

Connections

March/April 2024



Spring rains and the wastewater system

As residents of the Pacific Northwest, we know a thing or two about spring rains. And while we enjoy the fresh new growth on the trees and shrubs and the first blooms of the season, we also know that excessive spring rain can cause issues. But what about rain and the wastewater system?

Q: Do heavy rains have a big impact on the wastewater system?

A: No, the wastewater system is particularly well-equipped for seasonal rainfall events. Through a comprehensive inspection, maintenance and capital improvement program, the District prevents the impacts that can be caused if large volumes of rainwater enter the system. Some rainwater does still enter the system and flows will increase. But, the system is designed with the capacity to handle increased flows associated with heavy rains.

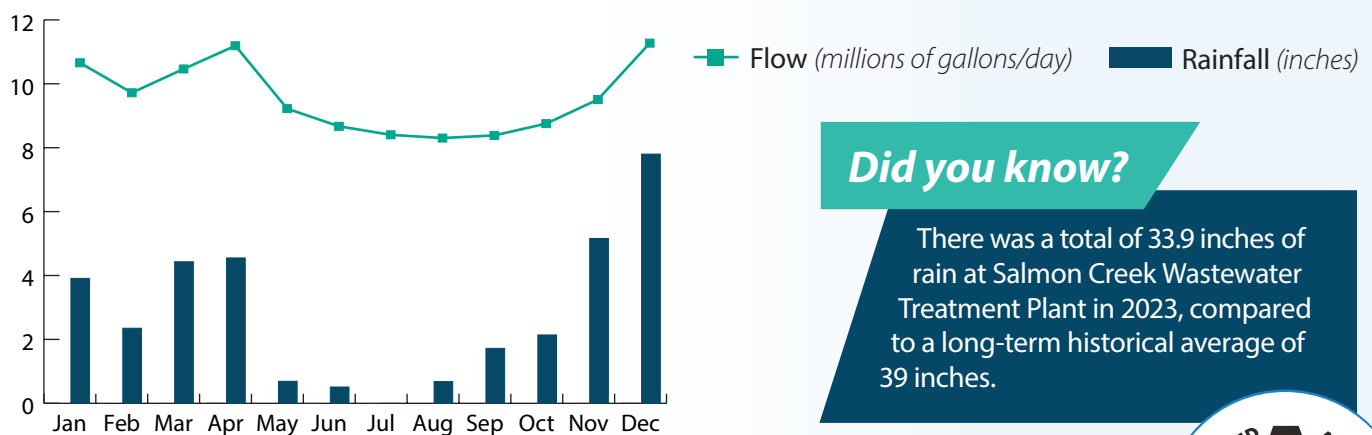
Q: How does rainwater enter the wastewater system?

A: Rainwater most commonly enters through the lids of the manholes in the street, particularly when there is standing water in the road. It can also enter from construction sites if the new pipes aren't properly plugged. This is known as inflow. Water can also enter the system underground, directly into the sewer pipes or manholes, which is referred to as infiltration.

Q: What happens to rainwater after it enters the wastewater system?

A: Rainwater mixes with the wastewater and it can't be separated. So, it is carried throughout the process, and is pumped and treated along with the household wastewater. Rainwater in the system takes up capacity and it costs money to manage. By maintaining a tight sewer system that limits the amount of rainwater entering, the District is saving ratepayers money.

2023 rainfall and average flow at the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant



Did you know?

There was a total of 33.9 inches of rain at Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2023, compared to a long-term historical average of 39 inches.

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

District achieves 5th APWA accreditation

The District is proud to share that it has received full accreditation in its business practices. The District was formally awarded the prestigious accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the fifth consecutive time.



Accreditation provides a valid and objective evaluation of agency programs against nationally recognized standards. For the District's fifth accreditation, a team of public works professionals completed a thorough review of District operations during their virtual site visit. This is an independent assessment that the District is doing the right work for the community and the work is being done to the highest standards of the industry.

The District values the accreditation process because it demonstrates our commitment to continuous improvement and ensures we are keeping up with all new industry requirements and guidelines.

"By achieving full compliance across nearly 300 practice areas, our customers should have trust and confidence that the District is delivering excellent service in all aspects of our business," said John Peterson, General Manager.

The District received its original APWA accreditation in September 2005 and latest reaccreditation in December 2023. The District is among nine agencies in the state of Washington and 201 nationally to receive this honor.

Question from the field

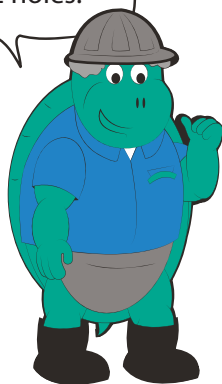
Q: Who is responsible for the drains in the street?

A: In the greater Clark County area, unlike some other areas of the country, the stormwater and wastewater systems are separate systems. The storm drains are managed by the county or city, depending on where you live. The District manages the sewer system and does not manage the storm drains.

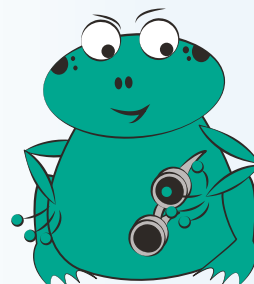
While both storm and sewer manholes may be branded with an "S," storm covers have more (16) holes to allow rain to enter while sewer has only 2 holes.

You'll often see these catch basins along curbs and ditches. Storm drains are also located in bioswales and ponds.

Sewer Manhole



Storm Manhole



Storm Catch Basin



Upcoming events

- **Klineline Kids Fishing Derby**—April 12 & 13
Come out and join the District at the annual Fishing Derby. Over a two-day period each spring thousands of kids, families and friends gather at Salmon Creek Park/ Klineline Pond to help children experience fishing, playing outside and learning about our natural environment and water safety. Learn more: klineline-kf.org
- **Hazel Dell Parade**—May 18

