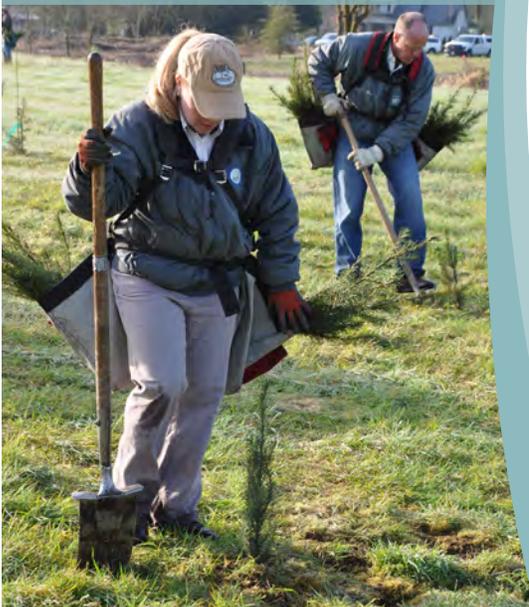


Clark County's CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

HOW OUR FEES COMPARE



“Clark County’s Clean Water fee is one of the lowest in the region.”



Measuring up

The federal Clean Water Act created a system to limit pollution from specific sources. These sources include polluted storm runoff, which is created when rain picks up fertilizers, pesticides, detergents, oil, dirt and other contaminants.

Local governments are required to obtain permits to manage and treat polluted runoff. Requirements for local governments are based on populations. Counties and cities with more than 100,000 people, based on the 1990 census, were designated as Phase I communities and must meet stricter standards.

To pay for this federally mandated program, Clark County in 2000 implemented a Clean Water fee of \$33 for most homeowners, a fee that has not been increased in almost a dozen years.

It is difficult to compare the county’s program to others across the state since they often have different requirements and components. Many areas have different population densities, and the age of the infrastructure can affect fees. More importantly, it is difficult to know whether other programs are meeting or falling short of permit requirements.

Nevertheless, Clark County’s fee is low compared with other large counties and cities in Washington and cities within Clark County. In addition, the county’s program currently spends more money than it brings in, which is causing it to exhaust its financial reserves.

A chart comparing Clark County’s fee to that of other Washington cities and counties is on the back.

Continued on back

A healthy community needs clean water.

Comparing our fee to other jurisdictions

“Large” cities and counties	Annual fee
Clark County.....	\$33.00
King County.....	\$133.00
Pierce County.....	\$93.48
Snohomish County.....	\$122.00
Seattle.....	\$192.79
Tacoma.....	\$213.84

Local cities	Annual fee
Battle Ground.....	\$72.00
Camas.....	\$109.00
Vancouver.....	\$85.20
Washougal.....	\$125.88

This table compares Clark County’s Clean Water fee to that of neighboring cities and counties. Fees are based on the amount of land and the amount of impervious area included (parking lots, sidewalks, etc.).

