

Proposed Revenue Enhancements



April 15, 2025

Parks, Open Spaces and Street Tree Fees

The Coburg City Council recently conducted a review of potential new revenue options to address rising operational costs to maintain existing levels of service across all of the City's operations and programs.

Phase One of the review resulted in rate adjustments for the water, wastewater and transportation (streets) utilities. These rate increases are critical in stabilizing the fund balances that ensure the ability to maintain, repair and improve the infrastructure of each of the three utilities now and into the future. See attached for recent utility rate adjustment information.

Phase Two of the review has recently been completed and focused on services and programs in the City's General Fund, primarily Police, Parks, Planning, Municipal Court and City Administration.

Council has focused its revenue enhancement on the creation of a new Parks and Open Space Fee, as well as an increase to the existing Tree Fee. These fees are planned to be formally reviewed by Council and potentially be approved and implemented In July of 2025.

Parks and Open Space Fee (\$5.00 per month)

The proposed Parks and Open Space fee of \$5.00 per month will be dedicated to augment the existing limited general fund revenues to maintain the City's current park and open space land as well as the already expanded future park lands and improvements (Pavilion expansion with restroom and Coburg Creek new park development)

Tree Fee Increase (From \$2 to \$4 per month)

The \$2 per month Tree Fee has not been adjusted since initially approved in 2007 and no longer covers costs associated with maintenance and removal of the impressive (and aging) street trees the City is responsible for maintaining. The proposed increase of \$2 improves the ability to better care for and mitigate risks associated with the City's street tree inventory.

What will this mean for my bill?

	New Monthly Fees	Annual Total	Annual Revenue
Parks and Open Space Fee	\$5.00	\$60.00	\$38,400
Tree Fee (\$4 total)	\$2.00	\$24.00	\$15,360
New Total:	\$7.00	\$84.00	\$53,760

City Council and Staff are fully aware of the increasing costs Coburg residents and businesses are experiencing. Municipal services are impacted by these same economic conditions. Council strives to maintain existing service levels for the parks and street tree system with operational efficiency coupled with adequate revenues to meet community expectations. For more information on Revenue Options and Analysis, scan here.

2025 Utility Rate Adjustments

Coburg Utility Bills

At its December meeting, the Coburg City Council unanimously approved adjustments to the current water, sewer and transportation utility fees (TUF), in order to maintain necessary funding levels for increased operations, maintenance and capital costs to the community's utility systems.

Utility rates will be increasing on February 1st, 2025, however you will not see those increases until the February billing goes out in March.

What will this mean for my bill?

The February rate increase includes a 4% water rate increase, a 6% wastewater rate increase, and a 4.9% transportation utility fee (TUF) increase. For a typical, low to moderate water use residential customer, the total increase amounts to just over eight dollars (\$8.02).

	Previous Rate	New Rate
Water	\$59.36	\$61.73
Wastewater	\$88.43	\$93.74
Transportation Fee	\$7.00	\$7.34
Tree Fee (no change)	\$2.00	\$2.00
New Total:	\$156.79	\$164.81

City Council and Staff are fully aware of the increasing costs Coburg utility customers experience in their household and business budgets. Municipal services are impacted by these same economic conditions and the price (rates) charged for City utility services must be adjusted to maintain, repair and improve/replace the community's utility systems.

Each utility the City owns and operates for the community is managed as a separate "business unit" with revenues and expenses for each (water, sewer, streets) independently tracked and not able to be moved from one to the other.

Property taxes do not fund utility operations as they are legally required to fund general services like Public Safety (police), Parks, Planning & Building, Municipal Court, Finance, etc.

Both Council and City staff place a high priority on meeting and exceeding both regulatory requirements and the community's expectations in the following:

- Producing and delivering clean water to the community
- Collecting, treating and safely returning wastewater to the environment
- Maintaining a safe pedestrian and vehicle transportation system (streets, sidewalks and storm drainage)

