


**CITY OF HOWARD LAKE**  
PO BOX 736 - HOWARD LAKE, MN 55349  
(202) 543-3670 | info@howard-lake.mn.us | www.howard-lake.mn.us  
Pay online at [www.howard-lake.mn.us](http://www.howard-lake.mn.us)



FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
1 OZ.  
PERMIT #2

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SERVE AT 100 1ST AVENUE

DATE 01/22/2023

85

For Service From 12/15/2022 to 1/15/2023

CHARGES/CREDITS	DATE	METER READING PREVIOUS	METER READING PRESENT	USAGE	AMOUNT
PREV BAL RECEIPT					\$125.96
WATER		23670	25626	1956	\$35.21
SEWER RES				1967	\$48.32
GARBAGE					\$14.40
MN TEST FE					\$0.81
RECYCLING					\$2.25
STRM WTR U					\$7.99
WWTP Fee				1967	\$14.58
SWM TAX					\$1.40
CUR CHRG					\$124.96
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>					<b>\$124.96</b>

ACCT. NO. 01-00000000-00-1

AMT. \$124.96

After 02/20/2023 Pay \$126.20

A. PERSON  
100 1ST AVENUE  
PO BOX 001  
HOWARD LAKE MN 55349

AFTER 12/20/2022 PAY \$126.20

AMOUNT DUE NOW **\$124.96**

OIL IN RECYCLING = \$300 FINE!!

01-00000000-00-1

ACCOUNT NUMBER

## UTILITY BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

To pay in person, tear off the left side of your utility bill and turn that in with your payment at City Hall.

To pay online, please head to and register at:  
<https://www.howard-lake.mn.us/utilitybill>

## PREVIOUS BALANCE & RECEIPT OF PAYMENT

The first line on your bill gives you the amount of your prior bill, to allow for easy comparison from month to month. The next line is the amount you paid toward your prior bill.

## CURRENT CHARGES & TOTAL DUE

The line labeled CUR CHRG is the amount due from the current bill cycle.

The line labeled TOTAL DUE is your total amount due on your account.

## SERVICE DATES

The bill you receive is for services received the month prior. Service period is from: **MM/15/YR to MM/15/YR**

## BASE RATES/FIXED MONTHLY

The City sets rates and collects fees to cover debt payments, operations and maintenance expenses from providing safe and sanitary water to drink, sanitary sewer discharge and treatment of stormwater. The sewer charge listed here covers local costs of treatment and transport such as the pipe, lift stations and personnel expenses. The rates shown below are included in the amount category. The amount in addition to the base rates shown below is for usage per

DESCRIPTION	ON YOUR BILL	RATE
Water	Water	\$35.21
Sewer	Sewer Res	\$48.32
Stormwater	Strm wtr	\$7.99

## USAGE FEES

The City sets rates and collects fees based on the amount of water and sewer each property uses. The fees are added to the base rates listed above. While metering sewer discharge inefficient, Howard Lake, like many communities, establishes an average sewer rate. The sewer rate is calculated using WATER consumption average from January, February, and March annually. These months are most commonly the lowest water consumption months of the year. If you notice a big discrepancy, contact the City for an adjustment.

The usage from your previous month's bill and your present bill are located on the **WATER** line.

<b>Water</b> - Base rate: \$26.88	Gallon rate: \$4.26/1,000gal
<b>Sewer</b> - Base rate: \$30.87	Gallon rate: \$7.41/1,000gal

## STATE TESTING FEES & TAXES

Minnesota Testing Fee (**MN TEST FE**) is a flat fee on every utility account in the State of Minnesota. The fee is collected by the City and sent to the Minnesota Department of Health. MDH conducts testing to ensure all water in the state provided by municipalities is safe and in compliance.

Solid Waste Management Fee (**SWM TAX**) applies to services for both mixed municipal solid waste and non-mixed municipal solid waste. A waste management service provider is responsible for collecting and remitting the SWM Tax to the Minnesota Department of Revenue. A provider is anyone who directly bills a waste generator (customer) for waste management services. The tax rate is based off the size garbage can you have at your home.

GARBAGE CAN SIZE	SWM TAX
21 Gallon	\$1.01
60 Gallon	\$1.40
90 Gallon	\$1.54

## OTHER AGENCIES

Refuse (**Garbage & Recycling**). The City contracts with Mumford Sanitation for garbage and recycling services. These fees are collected by the City and paid directly to Mumford Sanitation.

<b>GARBAGE</b> \$10.70 - \$15.80
<b>Recycling</b> \$2.25

Waste Water Treatment Plant (**WWTP**). Howard Lake is part of a three-city wastewater district to operate one wastewater treatment plant. These fees are collected by the City and paid directly to the wastewater entity.

<b>WWTP</b> - Gallon rate: \$7.41/1,000gal
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## ABOUT HOWARD LAKE

### Lower Property Tax Impacts

- Other community's over all tax levies are up to 30% higher to off set street, utility related expenses. Howard Lake levies \$50,000 or about 5% of our overall tax levy for these expenses.
- No property tax special assessments for street & utility projects. Many communities put a one time assessment (often up to \$10,000), in addition to existing property taxes to pay for street and utility projects payable over 10 years.

### Community growth is helping!

- Since 2016 about 60 new residential homes have been built and 6 commercial/industrial developments have been built. More users on the same system have delayed scheduled rate increases. The last rate increase was January 2016.

### Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork!

- In 2010 the City was required to build a new waste water treatment plant to meet revised federal regulations. The City joined a wastewater district that shares one treatment plant with the cities of Annandale and Maple Lake. While expensive, the cost savings totaled over \$6 Million from building and operating alone.

### We are still trying to improve!

- We require inspections at the time of every property sale to ensure properties are not adding excess and unnecessary treatment costs related to treating rainwater.
- In 2019, the city adopted a 10 year capital improvement plan that seeks to repair and replace city streets and utilities and make necessary investments in infrastructure without rate increases or property tax increases. In 2020, all properties were upgraded to auto-read meters for improved convenience and accuracy in billing.

## INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDUCE YOUR BILL

### *Check toilets, your water softener, water heater and faucets for leaks*

- Water softeners often cycle at odd hours.
- Toilets often run periodically.

### *Install high efficiency appliances and water conserving fixtures*

- 60% of Howard Lake's housing stock is 30 years of age or older. Often older homes and businesses that have not been renovated have fixtures and appliances that use more water.

### *Provide on time bill payments*

- Set a reminder to pay every month or schedule automatic payments.
- Late fees are 1% of your total bill.