

# WATERWORKS

Hallsdale-Powell Utility District Customer Newsletter

SUMMER 2015

## Summer is here, but Rainy Weather is Bad — News for Leaky Pipes —

Rainy weather is good news for rivers and lakes which supply our drinking water, but bad news for a leaky sewer system. Many of the older homes in our area were built several decades ago and still have their original private sewer laterals. A private sewer lateral is the pipe that connects the plumbing in a home to the main line located in the street. Over time, many of these pipelines have cracked, become disjointed or displaced by tree roots.

During heavy rainstorms, too much water can enter the sewer system through these cracked pipes and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) may occur. Excess water can also enter the sewer system

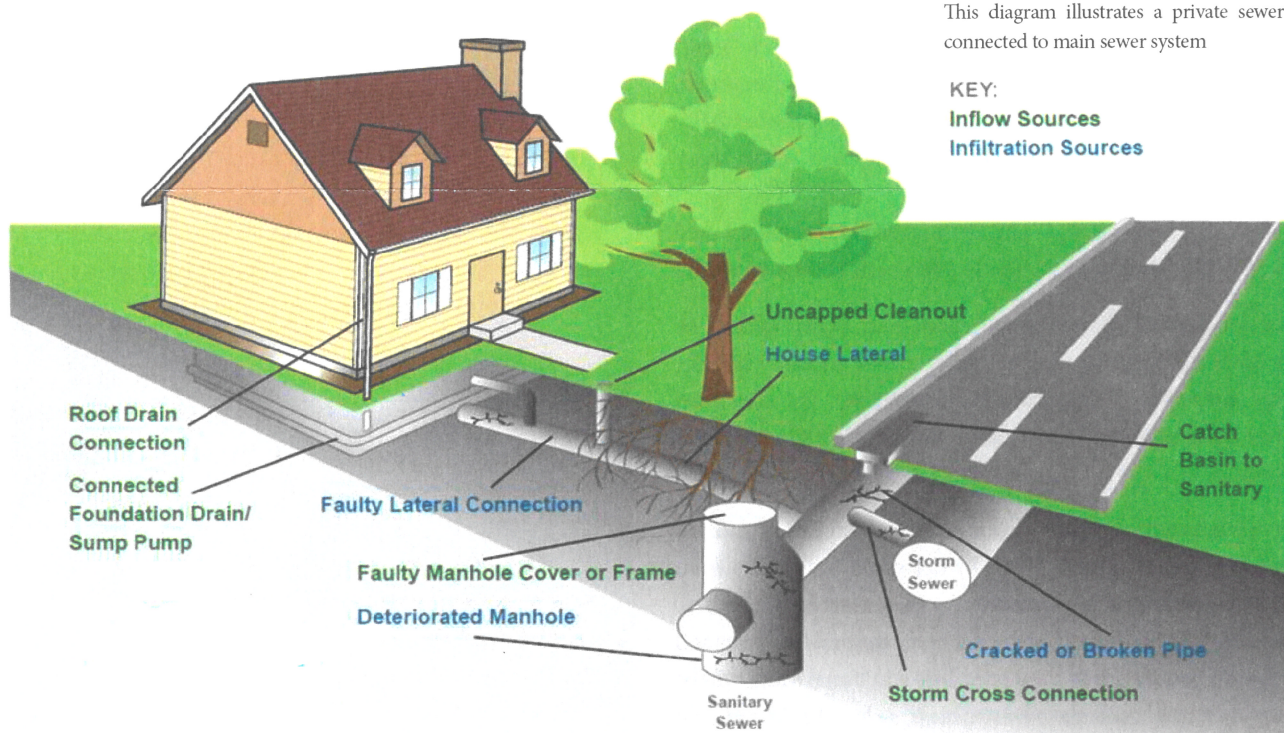
through openings such as sump pumps, broken cleanouts, and gutter drains. By having your private sewer lateral and other structures inspected, tested and repaired, you can help protect water quality and the environment. Please do your part to ensure your home is not contributing to the problem!

For more information, about sanitary sewer overflows and their impacts, visit [www.hpudactnow.org](http://www.hpudactnow.org)

### What Can You Do To Help?

- Do not pour any fats, oil or grease down the drain.
- Repair or replace any defective sewer pipe to stop leaks.
- Repair or replace any broken clean out caps.
- Disconnect any sump pumps, downspouts, or gutter drains from the sewer system.
- Report any damaged or missing manhole lids.
- Report SSOs or sewer backups.

This diagram illustrates a private sewer lateral connected to main sewer system



KEY:  
Inflow Sources  
Infiltration Sources

## Tennessee's Move over Law Applies to Utility Vehicles

Tennessee's original "Move over Law" was passed in 2003 in order to protect police, fire and emergency responders working alongside the highways.



On April 5, 2011, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam signed legislation (TCA 55-8-32) which expanded Tennessee's Move Over law to include highway maintenance vehicles, tow trucks, and all utility vehicles which use flash-

ing caution lights. This law requires motorists approaching a utility vehicle with flashing lights to move over if safe to do so, or slow down.

Violating the move over law in Tennessee is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$100 to \$500 and/or imprisonment of up to 30 days. According to statistics from the TN Department of Safety for 2005-2014, Knox County leads the state in the total number (1,111) of move over law citations issued by the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

The goal is to help prevent accidents on the roadways, keeping both drivers and workers safe, but more can be done. Do your part to help protect those who serve and protect you. Move over...remember, it's the law!

For more information, visit: [www.moveovertennessee.org](http://www.moveovertennessee.org).



## Customer Rate Impact for Mandated Consent Order

As a result of regulatory mandates from a 2014 TDEC Consent Order, HPUD has been given a deadline to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows by the year 2024. To meet this goal, the ACT Now Wastewater Infrastructure Program is expected to cost approximately \$120 million over the next 10 years and will be funded from future rate increases. A new rate structure will go into effect this September resulting in an approximate 5% increase in customers' sewer rates.

Almost 75% of HPUD customers use 5,000 gallons per month or less, with the average customer using 4,000 gallons per month. The impact to an average 4,000 gallon user will be an increase of \$1.84 on the monthly sewer bill. The daily impact for the average user will be approximately \$0.06 per day.

For more information visit [www.hpudactnow.org](http://www.hpudactnow.org), email [info@hpudactnow.org](mailto:info@hpudactnow.org), or call customer service at 865-922-7547.

## Upcoming Rate Changes

HPUD is changing its basic rate structure in order to comply with a 2014 Consent Order mandated by the TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation (TDEC). For years HPUD has operated with a "minimum bill" structure. Regardless of how little water and sewer was used, customers had to pay a minimum bill. Beginning in September 2015, there will be a base rate for having service and customers will only pay for water or sewer that is actually used:

- WATER: Base rate \$8.47 plus \$8.06 for each 1,000 gallons used
- SEWER: Base rate \$9.98 plus \$9.39 for each 1,000 gallons used

As a result of the rate change, a minimum user (1,000 gallons or less) may save money and see a slight drop in their monthly bill. For the average consumer (using 4,000 gallons/month), the combined water/sewer bill is expected to increase to \$2.65/month (\$1.84 /sewer & \$0.81/ water).

This new rate structure will help support the State and EPA mandated upgrades to the sewer system. HPUD receives no tax dollars from the local, state, or federal government, so rates must support these improvements. There have been no increases for the past two years and the Board would prefer not to raise rates. The additional funds will be used to upgrade and maintain infrastructure, reduce SSOs and help create a cleaner, better environment.



## Use Outdoor Water Wisely

At least 30 percent of water used annually by a single family suburban household is for outdoor watering and irrigation. A large portion of that water goes to waste through evaporation or runoff caused by over-watering. The tips in this article will help you conserve water and save money.

**Use Native Plants.** Plant drought tolerant native plants when landscaping. They will not require as much watering to sustain them and will weather droughts better.

**Collect Rainwater.** Collecting rain water from your gutters to water your plants can save a lot of water depending on how much rainfall there is, and provides healthier water for your plants. The easiest method to collect rainwater is to place a container under one of the gutter downspouts and cover the container between uses.

**Don't Water More... Water Smarter.** If you plan on watering your grass, first check to see if watering your lawn is necessary. Water at the coolest time of day, (overnight, late evening or early morning).

**Water Less Often.** Try to create a larger gap between when you water. When your lawn dries out it creates deeper roots. These deeper roots will allow you to water deeper and less often when you do water your lawn.

**The Less Paving the Better.** Limit the amount of impervious surfaces (e.g. sidewalks, roofs, driveways and patios) on your property. Impervious surfaces block the absorption of water into the soil.

**Plant a Rain Garden.** Rain gardens are designed to take in excess rainwater run-off from your property. The plants in the garden absorb the excess water, and return water vapor into the atmosphere rather than letting the rainwater become runoff. For more summer water saving tips, visit: [www.epa.gov/water-sense/outdoor/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/water-sense/outdoor/index.html)

## Wastewater Rates

2014 - 2025 To Fund ACT Now Program

