

# Connections

Mar/Apr 2025



## Wastewater Treatment 101

This article is next in the series that shows how the District collects, moves and treats wastewater (or sewage). This issue and subsequent issues will discuss how the District treats—or cleans—your wastewater.

Waste from homes and businesses travel through a vast network of pipes and pumps to treatment plants, where it goes through multiple processes to ensure the treated water, called “effluent,” is clean and safe for the environment. The majority of the District’s wastewater is treated at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant and discharges into the Columbia River.

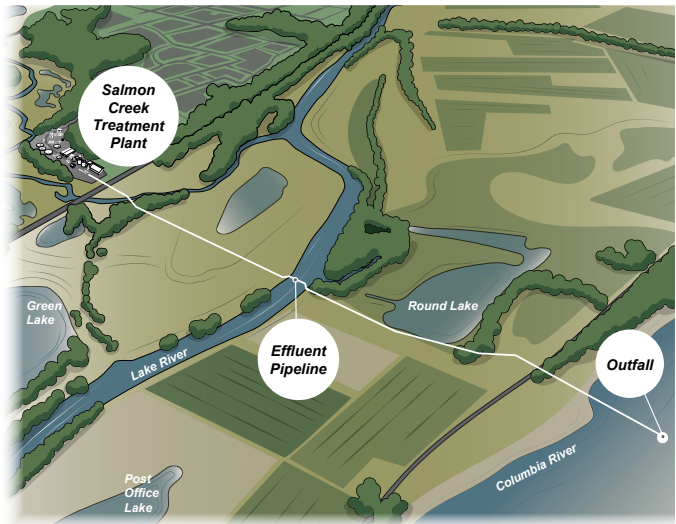
### New water quality permit

The plant is operated under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology. This permit sets water quality limits, monitoring and reporting requirements and other rules to make sure the discharge is safe for the environment.

The Salmon Creek Treatment Plant recently received a new NPDES permit. Plant operations are closely monitored to make sure all treated waste meets the strict environmental standards in the permit, such as oxygen levels, bacteria and pH. The new permit reflects recent capital improvement projects that added about 2.5 million gallons per day of capacity.

### Outstanding plant performance

The District is committed to managing its infrastructure responsibly and protecting public health and the environment. That is why it dedicates a large share of its budget to responsibly treating your wastewater.



In 2024, the Ridgefield and Salmon Creek treatment plants both received the Outstanding Performance Award from the state for achieving excellent compliance with their water quality permit.



*Next in our series: Wastewater Treatment 201 & 301*

### 3 ways you can help

- Never put fat, oils or grease down your drain—freeze it instead!
- Flush only toilet paper—See what not to flush: [bit.ly/3EvhvoT](https://bit.ly/3EvhvoT)
- Reduce PFAS in your home and other pollutants by choosing products that are better for the environment: [bit.ly/3WKm8BC](https://bit.ly/3WKm8BC)

#### 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.



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Salmon Creek Treatment Plant



## Salmon Creek Treatment Plant improvements continue

The District is continuing to invest in the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant to meet community needs now and into the future. The following projects are part of the recent phase of capital improvements. Planning is also being started for the next phase of improvements and to update the long-range plan for the regional wastewater system. For more information about ongoing projects, visit: [bit.ly/42G7oaT](https://bit.ly/42G7oaT)

- **Columbia River Outfall and Effluent Pipeline:** A new outfall and diffuser was installed in the Columbia River in 2022. This improves Columbia River water quality by better mixing discharged treated wastewater. Construction of a new pipeline to carry treated wastewater from the plant to the Columbia River was completed in 2024, and the pipeline became operational in early 2025.
- **Secondary Process Improvements:** A secondary clarifier was completed and brought into service along with several supporting improvements. The additional clarifier provides more capacity for secondary treatment. Read more: [bit.ly/3JKAUR2](https://bit.ly/3JKAUR2)
- **Plant Maintenance:** Ongoing repair and replacement of existing plant facilities and equipment to maintain efficient plant operations. The primary sludge pump and a clarifier mechanism were replaced in 2024.



Come visit Frog at an upcoming event

## We can speak at your event

Does your neighborhood association, business association or other community group want to know more about the wastewater system? Our staff enjoys explaining how sewer services touch many aspects of our lives, including public health, environmental health and economic development. If you are interested in having a speaker at one of your meetings, please contact us at [crwwd.com/request-a-speaker](https://crwwd.com/request-a-speaker).

### Calendar of Events

**APR 11 & 12**

Klineline Kids  
Fishing  
[klineline-kf.org](https://klineline-kf.org)

**MAY 17**

Hazel Dell Parade  
of Bands  
[hdscba.org/parade](https://hdscba.org/parade)