

What is the Water Replacement Main (WMR) Fee?

This fee will establish a long-term water main replacement program for the City of Loveland’s water system.

Who is impacted by the WMR Fee?

The fee will be added to all City of Loveland utility customers — residential or commercial — both inside and outside of the city’s corporation boundaries.

When does the fee begin?

The fee begins on the January 2023 billing cycle.

Where will I see this on my bill?

The flat-rate user fee will be a separate line item on your utility bill.

How much will my bill increase?

Accountholders will see a fee of \$7.50 in 2023. This will increase by \$1.00 in 2024 (\$8.50) and 2025 (\$9.50). It will remain locked in at \$9.50 past 2025. This chart is a monthly projection:

2023			2024			2025		
Monthly User Water Billing	With WMR		Monthly User Water Billing	With WMR		Monthly User Water Billing	With WMR	
2240 Gallons	\$14.18	\$21.68	2240 Gallons	\$14.18	\$22.68	2240 Gallons	\$14.18	\$23.68
4500 Gallons	\$22.63	\$30.13	4500 Gallons	\$22.63	\$31.13	4500 Gallons	\$22.63	\$32.13
5500 Gallons	\$26.53	\$34.03	5500 Gallons	\$26.53	\$35.03	5500 Gallons	\$26.53	\$36.03

Do multi-family residential units pay the WMR Fee one-time or per unit?

The fee is charged per unit.

Is the WMR Fee temporary?

The WMR Fee is permanent.

Where is the WMR money going?

All monthly revenues from the WMR Fee will be directed to a designated “Water Main Replacement” line item within the Water Capital Improvement Fund for easy accountability by the city and the public. Through this process, the city can track expenses directly attributable to main replacement and can separate those costs from other costs associated with the city’s water operations.

How has the city been paying for water main replacement in the past?

Loans have been taken out and supplemented with grant funding as available.

Why is the city implementing the WMR Fee?

Eliminating the city's reliance on debt funding to complete large-scale water projects will have a long-term, positive impact on the city's overall water operations and the rates charged to users. This will allow the city to maintain available funding in its general water operational accounts for cyclical upgrades and maintenance to the water plant, including but not limited to future wells, pumps and water towers, as well as tank maintenance needs.

How many water mains need to be replaced?

The City of Loveland has its own water system and maintains approximately 76 miles of water main. Given water mains have an average 80-year life, to normalize the replacement schedule of the city's system, nearly one mile of pipe should be replaced in the city's system per year. The priority is to replace mains that are older than the industry standard for useful life, those more prone to breaks, and those that are underserving today's fire flow demands. Some mains in the city are 4 inches in diameter, and these will be replaced with 8-inch ductile iron pipes. The larger mains will improve fire flows. The City Engineer will coordinate main replacements with other street and utility projects.

Will this mean less water main breaks and outages?

Ideally yes. New ductile iron pipe will replace aging infrastructure, some of which is made of cast iron. Cast iron is thin, easily corrodible, and brittle. Replacement mains will be upsized, if needed, which in some cases will eliminate bottlenecks. Bottlenecks, or sections of smaller diameter pipes with larger sections upstream or downstream, experience higher velocity of water through the pipe, which equates to increased kinetic energy; hammer and surge issues; and more wear from friction. Correcting bottlenecks decreases the potential for water main breaks. Also, mechanical valves on aged water mains are often found to be inoperable, limiting the city's ability to isolate areas affected by a water main break. New mains will have new valves, which should result in an outage impacting fewer customers in the event of a water main break.

Are other cities implementing similar fees?

Assessments for water system upgrades are common. Within the area, several water jurisdictions including Warren County and Harrison are charging similar fees to utility customers.

How can I share my opinion?

You can provide feedback to City Hall by phone at (513) 707-1454 or by email to info@lovelandoh.gov.