Information about Granby’s Sewer System

Where is sewer service available?

Sewer service is available as far east as Bank Street in Granby Center, as far north on Salmon Brook Street as Meadow Brook of Granby, and as far west on North Granby Road as the High School/Public Works facility. The service then extends south along Salmon Brook Street to the Simsbury Town Line. In 2009, due to failing septic systems, there was an extension to allow properties along Archie Lane, Burleigh Drive, and Canton Road to connect to the system.

There are two pump stations, one located by the Department of Public Works on North Granby Road and the second near the dog pound on Salmon Brook Street.

The sewer service area (yellow) and sewer line (red) are shown on the map below:
When was the sewer first installed?

The sewer lines in Granby Center were first installed in the late 1960s. The line extended along Salmon Brook Street just south of Pendleton Road where it discharged to a treatment plant.

The Salmon Brook Street sewer line was extended in 1980 to the Simsbury town line when the town’s sewer system was connected to the Simsbury water pollution control facility.

Where does the sewer system discharge?

The Town of Granby has an agreement with the Town of Simsbury to hook into their system and our wastewater is treated at the plant in Simsbury. The original agreement was executed in 1979 and updated in 2002. Under the 2002 agreement, Granby is allocated 353,280 gallons per day that we can send Simsbury to be treated.

How much has been allocated to date?

As of September 2022, 263,165 gallons per day (gpd) have been allocated.

Under the Town’s sewer reserve policy, a total of 77,325 gpd are reserved for future uses. Of the total reserve, 26,650 gpd are reserved for future commercial development, 20,000 gpd for future industrial, 10,000 gpd for other residential development along the sewer corridor, 12,925 for sewer expansion along sewer corridor but outside of immediate frontage, and 7,750 gpd for sewer expansion north and west.

The total allocated and reserved equals 340,490 gpd. This leaves 12,790 gpd uncommitted.

How much do we pay Simsbury?

Granby pays Simsbury a percentage of the total operating cost of the treatment plant based on our use.

For example, for FY2023, the estimated total average daily flow is 1.995 MGD and Granby’s estimated flow is 0.130 MGD or 6.5% of the total flow. The total operating cost is approximately $3,000,000. Which means the estimated cost for Granby for FY2023 is approximately $200,000, or 6.5% of $3,000,000.

How much does the Town charge annually for the sewer use fee?

Each year, usually in May, the Board of Selectmen act as the Granby Water Pollution Control Authority, to set the year’s sewer use rates. The 2022 rates are as follows:

Residential: $220 for up to 55,000 gallons per year. Anything over 55,000 is charged $0.0065 per gallon.
Commercial: $308 for up to 100,000 per year. Anything over 100,000 is charged $.0065 per gallon.

Because Granby properties do not have sewer meters, the usage readings come from the water companies (Salmon Brook Water District and Aquarion Water Company). There are a few properties that are still on wells. Since there are no water readings for these properties, they are assessed a 50% surcharge on the base fee ($330 per year for residential property).

Sewer Use bills are due on June 1 each year and are payable in one installment.

**How much do we have in the sewer fund?**

Any time a sewer connection fee, assessment, or sewer use bill is paid, the money is deposited into the sewer fund to support the operating expenses for the sewer system. As of June 30, 2021, the audited fund balance for the sewer utility fund was $913,551.69.

**What is Granby responsible for?**

The town is responsible for maintaining all of the main sewer lines and the two pump stations. Individual property owners are responsible for the sewer lateral, this is the pipe that runs from the individual home or business to the sewer line located in the right of way.

The town is also responsible for monitoring and ensuring there are no illicit discharges to the sewer system. This includes unauthorized connections or disposal of materials into the sewer system. As part of this, in the near future, the town will be implementing a fats, oils, and grease (FOG) program. This will require restaurants and other businesses register with the town and provide information about their grease trap. Documentation will be requested verifying proper maintenance of the grease trap to ensure materials are properly captured and disposed of in order to prevent them from entering the sewer system, which can lead to clogs and back-ups.

**What is the process for a sewer allocation to be approved?**

When a new development is proposed to the Planning and Zoning Commission, the applicant’s design engineer will present information to the Town Engineer outlining how many gallons per day are expected to be discharged from the development. The estimate is based on the proposed use. The Town Engineer reviews the request and determines first, if the requested discharge is an appropriate estimate based on the proposed use and two, if there is capacity to accommodate the request.

Once the Town Engineer confirms the allocation request is appropriate and there is capacity, a letter will be issued to the applicant stating such. Following Planning and Zoning Commission approval, town staff prepares a memo outlining the request. This is presented to the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) for action. Under Town Ordinance, WPCA action is needed for all sewer allocation/connection requests.
**How much do we charge for sewer connections?**

The sewer connection fee varies depending on the proposed development. A residential development is charged $1,000 per unit to connect and a commercial or industrial development $1,900 per 2,500 square feet to connect. The sewer connection fee is paid when a building permit is submitted for the development.

In addition to the sewer connection fee, if a property is located on the sewer line and has not previously paid an assessment charge, a one-time assessment charge also applies. For residential properties this is $800 per lot and for commercial or industrial properties, this is $1,200 per lot.

An inventory of surrounding towns indicates these fees may be low in comparison. Staff will be looking into this further and may propose an increase in the future for WPCA consideration.

**How many users are connected to the system?**

As of May 2022, there are 740 residential units and 99 commercial units connected to the sewer system.

**Who is responsible for connecting to the sewer?**

The property owner pays a licensed professional to install the sewer lateral and connect to the town’s sewer line. There are standards and specifications that must be met. Town staff reviews the information submitted with the sewer connection permit to ensure compliance. When the sewer lateral is installed and connected to the sewer line, town staff is notified to inspect the installation and connection. An as-buil plan of the lateral is then submitted and filed in the Building Department.