



## Surface Water Management Fee Model Changes

The City of Kenmore Surface Water Management fee model has changed starting in 2019. After a lengthy and thorough study of the current fee model, Kenmore City Council voted in late 2018 to increase residential and commercial annual rates starting in 2019 and eliminate private drainage facility maintenance rate reductions in 2021. On February 25, 2019, City Council will consider adopting a new Stormwater Capital Facilities Charge.

### What is Surface Water?

Surface water is generally rain and melting snow that runs off surfaces that cannot readily absorb water, such as rooftops, pavement, or even frozen ground. As the water flows towards our streams, rivers or lakes, it must be managed to prevent flooding, erosion, habitat loss and polluted water.

### Why Are Surface Water Management Fees Needed?

Our Surface Water Management team works to keep our residents, property, and environment safe by managing man-made and natural surface water systems. They also implement development standards and enforce environmental regulations on private properties. To be able to do this, each parcel in our city is charged an annual service charge fee. These fees pay for things like capital projects, operations, inspections, maintenance, and education.

### How Do Our Fees Compare to Other Cities?

The service charge model was last updated in 2008 and Kenmore's rates are the lowest of all neighboring cities, including Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Redmond, Bothell, and Woodinville. As Kenmore grows, federal and state permit requirements become more complex, and costs rise, the study revealed that service charges need to be increased to continue to fund operational costs and capital needs.

Residential parcels are all charged the same flat fee. Non-residential parcel fees vary and are based on their amount of impervious surface. Rates will be increased incrementally for both residential and non-residential parcels from 2019 to 2024. A single-family flat rate fee on your 2018 tax bill was \$167.40 and your 2019 tax bill will now be \$192.51.

### Stormwater Capital Facilities Charge

Additionally, City Council is considering a new stormwater capital facilities charge (SWCFC) for new development and redevelopment. These charges are commonly referred to as "hookup fees" or "connection fees" and ensures that as development occurs, property owners bear an equitable share

of the stormwater system. They are expected to take action on this during their February 25, 2019 meeting.

### **Facility Rate Discounts**

Currently, the city provides discounts to property owners that own, operate, and maintain their own engineered facility that provides flow control and/or water quality treatment. The discount program was originally adopted from King County and over time, with today's development and regulatory framework, the privately-owned facilities do not decrease the level of service needed from the city. 2020 will be the last year for the discount program.

### **What Projects Can Now Be Funded Under the New Fee Schedule?**

#### *6-Year Capital Improvement Program Projects*

##### Surface Water Management

SW29 Kenmore Lane Drainage Facility Retrofit (\$500,000)

SW30 Arrowhead Drive Drainage Improvement Project (\$175,000)

SW 31 66<sup>TH</sup> & 196<sup>TH</sup> Drainage Improvement Project (\$115,000)

SW 32 61<sup>ST</sup> Geo-Stabilization Project (\$150,000)

SW 17 Little Swamp Creek Relocation Project (\$1,364,300)

SW 33 Future Drainage Facility Retrofit (\$600,000)

##### Transportation

T41 SWM Portion of Juanita DR Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Project (\$901,950)

T37 SWM Portion of West Sammamish Bridge Project (\$1,200,000)

T27 SWM Portion of Sidewalk Gap Projects (\$90,000)

T45 SWM Portion of NE 153<sup>RD</sup> PL Project (\$40,661)

T46 SWM Portion of NE 181<sup>ST</sup> Project Between 65<sup>TH</sup> & 67<sup>TH</sup> (\$111,701)

##### Facilities

F2 SWM Portion of Public Works Land & Shop (\$1,000,000)

##### Parks

P27 SWM Portion of Squire's Landing Waterfront and Mitigation Project (\$300,000)

P28 SWM Portion of Log Boom Park Boathouse Pavilion (\$10,000)

### **Key Dates**

Summer through Late Fall 2019 - Rate Study Conducted

October 30, 2018 – Staff briefing to City Council with initial recommendations, Public Comment

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Public Hearing

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – City Council adopts Resolution 18-315 approving new residential fee schedule

February 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 – SWCFC considered by City Council

For more details and to see the full fee schedule, go to [kenmorewa.gov](http://kenmorewa.gov) or contact Richard Sawyer, [rsawyer@kenmorwa.gov](mailto:rsawyer@kenmorwa.gov), 425-398-8900.