



City of Lake Forest Park On-Site Wastewater License

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why am I required to pay a connection charge and excise tax for my on-site wastewater system?

In an effort to improve the environment in Lake Forest Park the City Council funded the expansion of a public sanitary sewer system to all of the unsewered areas in the City, including your neighborhood. To fund the program the City Council recognized that a portion of the cost must be passed onto the property owners that the project serves but wanted to ensure that the payment program was flexible. As a result, the City Council adopted Lake Forest Park Municipal Code 13.10 that allows each property owner to make a choice to pay the connection charge and on-site wastewater excise tax now or in the future with all charges due at the time of sewer connection permitting.

2. What happens if I pay the connection charge now but don't have immediate plans to connect to the sanitary sewer system?

The City will keep a record of your connection charge payment. Should you choose to connect in the future, you will be responsible for only the fees that apply for to side sewer permit processing and inspection and any unpaid on-site wastewater excise tax.

3. I am a renter. Do I need to apply for an On-Site Wastewater System License?

The responsibility to obtain a license lies with the property owner. Please contact Aaron Halverson, Engineering and Stormwater Technician, at (206) 957-2836 and supply him with contact information for the property owner. Alternatively, you may forward the information you've received from the City to the property owner.

4. I recently purchased this home and though the seller declared the on-site wastewater system has been properly maintained I don't have any receipts or paperwork to prove this. What should I do?

You must apply for an On-Site Wastewater System Permit anyway. For future system pumping and inspections you are required to send the inspection reports to the City.

5. I may decide to connect to the sanitary sewer system and decommission my on-site system, but I'd like to know what this would cost. Where can I find this information?

The connection charge and all accrued excise tax are due to the City at the time of side sewer permitting. Once you are connected you will be billed bimonthly by the City of Lake Forest Park. You will be contacted by King County concerning their charges. If you are

interested in learning more about the bimonthly charges from the City of Lake Forest Park please contact Annette Heller at (206) 368-5440. If you are interested in learning more about charges from King County please visit their webpage at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/capchrg/>

6. What will happen if I don't apply for an On-Site Wastewater System License?

You will begin receiving a bimonthly on-site wastewater excise tax bill and a lien will be recorded against your property for the connection charge. There are also code enforcement repercussions for not applying for an On-Site Wastewater System License. Please call Aaron Halverson, Engineering/Stormwater Technician at (206) 957-2836 if you have any additional questions about this issue.

7. What happens if my on-site wastewater system fails?

You will have the opportunity to connect to the public sanitary sewer system. The King County Department of Health and the City of Lake Forest Park do not allow repair or new installation of on-site wastewater systems when public sanitary sewer is available within 100 feet of a property line.

8. Do I need to submit an On-Site Wastewater System License Application if I plan to connect before January 30, 2009?

No, although you are required to apply for a side sewer permit and pay all associated charges by that date.

9. Is a payment program available for the sewer connection charge?

No.

10. What is my Tax Parcel Number?

Check your property tax statement. If you do not know your tax parcel number, leave that field blank and submit your on-site wastewater system license application to the City.

11. How do I perform a self inspection of my on-site wastewater system?

Please visit the King County Department of Health webpage on septic education and care at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/owners/care.aspx>

