



Important Notice to the Citizens of Cedarburg

Sewer Rate Increases for 2025

Overview

The Water Recycling Center (sewage treatment plant) is nearing capacity and requires significant renovations. Built in 1988, it has served the city well but now needs upgrades to meet current and future regulations.

Study and Proposals

The city hired Donohue & Associates to conduct a facility and needs study. They proposed two options to ensure compliance with our WPDES (Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit:

1. Renovate the Existing Plant

- **Rehabilitation:** Upgrade the current oxidation ditch.
- **Tertiary Treatment:** Add a filter system to reduce phosphorus in Cedar Creek.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Implement essential electrical, mechanical, and HVAC improvements.
- **New Facilities:** Construct a new administration/lab building and a bio-solids facility at the Pioneer Road property.
- **Estimated Cost:** \$83 million.

2. Build a New Treatment Facility

- **Location:** Pioneer Road property.
- **Regional Facility:** Potential for a regional facility to accommodate area growth.
- **New Structures:** Includes a new lift station at Green Bay Road and Pioneer Road.
- **Decommission Old Plant:** The old plant could be sold or repurposed.
- **Estimated Cost:** \$125 million.

Financial Implications

- **Funding:** The city will need to borrow money for either option.
- **User Fees:** The Water Recycling Center operates solely on user fees, not the City's annual budget.
 - **New Rates (Effective January 1, 2025):** Fixed fee of \$16.80 per month, plus \$11.20 per 1,000 gallons.
 - **Future Increases:** Depend on the chosen option.

Next Steps

The City is still evaluating these options. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these proposals, please feel free to contact us.

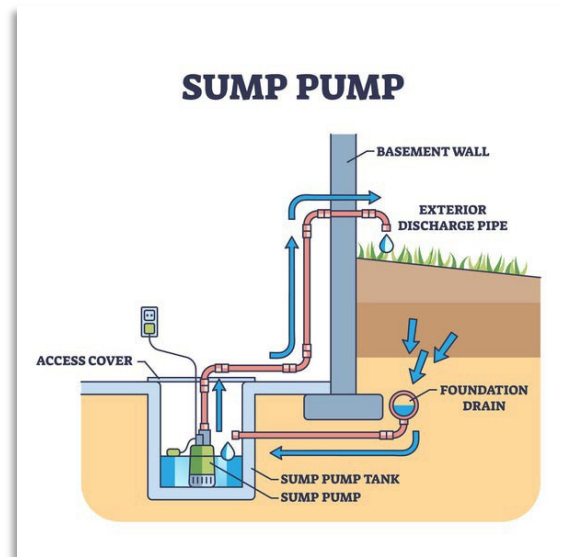
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Sump Pumps

As we approach the colder months, we anticipate an increase in rain and snowmelt. This additional precipitation can lead to challenges at the Cedarburg Water Recycling Center, as clear water, known as inflow and infiltration (I/I), can overwhelm the plant, especially during spring.

We'd like to remind homeowners that it is illicit to connect sump pump discharge pipes to the sanitary sewer system. Sump pump discharge should be directed outside, not into the sanitary sewers. Additionally, please ensure that roof gutter drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer system, as this can contribute to similar issues. While we expect some clear water inflow from other sources, we ask for your cooperation in eliminating any illicit connections to help our facility operate efficiently.



Flushable Wipes

Alongside inflow and infiltration (I/I) concerns, so-called "flushable" wipes are causing significant issues for our Water Recycling Center. While many wipes are labeled as "flushable," they are not dispersible and do not break down as toilet paper does. As a result, they remain intact and can clog our lift stations and treatment facilities, leading to increased maintenance and labor costs.

We kindly ask that you only flush toilet paper down the toilet and dispose of wipes in the trash. By following these guidelines, you can help us keep our wastewater system functioning smoothly and efficiently.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and for doing your part to maintain the health of our community's water systems.



Water Softener Usage

High concentrations of chlorides (salt) from residential water softeners can adversely impact aquatic life in local water bodies. We encourage residents to limit chloride use where possible. Residential water softeners are a major contributor of chlorides to the Cedarburg Water Recycling Center, and fine-tuning these devices to only soften water as needed can help reduce this impact.

On-demand water softeners use only the amount of salt necessary, making them an efficient choice. If your water softener is 14 years old or older, it is recommended to replace it, as its efficiency typically declines over time. Switching to an on-demand model can also reduce salt use, resulting in cost savings for homeowners.

