Water and Sewer

Northfield's 2019 water and sewer rate of $9.09 per “unit” (748 gallons) of water is below the average of our Chicagoland neighbors.

When users pay their quarterly water and sewer bills, those payments go directly into an independent Water and Sewer Fund to cover the $3.0 million a year that it costs the Village to operate and maintain our water and sewer system. Many residents don’t realize that there is much more involved in operating this system and many additional costs beyond the purchase of water. The following is a brief breakdown of our system and what your local water and sewer rates pay for:

- The purchase of water from the Village of Winnetka
- Equipment cost to maintain the system such as vehicles, specialty tools, materials, and meters
- The maintenance and replacement of the $22 million dollars of infrastructure that is needed to get water to and wastewater from your home, including:
  - 48 miles of water pipes
  - 32 miles of sanitary sewer pipes
  - 1 million gallon water reservoir
  - 3 water supply connections with the Village of Winnetka
  - 2 emergency water connections with the Villages of Glenview and Glencoe
  - 3 sanitary sewer lift stations
  - 2,031 service connections
  - 558 fire hydrants
  - 541 water control valves
  - 820 sanitary sewer access points
- Capital costs to replace aging water mains, sanitary sewers, and equipment
- Costs to comply with State and Federal mandates such as:
  - Infiltration/Inflow control program
  - Maintaining annual training for seven state-certified water operators
  - Preparation of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Annual Report
  - Long term operational maintenance plans
  - Preparation of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s required Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
- Debt service for bonds issued in 2007 to replace 80-year-old water supply lines from the Village of Winnetka and to construct an emergency water supply connection with the Village of Glencoe. These were critical improvements that will assure a consistent and reliable water source for the Village for many decades to come.

The Village has a minimum water and sewer bill of 11 units, which equates to $99.99, or $33.33 per month. This minimum is in place to cover all of the operational costs that the Village has above and beyond the purchase of water. Regardless of how much water you and your family use, the Village has to ensure our system is maintained properly so that you always have safe and clean water and sewer service when you need it.