

# Connections

Nov/Dec 2024



## Making an economic impact: How wastewater investments helped spur regional development

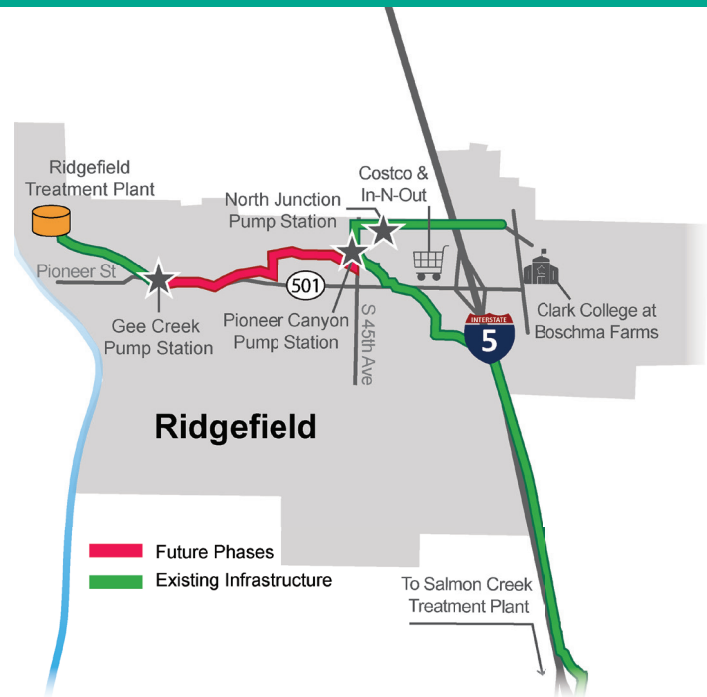
It's an exciting time for our corner of Clark County. Clark College is building a satellite campus at Boschma Farms, and Costco opened a new Ridgefield location, with Washington's first In-N-Out also proposed nearby.

These announcements and much of the growth in Ridgefield in recent years are possible because of capital investments by the District and the City. Like electricity, drinking water, and roads, wastewater is critical infrastructure, and these systems must be in place in order for new businesses, schools, and other services and amenities to move in.

Over the last decade, the District has invested more than \$35 million improving and expanding the wastewater system in Ridgefield. The District strategically built new infrastructure that supported these exciting developments (see map).

These investments weren't made at random. The District worked closely with the City of Ridgefield to identify the areas targeted for economic development and make sure service was available in advance so the businesses could confidently invest in our community.

The District coordinated with the City and Clark College, for example, long before any plans were submitted to understand the school's schedule and needs. This advanced planning ensured the infrastructure was complete before the college opened any of its new buildings. This close coordination continues today, and we look forward to further supporting our area's growth.



### 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](http://www.CRWWD.com)

## District celebrates 10 years overseeing Ridgefield wastewater collection

This year marks 10 years since the City of Ridgefield transferred ownership and operation of its sewer collection system to the District. The District was proud the City trusted us to be a part of their community, and we're even more proud of the work we've accomplished together in Ridgefield.

Ridgefield's population has grown more than 150% over the last decade, and this growth required expanded sewer service. The transfer allowed the District to invest and expand the wastewater system without the large rate increases the City was anticipating.

The District has provided stable and competitive rates in Ridgefield, while providing much-needed access to treatment capacity in the regional wastewater system at Salmon Creek Treatment Plant and expanding sewer service at the I-5 Pioneer Street junction.

As a result, exciting new businesses and amenities have opened, like the Ridgefield Outdoor Recreation Complex and the Vancouver Clinic. And residential sewer rates in Ridgefield have actually fallen over the last 10 years:

- **2014-\$60.50/month**
- **2024-\$59.84/month**

Ridgefield's recent growth and development benefits the whole region. And expanding the District's service area to include Ridgefield has benefited all District customers.

When more people are paying for service, everyone can pay a little less. This is because a larger customer base gives us more buying power, allowing us to keep rates lower and more stable. The District's base monthly rate for sewer service remains the lowest in Clark County.

### Did you know?

You don't need to worry about the wastewater pipes in the street freezing, even during the coldest winter nights. The average temperature of wastewater is around 60-70 degrees.

### Calendar of Events

**Dec. 7**

Salvation Army bell ringing  
Salmon Creek  
Fred Meyer

**Dec. 9**

Santa's Posse Toy  
and Food Dropoff \*  
4-7 p.m.

\* donations accepted at the District leading up to the event

## Free Leaf Disposal Coupon

Prevent street flooding - **never** blow or place leaves in the street.



City of Vancouver  
Public Works



**Vancouver and Clark County Residents Only**

**Valid October 1 - December 31, 2024**

Present this coupon at a participating drop-off location for up to 5 cubic yards of **leaves only** - no bags. No trimmings, yard debris or mixed loads.

### Complete the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Clark County residents: Funding for this program is provided through Clark County Public Works.

### Drop-off locations:

Call ahead to verify operating hours. Loads must be covered and secured.

#### H&H Wood Recyclers

8401 NE 117<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, WA  
360-892-2805

#### McFarlane's Bark

8806 NE 117<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, WA  
360-892-6125

#### West Van Materials Recovery Center

6601 NW Old Lower River Road,  
Vancouver, WA | 360-737-1727

#### Triangle Resources

612 SE Union Street, Camas, WA  
360-834-7253