



MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON

Department of Infrastructure & Operations

400 Witherspoon Street

Princeton, NJ 08540

(609) 921-7077

engineering@princetonnj.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council of Princeton
From: Deanna Stockton *Deputy Administrator/Municipal Engineer*
Subject: Ordinance Regarding Sewer Service Charges
Date: June 2, 2026

Attached for introduction at the June 8, 2026 Council meeting is an ordinance to amend the sanitary sewer fee rates. Listed below is a summary of the current fee structure along with the recommended increase.

Per CCF (hundred cubic feet)	2024 Rate	2025 Rate	2026 Rate
For the first 2,000 CCF	\$ 8.00	\$8.80	\$9.68
From 2,001 – 5,000 CCF	\$10.80	\$11.90	\$13.09
Over 5,000 CCF	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$18.24

The sanitary sewer fees collected by Princeton wholly cover the cost to operate and maintain the sanitary sewer collection system and Princeton’s portion of the Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority treatment facility, and to cover debt service on capital improvement projects. In 2022, Princeton Council supported a ten-year Sewer Investment Plan which requested the investment of \$100 million for main replacements inflow and infiltration (I&I) reduction, sewer trunk line replacements, pump station replacements, vehicle and equipment upgrades, and deferred maintenance work. Princeton currently has construction contracts in place for \$8,621,493.00 of I&I reduction projects. By the end of 2027, it is anticipated that up to an additional \$40 million worth of construction projects could be under contract in support of the Sewer Investment Plan. Provided below is a status update on projects undertaken as a part of the Sewer Investment Plan:

- Trunk Line B & C Rehabilitation – Video inspection of more than 16,000 feet of trunk line sewer has been completed. Flow meters were installed and have been operational since March 2026 to document the quantity of flow in the pipelines. Princeton is currently working with a consultant to prepare a multi-phased sewer rehabilitation and lining project; the professional services agreements will be brought to an upcoming council meeting. Princeton University has committed \$7.5 million toward this initiative, which is currently estimated at between \$15 and \$20 million. The first construction phase of the trunk line rehabilitation work is anticipated to occur in winter 2026-2027.
- Mini-System #35 I&I Reduction Construction – Construction activities have been completed. A final change order will be presented on an upcoming Council agenda to adjust the contract amount from \$1,809,679.00 to \$679,153.00. This reduction reflects the removal of manhole rehabilitation work from the original contract scope; these improvements were expanded beyond the project limits and subsequently procured under a separate contract. Additionally, certain bid items included estimated quantities that were not fully realized during construction, further contributing to the decrease in the final contract value.

- Mini-System #35 Manhole Rehabilitation – This \$870,936.00. Construction is complete and we are entering in the warranty phase of the project.
- Mini-System #36 I&I Reduction – Work commenced in November 2025 and the project is nearing 40% completion on all three contracts. A change order in the amount of \$25,564.70, resulting in a modified contract amount of \$2,008,422.70, is on the June 8, 2026 council agenda. The Contract B construction cost is \$1,868,094.00; Contract C’s construction cost is \$2,089,926.00.
- Pump Station Upgrades – The project is approaching the 60% completion stage. Site layouts are being finalized, and the consultant is beginning the permitting phase. Construction, estimated at a cost between \$10 and \$15 million, is anticipated to commence in late 2027.
- Hamilton Avenue Sewer Main Replacement Design – Design plans have been finalized and submitted to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank for final review and authorization to bid. Construction, estimated at a cost between \$5 and 10 million, is anticipated to begin by the third quarter of 2026.
- Strategic Plan – Princeton’s consultant has prepared a working draft of a strategic plan to identify future I&I projects. The current I&I project list is based upon flow assessments completed in 2017-2019, and is largely complete.
- Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Manholes within floodplains – Princeton’s consultant has completed the inspection of over 500 sewer manholes within floodplain areas. Future work will be undertaken to identify and implement the recommended I&I reduction method.
- Sanitary Sewer GIS Infrastructure Mapping – Princeton’s consultant is currently preparing a GIS database and map of the sanitary sewer collection system. The former joint Sewer Operating Committee previously had a basic GIS map of the sewer system dating back to the early 2000s. Princeton’s consultant is updating the GIS map and database to include the infrastructure that has been constructed over the last 20 years and to provide more information regarding the age, materials, depth, and other attributes. The Sewer Department is using this database in an asset management software program to document maintenance work.

In furtherance of Princeton’s goals of equity, affordability, and resiliency, the sewer rate fee methodology and tier structure are under review by the Infrastructure & Operations Committee with the assistance of Princeton’s consultant One Water Consulting. If modifications are recommended by the Committee, a presentation will be presented to the full Council at a public meeting.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.