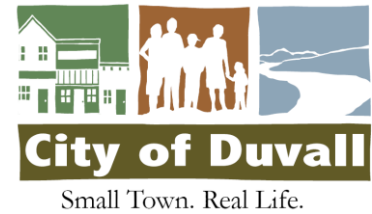


Sewer Moratorium: Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: September 22, 2021



On September 21, 2021, the City of Duvall passed a 6-month Emergency Ordinance that prohibits, with exceptions, connections to the sewer system and became effective immediately.

General

What is a Moratorium?

A moratorium is a “stop” on certain development activities.

What areas of the City are impacted by the Moratorium (Ordinance 1286)?

The moratorium applies to any property within City limits (City limits map [here](#)). Property within the Urban Growth Area (UGA) is not eligible for sewer service.

What type of Moratorium is the City of Duvall currently in?

The City of Duvall is in a moratorium for projects that require a new connection to, or other uses that increase the discharge to the sewer system. Full details are described in Ordinance 1286 found [here](#).

How long will the Moratorium last?

This Ordinance is for a minimum of six (6) months. It could be repealed or extended depending on the review and analysis of sewer systems features. The City will be seeking solutions, including design of Capital Improvements Projects (CIPs) to provide relief, and to allow the moratorium to be reconsidered. It is estimated a project could be implemented and completed in 1-3 years.

What is the City’s sewer treatment capacity?

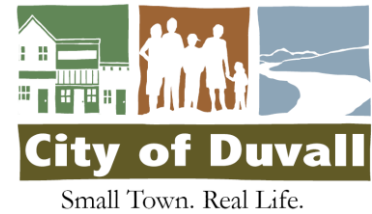
The City’s capacity (processing and discharge) is issued via a permit from and monitored by the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE). These operational parameters are on based on hydraulic influent flow (volume of fluid to the plant) and the influent chemistry including Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and discharge to the Snoqualmie River.

Table 1. Department of Ecology Permitted Treatment Plant Capacity Limits

	Treatment Trains		
	Three (3)	Four (4)	Units
Maximum Monthly Average Design Flow (MMDF)	1.3	1.75	Million Gallon per Day (MGD)
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	1,909	2,545	Pounds per Day (lb/d)
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	1,845	2,460	Pounds per Day (lb/d)

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How does the City know when its capacity is being reached?

City staff along with professional consultants provide daily sampling and testing of the influent (flows that arrive at our Wastewater Treatment Plant) as required by the DOE. The City also tracks permits received through the development process to verify available capacity.

Who treats the City of Duvall's wastewater flows?

The City of Duvall operates its sewer collection system AND the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

When did the City begin recognizing it may have a sewer capacity issue?

The City began an overall sewer system capacity and CIP Plan review and recommendations in 2018. The review has confirmed the City's current process flows plus approved "pipeline" projects are expected to bring us to full capacity without improvements by 2025.

How does the City get out of a sewer Moratorium?

The City, through DOE, is permitted to expand its treatment system to four treatment trains. Current capacities are shown below. An upgrade to our treatment system will include completing planned CIPs to provide required capacity due to growth and comply with our DOE permit.

Table 2. City of Duvall current Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity

	Treatment Trains		
	Three (3)	Four (4)	Units
Maximum Monthly Average Design Flow (MMDF)	NA	NA	Million Gallon per Day (MGD)
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	1,657 (87%)	NA	Pounds per Day (lb/d)
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	1,584 (86%)	NA	Pounds per Day (lb/d)

Can the City afford to make the sewer improvements at this time?

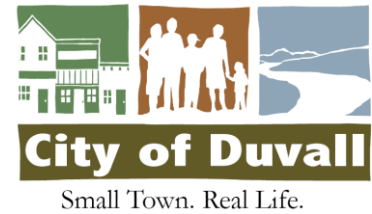
Yes. The City has been planning for improvements through collection of rates and fees specifically calculated for projects on its CIP list. The City expects to engage a design engineering firm within the next four months to begin the design process.

How long does engineering design typically take for a project related to sewer capacity?

The City expects the design work to take 9-12 months. The existing Wastewater Treatment Plant was upgraded in 2004 and was built to accommodate growth. The City estimated the needed improvements in the 2022-2023 timeframe. However, we are a year or two early in receiving the additional demand.

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Did the City expect the amount of growth and applications it is currently seeing for land development activities?

We did expect and plan for the growth, however it has arrived a few years ahead of schedule and at a rate never seen before and hasn't shown any signs of slowing during the pandemic.

Residential Customers

"I have an existing home within the City Limits of Duvall, can I apply for a remodel permit to add a bathroom, bedroom or den?"

Yes. The City assess its residential sewer capacity using an "equivalent residential unit" commonly known as an ERU.

"I have an existing home in Duvall and wish to obtain a permit to change a portion of my home into a non-residential use. Can I do that?"

Maybe. A non-residential use may have additional sewer capacity impacts. These types of uses necessitating an improvement to increase the sewer use is currently not permitted. This activity will be reviewed by the City Engineer.

"I have a vacant lot in Duvall, can I build a new home?"

Maybe. A new home can be built if it has a sewer availability certificate, received by the applicant, prior to the moratorium effective date. If you have applied for a building permit you are not impacted by this Moratorium.

Commercial and Land Development (subdivision) Projects

"Can I apply for a pre-application meeting to discuss my project with staff?"

Yes, but currently there is no sewer availability for development and subdivision related activities.

"Can I apply for a Boundary Line Adjustment?"

Yes, projects that do not affect sewer capacities can be submitted and processed.

"I'd like to build a large commercial building not knowing exactly what type of tenants I may have. Can I do this?"

No. New structures requiring connection to the sewer system are not currently allowed unless they have already obtained a sewer availability certificate.

"I own an existing commercial structure in Duvall, can I change the use at this time?"

Maybe. Each project will be reviewed on a case by case basis as defined in Ordinance 1286 and reviewed by the City Engineer to assess impacts to the sewer system.