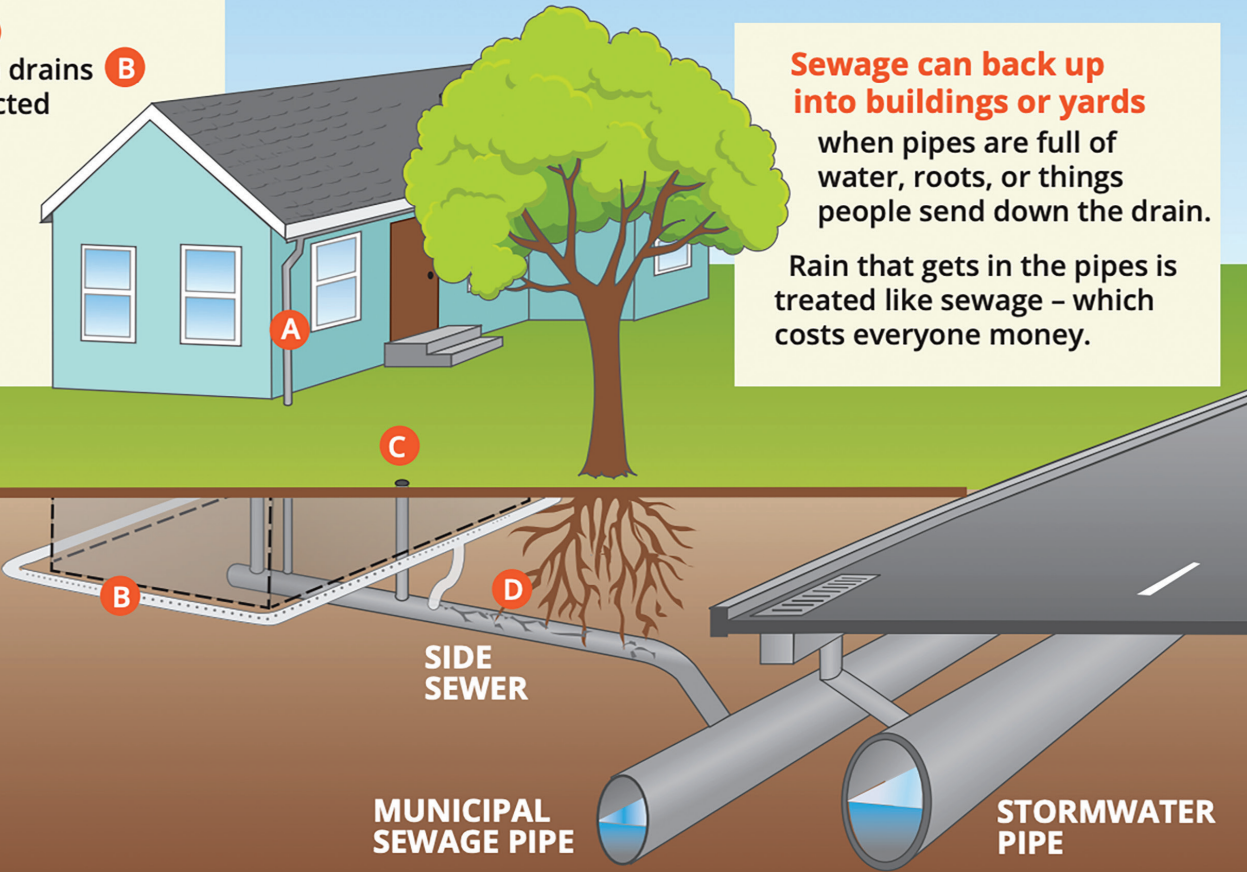


Avoid sewage backups – maintain your side sewer

Rain doesn't belong in the sewer, but it can get in through:

- roof drains **A** and foundation drains **B** that are connected to the sewer
- uncapped cleanouts **C**
- cracks in the pipes **D**

The side sewer is the pipe that carries sewage from the building to the municipal sewage pipe. It belongs to the property owner.



Sewage can back up into buildings or yards when pipes are full of water, roots, or things people send down the drain.

Rain that gets in the pipes is treated like sewage – which costs everyone money.

Here's what to do



Ask your plumber or contractor to inspect your side sewer – they will send a TV camera into your pipe. Get your pipe repaired if it needs it. Get this inspection before buying a house.



Disconnect your roof drain or foundation drain from the sewer. In most places, these should not connect to the sewer.



Don't flush trash or send fats, oils or grease down the drain.

- ❌ Kleenex
- ❌ Paper towels
- ❌ Feminine hygiene products
- ❌ Disinfectant wipes
- ❌ Baby wipes
- ❌ Make-up wipes
- ❌ Toilet bowl wipes

Learn More at:
www.kingcounty.gov/ManageRain



Coal Creek Connection

Your newsletter for water and sewer-related issues and information serving Newcastle and the surrounding areas since 1959

Winter 2022-2023

Four Ways to Conserve Water (and reduce your water bill!)

1. **Fix leaks:** faucet drips are easy to notice, but did you know an occasional toilet "hissing" noise can also be due to a leak? Check and repair as soon as possible.
 2. **Take shorter showers:** a five-minute shower uses 10-25 gallons of water, versus a bath that uses up to 70 gallons. Installing low-flow showerheads can save even more.
 3. **Sweep it instead:** clean driveways, patios, and sidewalks with a broom or ShopVac.
 4. **Be mindful of water usage:** turn off the faucet while shaving or brushing your teeth; wash larger loads of laundry and full dishwashers; collect rainwater for watering indoor and outdoor plants (rain barrels make it easy); replace grass with drought-resistant plants.
- As a special purpose water and sewer district, our mission is to provide our community with reliable and sustainable water and sewer services. Small changes in water usage can make a big impact! Thank you for all the ways you help conserve water.

Inside This Issue:

- Four Ways to Conserve Water
- Successful Annual Audit
- No Rate Increase in 2023
- Change in Meeting Schedule
- Keep your Meters and Fire Hydrants Accessible
- Maintain Your Side Sewer

Coal Creek Connection: a publication by Coal Creek Utility District

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Successful Annual Audit

Coal Creek Utility District has had very favorable annual audit results for well over 20 years. We are pleased to report the same holds true for our recent annual Washington State audit of the District’s financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020. The auditor’s opinion is that our financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position, changes in financial position, and cash flows of the District in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The state auditor performed various procedures to obtain the appropriate evidence and assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements. The purpose of this audit was to confirm that our financial statements present a fair representation of the District, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, and those set forth in Government Auditing Standards.

Change in Meeting Schedule

For those of you interested in attending our regular open Board of Commissioners meetings, please note that the schedule has changed.

As of January 1, 2023, these meetings are now being held here at District headquarters on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

If one of these regular meetings happens to fall on a legal holiday, it will be held on the next business day at the same time and place.

We hope that this new schedule will be more convenient for members of the public who wish to attend and participate in our meetings. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (425) 235-9200.

No Rate Increase for 2023

During the fall of each year, the District works with an outside financial management consultant to conduct a rate study. This past year, the District hired FCS Group to conduct the study, based on their history of providing utility rate and fee consulting, as well as financial planning and analysis to public sector clients.

Using predictive computer modeling of the District’s finances, FCS Group’s study helped us forecast how much annual revenue will be needed to fund our financial obligations, including operations and maintenance expenses, debt service, and capital costs. Their study used the 2022 budget as the baseline, along with key assumptions, including a three percent increase in the cost of SPU water purchases, and the direct pass-through of King County treatment plant charges.

On December 11, 2022, FCS Group presented their findings to the District, in which they determined that the District’s current water and sewer rates are sufficient to cover our costs, and no rate adjustments are necessary for 2023. The only cost over which the District has no control is King County’s sewage treatment rates. This fee increased by 5.8% for 2023 and is being passed through to our customers effective January 1, 2023.

Given the economic uncertainties across many industries, our Commissioners were particularly pleased with the findings of this year’s rate study and the resulting good news about the District’s rates.



Can you find the water meter or fire hydrant in this picture?

(neither can we) 😊

Help Us Keep Your Water Meters and Fire Hydrants Accessible

Servicing water meters is usually straightforward—unless we have to search for it in overgrown foliage, or worse, trim back trees and shrubs to access it.

The same is true of fire hydrants—routine maintenance takes longer if we have to clear away vegetation, and may prevent fire fighters from accessing the hydrant in an emergency, especially if it’s during the night.

Please take a moment to...

- Trim away any shrubs or ground covers that are hiding your water meter or fire hydrant.
- Don’t plant trees, bushes or plants that will eventually cover your meter or hydrant.
- Don’t install landscape bricks, rocks, or retaining walls that block our staff or fire fighters from accessing your water meter or fire hydrant.

Help us keep you and our community safe!



Infrastructure News: 580 Zone Reservoir Improvements

Water storage reservoirs are an integral part of CCUD’s water distribution system—ensuring adequate hydrostatic pressure, and an abundant supply of drinking water. Routine maintenance results in fewer repairs, lower operating costs, and an extended life.

After an extensive inspection, evaluation, and report provided by PACE Engineers, Coal Creek has completed a variety of improvements to greatly extend the life of two of our most critical water storage reservoirs, both located in the 580 Service Zone. The work on both the 2.5 million gallon (MG) and 1 MG tank included all new internal and external coatings, a new stairway, ladders, shell hatches, roof hatch, air vent and Cathodic Protection access ports. The 2.5 MG tank also received seismic upgrades to improve its ability to withstand earthquakes and other seismic events, ensuring the structural integrity and long-term reliability of the reservoir, as well as the safety of the community in the event of an earthquake. The 1 MG Reservoir was built in 1967 and the 2.5 MG Reservoir was built in 1971; these updates brought both reservoirs up to current safety standards.



How it looked during construction in 2022