



Your Utility Company Newsletter

Utilities Commission

- Matt Winkel, Chair
- Mary O’Dea, Vice-Chair
- Sheryl Bremmer
- Daniel Graham
- Joseph Kuehner
- Patricia Soltys
- Don Starbuck
- Council Liaisons:
- Peter Braun
- Madeline Seymour

Sanitary Sewer System

There are two parts to the sanitary sewer system: collection and treatment. In future newsletters, we will define and explain these processes and the way they work in Bandon.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

“The primary function of the Wastewater Department is to operate and maintain the wastewater treatment plant [sic] and ensure compliance with all state and federal regulations related to sewage treatment, disposal and discharge.”

Wastewater (Sewage) “is collected by a network of sewer lines and seven (7) pump stations throughout the community. When the sewage reaches the plant headworks it is run through a pre-treatment (muffin monster) and then into an aeration basin. There it is treated by the activated sludge process. Treated sewage is then run into the clarifier where it is allowed to settle, and the supernate (clarified water) is run through a disinfection (UV) system and into the Coquille River. The sludge is pumped into the aerobic digesters and allowed to digest for at least sixty (60) days and then transported by tanker truck to a variety of approved sites.”

“The Wastewater Treatment Plant has a peak design capacity of 3.2 million gallons per day. The plant could be expanded to a maximum average capacity of 1.7 million gallons per day.”

“The sewage collection system (sewer mains and lines) is maintained by the Public Works Department.”

*The information above is also on the City of Bandon’s webpage at <http://www.cityofbandon.org/general/page/wastewater-treatment-plant>.

Two Completely Separate Sewer Systems

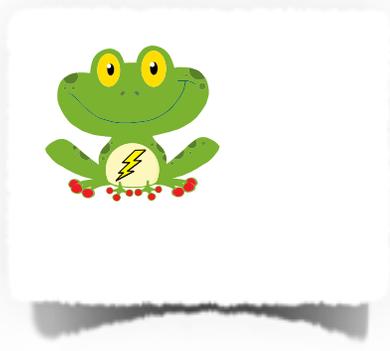
The City of Bandon operates two completely separate "sewer" systems: "sanitary sewer" for wastewater (sewage) and "storm sewer" for drainage from streets, land, roofs, etc. Preventing inflow and infiltration from the storm sewer into the sanitary sewer is an extremely critical issue for the collection and treatment processes.

Grease

Grease sticks to the inside of your sewer pipes, both on your property and in the street. Over time it can block the entire pipe. Instead of flushing grease down the drain, scrape grease into the trash. Any oils are a major contributor to drain clogs. Oils include mayonnaise, salad dressing, butter, cooking oils and fats from cooking meats (bacon, beef, pork, etc.) Motor oil and transmission fluid shouldn't go down your drains either. When grease enters the Wastewater Treatment Plant it can mix with cloths (see article to your right) and create a large blockage that can cause a shut-down of the plant until the debris can be removed.

Water Treatment Plant

Good news reported at the January Utilities Commission meeting indicated that normal maintenance is ongoing at the plant. Extra parts are available which has allowed "smoother maintenance" to be performed. The rate raise continues to support better operation of Bandon's Water Treatment Plant, thanks to you.



Biodegradable or "Flushable" Products

Many of the products advertised as flushable or biodegradable may meet specific standards for the term, but often increase the risk of drain clogs. For instance, flushable cat litter continues to be highly absorbent in the drain. Wet wipes are another serious problem in your sewer drain and at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They don't disintegrate and often combine with other products to produce a large super-knot. Despite what the labels may suggest, flushable wipes are NOT flushable. At the Wastewater Treatment Plant, these wipes can accumulate and combine with fats, oils or grease in the wastewater system. These types of blockages are sometimes called "fatbergs." In 2015, wastewater workers in London removed a fatberg that weighed in at 10 tons and measured 40 feet long. It cost nearly half a million dollars and two months to repair the damage. In 2015, flushable wipes accounted for \$1.4 billion in sales globally. But the problem isn't just limited to "flushable" wipes. Wipes have become a maintenance nightmare for the wastewater treatment industry and expensive for rate payers who must pay for repairs.