

# A Short History of Wastewater in Bend, Oregon

## 1913

Lava sinkhole used as wastewater disposal site for Bend area residents. The sinkhole continues as the primary disposal site for treated wastewater until early 1980s.



## 1968

Federal Study reveals discharging sewage into lava sinkholes poses a threat to area groundwater. Treatment plant is located on the northeast side of Pilot Butte.



## 1974

City hires engineering firm to begin work on a Sewage Facilities Plan to address needs.



## 1980s

Wastewater treatment facility moves to current location east of Bend. Construction includes the majority of the City's sewage collection system piping (interceptors) and pump stations. Percolation ponds are constructed to avoid discharging to the Deschutes River.

Plant Capacity:  
6.0 million gallons per day (mgd).  
Project Cost: \$90m

## 1990s

Bend's population continues to grow substantially. A new digester and secondary clarifier are added to meet increased wastewater flow and capacity demands.



## 2000s

Treatment improvements are required to meet more stringent water quality standards.

Multiple capacity and treatment improvements are completed 2001-09 including construction of new Head Works.

In 2008 City Council approves update to Sewage Facilities Plan. The 20 year plan proposes improvements to increase capacity to 11.9 mgd.

## 2012

Treatment facility expansion designs and 'value engineering' study are complete. System facilities are reaching capacity and final design provides for phased implementation in pace with population and industry growth. Nitrogen treatment process improvements include Integrated Fixed Film Activated Sludge (IFAS) media.

