



What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

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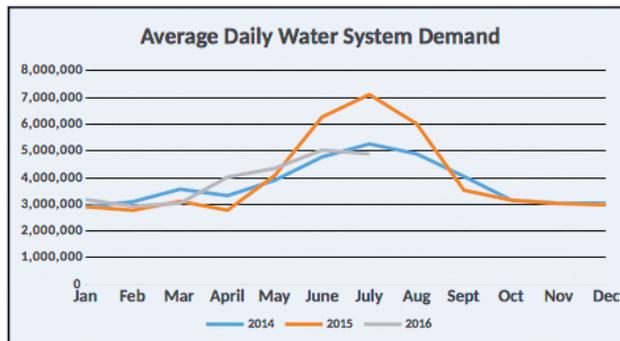
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Water System Demand

Covington Water District covers 55 square miles, including parts of Covington, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and unincorporated King County. Within the District's service area there are 17,730 water connections (meters). So how much water is being used?

Calculating the daily water system demand is one way of answering that question. In a 24-hour period, recording the amount of water going into the water system and the amount of water going in and out of the numerous storage tanks provides the daily water system demand, which is measured in millions of gallons per day (MGD). As you can see by the chart shown, the average spring/summer demands are between 4-7 MGD compared to the average fall/winter demands of 2-4 MGD. Note: System demand includes not only the water connections but also use by the fire departments, underground leakage, and unauthorized use (theft).

Tracking the water system demand is one of many monitoring procedures the District has in place to ensure responsible stewardship of our valuable resource. Feel free to contact the District at 253-631-0565 if you have any questions.



Teaching Children about Water!

Covington Water District is pleased to offer interactive education programs to the K-5 students in our service area. For the past three years we have been working with Nature Vision, an award winning environmental education nonprofit organization, to offer two program topics in elementary schools. We offer a water cycle program to increase student awareness of the source of their water and how to conserve it for future generations. We also offer a watershed dynamics program that uses models to teach students how their everyday choices affect the water quality in our watershed.

Over the past three years we have reached 2,472 students with these programs. Teachers are impressed with the quality of the program, and are finding students share what they learn with their families. Success!

We were VERY pleased with the presentation in our classrooms! Thank you so much! I wouldn't change anything; our presenter was wonderful, the students were all actively engaged and talked about it for days afterwards! I hope you'll come back to Covington again next year!

Thank you so much!
 -Covington Elementary

We thank you so much for this program. (The Educator) was fantastic. Everyone was engaged and enjoyed the presentation and interaction. It fit right in with our salmon and storm water studies. I sincerely hope that it will continue to be sponsored as it encourages all our kids to be life-long protectors of our environment. They are talking to their families about what they have learned. Thank you.

-Glacier Park Elementary

I cannot express enough how wonderful, educational and fun our presentation and presenter were! We learned so much, and loved the "hands on" activity (building a terrarium). The presenter was knowledgeable, patient and enthusiastic about the subject. I would definitely want this program to be taught to us again.

-Jenkins Creek Elementary

Budget Planning and Saving

The District is in the process of annual budgeting and setting rates for the coming year. We want our rate payers to know that every effort is made to keep rate increases as low as possible. Over the last decade we have made some significant changes that have positively impacted the degree to which rates were raised. Typically there are two factors that drive the revenue needed to operate the District, Operations/Maintenance and Capital Improvement budgets.

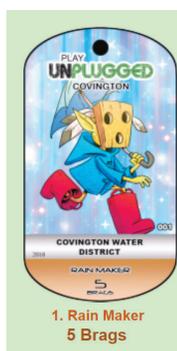
Since 2009 we have reduced staffing levels by 18 full time employees at an impact of over \$2 million annually. Many factors played in to our ability to "right size" our organization. The recession slowed development for several years which resulted in slower growth than anticipated. We constantly look for and implement greater efficiencies and workforce planning to ensure we review each position that becomes vacant to evaluate if the workload can be redistributed or modified. Technology such as SCADA or automated meter reading and field equipment like our Valve and Vector trucks require less employee hours to physically monitor the system, receive consumption data or perform maintenance, which allows for leaner staffing levels. Currently we are evaluating the components of our system to determine the frequency at which preventative maintenance must be performed to find the sweet spot of the cost benefit ratio. All of these items and more have helped reduce the Operations and Maintenance Budgets. Things we can't control such as rising material prices, utility costs and increases to health insurance coverage have increased annually at a steady rate.

The other major impact on revenue comes from capital improvement to develop, maintain and repair the system to ensure we can serve water to existing and future homeowners and businesses. The District is constantly looking at where we spend our capital budget in order to minimize the impact to rates. In this budget cycle we have reduced our CIP requirements by \$10 million over a 6 year period by cutting or delaying projects due to changing priorities.

The 2017 - 2019 budget is currently being prepared with a potential rate increase to be approved by the Board of Commissioners this fall. We welcome and encourage the public to attend to learn more about the budgeting process and provide feedback.

Play Covington Water Unplugged

Play Unplugged is a summer program (Memorial Day weekend - Labor Day weekend) that encouraged kids to complete interesting and educational activities in order to earn Brag Badges. A big "Thank You" to the City of Covington for bringing this program to the District's attention.



encouraging kids to put down their electronics so they can get out and play. It all begins with providing the right kind of motivation. The kind that gets kids playing and active without them even knowing it. This motivation is based on the Brag Badge. Kids earn a Brag Badge for every activity they complete. The District is one of 16

sponsors in the Covington area and our Brag Badge activity was for the kids to build a rainstick.

Some claim the rainstick was originally used to bring rain and others believe the rainstick was used as a musical instrument. The rainstick is tube shaped, closed at both ends and filled with beads or pebbles that sound like the patter of rain.

To date, 24 kids have completed their rainstick and visited the office to earn a badge. CWD staff believe our participation has been a fun and rewarding experience with our

community and we look forward to participating next year!



Play Unplugged is all about