



"Dedicated to Preserve the Purity of Your Environment"

Ratepayer News

TROUT UNLIMITED RECOGNIZES SWSSD EFFORTS

Southwest Suburban Sewer District recently received the following letter from the local chapter of Trout Unlimited:

On Saturday, January 26, 2013, the Duwamish/Green Chapter of Trout Unlimited (T.U.) conducted the annual out-planting of 120,000 Coho Salmon Fry. This has become a community event that includes local families and officials from the City of Burien, Normandy Park, and Des Moines. From 1984, Southwest Suburban Sewer District (SWSSD) has granted permission for T.U. to install Hatchery Boxes at the District's Miller Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant site. The partnership with SWSSD has continued to grow in importance. In 1987 the Duwamish/Green Chapter of T.U. was awarded Trout Unlimited's "Conservation Award of the Year". That same year a permanent hatchery was built on the Miller Creek site. Several Sewer District employees helped T.U. with the construction and the hatchery was completed in one weekend.

Since the completion of the permanent hatchery, every year we have released 120,000 Coho Fry into various sites on Miller, Walker, Des Moines and Salmon Creeks. With the help from Soos Creek Salmon Hatchery and SWSSD, we now have King County, NOAA, T.U. and community volunteers counting and collecting data on returning Coho and Chum salmon from September until the end of December. The scientific data collected is being studied by NOAA and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine ways to create "self sustaining, in stream spawning environments".

Without the help of the dedicated SWSSD employees and Federal and State Agencies, the goal of self sustaining returns could not be reached.

Trout Unlimited would like to thank Southwest Suburban Sewer District for the genuine interest and partnership we have maintained for all these years.

Sincerely, Ronald L. DeSilva, Duwamish/Green Chapter President, Trout Unlimited

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District Office:

431 SW Ambaum Boulevard
Burien, Washington 98166
Phone: 206-244-9575
Fax: 206-433-8546

Forms can be downloaded from the District website to apply for the low income rate discount or to set up electronic bill-payer service. You may also pay your bill via the website: www.swssd.com. You are invited to attend the monthly Board of Commissioners meetings at the District Office on the first Tuesday and the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners:

William Tracy, President
Scott Hilsen, Vice-President
Susan Genzale, Secretary

Property Taxes Funding Southwest Suburban Sewer District? Not True . . .

Over the past couple of months, several District customers have inquired about a statement they heard, or read about, from King County. During public community meetings and in informational handouts, King County has stated that an allocation of property taxes go to local special purpose districts, which includes wastewater districts. This is an incorrect statement. Here at

SWSSD, we provide sewer service for approximately 60,000 residents throughout Burien, Normandy Park, and White Center. 100% of the District funds come directly from your monthly sewer service rates. Your sewer service rate is the 2nd lowest and less than half the average sewer rate in all of King County, and is less than 1/3 of what the City of Seattle customers pay.

YOUR SEWER DOLLARS AT WORK

SALMON CREEK TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

In 2012, the District completed a \$1M Capital Improvement Project providing significant equipment upgrades and safety improvements to our Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The project replaced internal mechanical equipment on our three Primary Clarifiers and two Contact Chambers. Some of these systems have been in operation since the early 1970's. In equipment life span terms, these components were approaching or at the end of their useful and reliable service life.

Upgrades made to electrical systems included the installation of new energy efficient lighting, new electric motors and process control equipment. The replacement of these

systems will provide long term reliability and cost effective process control.

Safety improvements included the replacement of worn fiberglass odor control covers which had become structurally unsound and created a safety hazard to employees and visiting public. Additionally, we have installed safety railing to comply with updated Labor and Industries fall protection standards.

Going forward, our newly replaced equipment will keep our wastewater treatment process running efficiently and effectively for another 40 years. The project was completed two months ahead of schedule and within the established budget.



Pictured above are views of the rehabilitated Salmon Creek Treatment Plant Clarifiers, featuring new required safety railing.

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

On March 6th, Southwest Suburban Sewer District staff and commissioners partnered with the Puget Sound Blood Center for a successful local blood donation drive. Staff participation was well over 50% with many folks giving for the first time.

The donation event was open to all interested donors and we were very happy to have participation from Water District #49 staff, Valley View Sewer District staff, Highline School District staff, and City of Burien residents.

Our combined efforts for this blood drive provided much needed blood to 75 local patients. We have been asked to sponsor future blood drives and are planning to give it another go in about six months. If you have the time, please join us for our next blood drive!

