

A message from Aaron Guckian, Chairman  
WARWICK SEWER AUTHORITY

Welcome to our website. Since 1962, the Warwick Sewer Authority (WSA) has served the City of Warwick, providing wastewater collection and treatment services in a cost effective and environmentally-sound manner. Approximately 65% of the developed parcels in Warwick are sewered. Expansion of our collection system is planned over the next several years to meet the growing demand for sewers in areas served by aging septic systems and failing cesspools. We thank Mayor Avedisian and City Council members for supporting the funding of these projects.

Construction continues at our advanced wastewater treatment facility located at 125 Arthur W. Devine Boulevard. Facility upgrades necessary to meet revised phosphorous and nitrogen discharge limits will allow the WSA to more effectively remove nutrients from treated wastewater prior to discharging to the Pawtuxet River. In cooperation with our regulatory partner, the RI Department of Environmental Management, the WSA is re-investing in protecting our water environment.

Improvements to the WSA levee are ongoing and will ensure that our facility can remain operational should another catastrophic flood occur. We are very grateful to our congressional delegation for assisting WSA with the acquisition of Federal Emergency Management Agency grant funds for this project.

During the last few years, the WSA, in cooperation with the Warwick City Council Sewer Review Commission, has conducted a comprehensive review of the WSA and its operation, and has committed to making fair and equitable changes to our enabling legislation. Recommended improvements include:

1. Changes to our assessment method to one that bears a reasonable relation to the cost of construction and provides for fair and equitable cost distribution;
2. Establishing interest rates reasonably related to the cost of borrowing, and allowing for longer repayment terms to make the costs more affordable;
3. Establishment of hardship programs;
4. Revising provisions related to the deferment of sewer assessments.

The WSA is hopeful that positive changes will be enacted in the upcoming General Assembly session.

As we enter a new fiscal year, the WSA is preparing another multi-year sewer usage rate study. The last five-year rate study and corresponding changes to our fee structure resulted in a stabilization of rates more in line with our neighboring communities, and the repayment of past debt to the general fund. Our rate consultant will focus on continued funding of capital improvement projects, as well as funding of a reserve account for sewer construction, preventative maintenance and emergency repairs. The WSA will continue its focus on operating our municipal utility service agency like a business.

The WSA Board members and most of our staff live and work in the City of Warwick. We are stakeholders and customers committed to ensuring our ability to operate the City's wastewater collection and treatment facility in an efficient, effective, and equitable manner today, and well into the future.

Thank you for visiting the WSA website.

Aaron Guckian, Chairman  
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