PROJECT UPDATE

The City of Oak Harbor must modernize its existing wastewater system to improve aging infrastructure, serve its community and better protect Puget Sound - specifically the waters of Oak and Crescent Harbors. The City’s current wastewater treatment system, which consists of a Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) facility near Windjammer Park and a Lagoon facility located on the Seaplane Base, is aging, difficult to maintain, nearing capacity and is not equipped to meet future water quality standards.

What’s the Latest on the Project?

In 2013, the City of Oak Harbor decided to design a new wastewater treatment facility to be built in the vicinity of the existing treatment plant near Windjammer Park. This decision was based on work which started in 2010 and included many public meetings, community input, careful deliberation and analysis.

The City selected the Windjammer site because it:
• Best minimizes overall infrastructure costs;
• Avoids the daily cost of pumping wastewater from the existing plant to a new facility;
• Provides the unique opportunity to improve Windjammer Park and nearby commercial spaces around it.

The new facility is expected to be up and running near the end of 2017. As part of this project, the City of Oak Harbor is considering the purchase of commercial property directly north of the Windjammer facility. In order to make an informed decision on the purchase of this property the City will be conducting field work in February and March (see back for more details).

About the New Facility

The new treatment facility, located in the Windjammer vicinity, will use a Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) Treatment Process. MBR technology produces very clean water, requires the smallest site, and has been installed in areas that are highly visible to the public in other communities like Oak Harbor.

A conceptual rendering of one possible layout is shown below. What will the new facility look like? Get involved and help answer this important question!

Get Involved

The City of Oak Harbor is forming community working groups to provide key input on design features and amenities that will make this new facility valuable to our community. Letters of interest will be accepted through Spring 2014. Letters of interest should include your address and number of years as a rate payer in Oak Harbor. This information will help the City select a diverse group that best represents the needs of the community.

To submit a letter of interest you may:
• Email info@oakharborcleanwater.org
• Hand-deliver to Joe Stowell, City Engineer at 865 SE Barrington Drive Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Contact Us

Joe Stowell, P.E. City Engineer
John Piccone, P.E. Project Engineer
360-914-7000
treatmentplant@oakharbor.org
FIELD WORK AT WINDJAMMER PARK

Over several weeks in February and March, the City will be conducting work in and adjacent to Windjammer Park. This field work is a normal part of the design process and must be completed before property is purchased and final layouts are developed. The effort will help the City evaluate soil conditions, cultural resources, and estimate design and construction requirements. The work is expected to last through the month of February and could continue into March.

Field work will include field surveys, geotechnical investigations, and cultural resources investigations, and must be fenced for security reasons. The approximate location of the temporary fence is shown below. This area does not designate the footprint of the future facility and includes a much larger footprint then will actually be required.

What you can expect:

- Installation of fencing around the field work area [see map]
- Work hours typically 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, no weekend or night work is expected
- Work will include pavement cutting, trenching, and patching
- Noise close to the work area; such as motor sounds
- On-site equipment, such as a backhoe and truck mounted drill rig
- In advance of work you will see spray paint marking public utility locations
- Some parking at the Whidbey Island Bank will be closed temporarily
- Traffic should not be significantly impacted; possible one-lane road closures at SE City Beach St to accommodate equipment adjacent to the existing facility
- Beach access in front of the existing Windjammer treatment facility should not be impacted
- Although slim, there is a chance of unforeseen, temporary utility and/or water interruptions during these activities

Field Surveys

Survey data will be collected and used to create accurate existing conditions maps to help guide the design and future engineering work. Survey crews will work above ground and have standard survey equipment, such as tripods and measurement tools.

Geotechnical Investigations

Geotechnical data will be collected to help evaluate soil and groundwater conditions. A truck mounted drill rig will bore several holes approximately 30 feet below the surface to gather samples and data.

Cultural Resource Investigations

Prior to selecting a final site within the Windjammer vicinity, the City will investigate potential cultural resources in the area. Crews will use a backhoe to dig trenches within the fenced area to gather cultural resources data to ensure proper measures will be taken when designing the future facility.