



We are the **PEOPLE** in Your Neighborhood

Water and Sewer Service on the Anchorage Hillside

Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility provides service to nearly 50,000 residences throughout the Municipality, including portions of the lower Hillside. However, nearly 7,000 residential lots in southeast Anchorage are without Municipal water and sewer service.

- **Why do many Hillside homes not have access to Municipal water and wastewater service?**

With the approval of the Hillside District Plan in 2010, the Anchorage Assembly through Municipal Code, established a fixed boundary for the furthest extent of Municipal water and sewer for southeast Anchorage. This boundary resulted in the establishment of AWWU's current "Certified Service Area" by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska.

Through either the lot size being in excess of 40,000 square foot (minimum for on-site septic system by current requirements) or by having been platted prior to the merging of the Borough and Municipality, most of these 7,000 lots are able to make use of on-site wells for drinking water, and septic systems for discharging wastewater.

The Municipal Community Development Department administers permitting for on-site wells and septic systems that generally serve single lot residential purposes. However, some homes, schools, and churches on the Hillside are served by small community water and/or wastewater systems which are not part of the Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility Certified Service Area. These community systems are permitted by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Internet links are provided below.

Extensions of Municipal water and sewer service outside of the Certified Service Area boundary must be approved by the Anchorage Assembly, as well as the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. The certified areas of the water and sewer service areas are not identical. An example of this is in Potter Valley area where sewer service is within AWWU's Certified Service Area but water service is not.

- **Areas served with city water have better access to water for firefighting.**

A significant feature of the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility water distribution network is that it is designed to provide water for firefighting via a network of fire hydrants which are maintained by the Utility throughout the Municipality.

In those parts of the Hillside area where there is no Municipal service, firefighting is largely dependent on mobilizing tanker trucks to transport water from local sources.

More information:

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References:

- Municipality of Anchorage On-Site Water and Wastewater Program:
www.muni.org/departments/ocpd/development/onsite/
- State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation On-site plan review program:
www.dec.alaska.gov/water/wwdp/onsite/
- Hillside District Plan:
www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Pages/HillsideDistrictPlan2010.aspx

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