

Dear Customers,

This letter is to inform you of the new rates for water and sewer services that will go into effect on July 1, 2022. The water and sewer rates will see an overall increase of 11%. As Utility costs throughout the country continues to rise, so does the Paris Utility District's. The Paris Utility District Board is committed to managing these costs and staying efficient while upholding the District's commitment to a sustainable future. The District carefully managed our expenses during the past four years for both the water and sewer, combined we have kept the expenses to an average of 2.75% increase per year.

Please find enclosed two public notices. As stated in the notices the water revenues need to increase by \$81,702, and the sewer revenues by \$108,000. The last water and sewer increases were in 2018.

The District in 2019 completed its Water Master Plan, which created a capital improvement plan for the District extending through the year of 2032. This plan has given the District a 15-year capital improvement plan, which will guide the District over the next years. In keeping with our Master Plan, the District continues to replace aging infrastructure in the water system, including the replacement of a 100-year-old water main on the Billing Dam Bridge in 2019, and we are in the process of constructing a water storage tank on Hooper Ledge, to replace a 100-year-old tank.

The District continues to follow its Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study in regards to the cleaning and inspections of its sewer mains, and manhole inspections. This work will help in the evaluation of sewer mains that are in need of replacement in the sewer system. The treatment plant facility needs to continue to have upgrades and maintenance to avoid costly maintenance or repairs.

With every changing Federal and State regulations that is required of the District, it places the costs of these changes to our customers for the treating and supplying of water and sewer services. These changes are costs the District has no control over, just the expenses of the change.

The rates at the District need the ability to fund the true costs of the water and sewer system, not simply operation and maintenance, but setting aside funds to replace the system at the rate that it's depreciating.

The Board remains committed to keeping rate increases as small as possible while still adequately funding the operations, maintenance and capital needs of the water and sewer systems.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Paris Utility District
Legal Notice**

The Paris Utility District gives notice to the public that on **May 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at the Paris Fire Station, 137 Western Avenue, South Paris**, the trustees of the Paris Utility District will hold a public hearing to discuss and hear comments on a proposed water rate increase.

	Effective on July 1, 2022	
	<u>% Revenue Increase</u>	<u>\$ Revenue Increase</u>
Residential	11.17%	\$25,127.00
Commercial	11.17%	\$17,890.00
Industrial	11.17%	\$ 259.00
Governmental	11.17%	\$ 4,301.00
Private Fire Protection	11.17%	\$ 2,784.00
Public Fire Protection	<u>17.08%</u>	<u>\$31,341.00</u>
Overall Increase	12.88%	\$81,702.00

Public Fire protection rates are determined pursuant to Chapter 69 of the Public Utilities Commission Rules.

Rates are to become effective on July 1, 2022. Since the last adjustment in 2018, the District has been incurring continuous increases in operating and maintenance costs, and continuing to build capital reserves for upcoming projects.

Pursuant to 35-A MRSA Section (6104), a customer has the right to request additional information relating to the present and proposed rates from the District, the right to an open and fair hearing, and the right to assistance from the Public Advocate. Customers also have the right under 35-A MRSA Section (6104) to petition the Maine Public Utilities Commission to suspend and investigate the District's rates pursuant to 35-A MRSA Section 310, if, on or before **June 15, 2022**, 15% of the District's customers or 1000 customers, whichever is less must file with the Paris Utility District's Superintendent, Penny Lowe and with the Public Utilities Commission, c/o Administrative Director, State House Station #18, Augusta, ME 04333-0018, a petition or petitions demanding review by the PUC of the proposed rate changes. Signatures on the petitions filed pursuant to Section 7 are invalid unless accompanied by the printed names and addresses of the signers. Upon request the District will provide customers with petition forms that include space for the signatures and the printed names and addresses of the signers.

A copy of material supporting the proposed rate change has been available at the Paris Utility District Office for inspection since **April 14, 2022**. If you have any questions or desire additional information, you may call Penny Lowe, Paris Utility District Superintendent, at 207-743-6251, or the Administrative Director of the PUC at (207) 287-3831. For additional assistance, contact the Public Advocate, State House Station #112, Augusta, ME 04333-0112, (207) 624-3687.

Board of Trustees
Paris Utility District

PUC Docket # 2022-00110

**Paris Utility District
Legal Notice**

The Paris Utility District gives notice to the public that on **May 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at the Paris Fire Station, 137 Western Avenue, South Paris**, the trustees of the Paris Utility District will hold a public hearing to discuss and hear comments on a proposed sewer rate increase of 11%.

Total revenues will increase by \$103,065 to \$1,040,016 in Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Governmental customer billings. The proposed rate would raise the minimum charge for the first 1200 cubic feet from \$140.22 per quarter to \$155.56. We are currently considering increasing our rates according to the following schedule:

1-Each Equivalent user from \$41.98 to \$46.58 per quarter
First 1200 feet from \$98.24 to \$108.98 per quarter
Each additional 100 cubic feet from \$4.41 to \$4.88 per 100 cubic

Rates are to become effective on July 1, 2022. Since the last adjustment in 2018, the District has been incurring continuous increases in operating and maintenance costs and continuing to build capital reserves for upcoming projects...

The Board of trustees remain committed to keeping rate increases as small as possible while adequately funding operations, maintenance and capital needs of the wastewater treatment and collection system.

A copy of material supporting the proposed rate changes will be available at the Paris Utility District Office for inspection on and after **April 28, 2022**. If you have any questions or desire additional information, you may call Penny Lowe, Paris Utility District Utility Manager, at 207-743-6251.