Watch us work: Outfall construction starts June 15

Once treated water exits the new wastewater treatment facility, it will flow into Oak Harbor Bay through a pipe that is commonly called an outfall. The existing outfall has failed and must be replaced. Replacing the outfall is an important part of the City’s plan regardless of the site for the new facility, so it is being started now while the new facility’s design and construction planning continue to progress. See inside for more on upcoming construction.

Recapping the site: Windjammer Vicinity

Starting in late 2010, the City evaluated more than 25 alternative locations for the new facility over a three-year process with numerous public gatherings and design workshops. City Council selected the Windjammer Vicinity in 2012 after considering community impacts and input, cost, and environmental benefits. The Windjammer Vicinity is at the end point in the City’s existing sewage collection system, which takes advantage of gravity. All of the City’s wastewater currently flows to this location. Building close to the current facility offers the opportunity to use existing pipes, minimizing the cost of moving wastewater elsewhere. Wondering how we got here? See our project library: www.oakharborcleanwater.org/Library

Background: Clean water for the Oak Harbor community and to protect Puget Sound

The City of Oak Harbor must modernize its existing wastewater system to improve aging infrastructure, serve the community, and better protect Puget Sound—specifically the waters of Oak and Crescent harbors. The City’s current wastewater treatment system, which consists of two facilities, is aging, difficult to maintain, nearing capacity, and not equipped to meet future water quality standards. The City is building a new facility that will:

- Deliver long-term reliable service to the communities we serve in Oak Harbor,
- Reclaim valuable resources from wastewater, and
- Serve as an important element for other projects that will help to revive the downtown waterfront in Oak Harbor.

Cost and funding update

The project team is developing a cost estimate based on site conditions and updated design work. As cost estimates are refined, they will be shared with City Council and posted to the project website. The next cost update is expected to be presented later this summer.
Windjammer Park is open!

What you can expect during outfall construction:

- Installation of fencing around the work area (red area on map below)
- Work hours typically 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, no weekend or night work is expected
- Pedestrian detours around the site
- Restricted parking on City Beach Street
- Equipment and materials staging north of the work site

- Barges in the harbor
- Work performed in the water
- Weekly construction updates
- Work will be limited or paused in anticipation of major park events (e.g., 4th of July, Race Week, and Hydroplane Races will continue as usual!)

The City is committed to being a good neighbor in Windjammer Park while maintaining the project schedule. Throughout the project, there will be various construction uses of the northern portion of the park. This year, we are able to avoid major work prior to and on the July 4th holiday, keeping impacts a minimum and closing as small a portion of the park as possible.

In early June, crews began site preparation for construction on the new outfall at the end of SE City Beach Street near the shoreline in Windjammer Park. Construction on the outfall is expected to be complete this fall, with wrap up activities continuing through the end of the year.

During construction, equipment and materials will be stored near the existing facility in Windjammer Park (see map). The pedestrian path along the beach will remain open; a detour will run around the north side of the construction area. We encourage you to watch for signs and markings for safe passage.

To learn more about upcoming construction, visit our website: www.oakharborcleanwater.org

Contact Us

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Design continues on the treatment facility. To support design work, crews will conduct early site exploration in the project area, removing the top layer of soil for examination. Site exploration will begin this summer, and is important to confirm soil conditions and verify construction costs. In the fall of this year, deep excavation is planned as the first phase of treatment facility construction. The new treatment facility is expected to be operational in early 2018. The City’s commitment to working closely with the community continues. As design progresses, we will offer opportunities to see and discuss the architectural design of the facility and its integration with Windjammer Park.

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◆ milestone  ● workshops and public open houses

Who will build our facility?
Through a competitive process, the City selected Hoffman Construction Company (Hoffman) as the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) for the project. Hoffman has been working closely with the project team through design and is preparing to start the first phase of construction - the outfall - on June 15. Equipment is currently being mobilized.

Keeping the community informed
We will continue to work with and notify the community throughout construction, through:

- Advance notice of construction activities via email, web bulletins, and project fliers
- One-on-one problem solving with residents, park users, and community members directly impacted by construction activities
- Project website and construction updates - join the email list at treatmentplant@oakharbor.org
- Community drop-in hours - ask questions, talk to project staff, and hear the latest on construction; starting June 22, join us the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m in the old Whidbey Island Bank building (321 SE Pioneer Way)

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under an assistance agreement to the Washington State Department of Ecology. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.
Summer 2015 Oak Harbor Clean Water Facility Project Update

Want more project information?

360-914-7000. Or calling our weekday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Information Line:
Join our email list by emailing treatmentplant@oakharbor.org

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What's inside?

- Project schedule
  Starts this summer
- Site exploration
  Starts June 15
- Outfall construction

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