

# Olympia's Neighborhood Sewer Extension Program

APRIL 2019

The City's Wastewater Utility has dedicated a limited amount of funding to extend sewer pipes into existing neighborhoods that do not currently have sewer available. The City designs and manages the project and property owners reimburse the City for a portion of the project cost when they connect to sewer (per Olympia Municipal Code section 13.08.215). The goal

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How are the projects chosen?

Project requests can be initiated by City staff or by a property owner. Contact City Wastewater staff at 360.753.8562 for an application.

The criteria to evaluate a possible project include:

- Public health risk posed by the septic systems in the neighborhood including factors such as depth to groundwater, soil type, septic density and proximity to creeks, lakes and drinking water sources.
- Length of sewer extension required compared to the number of septic properties to potentially benefit.
- Higher priority is given to projects without public drinking water available.
- Interest of property owners in connecting to sewer.
- Available funds.

### How long will a project take?

Higher priority projects will take about 1-2 years from the time of request to the completed sewer. Lower priority projects will take many years. Some projects may never be prioritized.

### Will I be required to connect to sewer?

Probably not — connection is generally voluntary. However, if your septic system fails or if you plan to expand your home beyond the septic system capacity, you will be required to connect. Also, the property owner requesting the sewer extension is required to connect to the new sewer within two years.

### Are loans available?

Yes, costs for the sewer pipe in the street can be paid monthly to the City over eight years or as a lump sum. There are additional loans available for the cost of connecting your house to the new sewer. See [craft3.org](http://craft3.org) and [olympiawa.gov/septictosewer](http://olympiawa.gov/septictosewer) for more information.

### How much will it cost?

Every project will be different. The table below shows estimated costs to property owners. The lower end of the ranges are applicable if all incentives are used and no pump is required.

	Connection <u>within two years</u> , with septic system abandonment	Connection <u>after two years</u> , with septic system abandonment	New house construction (no existing septic system)
Construct Sewer Pipe in Street *	\$4,000 - \$6,000	\$10,000 - \$15,000	\$20,000 - \$30,000
Side Sewer Construction	\$4,000 - \$14,000	\$4,000 - \$14,000	\$4,000 - \$14,000
Septic Tank Abandonment	\$1,000 - \$1,500	\$1,000 - \$1,500	\$0
Connection & Permit Fees	\$2,000 - \$5,000	\$2,000 - \$11,500	\$9,500 - \$11,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,000 - \$26,500</b>	<b>\$17,000 - \$42,000</b>	<b>\$31,000 - \$55,000</b>

\* For properties abandoning a septic system, estimates include a City contribution of \$15,000 to \$24,000, per property, for constructing the sewer pipe in the street. The City contribution is higher in the first two years.

**For more information or to request an application, contact:**

[publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us) or 360.753.8562



The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in the employment and the delivery of services and resources.

[olympiawa.gov/septictosewer](http://olympiawa.gov/septictosewer)