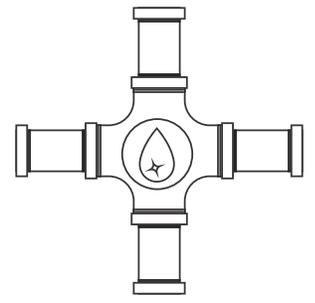


City of Bend

Septic-to-Sewer

Citywide Conversion Program FAQ



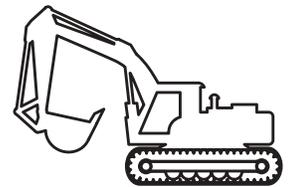
Background

Until recently, City of Bend code stated that an owner of a property currently using a septic system, and within 300 feet of a public sewer with available capacity, cannot be permitted to install a new system or alter, repair or expand an existing septic system. This "300-foot rule" was based on Oregon law - state statute OAR 340-071-0160.



The Southeast Interceptor (SEI)

The City of Bend completed construction of the Southeast Interceptor (SEI) – an eight-mile sewer line, which runs northeast from the Murphy Road pump station, through the Kings Forest neighborhood, north under 27th Street and under Neff Road and Purcell Boulevard near St. Charles Bend. The SEI allows thousands of new homes and businesses to tie into the city's sewer system. The completion of this project and the capacity it provides is one factor triggering the 300-foot rule for some Bend properties.



The issue

Without financial assistance, the cost to connect would be a substantial financial burden on area property owners. The prospect of such significant connection costs, combined with the potential for rate increases to citywide sewer rate payers, concerned some residents and garnered a fair amount of media attention.

Critical flexibility

DEQ determines what constitutes available capacity under the "300-foot rule." The City requested clarification from DEQ, and was ultimately granted the discretion to define legal availability once a long-term plan and program was in place to connect all parcels within the city to sewer.



Citywide Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Program

After an extensive process led by a dedicated citizen committee, the Bend City Council approved by ordinance a Citywide Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Program in December 2018, with the goal of connecting properties served by private on-site septic systems to the City's public sewer system over time. The Program applies to properties within the city limits at the time of the urban growth boundary expansion on December 6, 2016. The program is effective February 1, 2019.

How do I get sewer to my neighborhood?

Under the program, the City will construct public sewer lines in the public right of way and property owners will be responsible for their own private property costs. The program will be funded annually with sewer rate revenues, and an application process will be established that will allow neighborhoods to apply for funding to have sewer service brought to their neighborhood.



The cost

The program will be funded annually with sewer rate revenues. The program includes an initial connection fee of \$8,500. To incentivize connection, the fee will be reduced by 50% if the property owner connects within two years of a Notice of Operational Completion. All property owners connecting to public sewer pay sewer SDCs. Private costs, including decommissioning tanks, etc., are the responsibility of the property owner.



Learn more

To learn more, or find out if you or your client(s) are impacted, visit bendoregon.gov/government/se-bend-septic-to-sewer-advisory-committee and deschutes.org/cd/page/environmental-soils-division

