

# UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

## City of Port Townsend Utility Billing Department

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[ptutilities@cityofpt.us](mailto:ptutilities@cityofpt.us)

Info & Forms



[cityofpt.us/finance/page/utility-information](http://cityofpt.us/finance/page/utility-information)

## Sign up for e-billing

Get your City of Port Townsend utility bill delivered in your inbox the first day of every month by creating an account on CivicPay. Still want a paper bill, too? No problem. Opt in or out in your settings. More information at [cityofpt.merchanttransact.com](http://cityofpt.merchanttransact.com)



*City of Port Townsend staff went on a field trip to the City watershed this summer to learn about the Olympic Gravity Water System and water distribution. Turn to page 2 for information on the summer 2025 water supply outlook.*

## Water use efficiency goal setting

The Port Townsend City Council will conduct a public hearing on Monday, August 18, 2025 to update Water Use Efficiency (WUE) goals as required by Washington State Department of Health and Washington Administrative Code (WAC). This public forum will occur as part of the regularly scheduled City Council Business Meeting at or about 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 540 Water Street, Port Townsend, WA. More information is available at [cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/water-resources](http://cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/water-resources)

## Join us at these City events and programs in August



**Sign up for the City's E-News!** The City of Port Townsend now sends a monthly e-newsletter. Stay up to date on City projects, events, and ways to engage in the future of Port Townsend when you sign up. To join the mailing list, visit [mailchi.mp/cityofpt/city-of-port-townsend-newsletter](http://mailchi.mp/cityofpt/city-of-port-townsend-newsletter)

- **Coffee Chat with the City Manager** continues first Fridays, at Sunrise Coffee in August and September. Join John Mauro, neighbors, and friends 9-10:30 am August 1 and September 5.
- **Don't forget to vote by Tuesday, August 5!** Mail in your ballot or drop it off at the County

Courthouse, 1820 Jefferson St.

- **Attend a joint City Council and Planning Commission Workshop** on August 11, 6:00 pm in Council Chambers or online to learn about the Sustainable Streets Plan – a long-range plan that impacts streets, housing, open space, trails, and more.

- **Connect with City staff at the Farmer's Market!** We'll be tabling the Saturday market on Tyler Street on August 16 talking to folks about the Sustainable Streets Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, and other topics of interest to the community. Come by and say hello!

Learn more about  
Water Resources



*Big Quilcene (at left) and Little Quilcene Rivers are experiencing diminished stream flows. It is anticipated that withdrawal from Lords Lake Reservoir (right) will begin earlier than normal.*

## Water supply outlook

### Rivers experiencing diminished stream flows earlier than usual

As we enjoy the long days and sunny skies that this beautiful summer brings, remember to consider our water supply. As the snowpack wanes, the City's water consumption increases. Tourism, festivals, and other events are just a few things that bring vitality to Port Townsend. These elements as well as irrigation, outdoor cleaning, and personal hydration are naturally on the rise when the stream flows are falling.

The City of Port Townsend's drinking water comes from the Big and Little Quilcene Rivers. Water stored in Lords Lake reservoir provides water when low stream flows or storm events limit water withdrawals from the rivers. Lords Lake contains enough water to sustain us for approximately

two and a half months. Historically, precipitation and snowpack in the Olympic Mountains provide ample stream flows to supply most needs until early September. Water stored in Lords Lake helps to meet customer demand until autumn rains restore stream flows.

This summer, the rivers are experiencing diminished stream flows earlier than in an average year. Based on current patterns and data provided by USGS National Water Information System, it is anticipated that withdrawal from Lords Lake Reservoir will begin approximately two and a half weeks earlier than an average year. For more information, visit [tinyurl.com/yc268d84](http://tinyurl.com/yc268d84)

## What can we do to conserve water?

Are we using water in an efficient manner? Here are a few useful tips for getting the most out of our water as we endeavor to keep our lawns and gardens healthy.

Use drip irrigation for plants, shrubs, & trees. Sprinklers typically lose 25-50% of the water through evaporation, wind, & surface run off.

Convert to low water use landscaping. Select plants, shrubs, and trees that need minimal water.

Watering deeply and less frequently makes plants more resilient to dry spells by encouraging root growth. Water your lawn and gardens early in the morning or later in the evening (but not too late, otherwise you will encourage fungal growth).

Limit watering to approximately one inch per week, including rainfall. For best results, moisten the soil between 4 and 6 inches deep with each watering. This will encourage the growth of a deep root structure that is more drought-resistant.

Consider weather and soil type and irrigate accordingly. Water can also be conserved by allowing lawns to go dormant, however it may be necessary to water deeply once a month in summer to keep roots alive.

Flow from a garden hose can be more than 10 gallons of water per minute. Use a spray nozzle with an automatic shutoff handle on your hose so water doesn't flow continuously.

Find more water  
conservation tips here!  
[tinyurl.com/577xxxey](http://tinyurl.com/577xxxey)



## Tipping fee increase notice

Jefferson County's Port Townsend transfer station tipping fee increases August 1 from \$171 to \$187/ton. The County Commissioners adopted the new fee schedule May 12 in response to rising costs for the maintenance and replacement of aging equipment and infrastructure. The fee increase will be assessed to Waste Connections and will in turn, increase rates for City garbage utility customers. For more information, visit [jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com](http://jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com)

## Glass collection notice

Olympic Disposal will begin immediately collecting glass recycling curbside in the City of Port Townsend, using the current bins provided. Please ensure that all recycling materials are clean and properly sorted into the bins: One bin for tin, aluminum, and plastic. One bin for mixed paper. One bin for glass. Cardboard is to be broken down and tied in 3'x3'x3" flattened bundles and placed beside your bins.