

Connect to the Environment

Greenwich Bay is a precious natural resource that provides residents with recreation opportunities and supports the local economy. However, the onsite wastewater systems that still exist



on some Warwick properties leak harmful, untreated sewage into the bay. The pollution can suffocate marine life, contaminate local shellfish beds, and close local beaches. When you connect to the public sewer system, you reduce your impact on the bay and keep it safe for swimming and fishing.

The Warwick Sewer Authority (WSA) helps protect water quality in the bay by managing an advanced wastewater treatment facility that meets and often exceeds its permit requirements. Warwick's treatment facility removes more pollution from wastewater flows than onsite systems. The facility is maintained and operated 24 hours a day by trained professionals.

Warwick Sewer Authority



Get Connected!

Get Connected Campaign

Warwick Sewer Authority
www.warwicksewerauthority.com
(401) 739-4949

City of Warwick
www.warwickri.gov

**Office of Housing
and Community Development**
(401) 738-2009

For direct inquiries, please contact:
Warwick Sewer Authority Billing Office
(401)468-4710
war.wsa@WarwickRI.com



Warwick Sewer Authority



Connect with Your Community

If your neighborhood is connected to the public sewer, but you're still using an onsite wastewater system, it's the perfect time to join your neighbors and connect to the sewer. The majority of households in Warwick have already connected. By joining them you will be helping the community protect the health of Greenwich Bay and other local waterbodies.

Connecting can also help you avoid costly upgrades to your existing onsite system, and potentially increase your property values. State law requires that all homes in connect-capable neighborhoods connect to the sewer within one year of the sale of the property. Connecting to the sewer now means you don't have to negotiate that point during a future home sale and gives you an advantage over non-connected homes in your neighborhood.



Ready to Connect? Get Started!

Review Costs. Connecting to the existing sewer line is less expensive than many other common home upgrades—costing approximately \$2,700, depending on the size and location of your property. Annual sewer charges will be based on the amount of water you use, but can average around \$600 per year. This is significantly less than replacing a conventional onsite septic system, which can average \$10,000 to \$15,000. Some properties with high water tables or other site constraints may require advanced treatment systems ranging in cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Once you're connected to the sewer system, you'll no longer have to worry about regular septic maintenance costs, such as pumping or the inconvenience of a clogged septic system.

Apply for Funding Assistance. The WSA is working with the City of Warwick and the State of Rhode Island to offer financial incentives to those residents ready to connect to the sewer. For more information or to apply for the opportunities below, visit the Warwick Sewer Authority or call (401) 468-4710.

- ▶ **Warwick Sewer Tie-In Grants** – The Sewer Tie-In Grant Program is designed to assist low-to-moderate income property owners in the City of Warwick connect their properties to the municipal sanitary sewer system. Availability of funds fluctuates from year to year, and grants are only written when funds are available. Participation in



the program is limited to owner-occupied single-family properties.

- ▶ **Rhode Island Low-Interest Loans** – This program was established to safeguard public health and protect and improve ground and surface water resources, by assisting Warwick property owners with tying into the city sewer system. These are 2-percent fixed interest loans for up to \$10,000. Loans must be repaid within five years, there are no income restrictions, and residents must own and live in the home to qualify.

Contact an Underground Utility Contractor or Master Plumber. In order to make your sewer connection, you must hire a properly licensed RI underground utility contractor or master plumber. For a full listing of underground utility contractors, visit the RI Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board website: <http://www.crb.state.ri.us/>

Get Connected. The underground utility contractor will schedule a start date with you, and you can expect the connection process to take a day or two, depending on your property. The contractor will inform the city when the job is complete and your first bill from WSA will come during the next quarterly billing cycle.