

CITY SEWER SYSTEM OWNERSHIP TRANSFER TO PUD COMPLETE

The PUD officially took over ownership of the City of Clarkston sewer system and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) on August 22, 2024. The PUD began contract operation of the City’s sewer system on April 1, 2023, and in December 2023, the City and the PUD entered into an agreement that provided for the ownership transfer of the city sewer system to the PUD.

In preparation for the ownership transfer, Public Works Trust Fund and State Revolving Fund Loans were transferred to the PUD and a Utility Revenue Bond sale was conducted with the proceeds used to retire the City’s revenue bonds. The PUD also completed sewer collection system improvements utilizing \$1.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding set aside by the City and the energy load of the WWTP was moved under the PUD contract with the Bonneville Power Administration reducing power costs by 50%.

Both City and PUD elected officials believe PUD ownership of the sewer system and WWTP is beneficial for city citizens who are PUD customers. The PUD has already lowered the planned annual rate increases of 14.6% to less than half at 7% for 2024 and reduced overhead while improving WWTP performance.

The PUD Board and staff will now begin strategic planning for the funding of operations, maintenance and capital improvements to ensure the wastewater treatment plant and sewer collection system are properly maintained, continually upgraded and remain reliable while stabilizing rates.



Clarkston Wastewater Treatment Plant

Capital Improvement Project Stats 2012-2024

Improvement Investment	\$12,100,000
Water Main Replaced	77,525 ft-14.68 miles
Water Services Replaced	1019
Water Main Removed	3,860 ft
Projects Completed	118
Sewer Main Extended	8,124 ft
Sewer Main Replaced	5,500 ft

37 Years of Clean State Audits

The Washington State Auditor’s Office recently completed the PUDs Accountability and Financial Statements audit for the year 2023. This is the 37th consecutive year that the PUD has had a clean audit with no findings—our entire operational existence which began in April 1987. A clean annual audit demonstrates that we have good internal controls and that the money the public entrusts to us, through payment for the services provided, is handled properly.



Installation of Well No. 1 Emergency Generator

Washington State Law requires annual testing of backflow prevention devices

Drinking Water Systems can be contaminated through the lack of **Backflow Prevention**

What is Backflow ?

Backflow is the unwanted flow of non-potable substances back into the consumer's plumbing system and/or public water system (i.e., drinking water).

Backflow can happen where a *cross connection* exists in a plumbing system where the potable water supply is connected to a non-potable source. A *cross connection* exists whenever the drinking water system is or could be connected to any non-potable source (plumbing fixture). Pollutants or contaminants can enter the safe drinking water system through uncontrolled cross connections when *backflow* occurs.

There are two types of *backflow*, *backsiphonage* and *backpressure*. *Backsiphonage* is caused by a negative pressure in the supply line to a facility or plumbing fixture. *Backsiphonage* may occur during waterline breaks, when repairs are made to the waterlines or when shutting off the water supply.

Backpressure can occur when the potable water supply is connected to another system operated at a higher pressure or has the ability to create pressure. Principal causes are booster pumps, pressure vessels and elevated plumbing.

Backflow Prevention Assemblies are mechanical devices designed to prevent backflow through cross connections. However, for backflow preventers to protect as designed, they must meet stringent installation requirements and *must be tested annually*.

Lawn Irrigation Systems

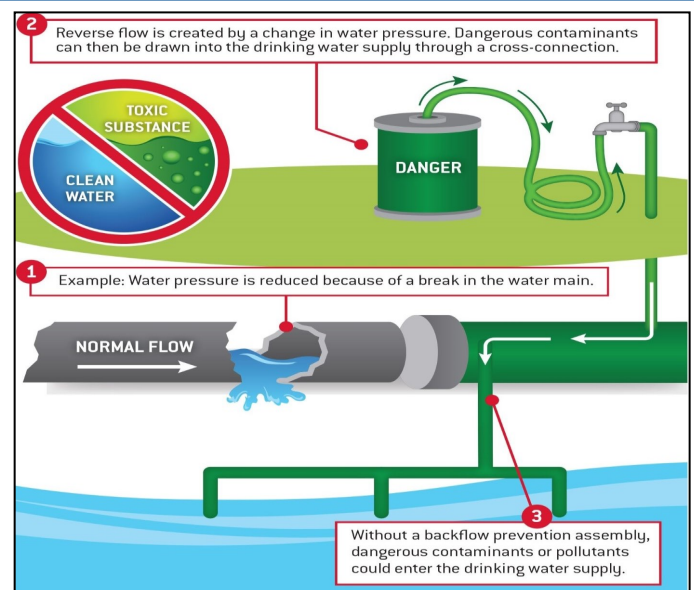


For the protection of the PUD

drinking water system, all irrigation systems must have an approved *backflow prevention assembly*.

Any irrigation system that contains pumps or injectors for the addition of chemicals and/or fertilizers is considered a high hazard. An approved *reduced pressure backflow assembly* (RPBA), or an approved air gap separation is required in all cases where chemicals or herbicides may be injected into the irrigation system, or where an auxiliary water supply is also provided for irrigation.

All irrigation systems that are not classified as a high health hazard are considered to be moderate health hazards. This risk assessment is based on the hazard posed by bacterial and chemical contaminants found on lawns. An approved *double check valve assembly* (DCVA) or *pressure vacuum breaker assembly* (PVBA) is required for this application.



We are THE source for your water service and water quality questions

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