

Connections

September / October 2018



Managing Treatment Facilities for Today and Tomorrow

Our county has grown rapidly and is forecast to keep on growing. That means not only treating more wastewater, but also meeting even tighter regulations that apply as treatment plants use more of their capacity. Technology also changes over time, providing opportunities to enhance the reliability and efficiency of plant operations.

No surprise: Treating wastewater is your wastewater district's biggest cost. To keep bringing you high levels of service at low cost, it's important for the District to act now and plan ahead.

We're managing wastewater treatment for:

- **Capacity** to support planned growth
- **Regulatory compliance** to meet new water quality standards
- **Being a good neighbor** to residents and businesses nearby
- **Cost savings**, which usually involves greater efficiency

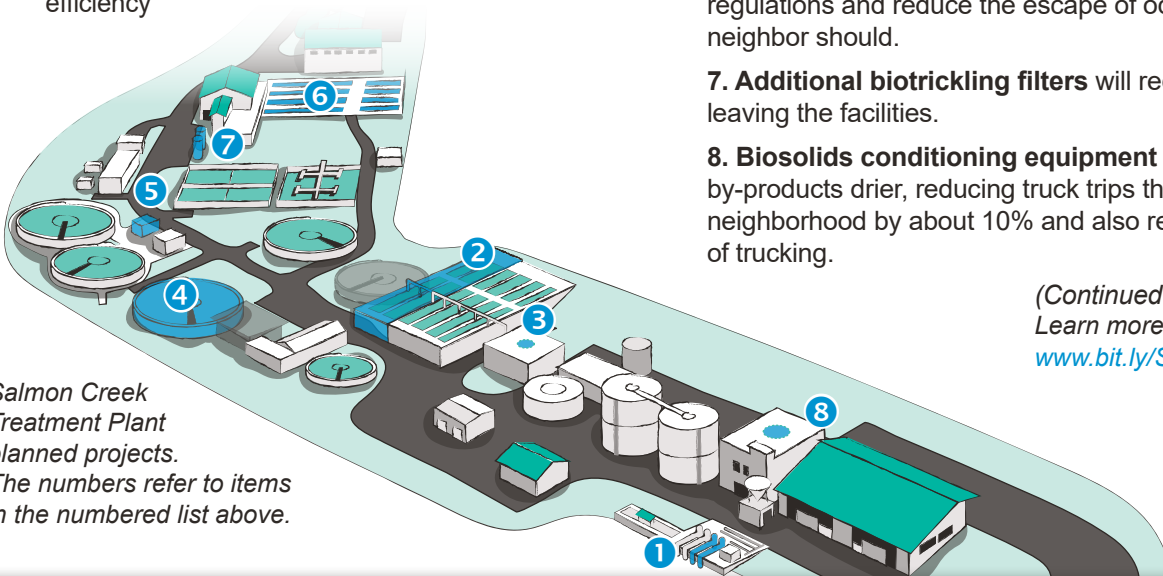
Planned projects: By 2022 we'll complete projects to improve the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. That will help keep costs low as demand rises, and bring environmental benefits too.

Here's how we'll make it happen:

- 1. A bigger treated-water pipeline** will increase how much cleaned, treated water (called "effluent") can leave the plant. A 48-inch diameter (replacing the existing 30-inch) will do the job for future generations. Where the pipeline empties into the Columbia River, an improved outfall device (called a "diffuser") will handle greater water volume and meet regulations to help migrating fish by staying further out of their way and better stabilizing the riverbank. (See a video at www.bit.ly/SCTPoutfall.)
- 2. A new aeration basin**, the centerpiece of the expansion, will add room to treat more wastewater.
- 3. An additional blower** will supply more air to the aeration basins.
- 4. A larger clarifier** will settle out smaller solids.
- 5. A small chlorination system** will meet regulations for how to discourage harmful bacteria when necessary.
- 6. New covers for primary clarifiers** will meet air regulations and reduce the escape of odors, as a good neighbor should.
- 7. Additional biotrickling filters** will reduce odors leaving the facilities.
- 8. Biosolids conditioning equipment** will make by-products drier, reducing truck trips through the neighborhood by about 10% and also reducing the cost of trucking.

(Continued next page.
Learn more about the plant at
www.bit.ly/SCTPexplained.)

Salmon Creek
Treatment Plant
planned projects.
The numbers refer to items
in the numbered list above.



Hours of Operation

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

Emergency?

Call 24/7:
360-750-5876

Commissioners

Norm Harker
Neil Kimsey
Denny Kiggins

General Manager

John M. Peterson

Visit us online at www.CRWWD.com

8000 NE 52nd Court, Vancouver, WA 98665 • Write: PO Box 8979, Vancouver, WA 98668 • Phone: (360) 750-5876 • Fax: (360) 750-7570



Free Leaf Disposal COUPON

For Vancouver and Clark County residents only

Prevent street flooding — NEVER blow or place leaves in the street.
Use this coupon for free leaf disposal from:

October 1 - December 31, 2018

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:



To redeem coupon, complete the following information:

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.

Managing Treatment, *continued*

Of course these projects come with a cost: about \$50 million. However, investing now saves money compared to what they would cost later, with inflation. Also, it positions the plant for projects even further in the future (to maintain regulatory compliance as demand grows) to cost less as well. Over the long run, this active management of both current and future needs means customers will continue to benefit from some of the lowest and most stable rates in the state.

2019 Budget Meetings: You're Invited!

The cost of these projects is part of the budget, which affects both rates and connection charges. We'll formally announce 2019 rates and charges later this year, but you can get involved earlier. Public meetings about the 2019 budget start in mid-October, in the Board Room at the District's offices.

- **October 9:** Budget workshop #1. Six-year financial forecast and capital (infrastructure) plans.
- **October 23:** Budget workshop #2. Review of operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses.
- **November 13:** Budget workshop #3. Review of revenues/expenses and fund balances.
- **December 11:** Budget public hearing at 5 p.m.
- **December 26:** Board action (adoption).

Let's Talk: How to Reach Us by Phone

Even in today's always-online world, sometimes there's no substitute for talking with a real live person. We kept that in mind with our new phone system (still at 360-750-5876). It has automated features for most routine calls, but in an emergency — or if you just want to speak with us in person — dial "0" and one of us will answer.

Another Clean Financial Audit

The State of Washington performs financial audits of local government agencies to promote accountability, integrity and openness. The audit earlier this year for fiscal year 2017 confirmed the District upholds all areas of financial reporting and has controls in place to safeguard the public's money.

Every year, the District goes a step further than required to create a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. It contains more meaningful financial information to partners and customers, linking current and planned activities to broad financial and strategic goals.

For more information about District financial reports and to view copies of audits, visit:

www.crrwd.com/about/financials.html.

Frog and the F.O.G.G.

