

If you are a property manager, please pass this on to your Tumwater tenant. Thank you!



Tumwater Water Quality Report

Message from the Mayor

It is my pleasure to provide the City of Tumwater's Water Resources Programs and Utilities Report.



Mayor Pete Kmet

The report details our water quality sampling results collected during 2018 and provides information about our other utility services and programs. I am proud to announce that, once again, our drinking water is safe. The dedicated City staff who operate and maintain your water system continually strive to ensure that the water delivered to your tap is of the highest quality possible.

All water resources are interconnected. Therefore, we are bringing together information for all our utilities in one report—drinking water, storm and surface water, wastewater and reclaimed water. Each utility operates as a business within the City budget, where fees for services must pay for operating and infrastructure expenses.

Please take a moment to read the articles to learn how we can all work together to protect, preserve and conserve our water resources. If you have any questions about our utility systems or programs, please call (360) 754-4140.

Mayor Pete Kmet

The City works hard to provide clean, refreshing water for our needs today and tomorrow.

Help us by sharing your awareness of protecting water resources with your family and friends.



Drinking Water

Water that comes out of your tap is from groundwater. Groundwater is located beneath earth's surface in spaces between layers of sand and gravel called aquifers.



Stormwater

Stormwater is rain and snow melt that flows to nearby waterways. Often it flows off impervious surfaces, runs down the street, and into stormdrains.



Wastewater

Wastewater needs to be cleaned after it is used and sent down an indoor drain. It includes water from residential uses such as dish washing, showers, and toilets.



Reclaimed Water

Reclaimed water is used water cleaned to a high level, for beneficial non-drinking uses, like irrigation, decorative fountains, and ponds.

Tumwater Golf Course is Salmon-Safe Certified

The Tumwater Valley Golf Club (TVGC) is the third golf course in Washington to earn a Salmon-Safe Certification. The Salmon-Safe golf course certification process requires golf courses to use best management practices to ensure the use, upkeep, and construction of golf course facilities protect salmon, wildlife habitat, and the watershed.

Founded in 1996, Salmon-Safe has worked to increase environmental care and conservation, with a focus on protecting water quality and aquatic ecosystems. TVGC is taking steps to lower the amount of pesticides, fertilizers, and chemicals used on the greens while improving water conservation practices.

TVGC has now joined the ranks of the Salish Cliffs and Druids Glen golf courses, Nike World Headquarters Campus, Port of Seattle, and Vancouver International Airport as Salmon-Safe facilities.

Learn more about Salmon-Safe by visiting their website SalmonSafe.org.



Tumwater Valley Golf Course

Making Cents of Your Utility Bill

The City manages the collection system infrastructure, including pipes and pumps that transport wastewater from Tumwater homes and businesses to the LOTT Clean Water Alliance (LOTT) wastewater treatment plant.



The sewer fee you see on your City utility bill pays for, among many things, maintaining pumps, clearing blockages, expanding the pipe network, and planning.

Residential customers pay a monthly flat fee and commercial customers pay amounts based on the volume of water they send down the drain.

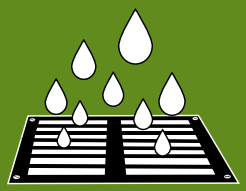
The City maintains over 110 miles of sewer mains and 25 pump stations. Every day, Tumwater sends a huge volume of wastewater to the

LOTT regional treatment plant in downtown Olympia. From the moment wastewater reaches the plant, it takes 24 hours to clean before creating reclaimed water for reuse or sending it back into the environment.

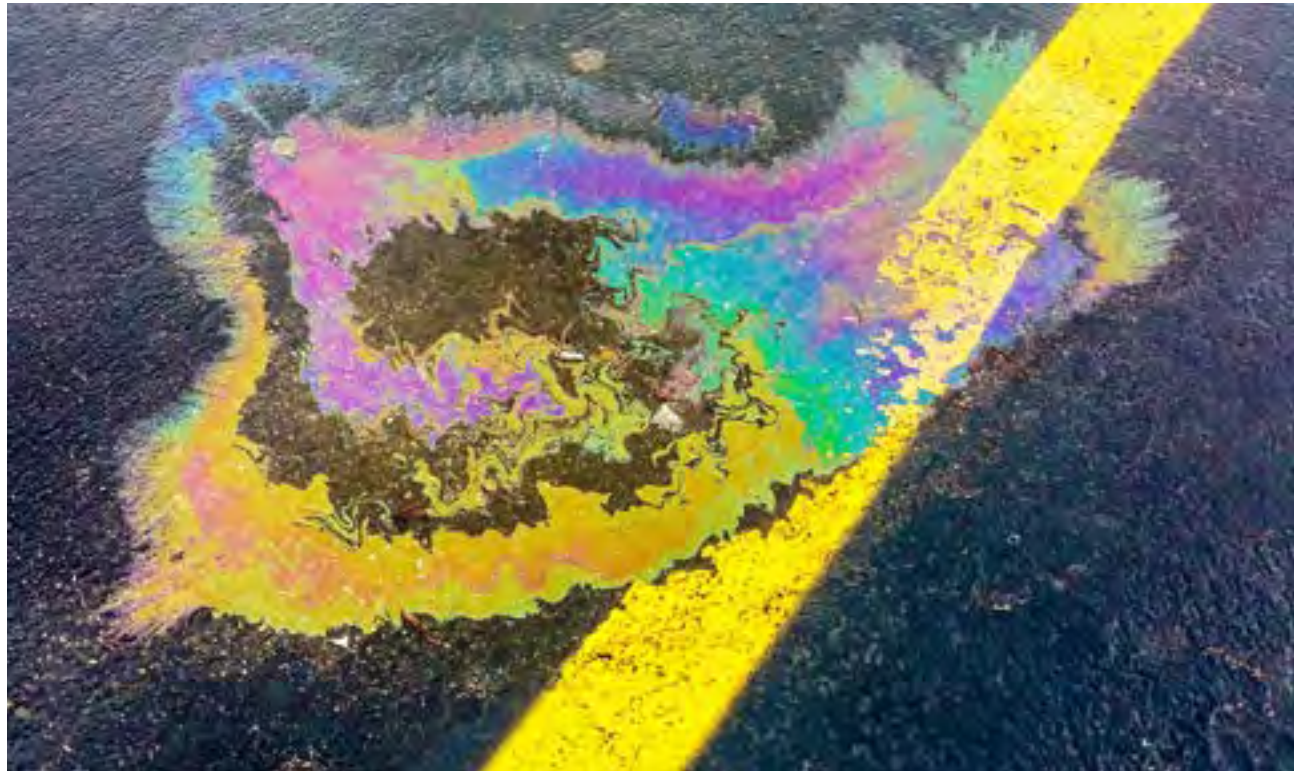
The real dirty work of breaking down the organic matter and removing nutrients from wastewater is done by beneficial microbes, and the LOTT treatment plant is home to 180,000 pounds of them!

The LOTT fee you see on your monthly bill is what makes this possible; LOTT is proud to have kept monthly rate below the national and regional averages.

Tumwater Water Resources



Stormwater Utility



Small Actions Make Big Differences

Over 7 million quarts of oil wash into Puget Sound every year from leaking vehicles, which can make aquatic life like salmon and orca sick.

Luckily, it's easy to check if your vehicle is part of the problem. Place a sheet of cardboard under your car after you park, leave the cardboard for six hours and check back. If there's an oil spot on the cardboard then your car needs to be fixed!

We all have the ability to improve water quality, do your part.

Help Protect Our Waters

Did you know that one pound of dog poop contains over 10 billion bacteria?

These bacteria can make you and your family sick! A simple fix to keep you and your water safe is to pick up, bag, and trash your dog poop every time.

Protect water quality for free! Tumwater residents may get free pet waste bag dispensers and free neighborhood pet waste station applications. The first 100 residents can also get free car wash tickets.

Small changes can improve water quality and add up, let the City of Tumwater help to make it even easier.

Visit Water Resources in the lower level of City Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or call 360-754-4140 for more information.



See a Spill? Report It!

Spills can impact us all by endangering our drinking water, polluting our streams, and killing aquatic life. If you see a spill or someone dumping anything other than rain water into the storm drain, call the **24/7 Spills Reporting Hotline at 360-754-4150**.

For very large spills, call the Washington Department of Ecology's 24-hour Hotline at 1-800-OILS-911.

If you believe the spill poses an immediate threat to life, call 9-1-1.



Private System Maintenance

Storm drains and stormwater ponds can help prevent flooding and protect our surface waters, wetlands, and creeks. However, these systems need to be maintained to function properly. On public property, City staff manage these facilities, but on private property these facilities are maintained by the property owner.

Make maintenance easier by following these tips:

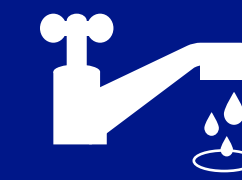
- Keep storm drains free of trash and leaves
- Only let rain flow down the drain
- Keep storm ponds clear, remove trees and invasive plants
- Repair rocks around pipe openings and spillways

The City helps make maintaining your pond easier by offering free Stormwater Pond Maintenance Workshops each fall and spring. Free compost dumpsters up to 40 yards are available for Tumwater neighborhoods. Visit the Stormwater Maintenance section of the City website for more information.

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/stormwater-maintenance



Free compost dumpsters up to 40 yards are available for Tumwater neighborhoods.



Water Utility

The Invisible World of Water

When we turn our faucets on in the morning, for that first glass of water or brushing our teeth, we don't always think about what it takes to bring cold and clean water to our homes.

Throughout your day, it takes a lot of infrastructure, planning, and people to get that water out of the ground to your tap.

If Public Works didn't fix the leaky or broken pipes and maintain our reservoirs, the water couldn't get to your home.

If we hadn't planned and budgeted for the maintenance and upgrades of our water distribution system, the City could not ensure water will be available for you.

And if City staff wasn't there to operate and maintain the water treatment plants, the water that flows from your tap could make you sick.

You make this work possible when you pay your water bill. The City is careful about setting water rates to ensure all customers are billed equitably, and so we save aside money to keep the system running for our growing community.

In fact, a gallon of water is so affordable; it only costs our customers \$0.003 – less than one penny.

So, next time you water your garden, fill a glass, or wash your hands, remember the invisible infrastructure that makes that possible.

A gallon of water only costs our customers \$0.003 – less than one penny.



Wellhead Protection Areas

The water that Tumwater residents drink comes from underground aquifers. These aquifers are filled by water that has soaked into the ground. This means that spilled contaminants can enter our drinking water supply, too.

Wellhead Protection Areas help protect our water, by restricting land use in areas where contaminants could quickly reach our wells.

The Wellhead Protection Program supports the City's mission of maintaining high quality drinking water. In 2016, the City updated its protection areas using modern computer models and more up-to-date information to ensure that new boundaries reflect current conditions.

Want to know more and see where your house is in relation to the new wellhead protection areas? Check out the City website to view an interactive map.

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/whpa

Backflow Prevention

Every year across the United States, there are many cases of drinking water contamination due to cross-connections. A cross-connection happens when a potable drinking water source and a non-potable source are connected.

This interconnection becomes dangerous when backflow conditions, caused by a water main break or increased demand, allow contaminants to enter the City's drinking water system.

The City is committed to keeping your drinking water clean and safe. Our cross-connection control program protects the purity of our drinking water. If you have an irrigation system, stop by City Hall for a free hose bib adapter to help protect our drinking water.

Do you have a question about a potential drinking water hazard on your property or a cross-connection? Call the Public Works Department at 360-754-4150.

Save Water, Save Money

Save water, time, and money with the City of Tumwater. We offer numerous rebates and incentives to help you do all three.

- Free Indoor Water Savings Kit
- Free Outdoor Water Savings Kit
- High-efficiency Toilet Rebate
- Washing Machine Rebate
- Weather-based Irrigation System Rebate
- Rain Barrel Rebate

Visit the Water Resources Department at Tumwater City Hall to pick up your water savings kits today.

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/save-water

The 2018 Water Quality Recap

Maintaining a healthy and abundant drinking water supply is one of the City's main goals. We know water quality matters to you and we are happy to report that your drinking water continues to meet all of the health criteria established by federal and state laws.

The City conducts year-round water quality monitoring throughout the drinking water system.

We collect samples in the distribution system, at the sources, and occasionally from your tap. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency requires that we provide you with a summary of the results.

Your 2018 Water Quality Report can also be viewed on the City website.

www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/WaterQualityReport

TUMWATER'S DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

7,142 residential customers

530 business customers

130 miles of distribution pipes

OVER 1,700 fire hydrants

6 MILLION gallons of water storage





Wastewater

Wipes Clog Pipes

Unlike what movies claim, not all drains lead to the ocean. When you flush a toilet, the water goes down the drain and into pipes that lead it to the wastewater treatment plant.

But sometimes wastewater can't make it to the treatment plant because something in the pipe is blocking its path; this may lead to sewer backups and spills which are dangerous to human health.

Many personal hygiene products may list themselves as "flushable", but most aren't. These products don't break down like toilet paper. Eventually, they get stuck somewhere, clogging the treatment plant, the sewer system, or your home plumbing.

The worst pipe cloggers are wet wipes, paper towels, rags, and sanitary products.

Flushing the wrong things can have serious consequences.

A good rule of thumb is "when in doubt, throw it out."



Switch to Sewer

If properly cared for, a septic system can provide years of reliable low-cost service. However, faulty systems can create headaches for owners and put water quality at risk.

Small problems can add up to big issues, especially in urban areas where septic systems are located close together.

To help address these issues, the LOTT Clean Water Alliance has a program that provides financial help for people to remove their septic systems and connect to City sewer.

For qualifying individuals, this program waives half of the LOTT connection fee, which is currently about \$6,000. Individuals experiencing financial hardship may qualify for an even larger incentive.

In 2018, 21 single-family homes and 1 commercial facility in Tumwater transitioned to sewer service with the help of this program.

Interested? Contact us at 360-754-4140 to see if you qualify.

Septic Maintenance

In Tumwater's urban growth area, about 3,000 homes are on private septic systems instead of the public sewer system. Keep your system functioning properly by:

- Inspecting your system every three years
- Pumping your system out every three to five years
- Conserving water--less water use means less work for your system
- Keeping your drainfield clear of vehicles, trees, and excess water
- Only flush human waste and toilet paper



Reclaimed Water

The Reclaimed Water Cycle

If you're connected to the City's sewer system, the water you send down the drain goes to the LOTT Treatment Plant in downtown Olympia. Once there, wastewater goes through treatment before either being discharged into Budd Inlet or receiving more treatment to become reclaimed water. LOTT produces 2.5 million gallons of Class A Reclaimed Water, the highest quality in Washington.

Reclaimed water can be safely used for any purpose except drinking. Currently, there is only one reclaimed water user in Tumwater and that's the Tumwater Valley Golf Club (TVGC). In 2018, TVGC used approximately 240,000 gallons of reclaimed water per day for irrigation between

March and September – helping to retain the water in our aquifers where it can be used for drinking water and streamflow.

Drinking water is expensive to pump, treat, and bring to the tap. Tumwater is exploring additional uses for reclaimed water in the Deschutes Valley to expand our resources capacity, preserving water for people and the environment.

Exploring more uses for reclaimed water can help customers save money and conserve our valuable drinking water moving forward.



Tumwater Valley Golf Course