

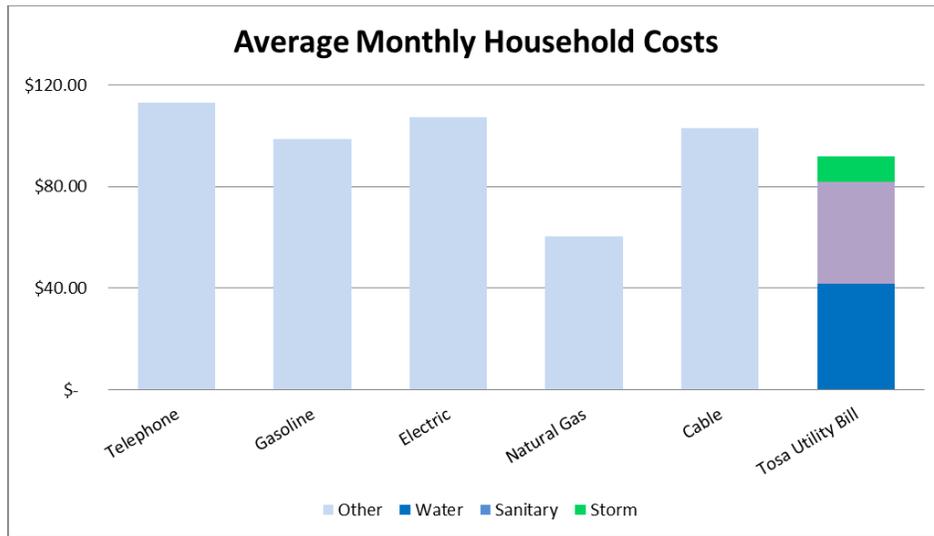


2018 Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Rates Increase

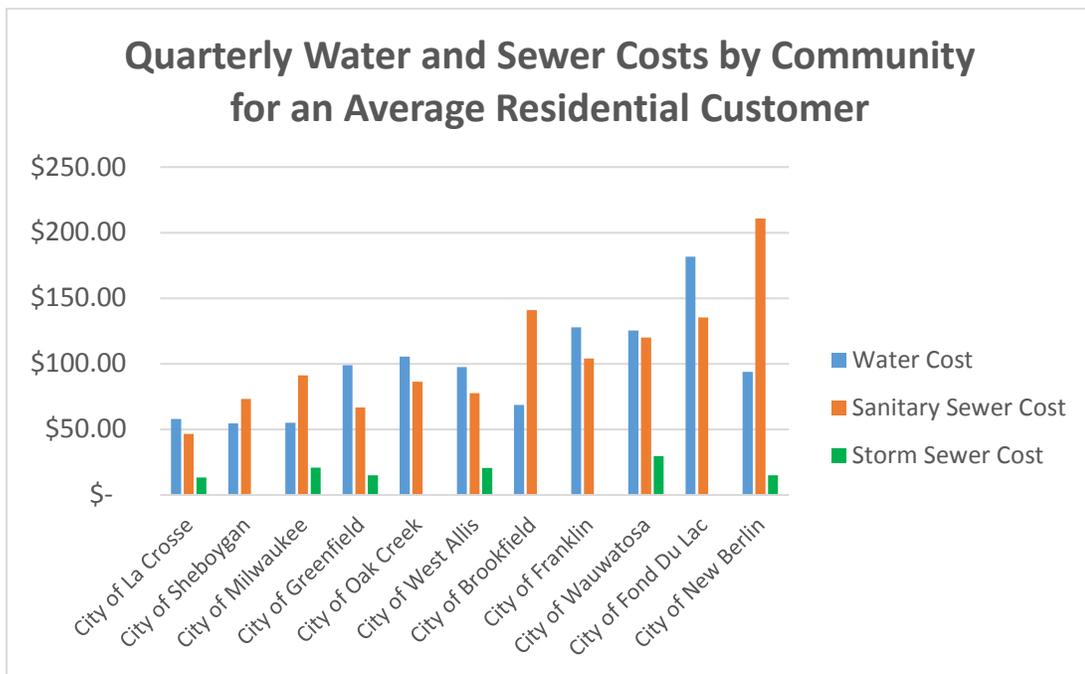
Your water bill has three parts: water, sanitary sewer, and storm water charges. This notice provides information related to these charges.

- On January 16, 2018, the Common Council approved a 4.0% increase in sanitary sewer rates and a 6.0% increase in storm sewer rates for 2018, which are reflected on this bill. These rate increases will be used to provide Wauwatosa with an improved sewer infrastructure addressing basement backups, surface flooding, and failing pipes experienced over the past decade.
- Beginning in 2011 and continuing for the next 10-15 years, we are strategically undertaking multiple large sewer rebuilding projects to replace pipes at the end of their useful life. The majority of the sewer infrastructure is 75-100 years old. We will then need to maintain that level of infrastructure spending in order to sustain the system.
- From 2012 to 2016, we repaired and/or replaced 189,211 feet, or almost 36 miles, of sanitary sewer and 64,437 feet, or about 12 miles, of storm sewer. Improvements replace end-of-life sewer mains, expand system capacity and alleviate flooding during storms due to undersized pipes.
- We plan to apply to the Public Service Commission in April for approval of a 3.0% increase in water rates. The increase in the rates was necessary to finance water meter replacements, main replacements, and an increase in the cost of water from the City of Milwaukee. We are in the final stages of upgrading all residential water meters. From 2012 to 2016, we replaced or relined 44,846 feet of water mains – approximately 8.5 miles. Given the age of our water mains, we are planning for an on-going replacement program.
- The average residential total quarterly bill including charges for water, sanitary and storm sewer will increase from \$262.29 in 2017 to \$275.19, approximately a thirteen dollar or 4.9% increase.

The graph on the back shows that your total water bill, despite the increases, remains less than most other monthly household costs. A comparison of benchmark communities is also included that shows the Wauwatosa residential utility cost to be in the upper quartile. If you have any questions or would like more information, visit our website at www.wauwatosa.net/utilityrates or contact the Wauwatosa Water Utility at 414-479-8963.



- Telephone:** \$90 for average family cellular phones (mid-plan minutes with mid-texting per *Consumer Reports*) plus \$23 for a landline with long distance.
- Gasoline:** 12,000 miles per year @25 mpg X \$2.47/ 12 months (Milwaukee average on 12/29/17 based on www.WisconsinGasPrices.com).
- Electric:** 694 kWh per household (per Department of Energy residential monthly average) * \$0.12885 net energy charge + \$0.52602 facilities charge X 30 days plus fees.
- Natural Gas:** 858 therms per year (per Department of Energy 2014 Wisconsin residential consumption/ households)/12 months* \$0.707978 net rate + \$0.33 facilities charges X 30 days.
- Cable:** \$103.10 monthly bill (<http://www.leichtmanresearch.com/press/092316release.html>).



Total cost impacted by age of infrastructure, miles of infrastructure, rate of replacement, source of supply, how the municipality charges for storm water services and whether or not the municipality is part of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.