



# Renton CityNews

## Protecting the environment

Preserving and protecting the natural beauty we enjoy here in Renton gets more than lip service from the city. City staff have been leaders in implementing programs designed to save residents money, protect the environment, and promote reuse and recycling.

- Renton’s first-of-its-kind automated water meter reading system monitors over 18,000 meters and has identified leaks that could have cost property owners approximately \$430,000.
- Renton was one of the first cities in the state to replace street lights with LED lights, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. LED lights last longer.
- A comprehensive recycling and composting program has diverted nearly 230,000 tons from landfills.

Inside this edition of Renton CityNews are several tips residents can implement to save money. They’re easy to implement and range from installing low-flush toilets to free events that repair household items. Renton has several hidden treasures right in downtown that protect the environment and provide a retreat into nature.

The Black River Riparian Forest and wetland is home to over 50 species of birds, including one of the largest blue heron colonies in the region.

The Springbrook Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank is a joint project with the state and is a great place to walk and view wildlife.

Learn more about these gems and all of the city’s environmental efforts in the video “The Greening of Renton” at [rentonwa.gov/videos](http://rentonwa.gov/videos).



Renton’s Solid Waste Utility Division hosts recycling events and offers tips to help residents save money and protect the environment.

## City gets AAA bond rating

Renton has received a AAA rating for general obligation bonds by S&P Global. AAA is the highest financial rating a city can achieve.

“S&P’s rating is a reflection of how we have managed our money, strengthened our reserves, and found solutions to challenges that affect the city budget,” said Mayor Denis Law.

The AAA bond rating will allow the city to pay the lowest available interest rates when borrowing funds. This has a two-fold benefit for the city: saving taxpayers money and freeing up funding for critical municipal infrastructure projects.

The city will use a majority of the proceeds of the series 2019 bonds to improve parks and recreation opportunities and to fund transportation and utility infrastructure improvements.

S&P’s report praised the city for more than doubling the available general fund reserves and believes the city will continue to experience strong revenue growth consistent with strong economic momentum in the region.

“S&P has confirmed what we’ve known,



that Renton has become a sought-after place to invest, locate business, and to live and raise families,” said Mayor Law. “Several nationally known businesses call Renton home and we have millions of dollars in projects under construction or in the planning stages. The future of Renton is very strong.”

## CITY OFFERING FREE GUN LOCKS

*The city, with support from Renton Police Department, is offering free gun locks to residents on Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Renton Community Center.*

*Safe firearm storage protects children, reduces the risk of injury and saves lives. Please do not bring your firearm to the event as police firearms instructors will demonstrate how to correctly install the lock.*

*There is a limited supply of locks, so be sure to arrive early. One lock per person.*



## STREAM Team empowers youth

STREAM Team is a Recreation and Neighborhoods division program that provides high-quality, culturally appropriate after-school programming in science, technology, reading, recreation, environment, arts and math at Highlands Neighborhood Center for youth ages 5 to 14.

The program is offered weekdays throughout the year and is designed to empower youth with the skills to be socially, emotionally, and academically successful throughout their academic careers. Funding comes through a grant from King County's Best Starts for Kids Out-of-School-Time Program, coordinated through School's Out Washington. The Environmental Science Center, Centro Rendu, and Techbridge Girls are partners. More information is available at [rentonwa.gov/streamteam](http://rentonwa.gov/streamteam).



## Everyday ways to protect the environment

### REDUCE

**Water-efficient toilets** use 60 to 80 percent less water than older models. In 2018, Renton residents updated 741 toilets. Residents may receive a \$100 rebate by installing a qualifying toilet that uses 1.1 gallons or less per flush. [savingwater.org/rebates](http://savingwater.org/rebates)

**Turning off the water** while shaving or brushing teeth can save seven gallons of water. Installing an aerator can cut water use by 30 percent. Puget Sound Energy offers rebates. [pse.com/rebates/water-savings](http://pse.com/rebates/water-savings)

**Shredded paper** is no longer accepted in residential recycling or organics due to contamination issues. Shred documents with sensitive information and sign up for e-bills. Renton Police Department's Shred-a-Thon is Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Boeing S1 Lot.

### REUSE

The free **Renton Repair Event** is Thursday, May 9 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Fairwood Library. Bring small household items, appliances and clothing for experienced craftspeople to repair. Registration is advised. Contact Tom Watson at [tom.watson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:tom.watson@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-4481. [kingcounty.gov/repair-events](http://kingcounty.gov/repair-events)

The city's annual **Stop & Swap** is a great place to find or drop off reusable household items for free! This year's event is Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Renton Memorial Stadium's south parking lot. Check for accepted items at [rentonwa.gov/stopswap](http://rentonwa.gov/stopswap).



## HELP PROTECT OUR WATER SUPPLY

*Rain that falls on our roofs, driveways and streets picks up everything it touches like oil, yard chemicals and pet waste left on the surface. The contaminated rain water flows into storm drains and then into our creeks, rivers and lakes.*

*Help keep Renton waters clean and healthy. Check for and fix car leaks, practice natural yard care, pick up after your pet, and remember, "Only Rain Down the Drain!" Learn more at [rentonwa.gov/cleanstormwater](http://rentonwa.gov/cleanstormwater).*



Public Works Utility Systems division has been working to reduce environmental impact and conserve resources. By implementing small changes to everyday routines like those listed below, residents can save money and protect the environment.

## RETHINK

**Prevent expensive repairs** to your drain and sewer pipes by disposing of food scraps in the compost bin instead of the sink disposal. A build up of fats, oils and grease (FOG) from foods and cooking oil can cause problems in both residential and public sewer systems. If there is no access to compost, discard food scraps in the garbage. [rentonwa.gov/wastewater](http://rentonwa.gov/wastewater)

**Wash vehicles** at commercial washes where wastewater goes to treatment plants. Water from vehicles washed in streets and driveways flows directly into storm drains and then into streams, rivers and lakes, contaminating waters.

**Volunteer to install** storm drain markers and distribute educational materials on Saturday, April 27 as part of the city's Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration. Drain markers are an important reminder that only rain goes down storm drains. Register at [rentonwa.gov/volunteer](http://rentonwa.gov/volunteer).

**Report oil or hazardous spills** to 911 and all other spills to 425-430-7400. One quick call keeps neighborhoods and waterways clean and healthy.

## RECYCLE

**Plastic bags** are no longer accepted in residential recycling as they contaminate materials. Recycle plastic bags, wraps and films at many stores, including all major grocery stores in Renton. [how2recycle.info/sdo](http://how2recycle.info/sdo)

**Recycle** stained or torn clothes, shoes and linens. Wet, mildewed or contaminated items are not accepted. Find Renton locations at [kingcounty.gov/threadcycle](http://kingcounty.gov/threadcycle).

**Recycle paints** including latex, water-based stains and clear finishes at Ace Hardware stores in Renton. Fee is per container: \$2.99 for quarts, \$4.99 for gallons, \$22.99 for 5-gallons. [bit.ly/latexpaintrecycle](http://bit.ly/latexpaintrecycle)



## Coulon Park

Construction on the south deck, day boat moorage, boat launch, sailing center and Trestle Bridge at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park is on schedule. The boat launch and other park facilities are open during repairs, which are expected to be completed by the end of April.



## Hydrant art comes to South Renton

This train conductor hydrant will soon have a new home in South Renton. An art project funded by South Renton Connection will transform ordinary yellow hydrants into works of art and bring attention to the neighborhood. Renton artist Sybil McIntyre's hydrant pays homage to the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train and the trains delivering 737 fuselages to Boeing. The hydrant was scheduled to be installed by the end of March.





## CITY OF RENTON CAREER FAIR

*Come dressed for success and bring copies of your resume as 80 organizations who are hiring will be onsite at the city's career fair on May 1, 3 to 6 p.m. at Renton Technical College. Admission is free.*

[rentonwa.gov/careerfair](http://rentonwa.gov/careerfair)

## Community Calendar

### North Highlands Community Garden

**THROUGH OCTOBER 14**

**NE 16th St. & Kirkland Ave.**

Garden plots are available in 2'x4' and 2'x6' sizes. One per household. Water is provided. [rentonwa.gov/recreation](http://rentonwa.gov/recreation)

### Coffee with a Cop

**APRIL 17, 9–11 A.M.**

**Safeway, 200 S 3rd St.**

**MAY 18, 10 A.M.–12 P.M.**

**Everest Tea, 200 SW 43rd St.**

Join your neighbors and Renton police officers for coffee and informal conversation.

### The Locks, the Lake and the Loss of the Black River

**APRIL 18, 6–7 P.M.**

**Renton History Museum, 235 Mill Ave. S**

David B. Williams, co-author of *Waterway, the Story of Seattle's Locks and Ship Canal*, highlights the changes in Renton and the Black River.

### Newcomer's Hour

**APRIL 19, 10–11 A.M.**

**Renton Senior Activity Ctr., 211 Burnett Ave. N**

Meet the staff and learn about the exciting programs and activities. Meet in the lobby to begin your tour. FREE. [rentonwa.gov/rsac](http://rentonwa.gov/rsac)

### The Bunny Hop

**APRIL 19, 6–8 P.M.**

**Renton Comm. Ctr., 1715 Maple Valley Hwy.**

Families come cut footloose! Bring your camera for photos with the spring bunny. Deadline is April 12 or until event is full. [#459](http://rentonwa.gov/recreation)

### Safe Family, Gun Safety Event

**APRIL 20, 10 A.M.–1 P.M.**

**Renton Comm. Ctr., 1715 Maple Valley Hwy.**

The city and Renton police are offering a free gun lock and safety information. One per person. Supplies limited.

### Arbor Day & Earth Day

**APRIL 27, 9 A.M.–12:30 P.M.**

**Tiffany Park Elem., 1601 Lake Youngs Way SE**

Volunteer to help install storm drain markers or plant trees. Register at [rentonwa.gov/volunteer](http://rentonwa.gov/volunteer).

### Shred-a-Thon and Food Drive

**APRIL 27, 9 A.M.–12 P.M.**

**Boeing S1 Lot, N 6th St. & Logan Ave. N**

Shred up to five boxes (12 to 15 inches wide, 10 inches deep) of paper. Donations of canned goods will be accepted to benefit the Renton Food Bank. [rentonwa.gov/shredathon](http://rentonwa.gov/shredathon)

### Spring Recycle

**MAY 11, 9 A.M.–3 P.M.**

**Renton Technical College, North Parking Lot 3000 NE Fourth St.**

Renton residents can recycle large and hard-to-recycle items. [rentonwa.gov/springrecycle](http://rentonwa.gov/springrecycle)

### Bike Safety Rodeo

**MAY 11, 10 A.M.–12 P.M.**

**Highlands Neighborhood Center 800 Edmonds Ave. NE**

Free event for ages 4–12. Bring your bike, try out your skills, and get helpful bike maintenance tips. [rentonwa.gov/events](http://rentonwa.gov/events)

### Spring Green & Clean

**MAY 18, 8:45–11:30 A.M.**

**May Creek Trail, 4260 Lake Washington Blvd.**

Volunteer to help improve the trail by removing invasive plants & spreading bark so everyone can enjoy. Register at [rentonwa.gov/volunteer](http://rentonwa.gov/volunteer)

### Memorial Day Ceremony

**MAY 27, 1 P.M.**

**Veterans Memorial Park, 523 S 3rd St.**

Honor the men and women who have served our country. [rentonwa.gov/veteranspark](http://rentonwa.gov/veteranspark)

### Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Plan Open House #2

**JUNE 4, 3–7 P.M.**

**Renton Pavilion Event Ctr, 233 Burnett Ave. S**

Help set the priorities and shape the future of our parks, recreation and natural areas. [rentonparksplan.com](http://rentonparksplan.com)

### Renton Farmers Market

**TUESDAYS, JUNE 4–SEPT. 24, 3–7 P.M.**

**Piazza Park, 233 Burnett Ave. S**

The best from local farmers and artisans! Kids' activities, live entertainment, chef demonstrations, and more! [rentonwa.gov/farmersmarket](http://rentonwa.gov/farmersmarket)

## City Contacts

General Information	425-430-6400
Mayor	425-430-6500
City Council	425-430-6501
Chief Admin Officer	425-430-6500
Administrative Svcs	425-430-6868
City Attorney	425-430-6480
City Clerk	425-430-6510
Code Enforcement	425-430-7373
Community & Economic Development	425-430-6575
Community Services	425-430-6600
Emergency Mgmt	425-430-7723
Graffiti Reporting	425-430-7362
Human Resources & Risk Management	425-430-7650
Municipal Court Judge	425-430-6550
Police (non-emergency)	425-430-7500
Public Works	425-430-7394
Regional Fire Authority	425-271-7900
Street/Water/Sewer Maintenance	425-430-7400
Utility Billing	425-430-6852

**EMERGENCY** ..... **911**  
**Non-Emergency** ..... 425-235-2121



The City of Renton provides reasonable accommodation upon request.



**rentonwa.gov**

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[communications@rentonwa.gov](mailto:communications@rentonwa.gov)

