

## Protecting Our Water: A Community Commitment

What lasting gift can we offer future generations? Our time. Our wisdom. Our responsibility. Through these, we ensure a legacy of health, vitality, and security for generations to come.

Drinking water is one of the most vital resources to preserve and protect for the future.

Recognizing the value our community places on water quality, affordability, and environmental responsibility, EWEB's elected Commissioners established the Drinking Water Source Protection program almost a quarter century ago. Today, Eugene residents enjoy some of the finest drinking water in the nation thanks to the foresight and commitment of previous generations.

Approximately 3¢ from every dollar in your EWEB bill funds source protection and water treatment, including the following source water program goals:

### 1. SAMPLE AND MONITOR SOURCE WATER

Our drinking water supply is susceptible to threats from development, forestry practices, agricultural activities, urban runoff, hazardous materials transportation, and wildfire. To stay ahead of potential threats, we sample urban runoff, test river water for contaminants, and use an advanced network of monitoring devices that provide early warnings of water quality disturbances. Continuous monitoring allows us to respond swiftly to problems and recognize and adjust to water quality changes over time.

### 2. PROACTIVELY REDUCE WATER TREATMENT COSTS

Benjamin Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," in reference to fire prevention, and that holds for water quality as well. EWEB helps farmers safely dispose of stockpiled pesticides to ensure those chemicals don't reach the river. We work with partners to protect riparian forests that can naturally filter contaminants before they enter our waterways. And we offer assistance to McKenzie Valley landowners to ensure septic systems don't pollute the river.



*For nearly 100 years, Eugene has relied on the McKenzie River as our sole source of drinking water. With the support and guidance of our customer-owners, EWEB takes a proactive leadership role in protecting this vital resource. By focusing on prevention and early intervention, we ensure that dollars are spent efficiently.*

Learn more:  
[eweb.org/water-quality](https://eweb.org/water-quality)

And when an accident such as a chemical spill threatens the river, we're ready. EWEB's McKenzie Watershed Emergency Response System runs regular "spill drills" to practice containing hazardous chemicals swiftly, preventing them from reaching the water treatment plant.

### 3. PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP

Maintaining quality drinking water is a community effort, and it takes collaboration.

Through partnerships like the Pure Water Partners Program, we work with schools, neighbors, and industries to raise awareness and empower stewardship throughout the watershed. We educate the next generation through grants and programs like Salmon Watch to get children out to the water's edge, inspiring them to connect with the watershed that sustains us all.

In our community, protecting our drinking water source is part of our identity. It's a value we live by. We're proud of this work, and we're proud to serve a community that holds us accountable to this mission. Together we are building a future where clean, safe water remains a shared resource and a shared responsibility. Thank you for supporting this important work.

Utility personnel must be able to access meters at any time, whether for maintenance, inspections, or during a power outage. Leaves, overgrown vegetation, and mud from heavy rains can make it challenging for our crews. Please keep the area around the meter clear. Our teams cover a lot of ground each day, so your help in maintaining a clear meter area ensures we stay on schedule!

**WATER OR ELECTRIC METER NEED A MAKEOVER?**

### Your Board of Commissioners

Wards 1 & 8	Matt McRae (President)
Wards 2 & 3	John Barofsky (Vice President)
Wards 4 & 5	John Brown
Wards 6 & 7	Sonya Carlson
At-large	Mindy Schlossberg

The citizens of Eugene elect five commissioners to four-year terms. They dedicate their service to the utility as volunteers without pay. Commissioners hold regularly scheduled public meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, typically at 5:30 p.m. Our customer-owners are welcome and encouraged to participate. Meetings are streamed live and archived on [eweb.org/Board](http://eweb.org/Board).

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