



### **BOARD BYLINE – One Bill, Three Services**

Does it seem like your water bill has gone up? The good news is that water and wastewater rates have remained lower than they would have if the Oak Lodge Water Services had not consolidated into one District. Now you receive one combined bill every two months. The bill might look larger, but now it also covers three services.

The bill covers Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Watershed Protection. Built into our service are fixed costs including electricity, treatment chemicals, transport fuel, piping, and clean water purchased from our treatment provider. Water services are crucial to protecting you, your families and pets, and our environment.

[Humans are made up of about 70% water.](#) Your participation in a clean water culture is essential. We act on the front end in conserving potable water, which comes from the Clackamas River; paying to treat and clean wastewater up to public health standards before it is returned to the Willamette River; and in keeping our vehicles free from oil drips and spills that run from roadways directly into the storm drains which go, without treatment, into local creeks and the Willamette River.

Joint billing of services is a joint effort by all of us in keeping our water clean and safe. Thank you for doing your part to understand and act as part of a clean water culture. Please contact OLWS with questions and comments at (503) 654-7765.

**– Kevin Williams, Board President**

***You are invited to attend:***

### **OLWS BOARD MEETINGS!**

All Board Meetings held at:

Oak Lodge Water Services  
Administration Building  
14496 SE River Rd.,  
Oak Grove, OR 97267

**\* MARCH 17 at 6 p.m.**

**\* APRIL 21 at 6 p.m.**

### **Time to Test your Backflow Device!**

***For the health and safety of your family and our community – test your backflow this spring.***

Backflow devices protect *your* home's potable plumbing system by blocking pollutants from entering your drinking water. Pollutants from the outdoor system can include pet waste, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Is there a cross connection between a non-potable source and the drinking water system into your house or property? The yard irrigation system is the most common cross-connection, but there are other types too.

OLWS and the Oregon Health Authority require annual backflow/cross-connection testing to maintain clean, safe drinking water. OLWS offers discounts and assistance for regular backflow testing. Visit the **Backflow Testing** webpage or call (503) 654-7765 with questions.

**World Water Day, March 22:** Whoever you are, wherever you are, water is your human right. 2.1 billion people live without safe water at home. On World Water Day, like every day, we must leave no one behind. [Click here.](#)



# Protecting Our Watershed

## How Water Systems Work

Unlike the City of Portland's protected Bull Run watershed, the Clackamas is multi-use with various users and ownership throughout the watershed. Each time it rains or snows, pollutants wash off the land and flow untreated into nearby surface and groundwater sources. Human activities such as construction, timber harvest, livestock management, fertilizer and pesticide use if not performed responsibly can contribute to degraded water quality.

We all play a role in preserving our vital drinking water resource. Whether you're a resident, business owner, employee or farmer, you can make a difference. Protecting and conserving our drinking water source plays a key role in making the best overall use of the precious resource we share.

## What Can You Do?

- Install a raingarden to allow water from your property to filter into the ground.
- Practice water efficient landscaping and /or naturescaping.
- Prevent stormwater runoff (decreasing impervious surfaces).
- Restore streamside and riparian areas by planting native trees and shrubs.
- Properly dispose of, or recycle, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, solvents and other toxic materials.
- Take your car to a car wash that recycles the dirty water or wash your car on the lawn to prevent car wash water from entering storm drains.
- Reduce or eliminate your pesticide and fertilizer use to prevent chemical runoff.
- Properly clean up after your pet.
- Fence livestock away from water areas to protect stream banks, reduce erosion and protect water quality.
- Inspect and properly maintain septic systems.
- Conserve water, especially in the summer months when river flows are at their lowest. The more water we save, the more water we can keep in the river for fish.
- Get involved! Attend a Clackamas River Water Providers, city council, or water board meeting.
- Call your **water provider, Oak Lodge Water Services** for more information.
- Join our local watershed council, the **North Clackamas Watersheds Council**.

For more ideas on how you can prevent pollution from entering our water ways click [here](#).



## Want to learn more about the benefits of watershed protection?

- Watershed Restoration Means Clean Drinking Water for Oregonians. [Click here.](#)
- Protecting Our Water Sources Brings a Wealth of Benefits. [Click here.](#)
- The Nature Conservancy, Beyond the Source: The environment, economic and community benefits of source water protection. [Click here.](#)

For more information about watershed protection information, source water assessment, and free tools and devices for water conservation, visit the Clackamas River Water Providers at [www.clackamasproviders.org](http://www.clackamasproviders.org).

**Fix A Leak Week—March 16-22:** Because minor water leaks account for nearly one trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program promotes **Fix a Leak Week** as an annual reminder for Americans to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

**Why Focus on Toilet Leaks?** Everyone has a toilet. Toilets are the primary source of water use in the average home, which means that they have a significant impact on water and wastewater bills. Toilet leaks are common, and often undetectable without a dye test or careful monitoring of your water meter. The majority of toilet leaks are due to an old or faulty flapper, an inexpensive rubber part located in the tank. Not only are toilet leaks easy to detect, but they can often be fixed cheaply without the need for a professional. Learn more on EPA's WaterSense website: [epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week](http://epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week).

