



2025 Water & Sewer Rates

March 18, 2025



Summary Overview

Meridian Township water and sanitary sewer rates increased in 2025. The Township's rates remain the lowest in the Greater Lansing region by a considerable margin. The main contributing factors for the rate increases were:

- 1. Escalating inflation and the impact on the cost to maintain the water and sanitary sewer systems.**
- 2. Capital improvements to the water and sewer treatment facilities shared by Meridian Township, the City of East Lansing, and Michigan State University.**



2025 Rate Increases

Effective January 1, 2025, the Township raised water and sewer rates as follows:

- 1. \$5.96 to \$7.15 (20%) on the cost per 1,000 gallons of water.**
- 2. \$7.58 to \$7.96 (5%) on the cost per 1,000 gallons for sanitary sewer.**
- 3. The base ready-to-serve fee increased from \$12 to \$24 per billing cycle.**



2025 Ready-to-Serve Fees

As many water and sewer systems have done across the country, the Township also incorporated the American Water Works Association's (AWWA) sliding scale based on the diameter of the customer's water service line/water meter.



2025 Ready-to-Serve Fees

The AWWA's sliding scale is designed to ensure customers are contributing equitably toward the cost of maintaining the water and sanitary systems.

When a customer has a larger service line/meter, this increases the cost of all infrastructure to serve this customer. The AWWA's sliding scale accounts for this cost.



2025 Ready-to-Serve Fees

Even with the 2025 rate increases, Meridian Township's water and sewer rates remain the lowest in the Greater Lansing Region by a considerable margin.



Water & Sewer Rate Comparison
Based on 12,500 gallons per quarter
Average Quarterly Bill for a Single-Family Home

Water and Sewer System	2025 Average Quarterly Bill	% Higher Than Meridian Township
Grand Ledge	\$434.73	104.21%
Leslie	\$352.28	65.48%
Potterville	\$325.98	53.13%
Mason	\$317.25	49.03%
Delhi Township	\$303.51	42.57%
Lansing	\$300.18	41.01%
Williamston	\$299.28	40.58%
St Johns	\$293.76	37.99%
East Lansing	\$264.79	24.38%
Eaton Rapids	\$248.66	16.81%
Bath Township	\$240.08	12.78%
Meridian Township	\$212.88	N/A



Increasing Costs

One of the primary reasons for the Township's 2025 water and sewer rate increase is the significant increase in cost to properly maintain and replace the water and sanitary sewer systems to the professional standards that our residents deserve and expect.



Increasing Costs Cont'd

The cost per linear foot to construct a water main has doubled since the pandemic.

It used to be between \$100 and \$130 per linear foot, but it is now between \$180 and \$280 per linear foot.

The Township even had a contractor bid \$416.84 per linear foot for an 8-inch diameter water main in 2024.



Increasing Costs Cont'd

The cost of replacing lift stations has also increased approximately 200-300%.

The Township has 31 lift stations that our customers rely upon daily to prevent sewer backups.

Before the pandemic, the cost to replace a lift station was approximately \$400,000-\$500,000. The cost has now increased to \$740,000-\$1.5 million.



Capital Improvement to ELMWSA Water Plant

Another reason for the 2025 rate increase is the capital improvements that are currently being completed at the East Lansing-Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (ELMWSA).



Capital Improvement to ELMWSA Water Plant Cont'd

- 1. Adding additional well capacity to the system through the purchase of three new wells.**
- 2. Constructing a second reservoir so that we have a redundancy when our existing, aging reservoir needs to have maintenance work completed.**
- 3. Looping our raw water main to ensure we can supply the ELMWSA water plant and our customers with water if we sustain a leak to a raw water main. It is very important to have redundancies in the water distribution system as our raw water mains continue to age.**



Capital Improvement to ELMWSA Water Plant Cont'd

The ELMWSA water plant had not received substantial capital improvements since 1993, and many of the mechanical components, such as pumps, had reached the end of their useful life.



Capital Improvement to Water Resource Recovery Facility

Another reason for the 2025 rate increase is the capital improvements that are currently being completed at the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF).



Capital Improvement to WRRF Cont'd

We have doubled the capacity and brought it up to modern standards to protect our natural resources for many years to come.

The WRRF had not had substantial capital improvements since 1973, and many of the mechanical components, such as pumps, had reached the end of their useful life.



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Thank you for your time this evening.