

Mount Vernon Wastewater Utility General Information

- Development of the City of Mount Vernon sewer system began around 1900 when combined sanitary sewage and storm water was conveyed to the Skagit River untreated.
- Mount Vernon's first wastewater treatment plant was constructed in 1948 and consisted of a primary clarifier, two anaerobic digesters and disinfection.
- In 1974, Mount Vernon upgraded to secondary treatment, utilizing an activated biofilter.
- In 1990, a conventional activated sludge process was brought on line. This upgrade included an additional secondary clarifier, a new influent pump station and a 780,000 gallon anaerobic digester.
- In 2009, an upgrade was completed that increased the peak flow from 12 MGD to 16.5 MGD. It included a pretreatment building, secondary pump room, two primary clarifiers, two secondary clarifiers, UV disinfection and a compost bed odor control system.
- Serves the City of Mount Vernon – 12 square miles.
- Service district is the same as the Urban Growth Boundary area. The UGA includes 16 square miles.
- Serves 30,150 residents.
- Maintains 108 miles of sanitary sewer line.
- Processes an average of 4.0 million gallons of wastewater daily or 1.5 billion gallons per year.
- Routinely removes 94% of Organic Load (BOD and TSS) from the wastewater before it enters the Skagit River.
- Recycles 1.5 dry tons of biosolids daily or about 550 dry tons per year.
- The City of Mount Vernon maintains and operates 13 sanitary pump stations and 7 storm stations.
- 12 employees operate and maintain the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pump Stations.
- 4 employees maintain the collection system.

Sanitary Services

- Collect and clean wastewater.
- Respond to emergencies.
- Regulate and monitor industrial discharges.
- Laboratory Services.
- RV wastewater (free) at Lions Park RV Dump.
- Accept leachate from decommissioned Skagit County Landfill.
- Recycle biosolids.

Skagit River Facts

- The Skagit River basin has a drainage area of approximately 3,093 square miles.
- The headwaters of the Skagit River are in British Columbia.
- It is the largest tributary to Puget Sound.
- The lower Skagit Basin drains an area of 200 square miles.
- The major tributaries to the Skagit River are the Baker and Sauk Rivers.
- Three dams on the Skagit River and two on the Baker River regulate flows.
- The mean annual flow is 16, 710 cubic feet per second.
- The Skagit River is fed by more glacial surface area than any other river in the continental U.S.
- The Skagit River is subject to tidal influence extending 15 miles upstream to Mount Vernon and at times flow is reversed in the North and South Forks.

Did You Know?

- The City of Mount Vernon completed Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Interceptor in 1998 that has reduced overflow events from 90 per year, to less than 8, and reduced the volume per year from 116 million gallons to 13 million gallons per year.

- The CSO Interceptor provides a level of treatment equal to, or greater than, primary clarification in most storm events.