

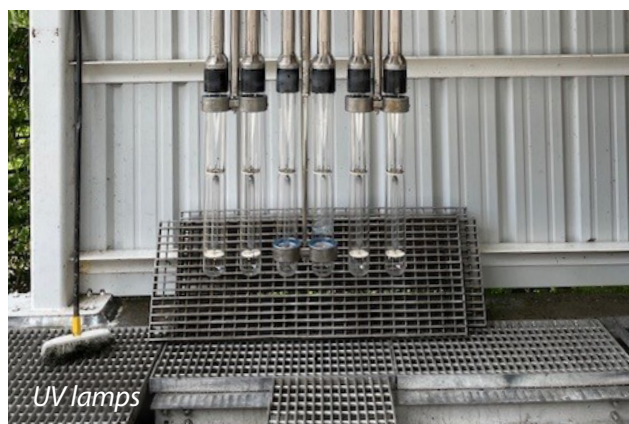
Wastewater Treatment 401

This article is next in the series that shows how the District collects, moves and treats wastewater (or sewage). This issue will discuss how the District treats—or cleans—your wastewater. Wastewater treatment is a complicated, regulated and often fascinating process that plays an important role in protecting public health and the environment. Washington State Department of Ecology closely monitors the treatment process to ensure all treated wastewater meets strict environmental standards.

This issue will discuss disinfection and discharge. These steps take place after the liquid waste has been separated from the solids in primary treatment, and after microorganisms have removed most of the waste from the water during secondary treatment.

Disinfection

Disinfection is the final step in the liquids treatment process. The plant uses ultraviolet light, instead of chlorine. This is a safer process and better for the environment. Water passes through chambers containing ultraviolet lamps. The UV light floods the chamber, disrupting the cells' DNA, killing any remaining disease-causing bacteria and pathogens.



Discharge

After disinfection, effluent (treated wastewater) from the plant is transported by pipeline more than 1 mile and safely released deep into the Columbia River through a diffuser, which dilutes the effluent as it mixes into the river water. The diffuser is periodically inspected by a diver to ensure it is working properly.



Next in our series: Wastewater Treatment 501: Solids Processing

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



Clean financial audit shows commitment to transparency and financial accountability

Each year, state officials audit local agencies to ensure they are operating with accountability, integrity and openness. This process ensures compliance with financial reporting standards and confirms that controls are in place to effectively safeguard the public's money. The District recently received another clean audit for 2024, which means the District is properly following governmental accounting practices. This represents 37 straight years with clean audits.



**ACCREDITED
AGENCY**

Every year, the District goes a step further than required to create and make publicly available an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report to provide deeper insight into the financial impacts of its current and planned operations. Copies of the 2024 reports are available online at crwwd.com/financials.

2026 budget planning

The District will develop its 2026 budget during the fall budget planning period. This process includes setting sewer rates and establishing both the annual operating and capital budgets. Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate in the upcoming public meetings:

- Budget work sessions: Oct. 14, Oct. 28 & Nov. 10
- Budget public hearing: Dec. 9
- Board action on FY 2026 budget: Dec. 23

Learn more at crwwd.com/financials.

Did you know?

Ocean tides affect the water levels and flow of the Columbia River, even 95 miles upriver in Vancouver, where the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant releases the effluent (treated water). Our engineers took this into account when designing the outfall diffuser, the mechanism that releases the effluent, to ensure the effluent is properly mixed with the river water even when tides are influencing the river.

Free Leaf Disposal Coupon

Prevent street flooding—neverblow or place leaves in the street.



City of Vancouver
Public Works



Vancouver and Clark County residents only

Valid October 1 – December 31, 2025

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

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:

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

City Bark

2419 N.E. Andresen Rd., Vancouver, WA
360-253-8461

McFarlane's Bark

8806 N.E. 117th Ave., Vancouver, WA
360-892-6125

West Van Materials Recovery Center

6601 N.W. Old Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA | 360-737-1727

H&H Wood Recyclers

8401 N.E. 117th Ave., Vancouver, WA
360-892-2805

Triangle Resources

612 S.E. Union Street, Camas, WA
360-834-7253