

Lake Oswego and Tigard are teaming up to upgrade and expand Lake Oswego's water supply facilities to serve the needs of both communities. Lake Oswego's system is aging and in need of updating and expansion. Tigard lacks its own water supply source. Through a partnership approach Lake Oswego will gain a reliable water system, Tigard will gain a secure water source, and customers in both communities will save millions of dollars.

Lake Oswego developed its Clackamas River supply and treatment system in the late 1960s and has been supplementing Tigard's water supply since 1973.

The Partnership is committed to safeguarding the region's natural resources including the Clackamas and Willamette Rivers. Following are answers to frequently asked questions about the Partnership's use of the Clackamas River and environmental stewardship.

Q: Why are Tigard and Lake Oswego planning to use Clackamas River water? Why not use the Willamette?

A: Lake Oswego's existing Clackamas River water rights provide enough water to meet Lake Oswego's needs for the foreseeable future and Tigard's needs for the next 20 years or more.

In 2005, Lake Oswego and Tigard commissioned a two-year study of the costs and benefits of several water supply options, including upgrading and expanding Lake Oswego's water supply facilities to serve the needs of both communities. The comprehensive study confirmed using Lake Oswego's existing water rights on the Clackamas is the most fiscally responsible, sustainable solution and provides the highest quality water.

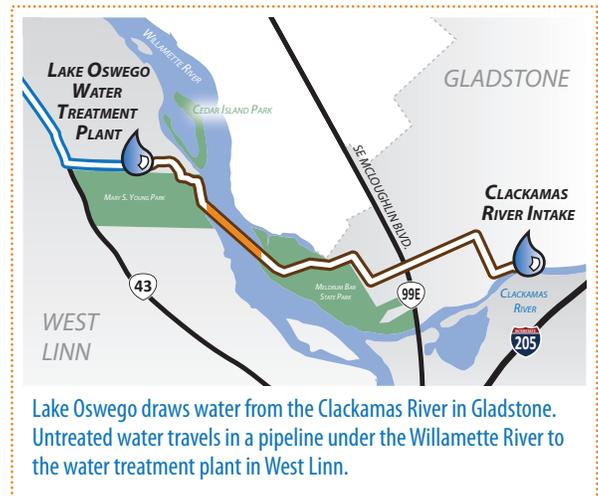
Q: Will the partnership project adversely impact the Clackamas River? Is Clackamas River water over-allocated?

A: Lake Oswego has been a member of the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) for over a decade. CRWP was formed in 2001 by the cities and special districts that jointly supply Clackamas River water to over 300,000 people. CRWP's mission is to fund and manage projects and programs within the basin to benefit water quality, quantity and sustainable development of the Clackamas River. Ongoing studies conducted by CRWP in collaboration with federal, state, local agencies and academia prove there is enough water for fish and people.

Recently, state water resources and fisheries agencies determined the Partnership's plan to increase withdrawals will not harm endangered fish. The agencies have conditioned Lake Oswego's withdrawal permits to ensure fish will continue to be protected year round.

Q: How will the project affect Meldrum Bar Park in Gladstone and Mary S. Young Park in West Linn?

A: The proposed pipeline route runs from the water intake on the Clackamas River through Gladstone, to Meldrum Bar Park. From the park, the pipeline travels beneath the Willamette riverbed to West Linn, through Mary S. Young Park, then to Lake Oswego's water treatment plant in West Linn. Pipeline construction will be planned to keep park access open, and scheduled to avoid high activity areas at busy times. The Cities of West Linn and Gladstone and park users will be kept informed throughout the project. Both parks are protected by natural resource standards that require any disturbance to be mitigated.



Lake Oswego draws water from the Clackamas River in Gladstone. Untreated water travels in a pipeline under the Willamette River to the water treatment plant in West Linn.

Q: Will pipeline construction harm sensitive environmental resources along the banks of the Willamette?

A: Natural resource protection plays a pivotal role in decisions about pipeline routes and facilities siting. The Partnership has retained leading experts in environmental science and fisheries biology to help identify possible impacts to critical habitat resulting from the planned improvements. This team has developed strategies to avoid, minimize and mitigate possible impacts. Whenever practical, impacts are avoided. If the impact cannot be avoided entirely, steps are taken to minimize the impact. For example, constructing the pipeline using directional drilling well below the riverbed avoids impacting the Willamette River ecosystem.

The project's potential environmental impacts will also be thoroughly reviewed by federal and state permitting agencies. Sixteen independent agencies are involved in permitting for the project.

Q: Could water conservation reduce the size of the project?

A: Water conservation is the first and most important new "source" of water for any community. Both Lake Oswego and Tigard have successful water conservation programs in place and have adopted rate structures that promote conservation. Last summer, the two cities partnered on a "Beat the Peak" campaign aimed to limit peak water consumption below 12 million gallons per day (mgd) in each city. Neither city passed the 12 mgd goal on even one day.

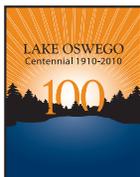
Lake Oswego and Tigard have also adopted Water Management and Conservation Plans approved by the Oregon Water Resources Department, that outline how the cities will manage and conserve drinking water. The Partnership's planning and analysis has taken into account aggressive water conservation programs, climate change and other relevant information. The analysis shows water conservation alone is not enough to continue to provide our communities with reliable drinking water for the next 50 years.

For more detailed information about Lake Oswego's water rights, environmental permitting and water conservation check out these publications:

Water Savvy #2: Lake Oswego's Municipal Water Rights
Water Savvy #5: The Pressing Need for Water Conservation
Water Savvy #7: A Close Look at Environmental Permitting

These publications can be found at lotigardwater.org in the Library section.

For more information about the Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership visit lotigardwater.org or contact:



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