

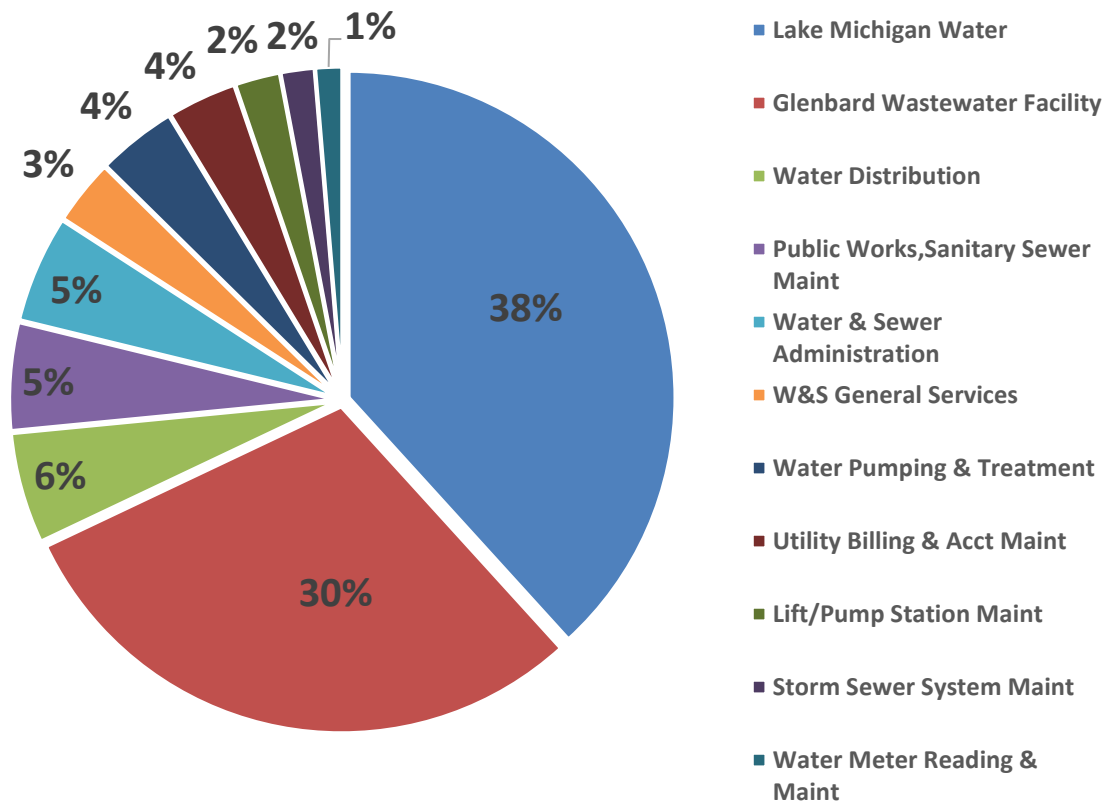


## Community Questions Related to 2024 Water and Sewer Rates

### 1. Why is the Village raising water fees now?

The Village receives its water from the City of Chicago and processes its wastewater through Glenbard Wastewater Facility. As they raise their rates, the Village must also raise its rates in order to purchase wholesale water, and to fund operating expenses and capital improvements.

The 2024 Water and Sewer Operation and Management Fund is broken down in the chart below. 68% of expenses are required payments, beyond the Village's control, to DuPage Water Commission and Glenbard Wastewater Facility for the purchase and delivery of Chicago water and the processing of wastewater. The remaining 32% of expenses is used to maintain storm systems and waste systems, and to provide general maintenance and the distribution of water to homes.



2. **A customer that consumes 5,000 gallons will experience a rate increase of \$24 per year. How does that math break down?**

The water and sewer fees are broken down into water usage, sewer usage, and a variable capital fee applied to both water and sewer, which is used to help maintain the water and the sewer systems.

	Water	Sewer	Variable Water	Variable Sewer	
<b>2024</b>	\$8.84	\$6.36	\$0.92	\$0.78	
<b>2023</b>	\$8.64	\$6.26	\$0.86	\$0.74	
	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.06	\$0.04	<b>= \$0.40 Total Increase</b>

- **\$0.40** (increase) X 5,000 gallons of water per month = **\$2.00**
- **\$2.00** (monthly increase) X 12 Months = **\$24**

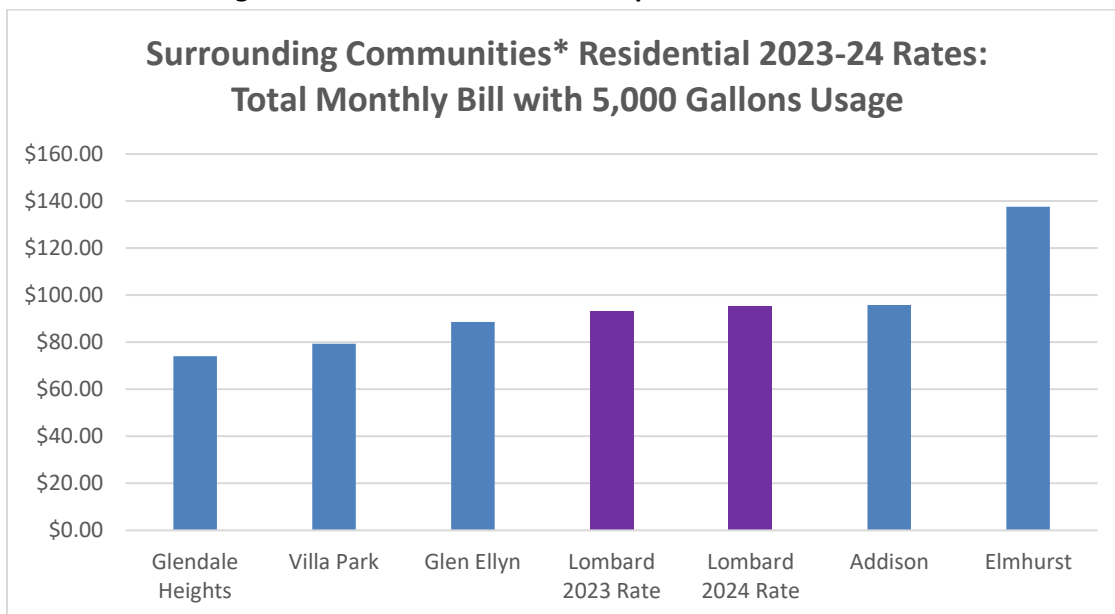
3. **Why can't the Village use the tax dollars we're already paying for water and sewer projects?**

The Water and Sewer fund, by law, provides resources for only water and sewer services and is managed as an "enterprise" fund, meaning that it is self-sufficient, just like a stand-alone business enterprise. Just like any business, as costs rise, prices must also rise to reflect the cost of providing the service.

4. **How is the Village using my tax dollars?**

It is important to remember that the Village of Lombard receives less than \$0.08 of each property tax dollar to provide for its core services. (Public safety provided by Police and Fire Departments; streets, forestry, snow removal and more from Public Works; building and code enforcement from Community Development, and responsible long-term financial planning from the Finance Department.)

5. **How does the Village of Lombard's water rates compare to other communities?**



\*Oakbrook, Oakbrook Terrace, and Downers Grove are not comparable because they are billed for sewer by a sanitary district which is a separate taxing entity

**6. If this money is going to support aging infrastructure does that include lead water lines?**

Yes, the Village's capital improvement plan includes funding for the replacement of lead sewer lines through the Lead Water Service Line Replacement Reimbursement Program that is available to property owners. In 2019, the Village determined that there are approximately 350 lead service lines. Owners of a property where a lead service line was identified during the water meter replacement program have been notified. Additional information can be found by searching "lead" on the Village's website, or at [www.villageoflombard.org/documentcenter/view/3438](http://www.villageoflombard.org/documentcenter/view/3438).

**7. How can I help reduce my water bill?**

The Village evaluates user-based fees, such as water and sewer rates, building permit fees, commuter parking fees, to ensure that the services are self-supporting. These fees are established on a user-based system. User fees, such as the water rate, are based upon your personal habits and consumption. If a user wishes to decrease their bill, they may consider reducing their water usage through conservation. You can find conservation tips on the WaterSmart portal at <https://lombard.watersmart.com>.