

## Tukwila City Council approves utility rate increases for 2008

In order to keep pace with Tukwila's water and sewer utility costs, rate increases have been approved by the City Council for 2008. The expenses of operating and maintaining the City's infrastructure have increased each year due to aging pipe and pump facilities and the significant cost increases for materials.

Flat residential sewer rates increase from \$8.80 to \$10.12. Commercial rates increase from \$15.40 to \$17.71 per 750 cubic feet of water consumption. Monthly sewer bills also include the King County Metro sewage treatment charge of \$27.95, which remains the same in 2008.

The King County Council increased the sewer capacity charge for 2008. The monthly rate (set up as a payment plan for 15 years) increased from \$42.00 to \$46.25 per month. The sewer capacity charge only affects new sewer hookups between January 1 and December 31, 2008.



Effective January 2008, the summer water rate for residential customers increased from \$3.07 per 100 cubic feet to \$3.38.

Surface Water fees also go up in 2008. The rate for single-family parcels increases from \$62.00 to \$71.00 per year. Even with this raised fee, Tukwila still has one of the lowest rates in the area for surface water fees.

## Tukwila works to meet new federal regulations with its Storm Water Management Program



The City of Tukwila is required to develop and implement a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) under the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II regulations, which went into effect in February 2007.

Our SWMP must comply with the requirements of this federal regulation that seeks to reduce storm water pollutions through five required program components. These components include: public education and outreach, the opportunity for public involvement and participation, removal of non storm water connections, controlling runoff from construction sites, and reduction of storm water pollution from maintenance activities. Each component must be fully implemented within five years from the effective date of the permit, and annual reports must be submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology for review.

The City of Tukwila is working with a consultant, Parametrix, Inc., to evaluate our current storm water program and develop a new storm water program that meets the requirements of this federal mandate. The evaluation of our current program and development of the City's SWMP is being funded through a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Residents of Tukwila may participate in the development of the City's SWMP and implementation of the plan once it is developed. Interested residents should contact Ryan Larson, the City's Surface Water Management Engineer, at (206) 431-2456 or through email at [rlarson@ci.tukwila.wa.us](mailto:rlarson@ci.tukwila.wa.us) for additional information. The City's website will contain NPDES information and annual reports once they become available.

## Macadam Winter Garden dedicated

Macadam Winter Garden was officially welcomed as the City of Tukwila's newest park on Wednesday, December 19, 2007. The park – a longtime vision of Councilmember Pam Linder – is blooming with a variety of plants, trees and shrubs that demonstrate their color and beauty only in winter months. Currently, visitors can enjoy viewing Standish's Honeysuckle, Witch Hazel, Sweet Box, Orange Cornus, Cornus Isanti, and Coral Bark Maple. Interpretive signage will be installed in 2008 to assist visitors in identifying the variety of plants, shrubs and trees in the gardens. A volunteer stewardship program is being coordinated. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie Gardner at Tukwila Parks and Recreation – 206-767-2342.

