

PLANT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

If you have visited the water district in the past few weeks you have noticed the flurry of activity! To bring you up-to-date,

- The majority of below ground piping is now complete.
- The lagoon berms have been stabilized with steel sheet piling and new draw down structures in the lagoons are in place.
- The foundation and floor for the plant expansion is complete.
- The major new treatment structures including the new clarifier and three new filters have been installed.
- The new building addition has been delivered; galvanized steel framing has been erected and new metal sheeting will begin to cover the new framework.
- Demolition within the old water plant of the old plant 2 Claricone and clarifiers is complete; new chemical feed rooms are now framed in.
- The majority of electric conduit in the old plant has been installed.

2018 PLANT IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT:

As a reminder, the final plant improvement assessment will increase in August 2018. The assessment for the plant improvement will be \$7.46.

WHY DOES MY WATER BILL GO UP IN THE SUMMERTIME? IT'S NOT THAT HIGH IN THE WINTER TIME."

This is a question/comment that we get a lot from our customers when they come to our office to pay their water bills during the summer months. This is merely a rhetorical question since we already know the answers.

There is a long list of why water usage goes up in warmer weather and obviously not all reasons apply to every household. Following is a long list of reasons and I would imagine that some do pertain to your family.

The fact that temperatures are much higher. Either directly or indirectly, this is the main reason that our water usage rises in the summer months. The extremely high temperatures in the high 90s and heat indexes of 110 degrees that we have already seen in 2018 is proof of that.

We also know that:

We consume more water to prevent dehydration. This may be in the form of tap water, iced tea, or lemonade made from mixes. Your body lets you know of the need for additional water by your degree of thirst.

We take more showers or baths due to added perspiration. It takes app. 30-35 gallons of water to take a full bath. This is much higher than that needed for a shower. While older shower heads used up to 5 gallons per minute (50 gallons for a 10-minute shower) some now use only 2 gallons per minute (20 gallons for a 10-minute shower). So, just one extra shower a day by just one family member can add an additional 600 gallons of water to your monthly bill. You even have to keep in mind that many of the showers that your kids usually take after P.E. class are replaced with showers taken at home during summer.

We usually have to do extra laundry due to high perspiration rates as well as the kids getting dirty just because they are kids. Older washers can use up to 40 gallons for a complete wash and rinse while an energy efficient machine uses around 30 gallons for a complete wash.

This additional usage hits hard for our water customers that are also connected to the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District (SCWRD). Your sewer bill amount is based on the amount of water you use. Higher water usage=higher sewer bill.

We also see additional water usage due to recreational use: swimming pools, water slides, or just playing in the hose and/or sprinkler. A 21'x 4' deep pool can hold app. 17,000 gallons. Many households only use 3000-4000 gallons during non-summer months, so this can equate to over three times normal usage.

We see additional usage due to gardening or keeping your lawn green. If you are connected to the SCWRD sewer system and use a lot of water for outside purposes, we do recommend that you invest in a "Deduct Meter" since this extra "outside" water will also show up on your sewer bill.

We do want to let you know that our water district has absolutely no control over the sewer rates listed on your monthly billing. The water reclamation district sets these rates and the district only collects the money and forwards it to them.

Other water usage greater than that used in the winter:

Hand-washing vehicles

Washing down driveways

Use of power washers on walks, decks, porches, or house siding

Cleaning home gutters

Birdbaths

And a host of others

Monthly Board Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. The public is welcome. If you cannot join us, the minutes are located on our website at www.currangardner.com. Audio files are also maintained on the website.



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