

## **WATER RATES – 2026**

Due to the increase by Spring Glen Water Commission affecting 2026 rates which saw the per meter rate change from \$1.35 per cubic meter to \$1.50 per cubic meter effective January 1, 2026, an increase of 11% this year.

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Current fees for unmetered treated water to the properties in Glenwood is \$50.00 per month. To cover the increase, water fees will have to be raised to \$55.50 per month to ensure the water costs are not subsidized by the tax roll.

Bi-monthly bills should be adjusted to \$111.00 from \$100.00 (an increase of \$66.00 per year). This does not take into consideration any reduction in the bulk water rates. Changes to this rate would require changes to the Rates and Fees Bylaw.

### **Bulk water station**

For the past several years, before the installation of the new system, the rate for bulk water was set at 3 cents per gallon. The capital cost of the new system was in excess of \$30,000. The yearly cost for the computerized charge system is \$1800.00 year. Presently a 1200 gallon tank of treated water costs \$48.00, an increased cost of \$12.00 per tank in 2025 from 2024.

The reason for the replacement of the bulk system was to provide a 24/7 service and capture the lost revenue due to non-payment under the old system (income generated – est. \$4000 per year) resulting in increased income to \$12000 per year. The reason for the increase took into consideration the impact of 1100 camp sites in the immediate area, as campers are the main users of this service. Campers pay a minimum of \$1800.00 per year for an un-serviced site to a maximum of \$4200.00 per year for a serviced site. This cost is reflected in the amount of taxes levied against the campgrounds by the County, as a non-subsidized commercial entity and are assessed as such. The economic impact of these campgrounds on Village businesses should not to be understated.

Farms sites are taxed on regulated rates under the Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment, with the exception of the 3 acre home site. The 3 acres homesite is still subsidized because it is subject to a RAP (Rural Assessment Policy) assessment

exemption of \$61,540 thereby reducing the municipal tax payable on the homesite. Agriculture municipal taxation has been highly subsidized in the province when considering other assessment classes. Current assessment on dry farmland is \$350 per acre and \$450 per acre on irrigated land.

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Is it the intention of Council to consider a different rate class for only agriculture or also for County residents who haul water for domestic use?

Is it the intention of the Council to simply reduce the rate to 3 cents for all users and transfer the loss of approximately \$3000 per year to the residential bills? If the reduction applies to every user the shift to home owners would result in additional water fees of \$16.00 year making the total increase \$82.00 per year.

#### **Spray Park Impact on water usage**

There is no way to determine the amount of water being diverted through the Spray Park. The difference of \$16,600 in metered water costs was based on a 2025 budgeted estimate of \$60,000. Actual costs for metered water through Spring Glen Water Commission, for 2025, was \$76,600 for a total usage of 56711 cubic meters.

The overage should not be 100% attributed to the usage at the Spray Park. In order for the Spray Park to have been totally responsible, 2.7 million gallons of water would have had to flow through that facility. This is not likely.

Some of this overage could be naturally attributed to yard watering by residents and leakage in the system itself. The only way to determine usage is by the installation of meters on residences. To install a meter on just the Spray Park would require changes in plumbing and the housing of a meter inside the building. Simply placing a meter on the Spray Park would only address one issue. Placing water meters in residences would address the following items:

- a) Residents would pay for a base price plus actual usage;
- b) Leaks would be detected in residences almost immediately;
- c) Leaks in the distribution system would become apparent; and
- d) Actual costs of the Spray Park could be better determined given the information provided by a) to c).