



Why We Need Strong Special Purpose Districts

Special Purpose Districts can be one of the most efficient forms of government.

Special Purpose Districts have clearly defined missions, provide quality service at an affordable cost, and typically involve very little bureaucracy.

Special Purpose Districts are governed by an elected Board of Commissioners, making the Districts a representative form of government.

Special Purpose Districts have high accountability standards, and answer to the voters who elect their boards of commissioners and the customers who use their services.

Special Purpose Districts are required to submit annual financial reports and audits to the State. The oversight ensures that special districts are run in a fiscally responsible manner.

Special Purpose Districts use revenues wisely to invest in their infrastructure systems, improve local services, plan for the future, and maintain affordable rates and charges.

Special Purpose Districts can directly link costs to services provided, hence there is a more direct correlation between funding and services received. General purpose local governments such as cities and towns levy general taxes to pay for an array of public services. Taxpayers often do not perceive that the services they receive are directly related to the amount of taxes they pay. In a **Special Purpose District**, only those who benefit from District services pay for them. Those who do not benefit do not pay.



Who Do You Call?

A number of agencies provide utility and emergency services in the City of Shoreline.

Cut out and post this list as a quick reference phone guide.

Shoreline Fire Department - Emergency 911
Non-Emergency (206) 533-6500

Shoreline Police Department - Emergency 911
Non-Emergency (206) 296-3311

Ronald Wastewater District (Sanitary Sewer) -
After Hours Emergency (206) 533-0177 / Business
Hours (206) 546-2494

**Shoreline Water District (Water Service generally
East of I-5)** (206) 362-8100

**Seattle Public Utilities (Water Service generally
West of I-5)** Emergency (206) 386-1800 / Non-
Emergency SPU Residential (206) 684-3000 or
SPU Business (206) 684-5800

Puget Sound Energy (Natural Gas)
Emergency 911 / Non-Emergency (888) 225-5773

Seattle City Light (Electrical) Emergency 911
Outage Hotline (206) 684-7400 / Non-Emergency
(206) 684-3000

CleanScapes (Solid Waste/Recycle Service)
(206) 763-4444

**Underground Utilities Locator (Call Before
You Dig)** (800) 424-5555

**City of Shoreline (street maintenance, storm/
surface water, parks)** (206) 801-2700

Always call 911 first if there is a life-threatening emergency!



Remember to please keep grease out of the sewer. It's a pain in the drain.



Ronald Wastewater Review

A quarterly publication of news and information for customers of Ronald Wastewater District

No Sewer Rate Increase for 2012!

On October 18th, 2011 your elected Board of Commissioners of Ronald Wastewater District: Arnie Lind, Art Wadekamper, and Brian Carroll, decided not to increase the sewer rate for 2012. Your sewer rate will remain the same - \$11.15 per month.

Ronald Wastewater District is an independent, non-taxing, special purpose district and not part of the City of Shoreline. You, the ratepayer, elect your commissioners to set policy for the District and they are aware that many ratepayers are struggling to make ends meet. Now is not the time to add to that burden. Annually the Board reviews the District's sewer charge. It will do so again in October/November 2012.



Working With You for 60 Years of Environmental Stewardship

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Sanitary Vs. Storm Sewers

There are actually two types of sewers: **sanitary sewers** and **storm sewers**, and the two perform completely different functions.

A **sanitary sewer** is defined as a system of underground pipe networks, manholes, clean outs, and wastewater treatment facilities designed for the collection and treatment of wastewater (or sewage) from commercial, industrial, and residential structures and is usually not designed to handle storm water.

A **storm sewer** is defined as a system of large pipes and/or open ditches designed to transport storm water and rain runoff from streets to natural bodies of water or absorptive areas, to avoid street flooding, but excludes sewage and industrial wastes.

In Shoreline the **sanitary** and **storm** sewer systems are separate and operate independently of each other. Ronald Wastewater District owns and operates the **sanitary sewer system**, and the City of Shoreline operates the **storm system**.

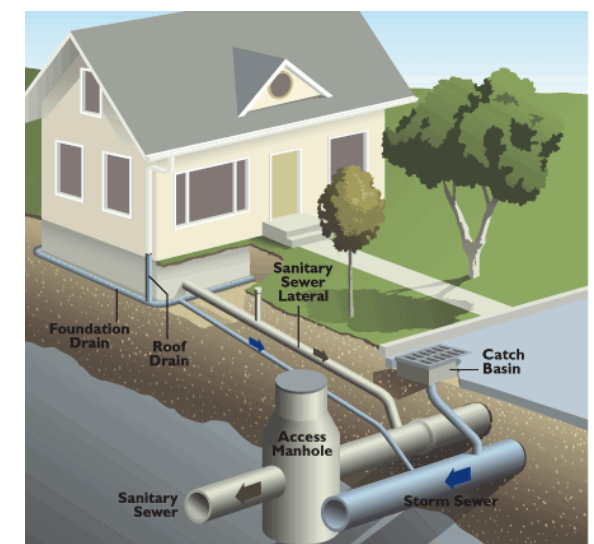
There are many reasons to keep the two types of sewer systems separate. One reason is when **sanitary** and **storm** sewer systems are "combined" the pipes that convey the flows can quickly become overloaded during heavy rains which can cause a **combined sewer overflow** or **CSO**. A CSO can result in untreated sewage flowing directly into streams, lakes, bays, and possibly into homes and businesses. Treating storm water at a wastewater treatment plant is also costly and generally unnecessary.

All **sanitary sewer** questions or issues should be directed to Ronald Wastewater District at 206.546.2494.

All **storm water** questions should be directed to the City of Shoreline at 206.801.2700

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) recently mailed a flyer to residents and businesses in Shoreline titled 'A Side Sewer Saga' regarding side sewers and ratepayer responsibility. SPU distributed this flyer in Shoreline in error. The flyer gave the impression that ratepayers in Shoreline receive their sewer service from SPU, and that side sewers are the ratepayer's responsibility from the building to the sewer mainline in the middle of the street. This is incorrect.

Ronald Wastewater District provides sewer service to all homes & businesses in Shoreline (except for the Highlands) and in our District the ratepayer's side sewer responsibility is from the home or business to the District's 6" stub (usually closer to the property line). If you have any sewer questions please contact the District office at 206.546.3494.



Ronald Wastewater District
www.ronaldwastewater.org