

GATES SEWER SYSTEM FAQ'S



Since 2017, the City of Gates has been working to identify and establish a wastewater solution for our community. A wastewater solution will help the city to meet its water quality needs and promote the long-term economic vitality of the community. Following the devastating wildfires of 2020, the Oregon legislature provided funding for the design and construction of a sewer system that our community needs. The council has been active in guiding the work in partnership with the North Santiam Sewer Authority.

This informational flyer provides answers to frequently asked questions that the council is receiving about this important project.

Why a Sewer System?

- This new system will help attract and retain support for Gates hotels, restaurants, and offices.
- 58% of septic systems in Gates are 27 years or older. The functional life of a septic system ranges from 2 to 25 years, depending on its use.
- 63% of lots in Gates are undersized for standard septic systems. When the time comes to replace the septic, new rules will apply, and it is likely that the new required system will be an ATT which in today's dollars is approximately 35,000 dollars.
- Low-income households in Gates may struggle to afford the cost of replacing their septic if septic is even possible on their lots under new septic regulations

How will the sewer system be paid for?

In 2022 the Oregon Legislature set aside money to pay for the construction of the sewer system. The overall plan and vision are set by the North Santiam Sewer Authority, which Gates is a member of, and the construction is overseen by Marion County Public Works. The money from the legislature will pay for the sewer pipes and equipment and the decommissioning of septic tanks.

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What will my monthly rate be?

The Gates City Council will work to set the monthly sewer rates, which will cover ongoing maintenance and operation of the sewer system. The system will not be ready until 2026 so rates have not been set yet, but the City Council will ensure that they are set at a reasonable rate. Utilities use a base rate for users based on the estimated use of a single-family home. Other users, like gas stations, restaurants, offices, RV parks, and hotels, may use less or more than a single-family home. The chart below compares single-family home rates to some examples of other types of users. Our best estimates are that community members would pay as follows:

| Commercial Use | EDUs | Theoretical Cost Share (based on \$82/EDU) |
|------------------------------------|------|--|
| Restaurant - 40 Seats | 3.6 | \$295.20 / month ~ \$0.25 per seat/day |
| Motel - 10 Rooms | 2.7 | \$221.40 / month ~ \$22 per room/month |
| Manufactured Home Park - 20 Spaces | 11.2 | \$918.40 / month ~ \$46 per space/month |
| RV Park - 20 Spaces | 4.5 | \$369.00 / month ~ \$18 per space/month |
| Service Station - 200 vehicles/day | 4.5 | \$369.00 / month ~ \$0.06 per vehicle |

What about community members with low incomes?

NSSA has established a fund to assist low and moderate-income households with monthly sewer rates. The City Council will determine how funds will be distributed to low and moderate-income households.