DISCOVERY CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE

2026 SALMON CREEK TREATMENT PLANT ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

Prepared for:

Discovery Clean Water Alliance

Prepared by:

JLA Public Involvement

July 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Since 2017, the Discovery Clean Water Alliance has hosted an annual open house at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. These events allow staff to share information with neighbors about the plant's role in managing the region's wastewater, provide updates on construction activities and solicit feedback on various topics.

The plant is owned by the Discovery Clean Water Alliance, a partnership formed in 2013 between Clark County, Clark Regional Wastewater District, and the cities of Battle Ground and Ridgefield.

OVERVIEW

This year's open house was held from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. An online open house was available June 2-July 2, 2026. The online open house is still available for public viewing, though closed for comments.

Below is an overview of content featured in both the in-person and online open house. The information displays are available in **Appendix A**.

Every year, the open house features information on the following topics:

- The Discovery Clean Water Alliance members and assets
- The Salmon Creek Treatment Plant (capacity and treatment process)
- Pretreatment program, with tips for protecting waterways

This year's open house also included information on:

- The Alliance General Sewer Plan update
    - Alliance priorities
    - Service area growth and capacity needs
    - Potential improvements to the regional transmission system and the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant (SCTP)
    - Timeline for plan development and completion
- Construction projects
    - SCTP Entrance Gate Replacement
    - SCTP Biosolids Dewatering Equipment Replacement
    - SCTP UV System Replacement

The open house also included opportunities for participants to provide feedback, though this year's events did not ask for feedback on any particular topic. We also asked participants where they live in relation to the plant, as we do every year. Participants received a free gift of their choice for participating in both the in-person and online event.

PROMOTION

Community members were informed about the open house via:

- Announcements in the April 3 and June 30 SCTP neighbor e-newsletters
- Direct email invitations sent to GSP stakeholders May 14-15 (available in **Appendix D**)
- A banner on the Alliance website
    - Banner added May 18
    - Online open house details added June 2
- Postcards sent to homes near the plant, mailed May 15
- Three standalone email invitations sent to the e-newsletter list (two general invitations, one specifically for the online open house)
    - May 26
    - June 1
    - July 1

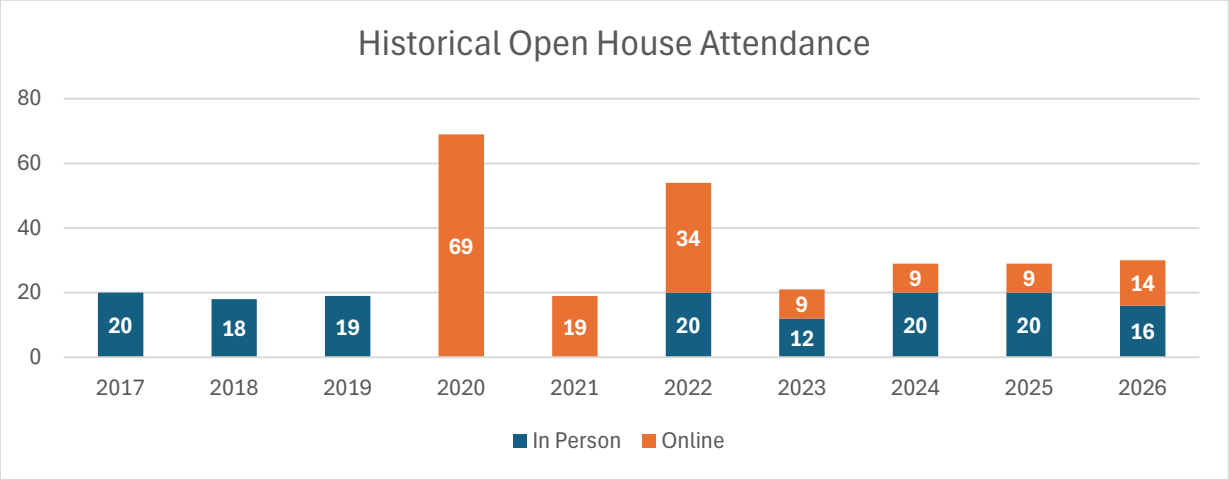
PARTICIPATION

About 16 people attended the in-person open house. One participant left a written comment thanking and congratulating staff for the event and recent improvements.

Fourteen people completed the online survey. Between the two events, 20 people signed up for email updates.

HISTORICAL PARTICIPATION

Over the past 10 years, total participation has varied greatly, though in-person participation has remained steady. In terms of total attendance, 2020 had the most participation, with all 69 people attending via the online option offered during the pandemic. Interestingly, with 30 combined attendees, 2026 saw the highest total attendance since 2022.



FEEDBACK SUMMARY

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

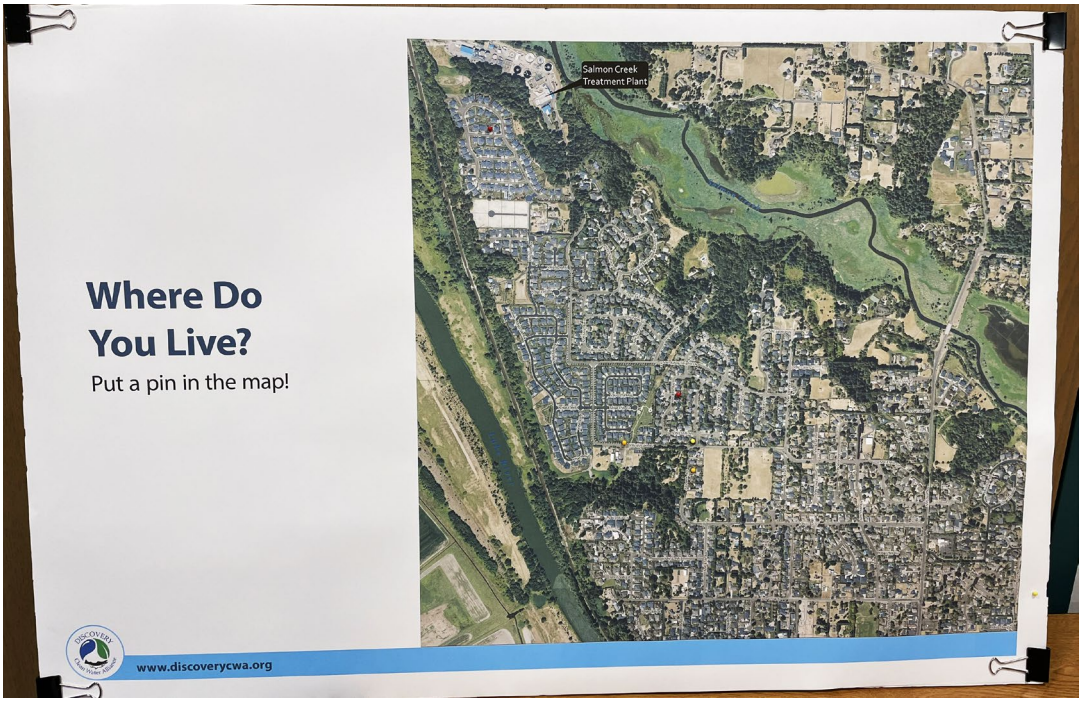
Participants had the opportunity to visit information stations and take a tour of the treatment plant. The display boards presented at each information station are available in **Appendix A**.

Three tours were led by staff during the open house. Nearly all participants went on a tour. One participant left a written comment expressing gratitude for the event and treatment plant improvements. Participants were able to speak directly to staff and ask questions. The majority had general questions about plant operations, the biosolids program and ongoing and completed construction projects.

There was one interactive board for attendees:

Where do you live? *Put a pin in the map!*

Six people participated in this activity. The pins showed the following: One person/household lives very close to the plant, four live in the area but not within walking distance, and one lives not particularly close.



ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

The online open house was available June 2-July 2 and was linked from the Alliance website. The information reflected the content shared during the in-person open house, with text and pictures optimized for online viewing. Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions about the treatment plant and share topics about which they would want more information. The online open house also included demographic questions (data available in **Appendix C**). However, due to a technical issue, these questions did not display for some participants.

The online open house received 14 responses, only eight of which answered all the questions. Responses are summarized below. See **Appendix B** for the full text of comments along with staff responses.

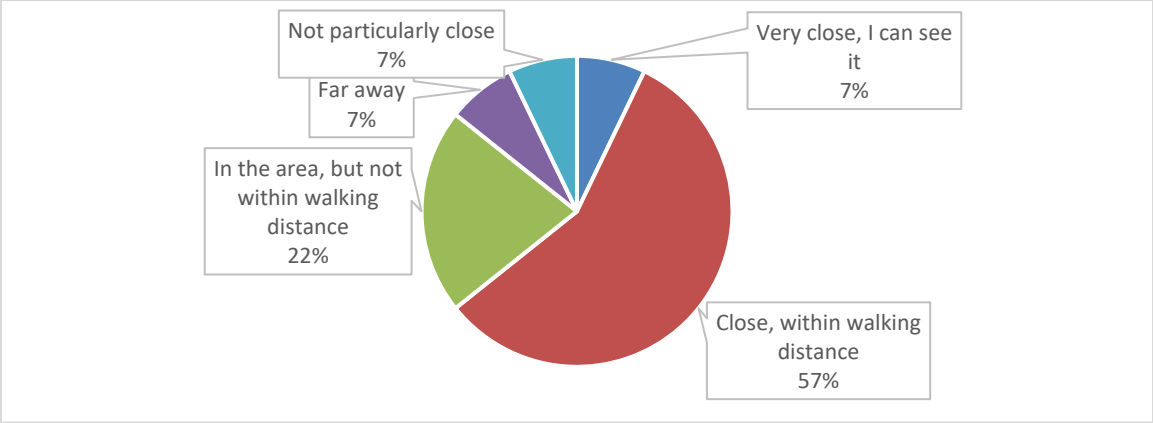
1. **What questions or comments do you have about the treatment plant? What do you want more information about?** *Open-ended*

   Eight participants responded to this question. The following summarizes the feedback into common themes.

   - Six people had positive comments, praising the clarity and engaging nature of the open house content and expressing appreciation and gratitude for staff and management of the plant.
   - Two people asked about educational opportunities, including presentations at schools and internship opportunities.
   - One person asked for recommendations on safer soaps and better products for water protection.

2. **Where do you live relative to the treatment plant?** *Select one.*

   This question received 14 responses. Fifty-seven percent (8) of the respondents live close to the treatment plant, within walking distance. Twenty-two percent (3) of respondents live in the area but not within walking distance.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, participants were appreciative of the opportunity to talk with staff and learn more about the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. However, lower in-person turnout has prompted Alliance staff to consider alternative approaches to outreach, such as holding in-person open houses every other year and hosting a booth at local Neighborhood Association annual meetings in the intervening years.

APPENDIX A: DISPLAY BOARDS

Below are the display boards presented at the open house.

Welcome to the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Learn about plant operations and upcoming construction projects

» View information displays

» Visit with staff

» Tour the facility

DISCOVERY Clean Water Alliance

Thanks for attending!

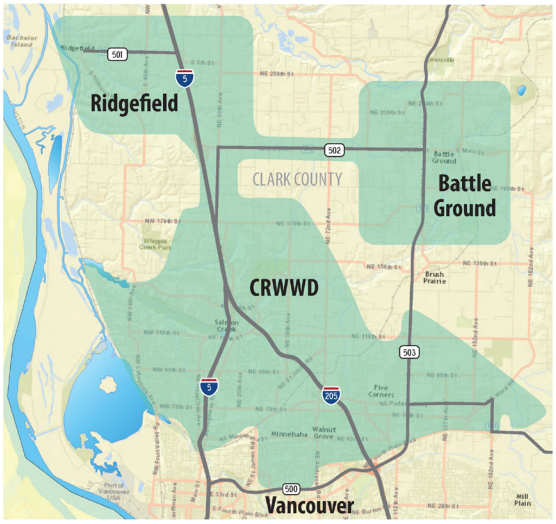
Visit all stations to receive a thank you gift.

Discovery Clean Water Alliance

The Alliance is a regional partnership created to improve sewer service delivery through joint ownership and management of regional wastewater assets. The Alliance was formed in 2013 to jointly manage wastewater infrastructure critical to the region's economic and environmental health.

Members

- City of Battle Ground
- City of Ridgefield
- Clark County
- Clark Regional Wastewater District

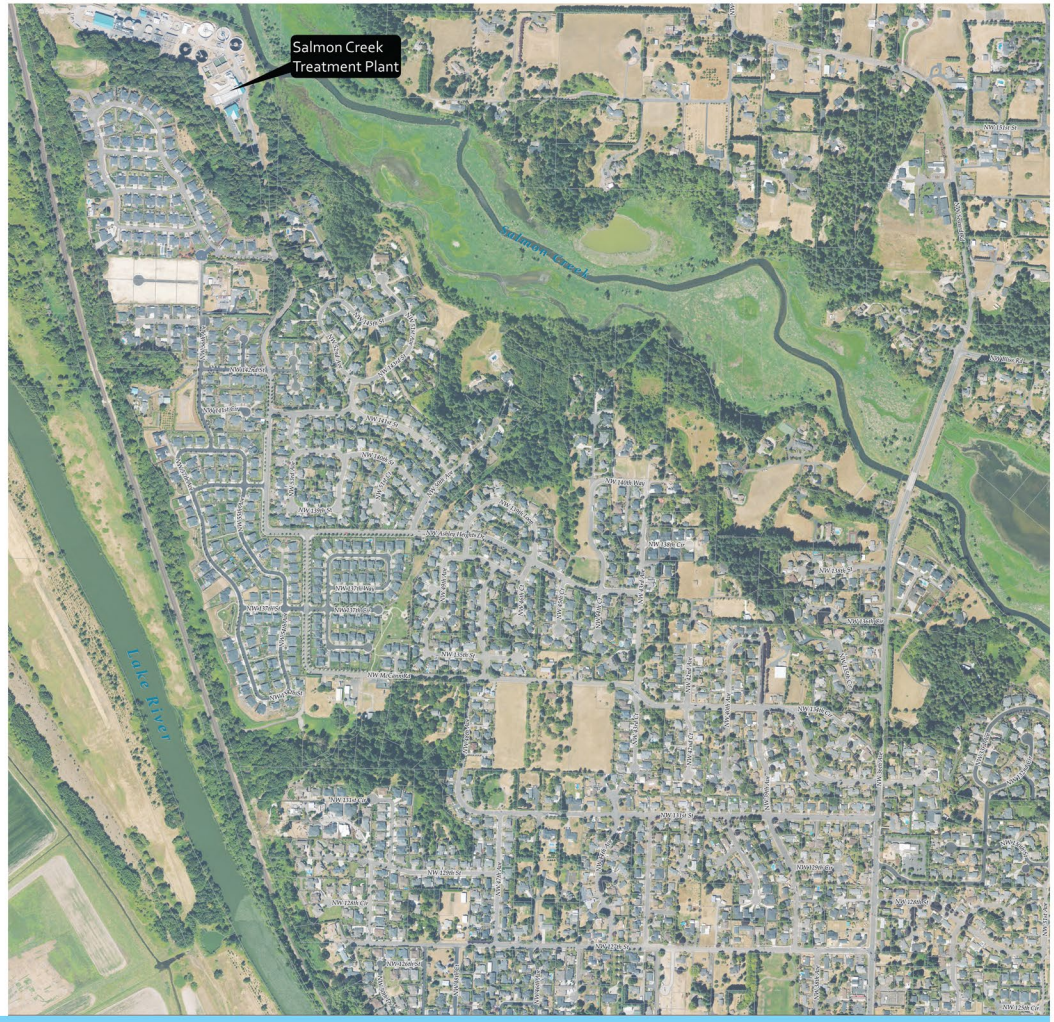


Service Area Assets

- Gravity interceptors
- Pump stations
- Force mains
- Treatment plants

Where Do You Live?

Put a pin in the map!



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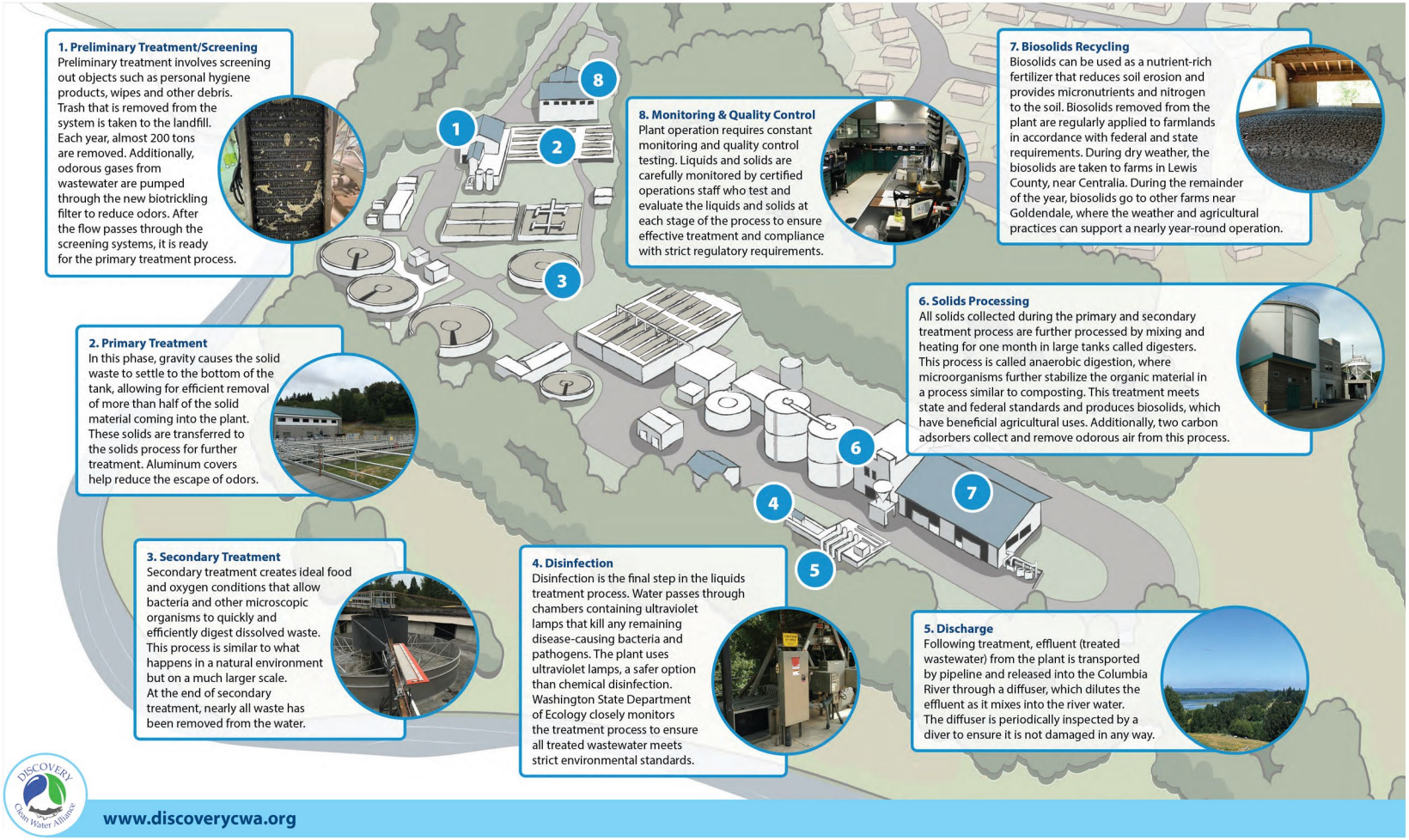
What Happens at the Treatment Plant

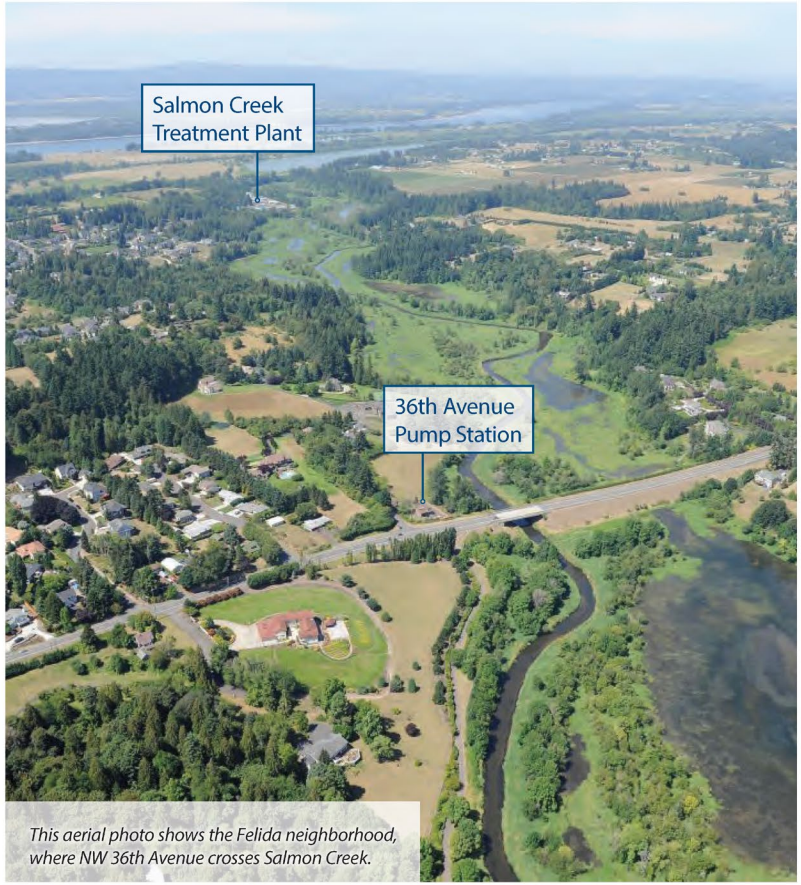


The Alliance is updating its General Sewer Plan

This plan will guide regional sewer system decision-making over the next twenty years, providing a road map for expansion of the wastewater system and ensuring reliable service as our region grows. It will also help us better understand and plan for future capital improvements and ensure regulatory compliance.

In a survey last summer, our customers asked us to prioritize the following values in the new plan:

1. Affordability
2. Reliability
3. Environmental stewardship
4. Sustainability



This aerial photo shows the Felida neighborhood, where NW 36th Avenue crosses Salmon Creek.

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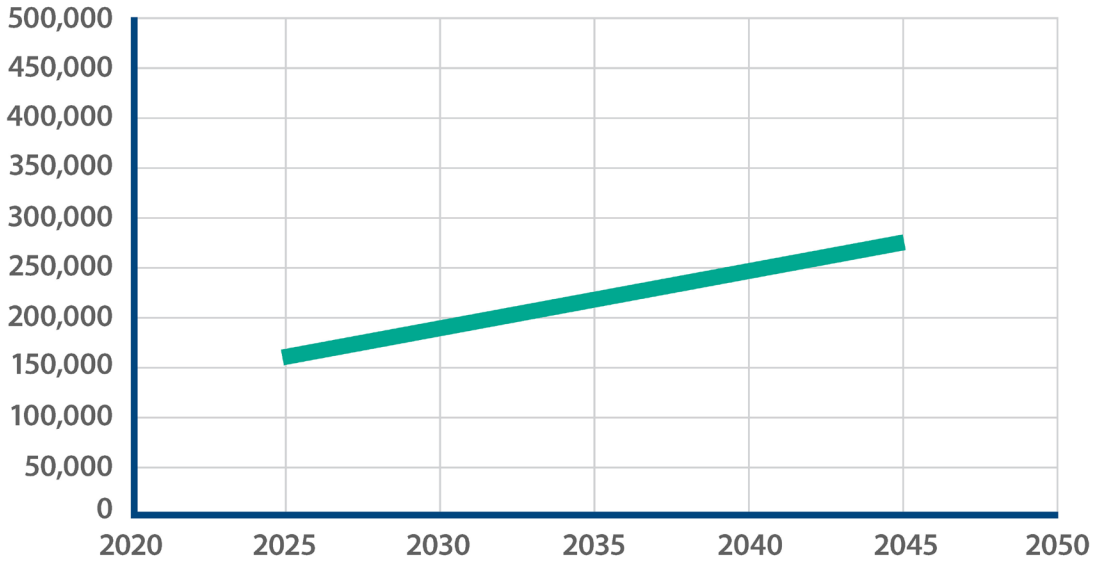
Future Needs and Potential Solutions

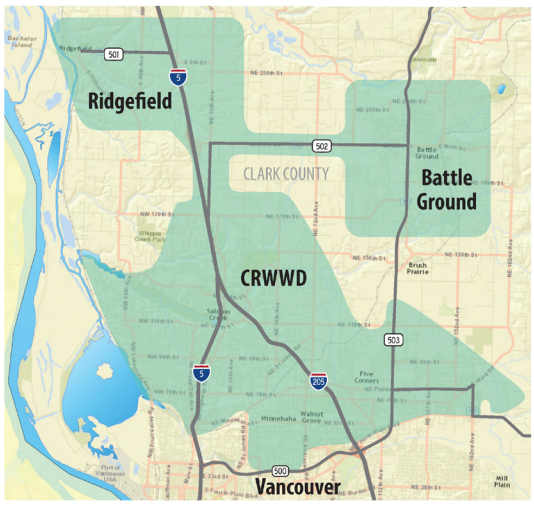
Our community is growing. Half of all Clark County growth happens in the Alliance service area. The amount of wastewater we handle is expected to increase by nearly 70% by 2045. We're planning ahead to ensure we can grow with the community.

Alliance Service Area Population Growth Projection



We're considering improvements to:

- Increase wastewater capacity and reliability
- Meet future federal and state regulations
- Align with community values



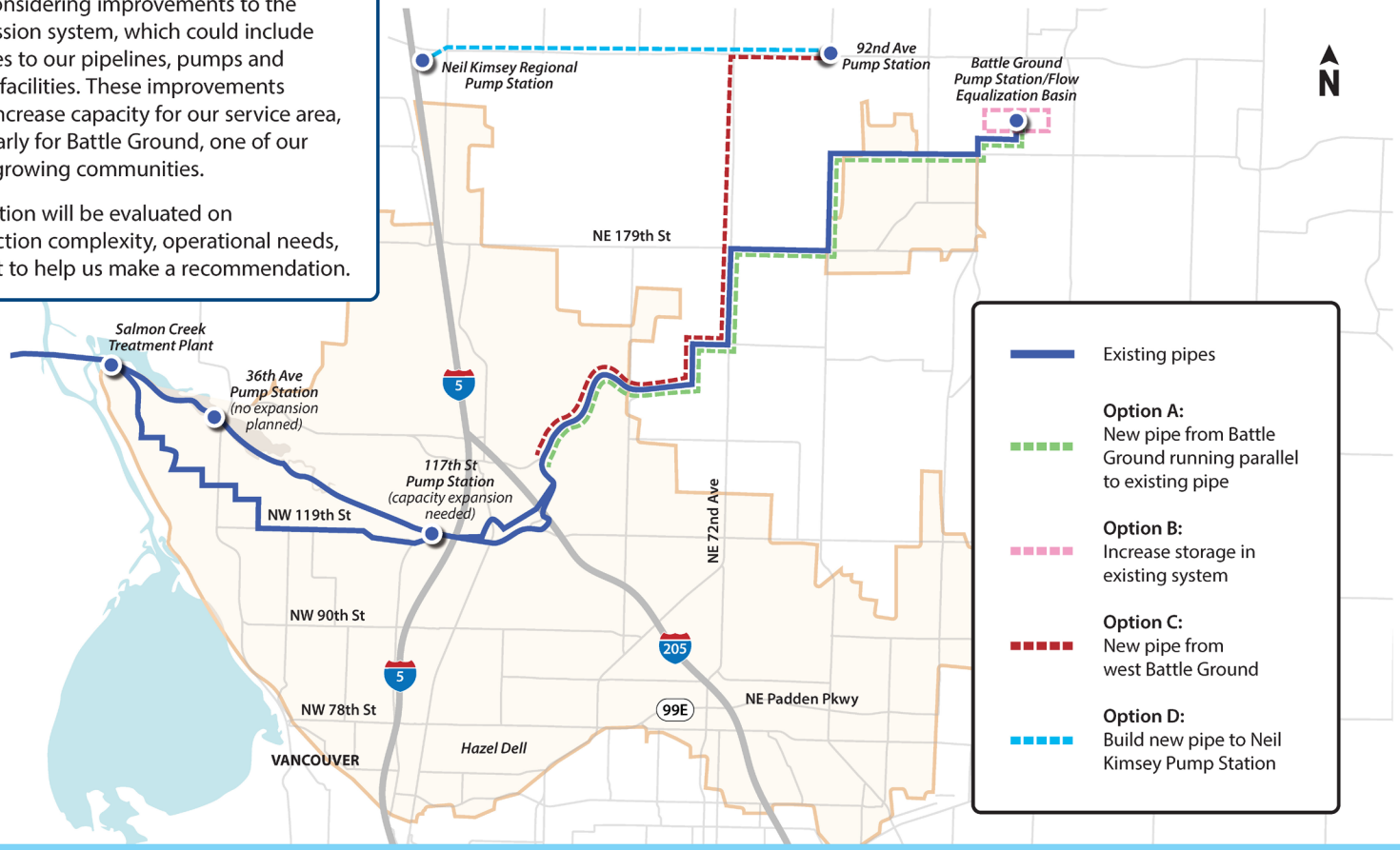
Potential updates to keep up with increased flow:

- More transmission system capacity
- New liquids process improvements
- New solids process improvements
- New maintenance spaces and staff facilities

Potential Transmission System Improvements

We're considering improvements to the transmission system, which could include upgrades to our pipelines, pumps and storage facilities. These improvements would increase capacity for our service area, particularly for Battle Ground, one of our fastest-growing communities.

Each option will be evaluated on construction complexity, operational needs, and cost to help us make a recommendation.



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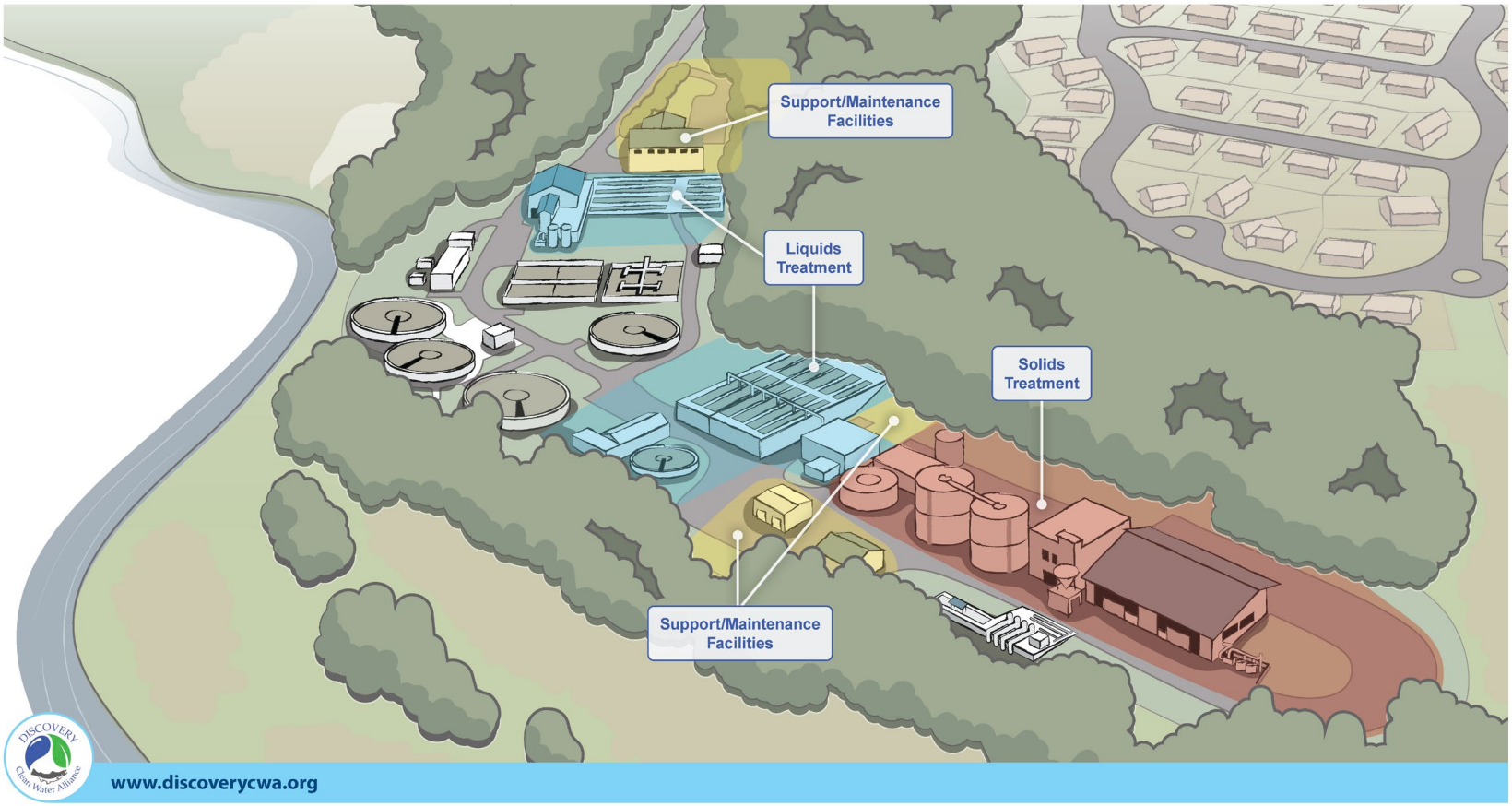
Salmon Creek Treatment Plant Potential Improvements

Here are the areas that will be expanded and improved over the next 20 years to meet the needs of our growing community.



How and When Decisions Will Be Made

As we develop General Sewer Plan recommendations for the Alliance Board of Directors, we are seeking input from technical experts, partner agencies and community members. These considerations are shaping our recommendations:

- Community values: affordability, reliability, environmental stewardship and sustainability
- Long-term ongoing operations and maintenance needs
- Public impacts
- Dynamic regulatory environment

Timeline

- **Summer 2027:** Plan finalized
- **Fall 2027:** Plan sent to Alliance Board for adoption
- **Winter 2027:** Plan sent to Washington Department of Ecology for approval

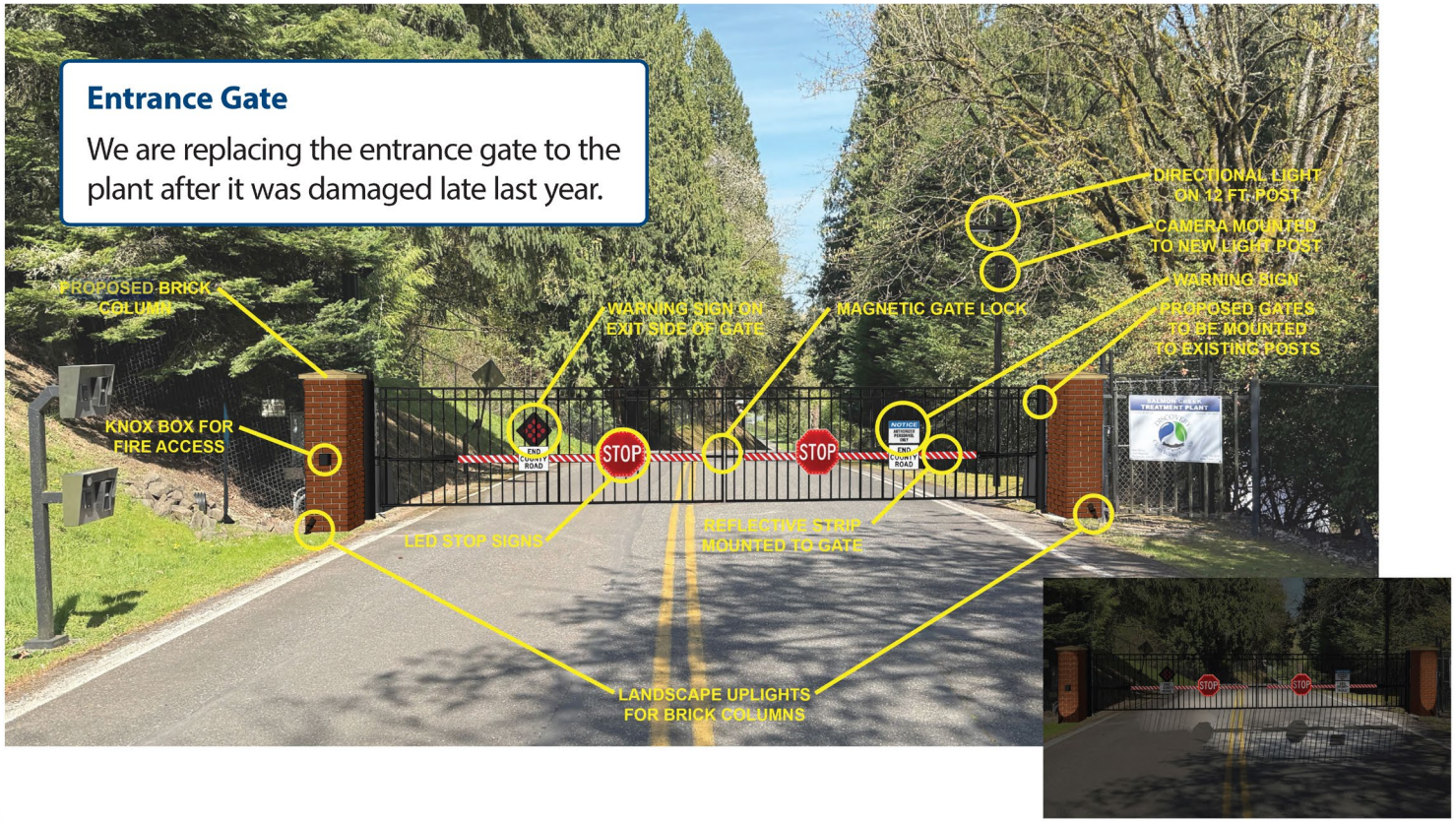
Stay Engaged

Attend Alliance Board meetings quarterly during the planning period. Meeting information is available on the Alliance website:

discoverycwa.org/about/meetings

www.discoverycwa.org

Upcoming Construction Projects



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Upcoming Construction Projects

Biosolids Dewatering Equipment Replacement

This equipment helps turn liquid biosolids into a semi-solid state for land application. The dewatering process reduces costs for trucking. Replacing the nearly 30-year-old equipment will boost system performance and reliability. Construction is scheduled for summer 2026-spring 2028.

Additional Projects: *The Alliance is continually assessing and updating our operations facilities to ensure they are efficient and meet regulatory guidelines.*

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Salmon Creek Treatment Plant Ultraviolet System Replacement Project

The Alliance is replacing our nearly 30-year-old ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system used to disinfect treated wastewater before it reaches the Columbia River. UV disinfection benefits public health by reducing the release of potentially disease-transmitting pathogenic organisms to waterways.

We are replacing this system because it is near the end of its useful life and is not as energy efficient as newer systems.

Benefits of new system:

- More reliable – protects water quality of flow reaching the Columbia River
- More energy-efficient (reducing plant's greenhouse gas emissions)
- Fewer repairs needed
- Lower operating costs – helps keep rates affordable

This project is funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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Protect your health and the environment

Simple changes you can make around the house.

Each of us plays an important role in keeping our waterways healthy. From the products we purchase to how we dispose of them, our choices impact what ends up in our water.

Below are some actions you can take to help keep our water healthy and safe.

In the Bathroom

- Only flush toilet paper, everything else goes in the trash.
- Don't flush prescription drugs or other medications.

WHEN SHOPPING:

- Choose products with the EWG VERIFIED™ mark.
- Avoid products with plastic micro-beads, synthetic fragrances, parabens, or phthalates.

In the Garden

- Use pesticides carefully and as a last resort.
- If you must, spot-spray on pests; don't spray pesticides over large areas.
- Dispose of pesticides at your local household hazardous waste facility.
- Scoop, bag, and trash pet waste.

WHEN SHOPPING:

- Choose neem tree oil as a natural pesticide.

In the kitchen

- Put fats, oils, grease, and grit in the trash—not down the sink.
- Cook at lower temperatures if using older non-stick pans.

WHEN SHOPPING:

- Look for products with the EPA Safer Choice label.
- Choose stainless steel, cast-iron, or cookware with a ceramic coating.
- Avoid products with "PTFE" or "FLOURO."

For more information, contact:

Leanne Mattos *Alliance Board Clerk & Administrative Supervisor*
Clark Regional Wastewater District
360-993-8823 | lmattos@crwwd.com

To learn more, enter or scan:
crwwd.com/pollution-prevention

APPENDIX B: PARTICIPANT RESPONSES

Below are the unedited, unabridged comments from participants. The chart shows staff responses to questions.

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

1. Congratulations on a job well done and all recent improvements

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

What questions or comments do you have about the treatment plant? What do you want more information about?

1. Your presentations are always clear, interesting, easy to understand. I've enjoyed your tours several times. Keep up the good work!
2. Thank you for the information, all my questions are answered
3. Do you take interns that are in high school who are interested in environmental studies?
4. Keep up the amazing job of improving the lives of the residents that the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant serves
5. How to protect the waters more, what products and soaps are better for the water.
6. Thank you for sharing the updates and news on the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant.
7. Well planned and managed community asset
8. Your online open house was very informative especially waste treatment. I also valued your environmental household tips. Promoting clean water presentations would be a great asset in our schools even beginning in Kindergarten! Thank you for ensuring our water quality and our environment!

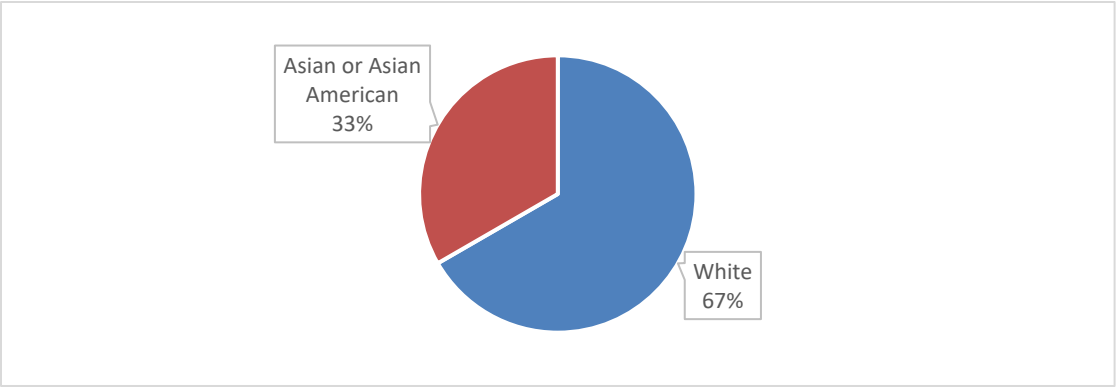
Questions	Responses
Do you take interns that are in high school who are interested in environmental studies?	Currently, we do not offer and are not aware of any local internship programs for minors or high school students at treatment plants. Wastewater treatment facilities are highly regulated industrial environments, so internship opportunities typically require participants to meet age, safety, supervision and training requirements that are more commonly addressed through college-level programs. Students interested in this field are encouraged to explore college programs in environmental science, engineering, wastewater treatment, water resources, water quality or related technical fields that can help prepare them for future opportunities in this type of

	work. One option to consider is the Clackamas Community College Water and Environmental Technology (WET) Program, which provides training and exposure to careers in the environmental, water and wastewater industries. Students may also benefit from educational programs and hands-on learning opportunities through the City of Vancouver Water Resources Education Center. Students may also explore job shadowing opportunities, volunteer programs, environmental clubs, STEM initiatives and community-based environmental organizations to gain experience and learn more about the field.
How to protect the waters more, and what products and soaps are better for the water?	Everyone can help protect our wastewater system and the environment by making informed choices at home. Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down the toilet; everything else belongs in the trash, including wipes, which can cause difficulties for the treatment system and cause costly blockages, sewer backups and overflows. In the kitchen, cooking oils and grease should be cooled and disposed in the trash. Contact the District for a free Freeze the Grease kit. Choosing cleaning and personal care products that are free from harmful chemicals also helps protect our waters. You can learn more at https://www.discoverycwa.org/pollution-prevention/.

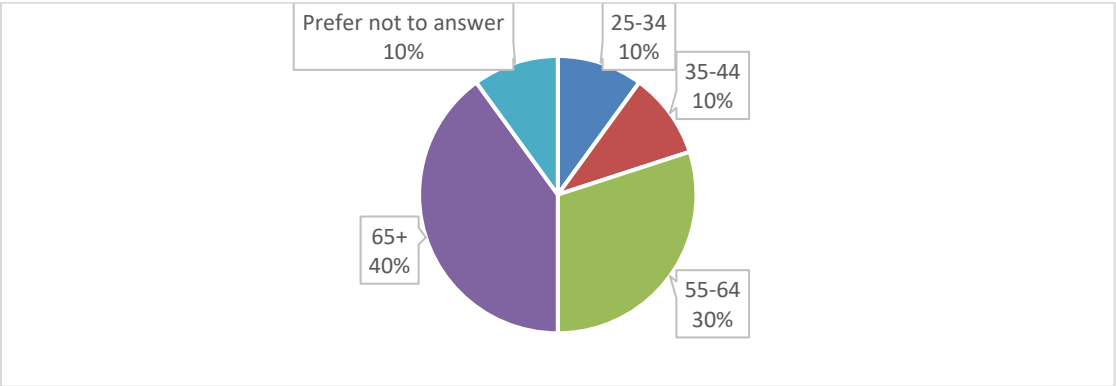
APPENDIX C: ONLINE OPEN HOUSE DEMOGRAPHICS

Participants were invited to answer demographic questions. Nine people responded to every question.

1. **How do you describe your race or ethnicity?** *Check all that apply.*



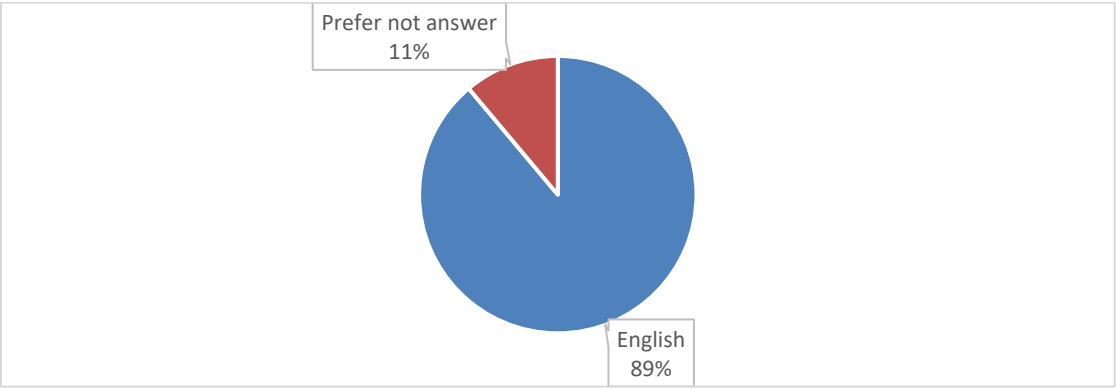
2. **What is your age?**



3. **How many children under age 18 live in your household?**

   None of the respondents have children under the age of 18 living in their household.

4. **What are the primary languages that you speak?** *Check all that apply*.



APPENDIX D: GSP STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

The following is the text of the email invitation sent to General Sewer Plan stakeholders:

You're invited to **Discovery Clean Water Alliance's annual open house** at the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant on Tuesday, June 2, from 6-7:30 p.m.

The Alliance is a regional partnership that owns and manages wastewater infrastructure in Clark County, including service to Ridgefield, Battle Ground, and a large portion of the Vancouver Urban Growth Area. The Alliance is currently drafting a new General Sewer Plan to guide system decision-making over the next 20 years, aligned with the ongoing county and cities comprehensive planning processes. The open house event will include a preview of the planning considerations, and the Alliance would value your input.

This community event is an opportunity to learn more about the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant and includes a facility tour. You can also connect with Alliance staff and discover how our work helps protect the environment and support a healthy, livable community.

The plant is located at 15100 NW McCann Rd Vancouver, WA. There is no need to register ahead of time.

Can't attend in person? Visit our online open house at discoverycwa.org anytime between June 2 and July 2 to review the information and share your feedback.

We hope to see you there!

The email was sent to the following stakeholders:

- Rian Sallee, SW Region Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Lauren Goldberg, Executive Director, Columbia River Keepers
- Ann Foster, Board President, Friends of Clark County
- Jordan Boldt, Executive Director, Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC)
- Noelle Lovern, Executive Officer, Building Industry Association (BIA)
- Jessica Kipp, Chamber President, Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce
- John McDonagh, President & CEO, Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
- Paul Montague, President, Hazel Dell Salmon Creek Business Association (HDSCBA)
- John Stubbs, President, Felida Neighborhood Association
- Marilee McCall, Neighborhood Program Coordinator, Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACC)