

# Northwest Cass County Water Resource District

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## **Why are my rates going up?**

Water and sewer rates for customers of the Northwest Cass County Water Resource District (NWCCWRD) have not been increased since 2018. During those six years, wholesale water purchased from Kansas City and Belton, our two suppliers, increased 15% and 24.5%, respectively. The rate increase is needed to recover these increased purchased water costs, operating expenses and to fund ongoing maintenance and improvement of the current water and wastewater systems. The water resource district is a not-for-profit organization and therefore no provision for profit or taxes is included in the determination of rates.

## **Are the costs incurred by the NWCCWRD audited?**

Yes. Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and an annual audit is conducted by an independent accounting firm. One of the principal recommendations of the auditors made to the Board of the NWCCWRD in 2024 was that rates should be raised due to increased costs.

## **Why does the water resource district utilize multiple sources of water supply?**

Water supply to the Village is delivered through two primary sources – one connection is with Kansas City Water located near the North security gate off Kenneth Rd and another connection with the City of Belton located near the South security gate off Holmes. The Belton supply receives its water from KC Water and redistributes it to the District via the city's water reservoirs, pump stations and water mains. The District also has a connection with the Public Water Supply District #2 of Cass County for emergency purposes.

Prior to 2019, all water was purchased from Belton. As Loch Loyd development moved to the North, the District pursued means to obtain a connection across the Cass County line directly from KCMO. As a result, the District & KCMO entered into a Water Purchase Agreement in 2009 (amended in 2018) to make necessary improvements to KC Water infrastructure to construct the new 16" water supply main to a connection point immediately south of the North security gate. The KCMO supply line was commissioned in 2019. The District now purchases about 50% of its water from Belton and 50% from KCMO. The lower cost KCMO water has been a driving factor in the District's ability to hold rates without an increase since 2018.

## **Are water and sewer rates consistent throughout the district?**

Yes. There is no difference in rates based on your location within the water resource district. While rates are the same, bills will differ, of course, based upon consumption.

## **How do my water rates compare with other communities in the area?**

NWCCWRD water rates compare favorably with municipal water utilities in our surrounding area. The average NWCCWRD district customer uses approximately 20,000 gallons of water monthly (about four times the Missouri state average). A comparison of the cost of 20,000 gallons of water after this rate increase to some other area municipalities is as follows:

NWCCWRD	\$180.22
Kansas City, MO	\$187.32
Belton	\$245.95
Blue Springs	\$148.35
Riverside	\$192.40

**How do sewer rates compare?** Because some sewer districts bill based on total water consumption, and others are based on a three or four-month winter average water consumption, an exact comparison can be difficult to make. NWCCWRD sewer bill is based on the average of metered water used in three of the four winter months. The highest usage month of the four is disregarded in the calculation. The new NWCCWRD wastewater rates are reasonably comparable (or significantly below) to those of the municipalities listed. Using District average 3-month winter water consumption of 3,600 the calculated comparable monthly sewer bill would be as follows:

NWCCWRD	\$ 48.41
Kansas City, MO	\$ 83.84
Belton	\$ 60.74
Blue Springs	\$ 33.45
Riverside	\$104.61

Sincerely,

Board of Supervisors  
Northwest Cass County Water Resource District