

PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (POWTS)

In September, Marathon County instituted a \$6.00 annual fee per Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS), commonly referred to as a septic system. This annual charge will appear on property owner tax bills beginning with the 2025 billing system (that is paid in 2026).

The purpose of this fee is to fund the state-mandated POWTS Maintenance Program, which is responsible for:

- *Tracking POWTS installations and maintenance within the county;
- *Ensuring systems are maintained and functioning in accordance with state law; and
- *Protecting groundwater and surface water resources through proper wastewater management.

If a property owner believes the fee was applied in error, they should pay the charge as billed to satisfy their property tax obligation, and then contact the Marathon County Conservation, Planning & Zoning Department at 715-261-6040 for instructions on how to request a refund. Please note that if the fee is not paid, it will be treated as delinquent property taxes and incur interest and penalties.

MARATHON COUNTY POWTS PROGRAM FEE

Marathon County has implemented an annual POWTS (Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System) Maintenance Program Fee of \$6.00 per septic system, that is reflected on your tax bill beginning in 2025. This fee helps fund the county's POWTS Maintenance Program, which ensures septic systems are properly maintained and operating as required by state law. This program plays an important role in protecting our lakes, rivers, and drinking water, supporting Marathon County's vision to be the healthiest, safest, and most prosperous County in Wisconsin.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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What is a POWTS?

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POWTS stands for Private Onsite Waste Treatment System. It is more commonly referred to as a Septic System.

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What types of septic systems does this fee apply too?

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This fee is applied per Septic System on the property, this includes Holding Tank, Mound System, Inground pressure, At-Grade, Conventional system, Privy, Etc.

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Why does my bill show more than \$6.00?

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The annual POWTS Maintenance fee is assessed per septic system. Example if your property has 2 septic systems you will be assessed a fee of \$12.00

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Who qualifies for a refund?

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If your property does not contain a septic system and you were charged in error, you may qualify for a refund. Please note that verification may be required before the refund can be issued.

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Can I choose not to pay if I plan to request a refund?

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No. The POWTS Maintenance Fee is included as a special charge on your property tax bill. This fee is paid first when you make a tax payment. If it isn't paid, your bill will show a past due balance. Even if you've requested a refund, it's important to pay the full amount to avoid delinquent taxes and interest and penalty charges.

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How do I request a refund?

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To submit a refund request please call the Marathon County POWTS Maintenance line at 715-261-6040. If you are directed to voicemail, please leave your name, and number. A staff member will get back to you by the next business day to help you through the process.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



Marathon County Conservation, Planning, & Zoning
Department
1100 Lake View Drive, Suite 400, Wausau, WI 54403.
Phone: 715-261-6040



<https://www.marathoncounty.gov/powts>