



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 2024

NEW UTILITY WEBSITE

When water, stormwater, and sewer services were combined and renamed to the Highlands Utility District in 2023, we launched our own website to provide a dedicated resource for information, updates, and services. Visit us at www.highlandutility.org – we welcome your feedback!



GET TO KNOW YOUR UTILITY OPERATOR (who's even easier to spot in the District's new truck)

For the past 14 years, Nathan “Nate” Burkemoore has been the friendly face behind The Highlands utilities and landscape, serving initially as Landscape Supervisor, and more recently adding Utility District Operator. On any given day, his duties can range from road maintenance and reservation forest work, to routine water, sanitary sewer, and storm drain maintenance, operating the District's Vector Truck, and even responding to emergencies. He is a certified water operator with the Washington State Department of Health, and a state certified cross-connection control specialist. When not on the job, Nate and his wife Stephanie enjoy spending time at home with their young son and daughter in Ballard.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Friday April 12, 2024 at 10:00 am

Highlands conference room at 181 NW Highland Drive

Our Board of Commissioners usually meets at 10:00 am on the second Wednesday of every month, however this month we're meeting on Friday April 12 (at the same time). You are welcome to attend by calling 206-362-2100, ext. 103 to RSVP.

On the Agenda: proposed changes to the District's Cross-Connection Control Program

Washington State Department of Health requires all water utility districts to implement cross-connection control programs. Under the proposed changes, the District would be responsible for selecting, installing, maintaining, and testing backflow prevention devices adjacent to the District's water meters, which may also require resizing.

What's a cross-connection? Places in a plumbing system where a potable (i.e., drinkable) water line connects to an outside item that contains non-potable fluids—ranging from irrigation and fire sprinkler systems, to pools, ponds, fountains, and hot tubs. Without a “backflow prevention device,” these connections are at risk of backflow from the non-potable water into the potable public water system.

Backflow can happen when there's a loss of pressure in the water system (for example, an increased water demand during a major fire event), which can in turn draw non-potable water into the water system—unless a mechanical backflow prevention device is installed.