

Westside Water Mains Project Begins in 2021

Delivering safe and reliable drinking water, treating your sewage, and managing stormwater are essential services that must be addressed on an ongoing basis. To continue to ensure our community has a safe water supply, the city is working hard to address our aging water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure. The recent water rate increases are funding this first round of the city's planned infrastructure replacement projects.

Currently city staff are designing the Westside Water Mains Replacement Project for several areas on the west side of Mountlake Terrace. The city's aging water mains are predominantly made out of cast iron which is brittle and prone to breakages, as seen in the photo. Deferring replacement of aging pipes and facilities results in major emergencies

with expensive repairs and dire consequences including sewage backups, loss of water, local flooding, and sink holes that can collapse streets. On this project, the city will replace the old cast iron water mains with ductile iron; a material that is more durable and able to handle stresses that would fracture cast iron.

Additionally, the city will coordinate these water main replacements with the 66th Avenue Reconstruction Project for which the city will receive \$2.3 million in grant funding. The city is timing these projects together to help keep the overall costs down on the water mains project that is paid for by the city's Water Utility Fund and supported by your water bills.



Brittle cast iron pipe

Your utility bills directly pay for the utility system it supports and these funds cannot be used for other purposes.

To explain this point a bit further, the majority of cities' operating revenue comes from property tax, sales tax, business and utility taxes. All of these taxes go into the city's General Fund which pays for essential services such as public safety, streets, sidewalks, parks and other essential services. It is important for the community to know that utility systems like water and sewer are accounted for separately. Local government utilities are paid for out of an Enterprise Fund, a self-supporting government fund that sells goods and services to the public for a fee.

Many local governments are experiencing the challenge of having a revenue structure that does not keep up with inflation and population growth to replace aging utility infrastructure. State and federal funding to cities has also decreased while General Fund revenues are also stretched. Therefore, it is important to repair and replace our hundreds of miles of aging pipelines and address our treatment plant needs before major service disruptions occur. Previous work was deferred during the Great Recession that resulted in a bigger rate adjustment this time around to address the cost of purchasing water and maintaining and replacing our infrastructure.

The Westside Water Mains Replacement Project design wraps up later this year with construction beginning in early 2021. Neighborhoods that will be affected will receive more information before construction begins.

For more information about this project, please contact Public Works Director Eric LaFrance at elafrance@mltwa.gov or (425) 744-6221. For more information about city utilities and rates, please visit our "Utilities 101" webpage at www.cityofmlt.com/2052.

Budget & Property Tax Basics

October is budget time for cities and this fall, the City Council is working on the 2021-21 Biennial Budget. If you can't make it to our budget presentation meetings, you can listen to or view the budget presentations online at www.cityofmlt.com/469. Department budget presentations will take place on October 14 and 15 at 6:00 p.m. Public hearings on property taxes and the budget are tentatively scheduled for the November 16 meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Check to confirm closer to the date.)

Mountlake Terrace residents enjoy a full service city for a comparatively low annual property tax bill in Snohomish County. The City of Mountlake Terrace has its own Police Department that covers the city's four square miles. The city also has a recreation and parks program including a regional indoor swimming pool and it contracts for fire and emergency medical services with South County Fire. This contract provides a higher level of service (advanced life support vs. basic life support) for less than what would be paid if the city operated its own Fire Department.

The city's main General Fund revenue sources include property taxes (36%), utility taxes (17%), and sales taxes (18%) while other smaller sources are gambling taxes, licenses, permits, and fines. Only about 19% of the total property tax bill you pay goes to the city; the remaining 81% funds the state's school fund, Edmonds School District, Snohomish

County, Sno-Isle Library District and Public Hospital District #2.

About 57% of General Fund dollars go toward public safety expenses such as Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Jail, Municipal Court, and Emergency Operations. The remaining funds go for all the other services such as Street Maintenance, Recreation and Parks, Development Services, Economic Development, Facilities Maintenance, Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, and Community Outreach.

What about your utility bills? The city operates three utilities (storm water, sewer and water). Utility funds generate revenues from user rates and fees. Like a business enterprise, these funds cover their own costs, without help from outside funds. By and large, under Washington State law these revenues cannot be used to pay for programs other than those related to the utility.

Rates in each utility are made up of three components: 1) The first portion covers maintenance and operations of the utility; 2) A second portion pays debt on funds previously borrowed to make repairs and upgrades; and 3) The last portion of rates goes toward replacing and upgrading the system.

Those are the nuts and bolts of how your property taxes and utility payments are used. We hope you will join us for a budget meeting this fall!



Having Trouble Paying Bills or Getting Food Due to COVID-19?

¿Tiene problemas para pagar las facturas o para obtener alimentos debido al COVID-19?

The City of Mountlake Terrace and our community partners would like to help you with food delivery or assistance paying unmet bills such as childcare costs, utilities, car repairs, or medical bills. The city is using CARES Act funds and nonprofit groups to help.

La ciudad de Mountlake Terrace y nuestros socios comunitarios desean ayudarlo con la entrega de alimentos o asistencia para el pago de facturas que no puede pagar, como costos de cuidado de niños, servicios públicos, reparación de automóviles o facturas médicas. La ciudad está utilizando fondos de la Ley CARES y grupos sin fines de lucro para ayudar.

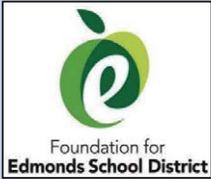
Have Children in the Edmonds School District?

¿Tiene hijos en el distrito escolar de Edmonds?

Contact the District's Family Support program. The District will connect you with a nonprofit to assist with food delivery and paying bills:

Si tiene hijos en el distrito escolar de Edmonds, comuníquese con el programa de apoyo familiar del distrito. El Distrito lo conectará con una organización sin fines de lucro para ayudarlo con la entrega de alimentos y / o el pago de facturas:

Monday-Friday (Lunes-Viernes), 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
425.431.1454 | familysupport@edmonds.wednet.edu



Households Without Children in the Edmonds School District

Hogares sin niños en el distrito escolar de Edmonds

If you do not have children in the Edmonds School District and need financial assistance, contact either of these two organizations:

Si no tiene hijos en el Distrito Escolar de Edmonds y necesita ayuda financiera, comuníquese con cualquiera de estas dos organizaciones:

- Calvary Fellowship, Mountlake Terrace: 425.775.3422 | chelsea@calvaryfellowship.org
- Mountlake Terrace Community Foundation: 425.312.3566 | dustin@mltcf.org



These postcards were mailed in September. If you are a resident in need, please apply now while funds are still available.

Input Desired for Recreation & Parks Master Plan Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan Process to Begin

What's your vision for the future of our Recreation and Parks system? We would like your input!

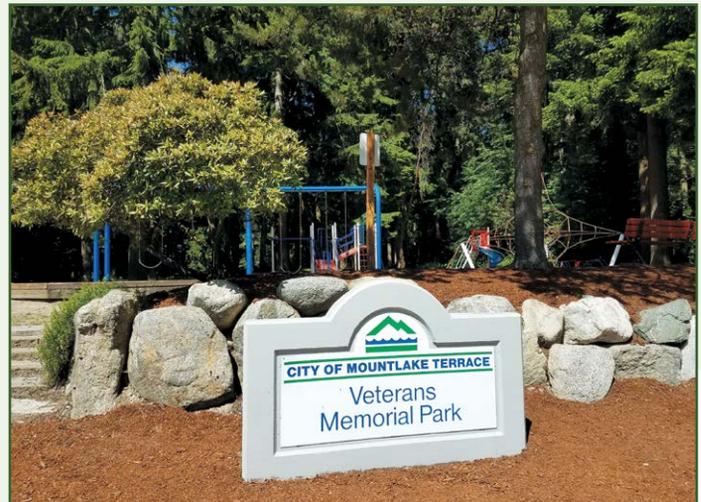
Over the course of the next year, the City of Mountlake Terrace will be updating its **Recreation, Parks & Open Space (RPOS) Master Plan** to guide the development and acquisition of new recreation facilities, parks and open spaces, as well as the renovation of existing facilities over the next twenty years.

It's important that the plan reflects the needs and desires of our vibrant community for fun, healthy, exciting, and diverse activities in our award-winning Recreation and Parks system. How do you envision the future of our Recreation and Parks system? Share your thoughts through our Community Survey in October and November, and learn more by visiting our website: www.cityofmlt.com/RPOS.

Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan

The city is preparing a site master plan for **Veterans Memorial Park** to guide the future of the park and enhance this treasured site as a linkage between the future light rail station (adjacent to I-5 at 236th Street SW) and the Civic Campus (corner of 232nd Street SW and 58th Avenue W).

Veterans Memorial Park features an extensive trail system, old-growth natural areas, and playground equipment. What types of amenities,



features, and enhancements do you want to see at this park? Visit the project webpage to learn more, and watch for opportunities for online engagement at www.cityofmlt.com/vetspark.

For more information, contact Recreation and Parks Director Jeff Betz at jbetz@mltwa.gov or (425) 640-3101.