



**TOWNSHIP OF NUTLEY**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
WATER AND SEWER UTILITY  
NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY 07110

**June 2024**

## **INTRODUCTION OF NUTLEY SEWER UTILITY AND UPDATED CHARGES**

Dear Nutley Resident,

We are writing to inform you about an important change to our township's sewer system funding, which will take effect on July 1, 2024. The Township of Nutley will establish the Nutley Sewer Utility, which will be combined with the current Nutley Water Utility. This integration aims to provide a more fair and equitable mechanism for property owners to pay for the cost of wastewater treatment and the maintenance and improvement of our sewer infrastructure.

### **WHY THE CHANGE?**

Under the existing system, all residential and commercial property owners in Nutley contribute a fixed percentage (9.3%) of their property's assessed value towards the sewer system, regardless of their water consumption and wastewater generation. While researching options, we found that other Essex County and New Jersey municipalities already bill their sewer charges based on consumption rather than including it as part of the assessed property value. The new Sewer Utility aims to address this inequity by basing your sewer cost on actual water usage, ensuring that those who generate more wastewater pay a more proportionate share of the system's expenses.

Nutley's sewer infrastructure consists of hundreds of miles of underground pipes carrying wastewater to the Passaic Valley Sewage Commission (PVSC) treatment plant in Newark. Additionally, the township maintains a sewer lift station in the southwest section of town to facilitate the movement of sewage from lower to higher elevations due to the area's topography.

Going forward, we expect that the costs to pay PVSC to take and treat our sewage as well as the cost to maintain and improve our sewer infrastructure, which is over 100 years old, will continue to rise. For this reason, the Township looked to establish a more equitable way to fund the sewer system.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?**

- **UPDATED CHARGES BASED ON WATER CONSUMPTION:** As more fully detailed below, beginning July 1, 2024, the cost of the sewer system will be removed from the tax bill and each property owner will receive in their water bill a separate charge for sewage usage. The new sewer charge will be issued quarterly and be based on actual water supplied to the property determined by meter readings (water in—water out). Where meter readings cannot determine water usage, the charge will be estimated using industry-standard engineering methods. The rates have been calculated to ensure fairness.

- **EQUITY FOR ALL PROPERTY OWNERS:** The new sewer charge is intended to be equitable, ensuring that all property owners contribute fairly based on their actual water usage. Therefore, those who consume more water that discharges into the sewer system will pay more than those who consume less.
- **TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** The revenue generated from these charges will be dedicated solely to sewer-related expenses. This ensures that funds are used specifically for maintaining and improving our sewer systems.

### **NEW SEWER CHARGES BREAKDOWN:**

Charges will be calculated based on water consumption as follows:

- **RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES:**
  - \$53.00 for up to 1,000 cu. ft. (7,480 gallons)
  - \$26.50 for each additional prorated 500 cu. ft. (3,740 gallons)
  - \$5.76 Improvement charge
- **COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES:**
  - \$105.00 for up to 1,000 cu. ft. (7,480 gallons)
  - \$52.50 for each additional prorated 500 cu. ft. (3,740 gallons)
  - \$10.00 Improvement charge

### **CREDITS FOR SWIMMING POOLS AND SPRINKLER SYSTEMS**

Recognizing that water used for swimming pools and lawn sprinkler systems may not enter the sewer system, credits will be available to property owners who use significant amounts of water for these purposes. Details on eligibility and how to apply for these credits will be available on the Township website [www.nutleynj.org/watersewer](http://www.nutleynj.org/watersewer).

### **HOW CAN YOU LEARN MORE?**

We understand that you may have questions or concerns regarding these changes. To provide residents with more information and address any questions, please visit our website at [www.nutleynj.org/watersewer](http://www.nutleynj.org/watersewer) to view the sewer ordinance, including new rates and fees, or call the Nutley Water and Sewer Department at 973-284-4958 or email [WaterSewer@nutleynj.org](mailto:WaterSewer@nutleynj.org) with any questions or concerns.

### **HOW CAN I LEARN ABOUT WATER CONSERVATION?**

For tips on water conservation, please see the attached “Tips to Reduce High Water (and Sewer) Bills.”

Although this is a new way for Nutley residents to fund their sewage costs, it is not new in the State of New Jersey and Essex County. Nutley will now join the other 21 municipalities in Essex County with a Sewer Utility that provides a more equitable way to pay the cost of the sewage treatment by PVSC and the maintenance and improvement of the sewer infrastructure.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we implement this important change.