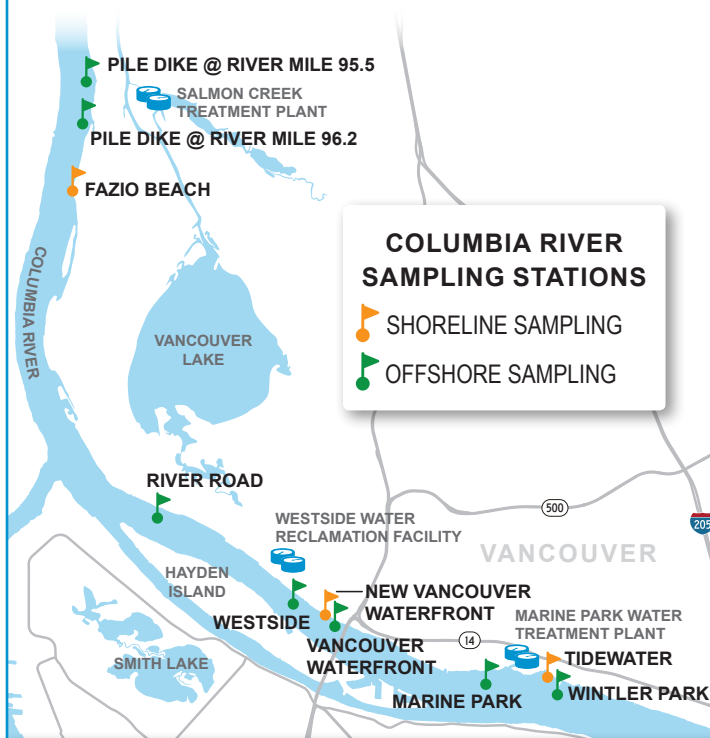
### What We're Doing to Help

Along with our partners, we operate our plants at the highest degrees of safety and responsibility to ensure effluent not only meets, but exceeds standards. But we're not stopping there. We're also working to better understand the Columbia River to inform future policy decisions. Policy makers rely upon accurate and up-to-date water quality information in order to make sound decisions.

Therefore, as a member of the Discovery Clean Water Alliance, we're working with the City of Vancouver to study Dissolved Oxygen levels (DO) in a section of the Columbia River between the Washougal and Lewis Rivers, where the District and the City discharge effluent from the Salmon Creek, Marine Park and Westside Treatment Plants. We are in the process of conducting a two-year monitoring program to collect data regarding DO levels in the river. Once complete, our data will be provided to the Washington State Department of Ecology to support State and Federal Water Quality Assessments.

**Questions?** Contact Dale Lough, Alliance Capital Program Manager at [dlough@crwwd.com](mailto:dlough@crwwd.com) or 360-993-8856.

**About Dissolved Oxygen:** Having enough oxygen in water is crucial for all types of aquatic life. Steadily flowing water, such as that in a large river, generally contains enough dissolved oxygen – but slow-moving water, such as in vegetation along the shoreline, can have significantly less.



#### 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

Visit us online at [www.CRWWD.com](http://www.CRWWD.com)



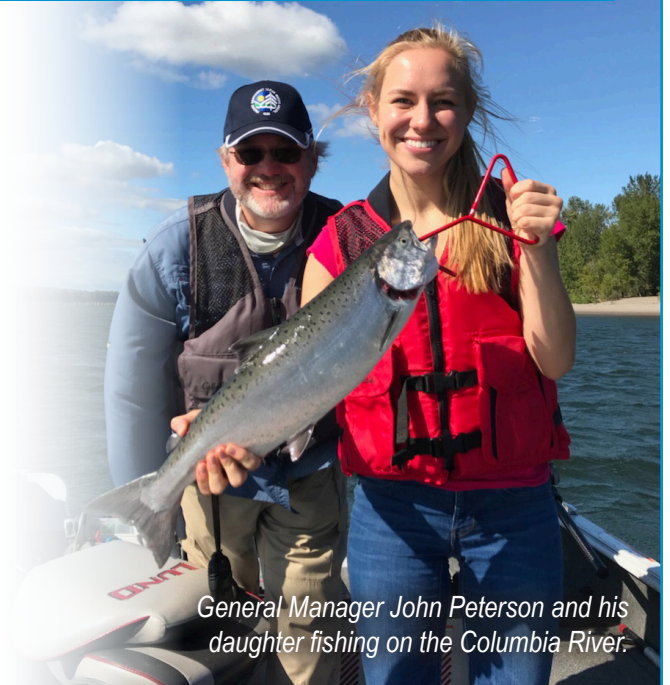
## Keep Prescription Medication Out of the River

You can also do your part to help protect the Columbia River by properly disposing of your prescriptions. Old medicine should never be sent to landfill or flushed down the toilet. These drugs end up in the surface water or groundwater. Wastewater treatment plants are unable to remove flushed medications because they dissolve in water. This puts us and our environment at risk.

How to safely get rid of unwanted medications:

1. Ask your pharmacy.
2. Ask your doctor.
3. Use a household hazardous waste collection facility.

For more information: [TakeBackYourMeds.org](http://TakeBackYourMeds.org)



General Manager John Peterson and his daughter fishing on the Columbia River.

## Protect Your Personal information and Pay Online at No Charge

AutoPay monthly or make a quick payment online through the District's website at no charge! The District does not endorse any third-party payment providers. If you elect to use a third-party payment provider, you may be charged a fee for that service. The District does not charge a fee to make a payment online.

Make your payments with us at [crwwd.merchantransact.com](http://crwwd.merchantransact.com) or visit [crwwd.com/payment-options](http://crwwd.com/payment-options) to learn more about the District's preferred payment methods.

## Summer Fun

Join the District at one of our fun summer events. Learn about your local sewer system and planned improvements.

### Summer Events

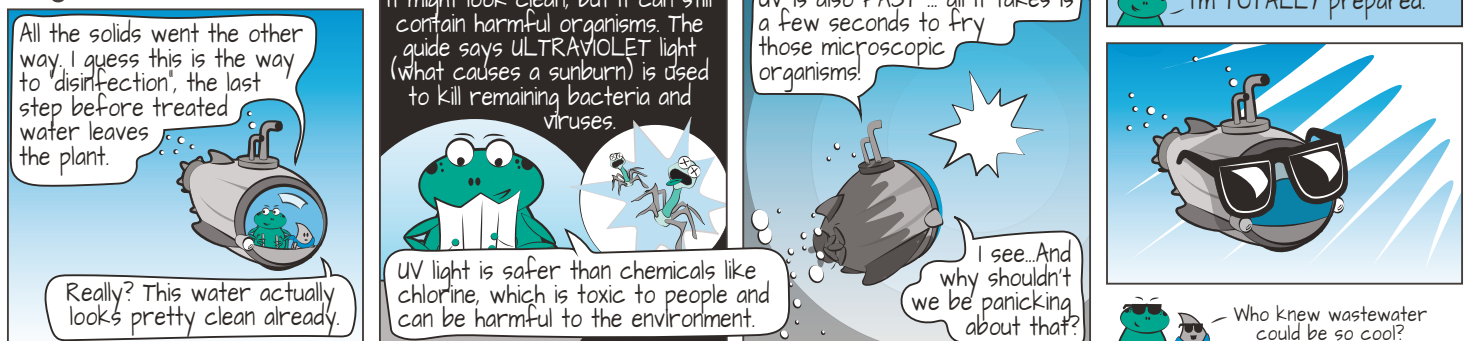
**July  
4**

Ridgefield  
4th of July Parade

**August  
6**

Ridgefield National  
Night Out

## Frog and the F.O.G.G.



6-5-2019