Describe briefly the characteristics of the water, stormwater and wastewater treatment utilities (number of users being served, projected growth, facilities maintained, cost to users, etc.)

All information was taken from the City website, under Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, http://www.portlandonline.com/bes.

Portland operates two wastewater treatment plants, Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant and Tryon Creek.
(Note: This was put together quickly. [The original researcher told me on Saturday she could not complete the task.] I was not able to find definitive information about the Tryon Creek facility, other than identifying it as a treatment plant. A phone call reached a message machine and I have not received a reply. If I receive pertinent information I will forward it.)

The Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant serves 614,000 residential and commercial customers, with a collection system which consists of 2,256 miles of pipe and 96 pump stations. Each customer generates about 100 gallons of wastewater each day.

The Columbia plant used a two-phase treatment process. Large debris is screened out and goes to a solid waste landfill; grease, oil and floatable solids are skimmed off; and settleable solids are collected and thickened. Next naturally occurring microorganisms feed on organic pollutants, the resulting residue is separated, and the water (after disinfection) flows into the Columbia River. The biosolids removed are squeezed to extract additional liquid; decomposition of the solids is aided by an oxygen-free environment; and the end product is used as a soil supplement on dry pasture land.
Most of Portland neighborhoods are served by a combined system that carries both wastewater and storm water to the treatment plants. The City is addressing the issue of combined sewer overflows through a number of programs that increase awareness and promote private efforts. A City effort is the construction of large collector pipes and pumping stations: the West Side Big Pipe Project was completed in 2006; the East Side Big Pipe is scheduled for completion in 2011.

A residential sewer rate is based on sewer volume ($6.08 per 100 cubic feet) and storm water management ($7.73 per 1,000 square feet of impervious surface).
Sewer volume is based on actual water usage or a winter average, whichever is lower. Storm water is divided with 35% for on-site and 65% for off-site; ratepayers can have the on-site charge reduced or eliminated for individual management.
The average single family monthly bill for sewer and storm water services was $46.91.