



## What is my water bill paying for?

### Drinking Water



Cobb County Water System (CCWS) charges a fixed base fee and charges for water usage through a tiered rate structure.

- The base fee is a fixed monthly fee that recovers administrative, customer service, billing, and meter-related costs; bond interest; and some depreciation expenses.
- One consideration in pricing water is recouping the purchase cost of water supplied to our customers. CCWS buys treated drinking water from the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority and distributes it to our customers.
- Our water rates also fund the maintenance, repair, and replacement of our water infrastructure, as well as, CCWS operations. CCWS maintains over 3,200 miles of watermains and replaces pipes as they age and begin to fail.
- Our tiered water rate structure, with pricing increases in stages as more water is used, creates an incentive for customers to adopt efficient water-saving practices, and is required by the State of Georgia.

### Sewer



CCWS is the only system in Metro Atlanta that does not charge a fixed base fee for sewer service in addition to the volumetric fee.

- CCWS bills for sewer usage based on metered water use. This provides the most effective sewer cost-recovery and allows customers the most control over their sewer costs. When customers reduce discretionary water use, their sewer costs go down.
- Our sewer rates fund the maintenance, repair, and replacement of our sewer lines and four wastewater treatment plants and fund CCWS operations, including the operations of our plants. CCWS has over 2,800 miles of sewer lines that take dirty water from homes and business to a treatment plant where the water is cleaned and returned to a river, creek, or lake depending on the plant.
- Significant treatment costs include: electricity, disposing of biosolids removed through the treatment process, and chemicals required to treat the wastewater.

### Stormwater



Stormwater services are provided only to customers in unincorporated Cobb County and are funded through water and sewer rates. (CCWS customers who reside within a city limit have slightly lower rates, because CCWS does not provide stormwater services to these customers. Their city provides these services.)

- CCWS maintains stormwater infrastructure outside road right-of-way that has been formally dedicated to and accepted by Cobb County for perpetual maintenance. This maintenance is limited to the structural components of the stormwater system (i.e. pipes and ponds) and does not include maintenance of open drainage systems, such as streams, creeks, and/or ditches. (Cobb Department of Transportation maintains stormwater infrastructure within road right-of-way.)
- CCWS reviews development plans to ensure compliance with Cobb County code and development standards. CCWS also reviews rezoning and variance applications and with Federal, State, and Cobb flood mitigation and water quality protection requirements.