

# TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE NEWSLETTER February 2025 • 5116-50 Ave. • 403-845-2866 •



# Are you on the list to vote?

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will be using the most current provincial Voters List from Elections Alberta to ensure voter eligibility.

Verify your information at **voterlink.ab.ca** before September 15, 2025.







2025 Municipal Election Day is Monday, October 20, 2025

### **DISC GOLF COURSE CONSULTATION**

A Disc Golf course for Rocky Mountain House was first identified in the 2021 Recreation Master Plan Update as an amenity the community would like to see added to existing recreation opportunities.

The Town's 2025 Capital budget includes \$40,000 for the construction of an 18-hole disc golf course.

Disc Golf is a low impact sport that people of all ages and skill levels can play together. A Disc Golf course is a relatively low-cost installation with minimal maintenance demands.

### DRAFT COURSE LAYOUTS





Area adjacent to the high school campus  $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$ 

Riverview Park/River Flats area

These preliminary course layouts have been drafted to help visualize what the course could potentially look like in either location. No contractor has been selected or money spent on either location.

#### We are here REVIEW ← PROJECT ROADMAI CONSULTATION Review project concept MAY BE REQUIRED AT **INFORM** and public input. Provide preliminary Identify and gather any concept to the public. missing information. POTENTIAL CONSULT DECISION Gather public input prior Council will decide if a to making a decision. suitable location for this project exists in the community.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House, with advice from the Central Alberta Disc Golf Association (CADGA), has identified two possible locations where the existing terrain, access to facilities and available land the would accommodate a Disc Golf course.

These locations are the area adjacent to the high school campus and Riverview Park/River Flats area.

An informational open house took place on January 29, 2025. Thank you to everyone that attended to learn more and share their thoughts.

Residents are encouraged to view the project information and complete the public feedback survey online at

www.rockymtnhouse.com/p/disc-golf or by scanning the QR code.

The survey will be open until February 28, 2025. Council will review all feedback prior to making any decisions.



### NOTICE OF WATER/SEWER UTILITY RATE INCREASE

New rates for Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste come into effect on April 1, 2025.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House does not make a profit on utilities. The Town only charges what it costs to deliver utilities to residents and businesses.

Base and consumption rates for residential and commercial water and wastewater will increase on April 1, 2025.

Utilities operate on a **cost-recovery** model. This means the Town only charges what it costs to deliver utilities to residents and businesses. Utilities are *not* subsidized by taxation. Only properties that use the municipal water and sewer are invoiced for the service.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House fee structure includes base rates as well as consumption rates.

The base rates cover the standard operating and capital costs of the water and wastewater treatment plants and the distribution and collection infrastructure. The consumption rates covers the cost of treating the water and wastewater.

New water and sewer rates will be as follows:

<u>Service</u>	Current rate	As of April 1, 2025
Water base rate	\$32.28/mo	\$33.42/mo
Metered water consumption	\$1.78/m3	\$1.91/m3
Sewer base rate	\$17.69/mo	\$25.11/mo
Sewer consumption	\$1.88/ m3	\$2.34/m3
Bulk water	\$5.97/m3	\$6.41/m3
Septage Disposal	\$6.56/m3	\$8.20/m3

The largest increases will be to the **wastewater base rate** and **septage disposal rate**. These increases are a direct result of the new mechanical wastewater treatment plant that will come on stream in 2025.

### SOLID WASTE RATE CHANGES: DECREASE FOR RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION

For properties that also pay for residential solid waste, this increase will be tempered by the decrease in solid waste fees, the result of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Legislation coming into effect in Alberta. EPR places the financial responsibility of

recycling paper and packaging products on the producer, not the consumer or municipality. Rocky Mountain House has positioned itself for this transition, and there will be no impact to service when residential solid waste fees decrease by \$4.62 per month, effective April 1, 2025.

New solid waste rates will be as follows:

<u>Service</u>	Current rate	As of April 1, 2025
Residential Curbside Collection [Black, Green and Blue carts]	\$28.62/mo	\$24mo
includes Eco Centre Access		
Access to Eco Centre (for residential premises without curbside service)	\$20.80	\$22/mo
Commercial Access to Eco Centre recycling services	\$20.80	\$22/mo

#### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION





Construction continues on the \$30 million Wastewater Treatment Plant. Sewer is often 'out-of-sight-out-of-mind', but this is a huge project that will serve our community and surrounding areas for many years to come: It will ensure compliance with stringent provincial and federal environmental standards and support anticipated growth over the coming decades. The Plant will be commissioned later in 2025, and staffed by two operators.

### **FAQ: UTILITY RATE CHANGES**

### Why now?

Provincial and federal environmental regulation changes have forced the Town of Rocky Mountain House to break ground on a new mechanical wastewater treatment plant. This \$30-million facility will be commissioned in 2025.

The cost to operate the mechanical plant will be considerably higher than the current lagoon system, at approximately \$1 million per year.

The new utility rates coming into effect on April 1 are supported by a 2023 utility rate study, to ensure rates charged cover operating and capital costs for current and future operations.

#### How much more will my bill be?

As of April 1, the average residential property consuming 14 m3 of water per month will see a \$16.35 increase in monthly billing for water and wastewater.

For properties that also pay for residential solid waste, this increase will be tempered by the decrease in solid waste fees, the result of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Legislation coming into effect in Alberta. EPR places the financial responsibility of recycling paper and packaging products on the producer, not the consumer or municipality. Rocky Mountain House has positioned itself for this transition, and there will be no impact to service when residential solid waste fees decrease by \$4.62 per month, effective April 1, 2025.

The average residential utility bill will see a net increase of \$12.20 per month, for a total of \$142.03 per month.

With the split base and consumption rates, households and businesses that moderate their water use can have more control over their bill.

# How do Rocky Mountain House's utility rates compare to other Towns?

Beginning April 1, 2025, the average utility bill for a Town residence will be \$142.03 per month, lower than the average of \$156.35 for comparable communities.

For a more detailed breakdown of comparable municipal rates, visit www.rockymtnhouse.com/p/save-water.

#### How can I reduce my utility bill?

If you use more, you will pay more. Cut back at the tap to reduce your bill each month. Visit *Get it from the SOURCE* at www.rockymtnhouse.com/p/save-water for more information about reducing your water consumption.

# Can I sign up for utility e-billing or pre-authorized withdrawal?

Yes. Download and complete enrolment forms from www.rockymtnhouse.com and return them to the Town Office, or to utilities@trmh.ca.

# Can I take a tour of the Water Treatment Plant and/or Wastewater Lagoon or Treatment Plant?

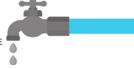
Absolutely. Complete the Request a Tour form at the bottom of this page (www.rockymtnhouse.com/p/savewater), or call 403-845-2866.

### I have more questions. How can I get in touch?

Call the Town Office at 403-845-2866. The Town Office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



WATER CONSUMPTION IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE



### RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION SCHEDULE

## February 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					JAN 31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	MARCH 1

### March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					FEB 28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	APRIL 1				

### **April 2025**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	MARCH 31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	MAY 1		

As per Tree Bylaw 2012/04V, trees or shrubs growing on private property must be properly trimmed for overhead clearance, sightlines and disease (e.g. Black Knot, Dutch Elm Disease).

During the course of inspecting public trees for Black Knot this year, Town staff will notify residents if they observe a tree on their property showing signs of disease. Refer to our website for more information.

### STAY UP-TO-DATE

www.rockymtnhouse.com

Running your dishwasher instead of handwashing dishes can save about 90 litres of water per load.



Find out more:

www.rockymtnhouse.com/p/save-water

### PROPERTY ASSESSMENT NOTICES

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS:

On February 21, 2025, the Town of Rocky Mountain House will mail out the 2025 Property Assessment Notices.

Property Assessment Notices are mailed separately from Property Tax Notices to allow property owners time to review their assessed property value and address any concerns before the appeal deadline.

Property Tax Notices will be mailed to property owners in early June.

If you do not receive your Property Assessment Notice in the coming weeks, please contact:

### **Property Taxation Department**

Ph: 403-845-2866 Email: propertytaxes@trmh.ca

### **UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

View agendas, minutes and livestream Council meetings:

www.rockymtnhouse.com/p/council-meetings

Regular Council Meeting	Feb 18	9:00 AM
Regular Council Meeting	Mar 4	9:00 AM
Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting	Mar 11	1:00 PM

Council meetings are open to the public.