

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 (WSA)



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)739-4949
WarwickSewer@WarwickRI.Gov



Get Connected!

**Warwick Sewer Authority
(WSA)**



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 value. 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. Annual sewer usage charges will be based on the amount of water you use, but can average around \$600 per year. This is significantly less than replacing an onsite septic system, which can range from \$15,000 to \$30,000. The cost to connect to the sewer is the property owner's responsibility. Once you are connected to the sewer system, you will 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, call (401) 739-4949 or email us at WarwickSewer@WarwickRI.Gov.

► **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 to 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 to protect and improve ground and surface water resources, by assisting Warwick property owners with tying into the city sewer system. These are 1-percent fixed interest loans for up to \$10,000 with a \$300 closing fee. Loans must be repaid within five years, there are no income restrictions, and residents must own and live in the home to qualify. Funding is limited and loans are approved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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: <https://CRB.RI.GOV>

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 the WSA will come during the next quarterly billing cycle.