



County Hookup Program Information

How the County Hookup Program will work?

Mason County is offering a hookup program, where property owners opt-in to have the County hire a contractor, or contractors, to construct their side sewer and decommission their existing septic tank. This option is available to residential and commercial properties; however priority will be given to single-family residences.

The benefits of this option include:

- Opportunity to finance half of the connection fee and the entire construction costs for building your side sewer. These costs will be rolled into your monthly sewer bill, lowering your up-front costs.
- No hassle of hiring a contractor and applying for a permit; the County will do this for you.
- The County takes on the liability for the contractor constructing your system, and will complete all the required inspections and reviews.

Anticipated costs

Connection fee

The connection fee for Phase 1 existing developed properties is \$3,000 per ERU. You will have the option to finance half of the connection fee for one ERU (or \$1,500) through the County Hookup Program.

Construction costs

Construction costs for side sewers will vary based on the type of connection for your property (i.e. gravity system vs. low pressure system), topography, and the distance from the stub to your building. Engineers working for the County have developed the following estimate for the costs of connecting your property to the sewer (please see the attached letter for the estimated construction costs for your property).

Up-front costs

If you participate in the County Hookup Program and finance the construction costs, and half of your connection fee through the County, your up-front costs will be \$1,500 for one ERU. If your property is more than one ERU, you will owe \$1,500 plus \$3,000 for any additional ERUs up front (\$3,000 x additional ERUs).

Monthly costs

Monthly costs will vary by property depending on how many ERUs your property is, and the construction costs for your property. The monthly sewer rate is estimated at \$96 per ERU. **The County Hookup Program will add \$10.12 to your bill for every \$1,000 that is financed.** For example, if you borrow \$5,000 from the County, your monthly sewer bill would be \$146.60 per ERU, for 10 years.

If you would like to participate in this program, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the County in the envelope provided by September 30, 2011. Forms received after this date may not be eligible to participate.

Financing and payment information

Property owner costs for the County Hookup Program will be financed by low-interest loans through the County. The interest rate on the loans will be 4 percent and the loan will be paid back over 10 years through your sewer bill. The costs will be added to your monthly sewer bills once the new system is operational (assumed to start in January 2012). All up-front costs are due to the County by September 30, 2011.

Construction information

Construction of side sewers on the County Hookup Program is expected to begin in late summer/early fall 2011. Property owners will receive approximately 10 days prior notification before construction begins on your property, and will be given a one-week window of time when the construction will take place. Construction will take approximately one week to complete on each property. During construction, side sewers will be installed, but septic tanks will still be in place until December 2011 when the sewer system is expected to be operational.

Timeline

September 30	<i>Deadline for property owners to submit signed form to participate in program</i>
September 30	Up-front cost payments due
October	Mason County to hire side sewer contractor(s)
November	Construction of sewers, and decommissioning of septic tanks. Sewer utility operational as each parcel completed.

Questions?

Please contact us with any questions about the County Hookup Program.

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