

Grassland/Meadowgreen Sewer Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Timing

When can I connect my house to the public sewer?

Connection was made available as of August 22, 2011. You may proceed with connection by paying your sewer tap/connection fee to the City of Franklin and contracting with a licensed plumber to obtain the applicable permits to initiate connection. See additional details below.

Am I required to connect to the sewer?

No you are not required to connect to the public sewer; however if your septic system fails, you will be required to connect at that time. Also, after completion of 84 months from August 22, 2011, even if you are not connected, you will still receive a sewer bill from the City of Franklin based upon your water usage.

When will I receive a sewer service bill if I choose not to connect to the sewer?

Eighty-four (84) months from August 22, 2011.

When will I receive the first bill for the Sewer Project Cost (Sewer Assessment Amount)?

If you did not choose the early payment option prior to December 31, 2011, then the County has assumed that you wish to pay the Assessment on a monthly basis and will remit your name to the County Trustee for your Assessment to be paid monthly via a separate and unique Assessment invoice. You may pay off the balance of the Assessment at any time without penalty.

Connecting to Sewer

Whom do I call?

City of Franklin
Codes Office
615-794-7012

And Utility Billing Department

615-794-4572

Will I be required to sign a sewer service agreement and residential grinder pump agreement with the City of Franklin?

Yes, upon payment of the sewer tap fee to initial connection.

When is the connection fee (aka tap fee) due?

Upon a decision by the owner to connect, the owner will obtain the necessary construction permits. The tap fee will be paid to the City prior to issuance of the Plumbing Permit by the City and the State issued Electrical Permit.

Can the sewer tap fee be paid by installment payments?

No, the sewer tap fee must be paid in full in one payment. Installment payments are not authorized. The fee amount is set by the City's Board of Mayor and Aldermen and will be the fee in effect at the time the tap fee payment is made. That fee could change from the time of the Assessment.

Who connects my house to the sewer?

You will hire a private, licensed plumber to bypass and abandon your septic system, install your grinder pump, have an electrician connect your system and connect your property to the sewer tap in your yard, as well as any additional changes needed to the plumbing in or around your home.

May I connect my house to the sewer myself?

A homeowner that is going to conduct the work personally may obtain a Plumbing Permit and install the grinder pump. This is not recommended for do-it-yourselfers and must be approved by the City Plumbing Official. The electrical work will require a licensed electrician in accordance with State of Tennessee regulations.

Abandonment of Septic Tanks

Who is authorized to abandon my septic tank?

- A state-permitted pumping contractor must pump the tank(s) of their contents. Refer to the Williamson County Department of Sewage Disposal Management web site at <http://www.williamsoncounty-tn.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=141> for a list of qualified pumpers.
- The actual disconnection and abandonment of the tank(s) can be done by the same plumbing contractors that install and hook up your new sewer connection equipment. Those contractors must be licensed plumbers and you can refer to the City of Franklin for an approved list. They do not have to be Williamson County licensed septic system installers.

What are the options for abandoning my septic tank?

- Method #1:
 - pump tank(s) and dispose of contents
 - collapse, crush and demolish tank walls and lid
 - leave rubble in the ground
 - backfill hole with gravel to within 12-inches of the ground surface
 - backfill the remaining void with soil up to the ground surface
- Method #2:
 - pump tank(s) and dispose of contents
 - collapse, crush and demolish tank walls and lid
 - completely remove rubble from the premises
 - dispose of rubble in an appropriate manner
 - backfill hole with soil up to the ground surface
- Method #3:
 - pump tank(s) and dispose of contents
 - completely fill tank(s) with an appropriate material (e.g., gravel, concrete, etc.)
 - backfill any remaining hole with soil up to the ground surface

Am I required to have a permit before abandoning my septic tank?

- No, there is no permit required from Williamson County to abandon your septic tank. However, before beginning any work to convert your house from septic to sewer you need to contact the City of Franklin regarding any and all of their necessary permit requirements.

Is there a fee that I have to pay in order for the County to inspect and approve the abandonment of my septic tank?

- No, there is no fee required from Williamson County associated with the abandonment of your septic tank. First, you must simply provide written proof of the tank pumping to the Williamson County Department of Sewage Disposal Management.
- Then, notify the Department after the abandonment of the tank(s) but prior to final grading.
- Upon notification, the Department will visit your property to inspect, confirm, document and approve the abandonment.
- This process is set up to make sure that all work is done properly to ensure your protection and safety and that of public health and the environment.

Contact Information Regarding Septic System Issues:

Brian K. Corwin, Director

Williamson County Department of Sewage Disposal Management

1320 West Main Street; Suite 411

Franklin, TN 37064

615-790-5751

brianc@williamson-tn.org

www.williamsoncounty-tn.gov

Grinder Pumps

Why am I required to use a grinder pump if I connect to the sewer?

The sewer collection system installed is a small diameter pipe, pressurized system. As a result, materials flowing into the system must go through a grinder pump before it may be discharged into the system.

Where do I purchase a grinder pump?

Your licensed plumber will purchase the grinder pump from the manufacturer based upon the specifications of the City of Franklin. The grinder pump distributor is WASCON in Livingston, Tennessee.

Who is authorized to install the grinder pump?

Your licensed plumber or the homeowner, if approved by the City Plumbing Official.

Am I required to have a permit before installing the grinder pump?

Yes, from the City of Franklin

How will my plumbing contractor know what kind of grinder pump to use?

One grinder pump has been specified for this system- the DH-071 manufactured by E-One Systems with Interior Alarm Kit or other grinder pump specified and required by the City of Franklin.

Is a grinder pump installed where it can be seen, or is it installed underground?

It is installed underground, but often a riser or small diameter access tank cover is visible on the ground level.

How do I maintain my grinder pump?

You are required to maintain your grinder pump or have a licensed plumber maintain it for you. There are no specific maintenance requirements for the pump, but care should be taken in what is flushed through your sewer to lessen clogging of the pump. After periods of disuse, run clean water until the pump activates.

How will I know if my grinder pump is not working properly?

There will be an alarm system connected to your grinder pump that will notify you by either an audible or visual alarm when the pump is not working properly.

If something is wrong with my grinder pump and it is not working properly, whom do I call?

For most situations, contact your licensed plumber for correction or replacement. However, in an emergency situation and your licensed plumber is unavailable, you will contact the City of Franklin's Water Management Department at 615-794-4554.

Billing-Assessment

The deadline for payment of the Assessment in lump sum without interest has passed.

How will I be billed for the County's Assessment of the Sewer Project Cost?

If you did choose not to pay in one lump sum by December 31, 2011, the County will assume you wish to go on the twenty (20) year repayment plan and will submit your property to the County Trustee who will administer the monthly payment plan. You will receive notice of the monthly assessment payment in January of 2012.

How much is the monthly payment, if I do not pay the Assessment in lump sum?

\$24.18 per month for twenty (20) years, which **does** include an interest charge.

Will every property owner within the Project area be required to pay the Sewer Project Cost?

Every property not currently receiving sewer service from another provider within the Assessment Area will be required to pay their portion of the Assessment amount.

If I do not connect to the sewer, will I still be required to pay the Sewer Project Cost?

Yes, all properties, whether connected to the sewer collection system or not will be required to pay the Assessment amount.

Can I pay the Sewer Project Cost over time? How long?

Yes. You may pay the cost over a twenty (20) year period, which will include interest, at \$24.18 a month. You may pay the balance at any time in the amount of \$5,803.20, minus the total monthly payments made to date.

Can I pay the Sewer Project cost in one lump sum?

Yes. The deadline for the early payment option without interest has expired. You may pay the Assessment amount in a lump sum of \$5,803.20, which does include interest. You will pay this amount directly to the County Trustee.

If I sell my house, can I have the Sewer Project Cost paid from escrowed funds?

Yes.

Is there a penalty if I begin paying the Sewer Project Cost on a monthly basis and later decide to pay the remaining full amount?

No, but you will pay the full amount including the interest, in the amount of \$5,803.20.

If I move, will I still be responsible for the Sewer Project Cost or will that transfer to the new owners?

The Assessment will run with the land and will be the responsibility of the new property owner. However, the County encourages anyone who sells his/her property to settle the Assessment amount prior to or during closing of the sale of the property. You should contact the County Trustee to ensure the billing changes are made to remove you from receipt of the Assessment bill.

What happens if I don't pay the Sewer Project Cost?

The County has established a notice of nonpayment policy. If you do not pay your Assessment bill, the County Trustee will notify the County Attorney for Planning and Environment. Following the policy, the County will give you notice of nonpayment and give you the opportunity to bring your payment current. However, should you not stay current on your Assessment amount; at the expiration of ninety (90) days and due notice, a Lien for the amount owed of the Assessment will be placed on your property and filed with the Register of Deeds office.

Billing – Wastewater (Sewer) User Fee

Am I responsible for paying the sewer user fee?

Yes, upon connection to the City's wastewater collection system. That fee will be based on water usage at the Outside City rate. The tenant who has a contract for the water service will receive the sewer bill.

What if I don't connect to the City wastewater collection system?

You will not be responsible for paying the sewer user fee until connected or until 84 months after notice is given that the sewer is available for connection.

What happens at the end of the 84 months and I am not connected?

You will be responsible for paying the sewer user fee as if you were connected. That means that sewer will be billed based upon the water used at the Outside City rate.

Contact Information

Whom do I call if:

I have a question about the main sewer line in my yard?

City of Franklin, Water Management Department 615-794-4554

I have a problem with the sewer line that connects to my house?

Your private licensed plumber

I have a problem with my grinder pump?

Your private licensed plumber

I have questions about my sewer service bill?

City of Franklin, Customer Service, 615-794-4572

I have questions about the monthly Assessment payment?

Williamson County Trustee's Office, 615-790-5709