

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is this project being done?

Chautauqua County has been working towards providing public sewers around Chautauqua Lake for over 50 years. The Chautauqua County Legislature approved the West Side Sewer Extension in October 2017, following a public hearing. Public sewers, with their collection and conveyance of sewage wastes to a centralized wastewater treatment facility, have many advantages over private, individual dwelling septic systems. Public systems treat and dispose of sewage in a state and federally regulated, professionally monitored and safe way that lowers the risk of human health problems and environmental damage. By comparison, homeowner septic systems must be individually maintained and carry the risk of contaminating either the environment, one's own water supply, or possibly that of a neighbor. Read more about the history of sewers around Chautauqua Lake here: <https://chqgov.com/water-and-sewer-districts/westside-sewer-extension>.

2. Which properties are included in the sewer extension area?

Properties located in the Town of North Harmony, from Sunrise Cove through the Hamlet of Stow along Route 394 or between Route 394 and Chautauqua Lake. A map of the District boundary can be found here: <https://chqgov.com/water-and-sewer-districts/westside-sewer-extension> and a listing of parcels can be found at the end of the 2017 Sewer District Extension Report.

3. What is the project timeline?

Fall 2020 - Easement acquisition

Fall 2020 – Complete final design and submit plans for agency review

Spring 2021 - Project bidding

Summer 2021 through Spring 2023 – Construction

4. How is the project being financed?

The project will be financed through a combination of grants and New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) funding at a rate of 0 percent for 30 years. The 2017 Sewer Extension Report included the anticipated project cost of \$16,888,000 (2017 dollars) with \$8,916,000 being financed through NYSEFC and the remaining \$7,972,000 through grants.

5. Why do I need to sign an easement?

Permanent and temporary construction easements will be needed for the installation and long-term maintenance/operation of the West Side Sewer Extension. A permanent easement is a legal agreement that allows for the construction and future access for maintenance of infrastructure on private property. Easements allow District staff to access property to maintain and service grinder stations.

Chautauqua County – South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts
West Side Sewer Extension

6. What are my responsibilities as a property owner and how much will it cost?

Each property owner will be responsible for connecting the line from their dwelling to the grinder pump and properly abandoning their septic system. This work will need to be performed by a properly insured contractor, under a permit issued by the Districts. The work is estimated to cost between \$2,000 and \$5,000, depending on the distance of pipe needed and other factors, such as soil conditions and conflicting underground utilities.

7. How much will my sewer bill be?

The final billing rate will be determined by the total cost of the project, once complete, but for a single-family dwelling, the maximum rate will not exceed \$1,000 per year. Billing occurs on a quarterly basis, so the maximum quarterly sewer bill will not exceed \$250.

8. Am I required to connect to the sewer?

All properties within the sewer extension area, as defined by the 2017 Sewer District Extension Report (<https://chqgov.com/water-and-sewer-districts/westside-sewer-extension>), are required to connect to the public sewer in accordance with Chautauqua County Local Law 6-94, within six (6) months after the date of official notice to do so. Property owners will not be allowed to continue use of on-site septic systems, regardless of the age or condition of the system.

9. Who will provide electricity for the grinder pump?

Electricity for grinder pumps will be provided by the Districts via new services. The services will be installed underground.

10. What if I have additional questions?

Our website contains many resources regarding the project and can be found here: <https://chqgov.com/water-and-sewer-districts/westside-sewer-extension>. If you still have questions, feel free to call the Districts during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM at (716) 664-9727.