

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Communications Department

New Water and Sewer Rates take Effect October 1st

On September 17, 2019, the City Council approved increases in the water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2020. The water base rate will increase 4%, the water volume rate increases 4%, the sewer base rate increases 6%, and the sewer volume rate increases 7%. These rate increases are necessary to ensure adequate revenue to cover the increased cost of contract water services from Dallas Water Utilities and contract sewer treatment services from the Trinity River Authority. It also covers costs incurred by the Public Utilities Department for the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater systems, and capital infrastructure improvements. Below are the approved water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2020:

	FY2019	FY2020
Water Base Rate		
3/4-inch meter	\$9.38	\$9.76
1-inch meter	\$17.82	\$18.53
Water Volume Rate 1,000-15,000 gallons	\$3.26	\$3.39
Sewer Base Rate	\$10.47	\$11.14
Sewer Volume Rate	\$10.41	\$11.14

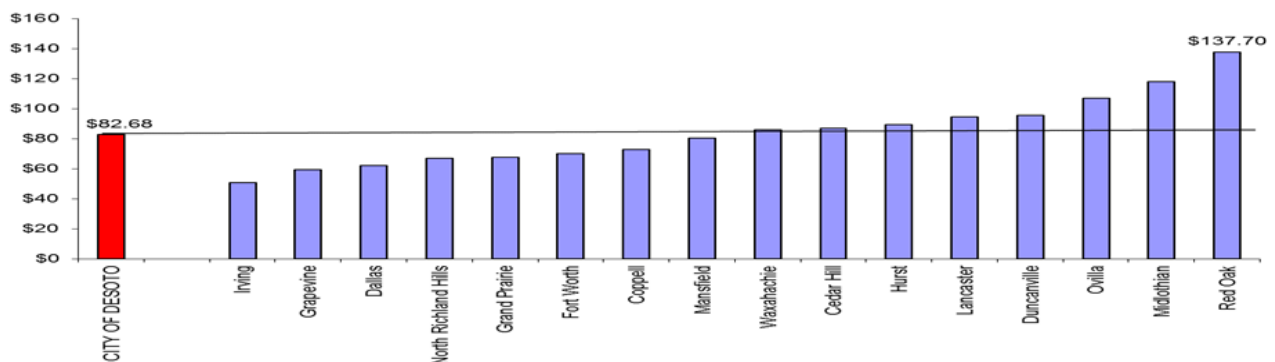
In addition to the base rate, all water usage above the first 1,000 gallons is billed according to the City's three-tiered volume rate structure. This volume rate structure provides customers the ability to use more water should they choose to, with the understanding that they will pay more for higher usage. The City's volume rates for water usage above the first 1,000 gallons are \$3.39

for 1,000-15,000 gallons of usage, \$4.20 for 15,001 through 30,000 gallons and \$5.02 for usage above 30,000 gallons.

Customers will see the new water and sewer rates reflected in their December utility bills. The water base rates listed above are for meter sizes typically associated with residential water accounts. Commercial and industrial water accounts may have larger water meters. For a full listing of meter sizes and corresponding base rates, please visit the Department of Public Utilities' webpage at <http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/463/WaterSewer-Rates>. If you have any questions regarding your water or sewer service, please call 972.230.9627.

How Do DeSoto's Water and Sewer Rates Compare to Other Cities in the DFW Area?

The average consumption for City of DeSoto residential utility customers is 7,500 gallons of water and 5,000 gallons of sewer per month. Based on the new rates, the average monthly charge for water and sewer will be \$82.68, not including garbage and drainage charges. The chart below shows how the City of DeSoto's average bill compares to that of other cities. While DeSoto's average bill may be slightly higher than those of cities like Irving, Grapevine, Coppell, Dallas, Grand Prairie, and Fort Worth, it is important to understand that those cities have much larger populations and a greater distribution of residential, commercial and industrial customers, over which to spread the costs associated with providing water and sewer service.





City Calendar

October

15 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
25 Free Concert - Corner Theatre 7:30 pm
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
31 Trunk or Treat at BMX Facility 7—9 pm

November

2 DeSoto VET FEST 5K - Amphitheater 8am
4 Arts Commission Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6 pm
4 Park Board Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6:30 pm
5 City Council Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm
5 Library Board Mtg. - Library - 7 pm
7 Water Rate Community Info Session
7 KDB Mtg. - Civic Center - 6 pm
7 Historical Foundation Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6pm
11 Free In-N-Out Burgers/Veterans Day
12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
19 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 4th Friday Concert-Bandan Koro 7:30pm
25 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
26 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall 7 pm
27 & 28 City Facilities Closed - Thanksgiving

1. When will the new rates take effect?

The new water and sewer rates take effect on October 1, 2019. Residents will see the new rates reflected on their December water bills.

2. Why are water and sewer rates increasing?

- The City of DeSoto's water and sewer rates are increasing because the cost of providing water and sewer service to DeSoto water utility customers is increasing.
- The City purchases treated water from Dallas Water Utilities, and it purchases wastewater treatment services from the Trinity River Authority of Texas. As the cost of these services increases, the City must increase its water and sewer rates in order to maintain the viability of the water utility.
- The City of DeSoto's water utility is an enterprise fund operation. Unlike general fund operations such as Police and Fire, which are funded by revenue from property tax and sales tax, enterprise fund operations are funded by the rates and fees charged to the customers who use those services.

A financially sound enterprise fund must ensure that its revenues are sufficient to cover its expenditures and maintain a reserve fund to pay for emergency repairs as well as continue to serve its customers in the event of a catastrophic event.

3. What other factors are affecting the water and sewer rate increase?

- The water and sewer industry is heavily regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

As regulatory requirements increase, so do the City's costs associated with meeting those requirements.

- In order to ensure that the City continues to provide a safe and reliable supply of water, the Public Utilities Department must continue to invest in the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of its water and sewer infrastructure.
- The cost of capital improvement projects such as water and sewer line replacements is increasing. Additionally, much of the City's water and sewer infrastructure is located beneath our streets and sidewalks and the cost of replacing asphalt and concrete continues to increase substantially, year over year.
- In order to attract and retain talented employees, Public Utilities salaries and benefits must remain competitive with the market in surrounding cities like Cedar Hill, Lancaster, Duncanville, Ovilla, Midlothian, and Red Oak.

4. Why has my water bill increased over the past few months?

The reason for increased water consumption may vary from customer to customer and therefore, must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. However, some reasons for increased water consumption may include:

- Increased outdoor watering during the summer months
- Refilling of swimming pools due to evaporation
- Indoor plumbing leaks i.e. toilet leaks and concealed slab leaks
- Toilets can leak intermittently due to faulty fill valves or flappers that do not seal properly and they can go undetected by the customer
- Outdoor plumbing leaks i.e. damaged or broken sprinkler heads or pipes
- Overnight guests

All of this information and more will be discussed during the upcoming Water Community Information Session to be held on November 7, 2019. If you have specific questions about your water bill, please contact the Utility Billing Division at 972.230.9627.

WATER RATES

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

Thursday, November 7, 2019
7 PM to 8 PM
Jim Baugh Government Center
City Council Chambers
211 E. Pleasant Run Rd, DeSoto



To **anonymously** submit information on potential City policy violation or unethical or fraudulent behavior, please visit:
www.DeSotoTexas.gov/hotline

You can also call our automated phone hotline **24** hours a day, **7** days a week.
Anonymous
855.858.3344

BKD INTEGRA
REPORT

DeSoto Is A Veteran Friendly City

DeSoto Veterans, their families and the community are invited to participate in our annual VET FEST Veterans Appreciation event and 5K scheduled for Saturday November 2, 2019 at 9 am. This free event and program is for ALL Veterans (from ALL branches of the military) and is intended to honor their service, raise awareness about their needs and provide information on the services available to them while having some fun in the process. Along with our annual appreciation ceremony and benefits fair, this year's VET FEST will feature a 5K Run/Walk beginning and ending at the DeSoto Outdoor Amphitheater and continuing along the scenic Roy Orr Trail.

To register to participate in the DeSoto VET FEST 5K Run/Walk go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/DeSoto/DeSotoVetFest5K> or look for the DeSoto VET FEST 5K event posting on the City's Facebook page. Veterans are invited to participate in the 5K at no cost. Others

can participate for just \$15 with proceeds benefiting the Veteran Friendly Business Program. Challenge your buddies from all branches of service to participate. Let's get a healthy competition going!

"You don't want to miss the unique experience planned for our 2019 VET FEST", said Mayor Curtistene McCowan. "I'm sending out a personal request to our local businesses and organizations to support us in this effort to raise awareness about the needs of Veterans and the services available to them through participating organizations. Please help us spread the word about the 2019 VET FEST 5K Run/Walk and program and make this the best VET FEST yet. I look forward to seeing you there."

Call 972.230.9648 for more information on participating in the VET FEST 5K Run/Walk or for sponsorship or vendor opportunities.



DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee Presents...



VET FEST 5K

November 2, 2019
8 am to noon
DeSoto Town Center Amphitheater
211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, TX
5K Along the Roy Orr Trail

Business Owners, Show Your Support of Our Veterans



For several years, the City of DeSoto has hosted events to honor the contributions and sacrifices of our local Veterans and their families. In 2018, the DeSoto City Council created an official Veterans Affairs Committee tasked with carrying this effort forward. They are planning events such as the VET FEST 5K and initiatives intended to let people know that DeSoto is a Veteran Friendly City.

The Committee is rolling out the Veterans Discount Program initiative to encourage local businesses to actively acknowledge their support of our Veterans by proudly displaying a decal that designates the business as one that offers special discounts or services for Veterans. If you would like to participate in this program and receive a window decal, please contact Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648 or email kathy.jones@desototexas.gov.



At 5pm on Veterans Day, November 11th, look for the In-N-Out Burger Cookout Trailer in the south parking at DeSoto Town Center. They will be serving free burgers to our Veterans, their families, and the community, while they last. Thank you In-N-Out Burger for being a Veteran Friendly Business!



Friday, November 22, 2019 8:00 pm
 DeSoto Corner Theatre
 211 E. Pleasant Run Road
 For more information call 972.230.9648



The DeSoto Arts Commission invites you to attend the next FREE Fourth Friday Concert featuring the amazing Bandan Koro African Drum & Dance Ensemble. They were formed in Winter 2009 in an effort to provide quality African dance and drum classes, programs, performances and educational and cultural activities. Bandan Koro creates experiences for outreach, education and entertainment while building and cultivating positive relationships. Wear your favorite African attire and take part in this cultural experience. You'll learn some new dance steps and have a great time.

DeSoto Parks & Recreation
 Discover, Experience, Play!

47th Annual
**HOMETOWN
 HOLIDAY PARADE**
 DECEMBER 7TH | 10 AM

To participate, please call Special Events Manager, Deneen Anderson at 972-230-7310 or email SpecialEvents@desototexas.gov.



PATH to the Draft: 7 DeSoto U Players Documentary Series Premier Party
 Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 7 pm
 at Geekletes
 921 W. Beltline Road
 DeSoto, TX 75115
 \$20 General Admission - includes 1 admission, food & drinks
 \$35 VIP Admission - includes 1 admission, food, drinks & T-shirt

For tickets visit our Facebook page @caniplaysports. A portion of the proceeds will go toward supporting our "Can I Play Sports Education Scholarship Fund". Sponsorship opportunities are available, please contact caniplaysports@gmail.com for more information. Community Wall Sponsorship are also available for \$50 for company logo and film credits. Partial funding of this project was provided by an Arts Grant from the DeSoto Arts Commission.