



## North Santiam Sewer Authority

northsantiamsewer@gmail.com

northsantiamsewer.net

P.O. Box 256  
444 S 1st Ave  
Mill City, OR 97360

### **NSSA Board Meeting #100**

March 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Mill City, City Hall

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86874219981>

Meeting ID: 868 7421 9981

- A. Roll Call and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
- B. Announcements
- C. Public Comment

### **Old Business**

- D. Consent Agenda
  - Approval of February 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Board Summary Notes

### **New Business**

- E. Treasurer's Report (Evans) Motion Needed
- F. Adoption of Budget Calendar and Budget Officer (Conroy) (Motion Needed)
- G. Proclamation for World Engineering Day (Conroy)
- H. County Update (Einmo)
- I. Agency Updates (DEQ, Business Oregon, Regional Solutions Coordinator)
- J. Staff Report (Conroy)

### **Upcoming Events**

Date	Event	Location
04/07/2025	NSSA Regular Board Meeting	Mill City, City Hall and Zoom
05/05/2025	NSSA Regular Board Meeting	Mill City, City Hall and Zoom



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**DRAFT**

**NSSA Board Meeting #99 Summary Notes**

February 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Mill City, City Hall and Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**A. Roll Call and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

**Present:** Tim Kirsch, Chair, Mill City; Janet Zeyen-Hall, Secretary, Mill City; Ron Evans, Treasurer, Gates; Denny Nielsen, Detroit, Communications Chair; Emily Scofield, Vice-Chair, Gates

**Marion County:** Chris Einmo, Brian Nicholas

**DEQ:** Mary Camarata

**COG Staff:** Laura Conroy, Deza'Rae Collins

**Keller Associates:** Pam Villarreal, Peter Olsen

**Others:** Ken Woodward

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**B. Announcements:** None

**C. Public Comments:**

Ken Woodward addressed the board regarding concerns about the proposed ODOT drain field location in Detroit. Woodward expressed worry about potential fuel spills from semi-truck rollovers contaminating the drain field and disrupting businesses. He cited two recent rollovers in the area and his 47 years of experience as a truck driver.

Chair Kirsch acknowledged it was an interesting point he hadn't considered before. He assumed those looking into the project would take it into consideration. Mary Camarata, DEQ responded to Woodward's concerns, explaining that in the event of a fuel spill, the truck's insurance would typically cover mitigation costs, including digging up and replacing the drain field if necessary. Camarata noted that ODOT and DEQ would work together to address any spills, depending on the size and location.

**Old Business:**

**D. Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda** by Scofield, seconded by Nielsen; Unanimous Motion passed.

**In favor:** All present. **Opposed:** None. **Abstained:** None.

**New Business:**

**Treasurer's Report (Evans):** Ron Evans presented the Treasurer's Report, including invoices paid to MWVCOG for services and remaining actual funds available.

**E. Staff Report (Conroy):** See memo attached to agenda packet.

**F. County Update (Einmo):** See video on YouTube Channel for update.

**G. Agency Updates (DEQ, Business Oregon, Regional Solutions):**

**DEQ:** See video on YouTube Channel for discussion.

**Business Oregon:** No updates.

**Regional Solutions:** No updates.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:09p.m.**



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**DEQ:** See video on YouTube Channel for discussion.

**Business Oregon:** No updates.

**Regional Solutions:** No updates.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:09p.m.**



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## NSSA TREASURY

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# NSSA TREASURY REPORT

## FOR

## FEBRUARY 2025

PREPARED BY:

Ronald V. Evans

NSSA Treasurer

[Ron.evans8@gmail.com](mailto:Ron.evans8@gmail.com)

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# NSSA TREASURY

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NSSA GENERAL LEDGER, FISCAL 24 – 25 ..... 3

# NSSA TREASURY

## NSSA GENERAL LEDGER, FISCAL 24 – 25

Date	Starting Balance	Deposits	Invoices Paid	Check #	Invoice #	Category	US Bank Balance	COMMENTS
June 30, 2024							\$52,550.29	June 30 ending balance
July 12, 2024	\$52,550.29		\$1,217.54	1045	PO-NSSA-12024-00		\$51,332.75	CIS 24 - 25 POLICY
July 12, 2024	\$51,332.75		\$2,182.38	1046	3344B		\$49,150.37	MWVCOG June billable
July 14, 2024	\$49,150.37		\$17.95				\$49,132.42	Single Point service
August 14, 2024	\$49,132.42		\$17.95				\$49,114.47	Single Point service
August 30, 2024	\$49,114.47		\$3,925.18	1047	3425		\$45,189.29	MWVCOG July billable
September 9, 2024	\$45,189.29	581.77					\$45,771.06	DEPOSIT FROM THE DITY OF GATES
September 9, 2024	\$45,771.06		\$1,081.77	1049			\$44,689.29	Emily Scofield, Airfare
September 12, 2024	\$44,689.29		\$3,801.14	1050	3472		\$40,888.15	MWVCOG Aug. billable
September 9, 2024	\$40,888.15		\$150.00	1048			\$40,738.15	Report in Lieu of Audit
September 15, 2024	\$40,738.15		\$17.95				\$40,720.20	Single Point service
October 8, 2024	\$40,720.20		\$4,370.89	1052	3519		\$36,349.31	MWVCOG Sept. Billable
October 15, 2024	\$36,349.31		\$17.95				\$36,331.36	Single Point service
October 18, 2024	\$36,331.36		\$4,982.50	1051	145908		\$31,348.86	Cable Huston September billing
November 12, 2024	31,348.86		\$2,561.57	1053	3562		\$28,787.29	MWVCOG Oct Billing
November 14, 2024	28,787.29		\$17.95				\$28,769.34	Single Point service
November 18, 2024	28,769.34		\$28.73	1054	3583		28,740.61	Milage correction from invoice 3344b
November 30, 2024	28,740.61		\$3,813.52	1055	3610		24,927.09	MWVCOG Nov. Billing
December 14, 2024	24,927.09		\$17.95				\$24,909.14	Single Point service
December 31, 2024	24,909.14		\$2,103.66	1056	3661		\$22,805.48	MWVCOG Dec. Billing
January 14, 2025	22,805.48		\$17.95				\$22,787.53	Single Point service
January 31, 2025	22,787.53		\$2,682.70	1057	3710		\$20,104.83	MWVCOG Jan. Billing
February 14, 2025	20,104.83		\$17.95				\$20,086.88	Single Point service

## The Budget Process

A budget as defined by Oregon State Law (Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS), Chapter 294), is a financial plan containing estimates of revenues and expenditures for a given period or purpose, such as the fiscal year. The North Santiam Sewer Authority (NSSA) is required to budget all funds and for each fund to have a balanced budget.

As a rule, local governments in Oregon operate on a fiscal year that begins on July 1 and ends the following June 30. The NSSA budget operates on this schedule. Budgeting is critical to NSSA because it requires the organization to evaluate plans and establish priorities in relation to available financial resources.

As part of the budgeting process, the board must adopt a schedule for preparation of the budget. This schedule is called the budget calendar.

### 2025-26 Budget Calendar

Action	Proposed Date
Board appoints Budget Officer and Adopts Budget Calendar	March 3
Staff prepares Proposed budget	March
Publish Legal Notice of Budget Committee Meeting in newspaper and on NSSA website with key dates and opportunities for public input as part of budget process. (Publish twice, 10 days before meeting, 1 newspaper, 1 web)	Friday, March 28th
Proposed budget document available at COG desk and online	Friday, March 28th
Budget Committee meeting – orientation, budget message and public hearings, additional meetings <u>as needed and announced</u> to review funds, discuss amendments, and make budget recommendation	Monday, April 7, 2025 @ 12pm via zoom
Publish Notice of NSSA Budget Hearing to website and newspaper, not less than eight days and not more than 14 days prior to the budget hearing. ORS 294.920	Friday, April 25, 2025
NSSA Budget Hearing - Board adopts budget, makes appropriations, imposes, and categorizes property tax  NOTE: Must be completed by June 30, 2025	Monday May 5, 2025 @ 6pm

## The Budget Committee and Budget Officer

The Budget Committee is composed of the NSSA board and representatives of the services provided by the NSSA as described in ORS 294.905 (2). Appointive members of the budget committee shall be appointed for terms of three years. The terms shall be staggered so that one-third or approximately one-third of the terms of the appointive members end each year. The budget committee, at its first meeting after its appointment, shall elect a chair person and secretary from among its members.

The appointed members:

- Must live in the North Santiam Sewer Authority boundaries,
- Cannot be officers, agents, or employees of the local government, and
- Can be spouses of officers, agents, or employees of the NSSA.

The Budget Officer is appointed by the Board to prepare a preliminary budget for the Budget Committee's review and post the legal notices. A summary of the preliminary budget is published in the local newspaper, online and is available for review at the COG office. The NSSA Board holds a public hearing prior to July 1, which may result in further changes. If a change will increase revenues or increase expenditures within a fund by more than ten percent or \$5,000, whichever is greater, the budget must be referred to the Budget Committee. The NSSA Board adopts the budget prior to June 30 each year. The adopted budget is filed with the county clerk and State of Oregon each year.



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### Proclamation

#### Recognizing Santiam Canyon Project Engineers as part of World Engineering Day March 4, 2025

**WHEREAS**, engineers use their scientific and technical skills in creative and revolutionary ways to fulfill society's needs; and

**WHEREAS**, engineers work on many major technological challenges of our time, such as rebuilding towns devastated by natural disaster; cleaning up the environment; assuring safe, clean and efficient sources of energy; and designing information systems that will propel our state and country into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, engineering has been called the invisible or stealth profession because everything around us and things we use every day have been engineered in some way, yet we may not see the engineers behind the scenes or know much about engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, World Engineering Day is a global celebration to highlight engineers' achievements and improve public understanding of the importance of engineering and technology; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Santiam Sewer Authority wishes to recognize Brian Nicholas, P.E Marion County Public Works Director, Chris Einmo, P.E. Project Engineer, Tsige Woldegiorgis, project engineer Marion County, Peter Olsen, P.E. Project Engineer Keller Associates and Pamela Villareal, P.E. project engineer Keller Associates for their expertise and steadfast commitment to the project and long-term recovery of the canyon communities

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the North Santiam Sewer Authority, does hereby acknowledge and joins in the celebration of World Engineering Day and encourages all community members to join us in recognizing the efforts of the project engineers for the North Santiam Canyon Sewer Project for their contributions to the long-term recovery of the canyon community.

Signed this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emily Scofield, Vice-Chair  
North Santiam Sewer Authority





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**Date:** February 26, 2025  
**To:** NSSA Board  
**From:** Laura Conroy, Project Manager and Budget Officer  
**Subject:** February Staff Report

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## Introduction

This memo provides an overview of staff activities for February in support of the NSSA. COG staff are monitoring the permitting and rule change processes being undertaken by the DEQ, planning for the 2025 legislative session as an opportunity for additional funding for Detroit/Idanha, and working with the Marion County staff on a contract for services.

## Public Affairs and Administration Support Services from County

In an effort to conserve NSSA's fiscal resources staff reduced communication coordination efforts eg. staff reduced the number of project team meetings and calls with county and state agencies and did not update the website beyond the basic posting of agendas and packet. The county project team has worked diligently to find funding for these efforts and the anticipated additional support the project will need as the DEQ rule making process and construction efforts get underway. Funding was located and county staff are working on a scope of work for the expanded role for strategic engagement and communications that the project needs. The county is continuing to discuss the scope of services that is needed and will provide a draft contract when it is available.

## Permitting Pathway Meetings

DEQ Rules Advisory Committee – permanent rule making

DEQ clarified that the membership of the RAC to update the three-basin-rule is closed. Marion County, the City of Salem, the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde and other interested

parties have a seat on the RAC. The RAC meetings are open to the public and the DEQ has placed information about the time and location of the RAC on its website.

#### DEQ – emergency rulemaking

Staff are coordinating with Marion County to request an emergency rule that will allow sewage treatment facilities in the canyon that meet a higher water quality standard to be constructed on an expedited timeline.

#### Legislative Efforts

Staff have coordinated with Marion County, the Confederated Tribe of Grande Ronde and City of Salem to package a bill for the Oregon legislature which would allow sewage treatment facilities in the canyon that meet a higher water quality standard to be constructed on an expedited timeline.

Oregon law prevents DEQ from issuing a Clean Water Act permit for sewage treatment plants in the canyon. The CWA permit requires facilities to treat wastewater to a higher standard than under Oregon law.

Oregon law requires DEQ to issue permits before construction of treatment facilities can begin. The 50M ARPA investment from the legislature must be expended by December 2026. In order to complete construction by December 2026, construction on the project must begin by May 2025. Without a legislative fix, DEQ cannot issue a permit and even if it could issue a permit it is unlikely a permit could be issued quickly enough for construction to start and be completed by December 2026.

#### **Funding**

COG continues to coordinate with Marion County to find additional funding to complete the Gates-Mill City phase of the project and full funding for the Idanha-Detroit phase.

#### **Residential Septic Grants**

DEQ is requesting additional funding for septic grant programs as part of the 2025 legislative process. If funded, DEQ will issue an RFP to agencies interested in operating a septic grant program. COG has provided feedback about the success of its septic grant program monitoring these efforts and is prepared to submit an application for a septic grant program.

#### **Budget Process**

Staff has drafted a Budget Calendar for the board's consideration and confirmed members of the Budget Committee. The Board will need to adopt the budget calendar, appoint a budget officer at its March meeting. Staff will coordinate with Mr. Evans as treasurer to develop the proposed budget for the Budget Committee's and Board's consideration.

# Santiam Canyon Recovery. Protecting Water Quality. Rebuilding Communities.



Spring 2025



## Current Challenges

**Protecting Water Quality:** The federal Clean Water Act requires sewage treatment facilities to meet a higher water quality standard than is currently required under state law. Current state permitted systems in the Santiam Canyon are aging. To protect water quality, Oregon should require the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to issue a federal Clean Water Act discharge permit for new sewage treatment facilities in the Santiam Basin.

**Protecting \$50M Legislative Investment to Rebuild Communities.** The legislature awarded \$50M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding towards sewer systems in the Santiam Canyon. These funds must be expended and construction finished by the end of 2026. In order to meet ARPA deadline facilities construction must begin in May 2025. Oregon law requires DEQ to issue a permit before construction begins. The project needs to be able to construct the facility at the same time as it moves through the permitting process in order to meet ARPA deadlines.

### What developments in federal law are affecting this project?

Previously, wastewater permitting in the Clackamas, the North Santiam, and McKenzie River basins has been handled through the state's Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF). The 2020 Supreme Court decision, *Maui County v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund* makes clear that federal permits under the Clean Water Act are required for facilities near rivers, regardless of whether they discharge directly to those rivers or to groundwater.

### What is the Three Basin Rule, and why does it prohibit Clean Water Act permits in these basins?

The Three Basin Rule regulates water quality in the Clackamas, McKenzie, and North Santiam. One provision of the Rule is to prohibit federal permits for new systems under the Clean Water Act.

The main goal of Clean Water Act permits is to keep the water safe and clean, protecting the environment and our health. Prohibiting federal permits may have been a protective strategy in the past, but it has not kept up with changes to technology and the legal landscape. Without updates to this rule, communities in the three basins will be left without a solution to treat and dispose of municipal wastewater.

## What Steps Have Been Taken So Far

Marion County petitioned the Environmental Quality Commission to update the Three Basin Rule in November 2024. The EQC directed the DEQ to update the rule to bring it in line with the Supreme Court decision. DEQ is forming a Rulemaking Advisory Committee and estimates the process will take 8-12 months, followed by 6-9 months to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This is an important process to build consensus among interested parties, but legislative action is needed as an interim solution for the current project.

## What Actions Need To Happen

**Construction:** We request the Oregon Legislature passes a law exempting projects built under SR 2240 from the prohibitions of 468B.050(1)(b) and (1)(e), which require a permit to be issued prior to construction beginning.

**Permit:** We request the Oregon Legislature passes a law directing DEQ to issue Clean Water Act permits for facilities funded under the legislative appropriation of SR 2240.

## Frequently Ask Questions

### What is the North Santiam Canyon Wastewater Project?

The North Santiam Canyon Wastewater Project is a plan to improve how wastewater is handled in the Gates, Mill City, Idanha, and Detroit communities. Instead of using septic systems, these communities will convert to a modern sewer system. This project is important for helping these communities recover and grow after the devastation of the 2020 wildfires, while simultaneously protecting the environment and supporting the local economy.

### How will the project impact water quality and aquatic species?

The new wastewater treatment plant in Mill City will use advanced methods to clean the water before returning to environment. It will use a multi-step system, combining advanced biological treatment, ultraviolet disinfection, and natural filtration through the ground. These steps will ensure high water quality for over 200,000 citizens and helps protect aquatic life.

### Who is involved in the rebuilding efforts for the North Santiam Canyon?

Many local agencies are contributing, including the four cities (Gates, Mill City, Idanha, and Detroit), the North Santiam Sewer Authority (NSSA) board, DEQ, Linn County, Marion County, Santiam Hospital, and downstream communities like the City of Salem, who use water from the North Santiam River.

ORS 468B.050 is amended to read:

**468B.050 Water quality permit; issuance by rule or order; rules.** (1) Except as provided in ORS 468B.053 or 468B.215, without holding a permit from the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality or the State Department of Agriculture, which permit shall specify applicable effluent limitations, a person may not:

- (a) Discharge any wastes into the waters of the state from any industrial or commercial establishment or activity or any disposal system.
- (b) Construct, install, modify or operate any disposal system or part thereof or any extension or addition thereto.
- (c) Increase in volume or strength any wastes in excess of the permissive discharges specified under an existing permit.
- (d) Construct, install, operate or conduct any industrial, commercial, confined animal feeding operation or other establishment or activity or any extension or modification thereof or addition thereto, the operation or conduct of which would cause an increase in the discharge of wastes into the waters of the state or which would otherwise alter the physical, chemical or biological properties of any waters of the state in any manner not already lawfully authorized.
- (e) Construct or use any new outlet for the discharge of any wastes into the waters of the state.
- (f) The prohibitions of subsection (1)(b) and (1)(e) of this section do not apply to the construction and installation of a publicly owned treatment works discharging to groundwater in the North Santiam Basin, provided construction of such publicly owned treatment works begins between April 15, 2025 and June 15, 2025, and that no operation or discharge occurs prior to issuance of a valid NPDES permit from the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality.**

(2) The Department of Environmental Quality or the State Department of Agriculture may issue a permit under this section as an individual, general or watershed permit. A permit may be issued to a class of persons using the procedures for issuance of an order or for the adoption of a rule. Notwithstanding the definition of “order” or “rule” provided in ORS 183.310, in issuing a general or watershed permit by order pursuant to this section, the State Department of Agriculture or Department of Environmental Quality:

- (a) Is not required to direct the order to a named person or named persons; and
- (b) May include in the order agency directives, standards, regulations and statements of general applicability that implement, interpret or prescribe law or policy.

(3) When deciding whether to issue a permit to a confined animal feeding operation under this section, the Department of Environmental Quality or the State Department of Agriculture shall consider any relevant determination by the Water Resources Department pursuant to ORS 468B.216 (2).

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, the Department of Environmental Quality or the State Department of Agriculture may not issue a general NPDES or WPCF permit to a new large confined animal feeding operation that:

- (a) Is located in a ground water management area declared under ORS 468B.180; and
- (b) Applies manure, litter, wastewater or processed waste to land within the ground water management area.

(5) Subsection (4) of this section does not apply to the issuance of water quality permits to regulate stormwater.

(6) The State Department of Agriculture or the Department of Environmental Quality may define “confined animal feeding operation” by rule for purposes of implementing this section.

(7) As used in this section:

- (a) “New large confined animal feeding operation” has the meaning given that term in ORS 468B.215.
- (b) “NPDES” and “WPCF” have the meanings given those terms in ORS 561.255.

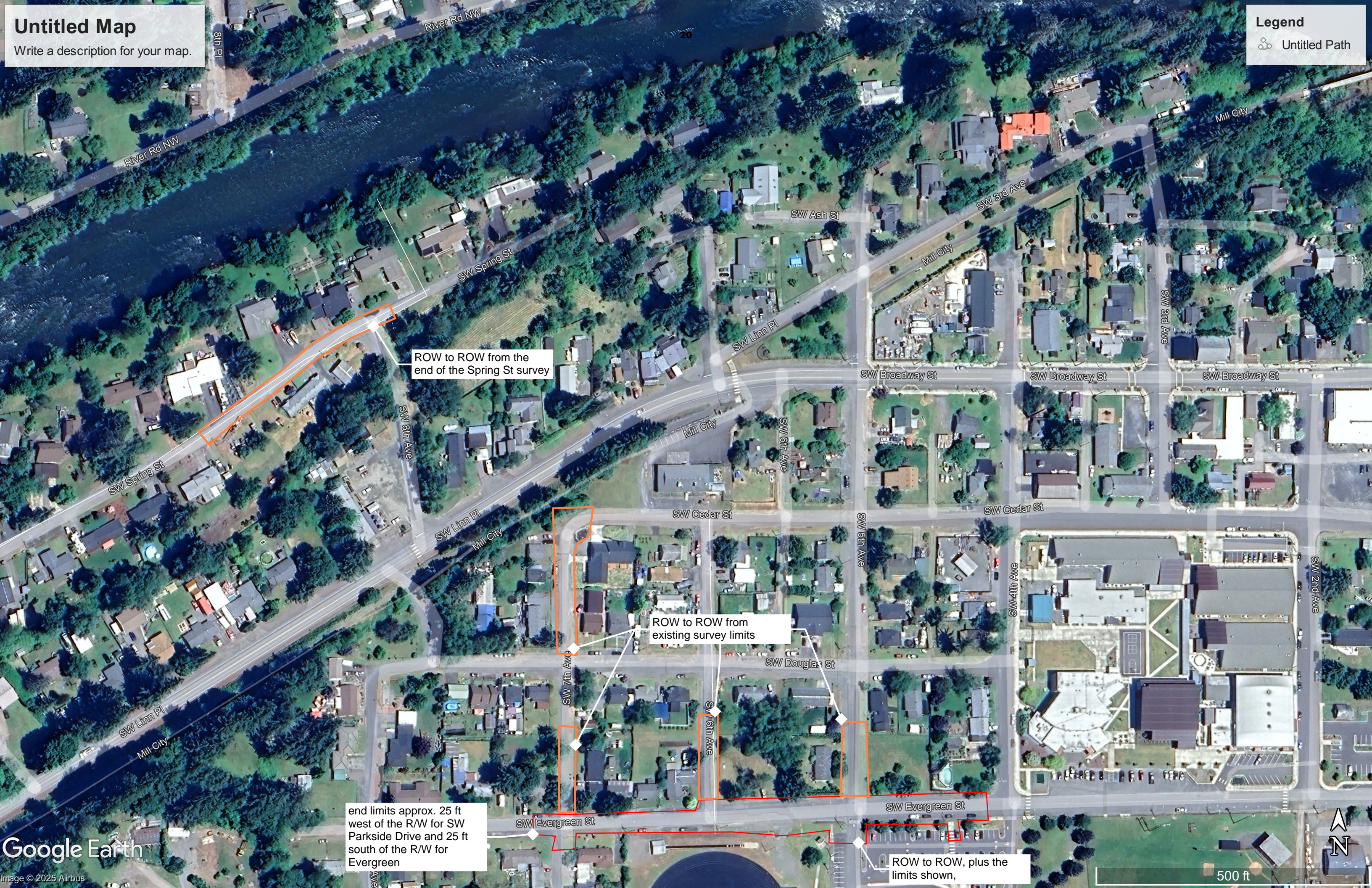


# Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

## Legend

Untitled Path



ROW to ROW from the end of the Spring St survey

ROW to ROW from existing survey limits

end limits approx. 25 ft west of the R/W for SW Parkside Drive and 25 ft south of the R/W for Evergreen

ROW to ROW, plus the limits shown,

500 ft