



Give Back

TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Consider volunteering on a City of Richland Board or Commission!

Get involved! Richland's boards and commissions serve the City in numerous ways, including rendering advice to City Council, deciding appeals or civil violations, reviewing, and making recommendations on land use and other related regulations, and taking public testimony on the City's behalf.

Upcoming openings include:

- **Arts Commission**
- **Board of Adjustment**
- **Code Enforcement Board**
- **Parks and Recreation Commission**
- **Planning Commission**

Applications will be accepted beginning January 12, 2026 and will continue to be accepted until positions are filled. For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at 509.942.7389.

Apply Online at:

[RICHLANDWA.GOV/BCCVACANCIES](https://richlandwa.gov/bccvacancies)

What does each Board and Commission do?

Arts Commission

Supports City Council by encouraging and supporting the arts in Richland to improve the quality of life, strengthen economic development and revitalize the community. The Arts Commission serves as an advisory body to City Council and staff to provide expertise on visual, performing, and literary arts to enrich the cultural life of the community.

Board of Adjustment

The Board conducts public hearings and makes decisions on applications for special use permits; grants permits when requirements are fully met; grants or denies variances to the regulations or restrictions in the Richland Municipal Code when the variance is in harmony with general purposes and intent of the code; and hears and decides on appeals to administrative interpretations of the City's Zoning Code.

Code Enforcement Board

Conducts hearings on civil violations of the Richland Municipal Code (RMC); determines whether a civil violation of the RMC has occurred; assesses monetary penalties in instances where the Board determines that civil violations of the RMC have occurred; adopts rules of procedure for hearings concerning civil violations of the RMC; conducts hearings on appeal of any notice of civil trespass issued under Chapter 2.34 RMC; performs such other duties and provide such additional information, assistance and advice to the City Council as the City Council may request or direct.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Serves as an advisor to City Council in order to promote parks, trails, open space and recreation for the city; provides recommendations on matters related to the provision of parks and recreation facilities and services that promote healthy lifestyles and contribute to the quality of life for all citizens; regularly reviews and provides recommendations on updating the parks, trails and open space master plan and the individual venue master plans based on needs assessment, utilization data, staff proposals, and public input; and reviews and recommends rules and regulations for the use of public grounds, facilities and equipment.

Planning Commission

Prepares a comprehensive plan for the orderly physical and social development of the City; recommend regulations, amendments, extensions, or additions to regulations or plans for the physical development of the city in the interest of health, safety, or general welfare; reviews federal requirements for the administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs and makes recommendations on program procedures; reviews CDBG grant applications and makes recommendations to City Council; serves as an advisory body to the City Council as directed.

DID YOU KNOW?



RICHLAND WASTEWATER/STORMWATER AND SOLID WASTE UTILITIES January 2026

“Flushable” Wipes Aren’t Actually Flushable

Even wipes labeled “flushable” do not break down like toilet paper and can cause blockages in the sewer system. To help prevent costly backups, please only flush toilet paper. For more information on proper disposal and maintaining a healthy sewer system, visit richlandwa.gov/wastewaterutility.

F.O.G. Can Clog Sewer Lines

Fats, oils, and grease (F.O.G.) can solidify inside pipes, leading to clogs and sewer backups. Pouring F.O.G. down the drain creates problems for the entire community. Always cool and dispose of grease in the trash to prevent costly damage.

Stormwater Drains Lead Straight to the River

Stormwater drains do not flow to a treatment plant, anything dumped in them goes directly to rivers. Trash, chemicals, and oils can pollute waterways and harm wildlife. Make sure trash can lids are closed so rain doesn’t carry debris or hazards into storm drains. Only rainwater should go down storm drains to protect our environment.



Accepted Items for Curbside Collection

Richland residents receive gray carts for trash, green carts for yard waste, and optional blue carts for recyclables. Each cart has specific rules about what can be placed inside, helping collection run efficiently. Sorting waste properly ensures safety, keeps the city clean, and supports recycling and composting programs. View regulations for residential waste sorting at richlandwa.gov/solidwaste.

Hazardous Waste: Keep It Out of Your Carts

Hazardous items like paint, batteries, and chemicals cannot go in trash, recycling, or yard waste carts. Improper disposal can cause fires, injuries, and environmental damage. Take hazardous waste to approved disposal sites such as Horn Rapids Landfill to keep our community safe.

Keep Yard Waste Compostable – Use BPI Bags

If you bag yard waste, only use BPI-certified compostable bags to ensure proper processing at the landfill. Using regular plastic bags prevents composting and contaminates organic waste. Compostable bags help turn your yard debris into nutrient-rich compost while protecting the environment.



FAQ: Wastewater/Stormwater & Solid Waste Utilities

Why might my neighborhood street flood during rainstorms?

A frequently seen cause of this is leaves! Wind and rain can wash leaves onto and inside of storm drains where they pile up and block water from flowing through. Blocked storm drains can cause flooding on streets and sidewalks, damage roads, and create unsafe conditions for people and cars.

What happens when water utility lift stations are backed up?

Sewage can overflow, causing service disruptions and potential property damage.

Can stormwater get contaminated?

Yes, anything that enters storm drains flows directly to rivers, so it’s important to keep trash, chemicals, and oils out.

How do I dispose of my pool water?

Chlorine can be harmful to fish and aquatic life, even small amounts can stress fish by damaging their gills. Small amounts of pool or spa water can be safely discharged onto your lawn or landscaped areas, but must be fully dechlorinated before dumping large amounts.

How do I get a blue recycling cart?

Blue co-mingled recycling carts are an optional service and can be requested through the City at richlandwa.gov/solidwaste or by calling 509.942.7700.

Where can I find BPI Bags?

Free bags are available at Horn Rapids Landfill or City Hall during the Fall, while supplies last. Bags can also be purchased online or at local hardware stores.