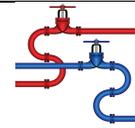


# Gallatin Gateway Water & Sewer District

Serving Gallatin Gateway since 2009

## Sewer Connections



Winter 2015

**Protecting public health by providing affordable, regulatory-compliant wastewater services to the Gallatin Gateway community.**

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### 2014: A Look Back At the Year

As we begin 2015, the Board of Directors and volunteer staff of the GGWSD would like to wish all of you a very happy new year! We'd like to take this opportunity to take a look back at some of last year's achievements, and setbacks, in our endeavor to bring an affordable community wastewater treatment system to the residents of Gallatin Gateway:

- In April, the District's Board of Directors selected an SBR ("Sequencing Batch Reactor") sewer treatment system. The Board made its decision after an exhaustive selection process involving 9 proposals from 8 suppliers representing a wide variety of technologies, conducting interviews, and touring local facilities using similar technologies. Since directing its engineers to proceed with a project design incorporating a SBR system manufactured by Xylem, Inc., Stahly Engineering has been busy preparing the treatment and disposal design report, as well as the final design and specs for the collection system, lift station, and forced main components of the system.
- An additional environmental assessment (EA) on the GGCWSD sewer project was completed and submitted to Gallatin County in August. The report, prepared by an independent engineering firm hired by Gallatin County, concluded that the project poses no significant environmental impact, and in fact scored many categories and conditions they reviewed as having a beneficial environmental or health impact.
- In October the Board passed Ordinance 2014-1, amending the GGWSD Rules and Regulations, establishing a Volume Ratio Unit (VRU) allocation schedule, which will "assign" a proportionate amount of "usage" of the sewer system to a residence or business, so that the total operating, maintenance and repair costs of the system are proportionately divided up among all users of the system, with larger users being assigned a proportionally larger amount of the costs. The rules and regulations are available on the District's website, [www.gatewaywsd.com](http://www.gatewaywsd.com).

2014 also brought challenges and significant setbacks to the District's mission. In September 2013, Gateway Village, LLC, filed a petition with the Montana 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District court asking for judicial review of the discharge permit issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ") to the GGCWSD ("the District"). A hearing on the petition was held in August 2014 in Bozeman before District Judge John Brown. On December 29, 2014, the judge ruled the discharge permit issued by MDEQ is not valid, and allowed MDEQ options to review and correct the permit. The District is

currently discussing whether to continue with the existing permit, or submit a new permit incorporating the SBR system currently being designed.

The litigation brought forth by Gateway Village, LLC, has already extended the District's timeline for building a public sewer system by one year, as the District was unable to access its grants and loans secured for construction while litigation was pending. Obtaining a revised or new discharge permit will take an additional 9 months, minimally. Gateway Village, LLC has also petitioned the Gallatin County Commission and the Montana Department of Commerce to withhold the District's CDBG grant, which is intended to make the sewer project more affordable for our low-income community members. As of this writing Gallatin County and the Department of Commerce are still reviewing the Gateway Village comments and related documents.

This is a critical juncture for the GGWSD and the community, but the Board of Directors and staff are proud of the District's accomplishments over the past 6 years, and the Board is determined to look at all options and consider all ideas for moving an affordable community wastewater treatment system forward to completion, despite the roadblocks being set in place. Several meetings are planned over the next few weeks to review options being considered. We hope 2015 brings clarity to outstanding issues, and sets the stage for our community to enter the construction phase of its much needed sewer project. Our meetings are always open to the public, and we welcome community input on ways to overcome challenges, and make a public sewer system in Gallatin Gateway a reality. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the fire station in Gallatin Gateway.

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Quarterly newsletters are sent to all landowners in the District to keep them updated with activities of the sewer district, and are also

available via email for all those interested in being on the distribution list. If you have tenants living in your property, or know of any renters currently residing within the District who would like to receive a copy of the quarterly newsletters, please email us at [customerservice@gatewaywsd.com](mailto:customerservice@gatewaywsd.com) and we will be happy to add those names to the list.

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Your \$6.00/month Benefited Lot Charge invoice is enclosed. This charge covers general and administrative expenses of the District, not covered by loans and grants. It is applied on all platted lots in the District. It is not the same as a "sewer bill". Only properties with sewer connections will be charged for sewer service once the sewer project is complete. Payments received after the due date listed on the invoice are subject to a \$10 late fee, so please ensure your payments are mailed on time.

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Are you moving or selling your property? Please let us know! Just a moment of your time will greatly help us to provide the most timely, accurate bills and correspondences to our customers. Please drop us a note or email us at [customerservice@gatewaywsd.com](mailto:customerservice@gatewaywsd.com).

If you would like to receive your invoice & communications by email, please email your request to [customerservice@gatewaywsd.com](mailto:customerservice@gatewaywsd.com).

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**REMINDER:** GGWSD monthly board meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM, in the Board Room of the Gallatin Gateway Fire Station, 320 Webb Street. All members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted prior to each meeting at the Gallatin Gateway post office and on our website at [www.gatewaywsd.com](http://www.gatewaywsd.com).

Happy New Year!