

Why is the City of Bozeman installing water meters for sewer service?

This is to ensure we bill Riverside residents the same as every other customer. We monitor sewer usage through the water meter, and without it, we'd have no measure of what's being used. This ensures that people who use it more or less get billed appropriately.

Is the City of Bozeman billing every home in Riverside for sewer service?

Yes, we are billing every building that has sewer service.

Can residents reuse an existing water meter?

No. Our system reads our water meters via a radio signal that gets transmitted to our central data collection system remotely, and unfortunately, only our meters work with our system. We are unable to connect existing meters to our system and, therefore, would be unable to read the pre-existing meters. The City also changes out meters on a 15-year cycle to ensure accuracy of the meter.

How will you bill residents before the meters are installed, and how much will it cost?

We will bill using the flat rate until the meters are installed. Those costs are located [on this webpage](#).

Is the start date for paying for sewer charges still March 1?

It is now April 1.

What is the anticipated cost of water meter installation?

A ¾" water meter will cost about \$500 installed. In addition, if plumbing alterations are necessary, the cost will be unpredictable depending on what work needs to be done to accommodate the meter. A rough approximation of plumbing costs if a meter is not currently installed at a building would be an additional \$500 to \$1000 for plumbing work. City staff have visited four sites so far, and all four sites have water meters in place. The 2" water meter in the clubhouse will cost about \$1500 to replace.

Will the pipe to the sewer plant accommodate all sewage, plus some expansion?

The sewer lift station and related components were designed to comfortably handle the sewage load from the subdivision. It would depend on the type of expansion as to what improvements may need to take place to receive sewage.

What have communications looked like on this project?

We sent an initial letter about this work on February 3. It can be found [on our webpage](#).

Are the water meters only measuring water that could go to the sewer and not the water that goes to lawn or garden use?

In order to account for irrigation use, we bill in the summer months for what we call winter-quarter-average usage. This means that we will take the average usage in the winter months, and that is the number we will use in the summer months. This is consistent with how we bill everyone in the City of Bozeman.

How are residents who reside here seasonally being charged?

Seasonal residents will be charged a minimum amount throughout the year per the [adopted sewer rates](#).

Do developers pay the cost of their installation of utility systems at the same rate as residents?

Yes. Developers are required to install all infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater, streets, etc.) up front. They also pay the city's impact fees, which pay for general system expansion to accommodate development.

Has the city also assumed maintenance of the sewer pipes in the subdivision?

Yes, we do assume the maintenance of sewer pipes once the lift station is turned on.

How soon would the first water meters be installed?

We will install those as soon as possible. It's a fairly quick process to install if there is already a meter at the building. If there is no meter in the building, a plumber must be contracted to modify piping to accept a meter.

Will the new water meters be accessible from the outside of the houses?

It depends on where the meters currently are. If you have a meter located inside your home, we wouldn't move it and would issue meter replacements as needed inside the home.

Is Riverside Country Club included in this project?

Yes. They will be metered and billed at a commercial rate.

What do we need to do to coordinate getting a water meter installed?

We will eventually reach out to individuals, but if you'd like to expedite the process, feel free to call 406-582-3203 to schedule an appointment to install a meter. We are currently equipped to handle direct meter replacements. We do not have a process worked out to have a city-sponsored plumber. If plumbing work is required for the installation of a meter, we would need to determine each situation on a case-by-case basis. Regardless, we can always investigate and see what needs to be done and come up with a plan.

If a home is operated as an Airbnb, can it qualify for a commercial rate?

The current sewer rate for commercial is higher than the residential rate, but it would not qualify for a commercial rate.

Can I install my water meter myself?

No, this is not possible for our system.

What is the size of the small water meter?

It is a ¾ inch water meter.

Is Stone Gate Drive included in this project?

No.

Will this sewage charge be added to the existing City of Bozeman garbage/compost/recycling monthly billing?

Yes, we will bill all services through a single bill.

When will residents know the actual assessment costs? Does the City have an estimate?

The special improvement district costs for the sewer lift station will be determined after the construction project is finalized.

What is the total cost of this project?

This construction project was estimated to be \$2.3 million. Including change orders to date, the total construction cost is \$1.8 million to build. That is the construction cost only and does not include engineering services costs. Engineering services costs will be included in the special improvement district assessment. Wastewater impact fees were paid at the time of the annexation agreement and held in escrow. The City will receive the escrow funds once the lift station is activated.

I have heard from neighbors that they think our water has been “taken” as part of this project. Is that true?

No, this project only includes wastewater. The water system continues to be operated by the Riverside Water and Sewer District.

When will the cost of the cleanup remediation of the lagoon be charged? Are those costs included in the project costs that we bear with the City?

The Riverside annexation agreement specifically notes that decommissioning of the existing lagoon system will be performed by the Riverside Water and Sewer District. Per the Riverside Water and Sewer District, they are looking into grants for the remediation of the lagoon.