



Sewer Billing FAQ

Revised June 13, 2025

Q: What will the new monthly rate be for Northern Moraine residential sewer customers?

A: The existing monthly user rate of \$49.35 for homes and apartments will increase by 8% annually starting in 2026 through 2030. See Ordinance No. 25-05 which was approved after the District completed a thorough Facility Plan outlining our maintenance and capital improvement needs.

Q: Is there a senior citizen discount for the monthly rate?

A: No, as of May 1, 2010, NMWRD no longer offers a senior citizen discount to all bills. See Ordinance No. 09-04.

Q: How does Northern Moraine's monthly rate compare to neighboring wastewater districts?

A: While a few McHenry and Lake County neighbors have modestly lower rates than Northern Moraine's \$49.35 rate, the majority are more costly. For example, Wauconda residents pay \$67, Algonquin \$70, and Fox River Grove \$81.

Q: Can residences transition to a metered sewer usage rate?

A: Yes, starting in 2025, residential homes can shift to a metered sewer rate assuming the home has an existing water meter and the District has an agreement in place with the Village for water meter reading data. Metered rates cannot apply to homes served by residential wells.

Q: How will metered sewer usage be billed?

A: Beginning with a \$31 base monthly user rate, a \$4.70 usage fee will be added for every 1,000 gallons brought into your home, based on your monthly meter reading.

Q: Will metered residential rates also be increasing?

A: Yes, they will increase by the same 8% annually from 2026 through 2030.



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Q: What is happening with commercial rates?

A: Commercial rates will also increase by 8% annually from 2026 through 2030.

Q: What new information is impacting rates?

A: The District updates its facility plan every 10 years. An update is needed to revise population and wastewater flow projections to determine impacts to the region's wastewater infrastructure. The most recent facility plan was begun in 2024 is the first since 2014; it is available at www.nmwrld.org.

Q: What costs impact user rates?

A: The existing NMWRD wastewater treatment plant was first constructed in 1978. Based on our extensive rate study, a fiscal model was completed to evaluate funding the District's Operation, Maintenance and Replacement Costs (OM&R). It was determined that projected expenses should consider asset depreciation, the annual cost of operation and maintenance, plus annual debt service. Therefore, the District's annual OM&R cost based on depreciation is \$7,098,871.

Q: Why are rates increasing?

A: As determined in the latest rate study, the District's annual costs total \$7,098,871, however, annual revenue totals only \$3,493,700, which leaves the District with an annual budget shortfall of \$3,605,171.

Q: Will connection fees for new users increase?

A: Yes, it is most equitable to increase connection fees for new users who are tapping into the sewer system which has been funded for decades by the current users. The current sewer connection fee is \$7,574 per residential unit, but it will more than double in 2028 when it increases to \$17,501. The alternative would be to charge all users another \$41 monthly, which we've rejected because it seems far less equitable.

Q: Where can I go to learn more about the latest Northern Moraine Facility Plan?

A: All Ordinances and the entire 2024 Facility Plan can be reviewed at www.nmwrld.org.



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