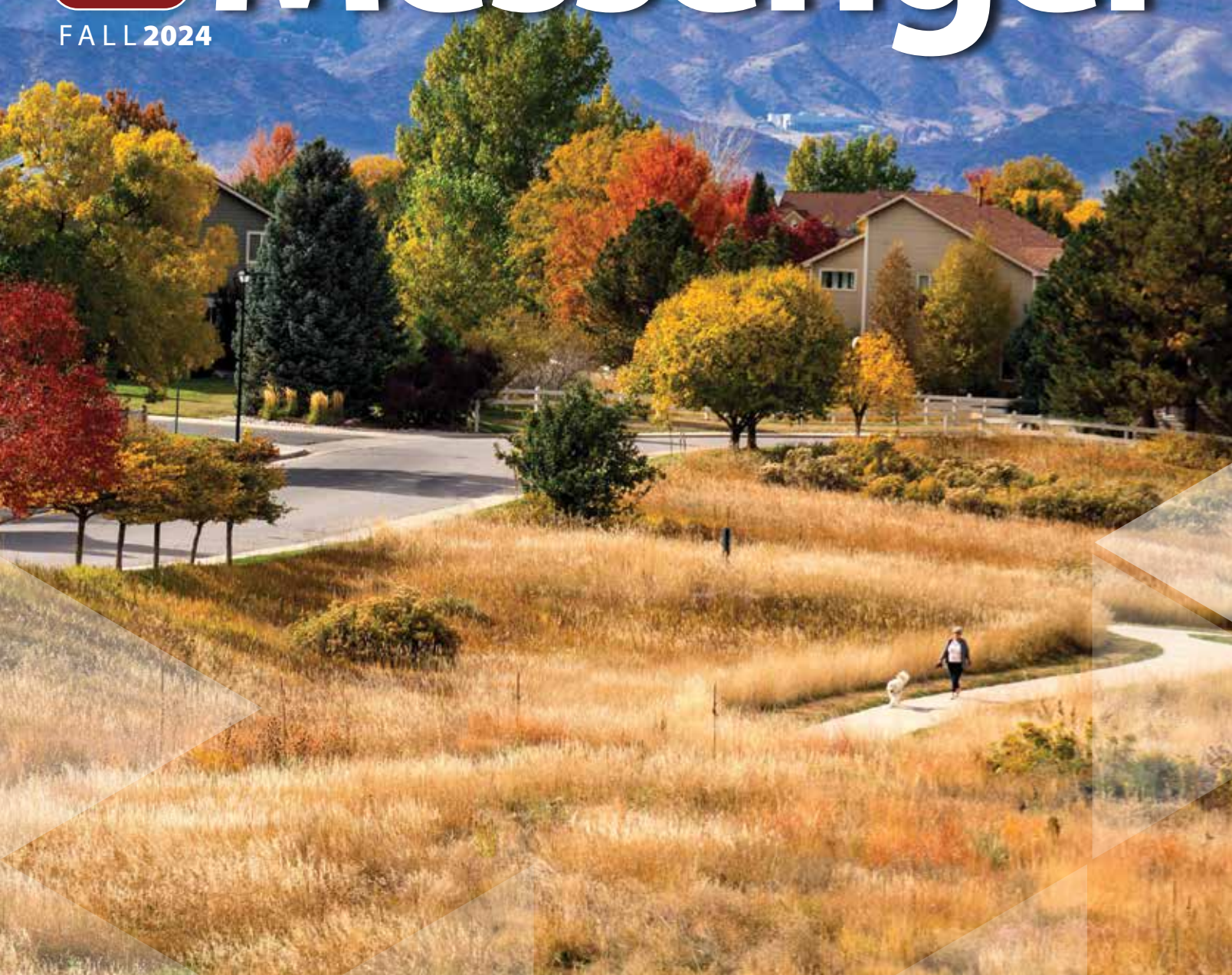




FALL 2024

Highlands Ranch Metro District Messenger



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Behind
the scenes at
the senior center

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highlandsranch.org

A PUBLICATION PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT

Recreation Programs • Youth & Adult Sports • Parks & Open Space Projects • Local Government Updates

WE'RE READY TO #playhighlandsranch

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING PROGRAMS BEGINS AS EARLY AS JANUARY 2025

- Youth flag football league & clinic
- Youth cheerleading
- Youth lacrosse camps
- Skateboarding camps
- Skyhawks sports camps
- Adult softball leagues
- Adult pickleball leagues & clinics
- Adult bocce ball league & clinic
- Horseback riding lessons

And even more to come during our summer and fall seasons, including youth baseball, softball & T-ball!

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT [HIGHLANDSRANCH.ORG/SIGNMEUP](https://highlandsranch.org/signmeup).



HIGHLANDS RANCH
Metro District

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Meet Your Local Government

The Highlands Ranch Metro District is responsible for:

- Water and sanitation services through an agreement with Centennial Water and Sanitation District
- Recreation programs and services
- Developing and caring for parks, trails and natural open space areas
- Building community infrastructure, including major roads, traffic signals, and storm drainage and stormwater management
- Managing and maintaining landscaping, fence and community entries along major roads
- Street lighting through Xcel Energy
- Community events and volunteer activities
- Managing the Highlands Ranch Mansion

Metro District Board of Directors

Renee Anderson, Chair
Mark Dickerson, Vice Chair
David Simonson, Treasurer
Andy Jones, Director
Eric T. Rysner, Director
Carolyn Schierholz, Director
Nancy Smith, Director

FRONT COVER:

Fall is the perfect time to enjoy local trails and discover our community's natural beauty.

Photo by Courtney Kuhlen

Hit the reset button and spend time outdoors this fall

An **Attractive and Healthy Place to Live** is key to improving physical and mental health for members of our community.

Result areas adopted by the board drive how the Metro District plans for and allocates its financial and staff resources. The result areas are:



In today's fast-paced world, the business of our daily life can often feel overwhelming. Finding moments of quiet becomes essential for our mental well-being. As a master planned community, the backbone of our infrastructure includes parks, trails, and open space to serve as serene locations to escape the chaos and reconnect with nature.

Parks and trails encourage us to get moving, whether by taking a leisurely stroll or enjoying activities like jogging or cycling. And when we exercise in nature, it's like a double dose of goodness for our mental health. Not only does it release those feel-good endorphins, but it also allows us to soak in the beauty of our surroundings, further enhancing our mood and reducing stress.

Parks are not only places to connect with nature but are also vibrant community hubs where we can connect with others. Whether it's joining a group yoga class in the park, attending outdoor events or simply striking up a conversation with a fellow park visitor, these interactions boost our sense of belonging and can reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.

I encourage you to enjoy the beautiful fall weather in our serene outdoor areas and give yourself time to enjoy the outdoors.

Renee

Renee Anderson
Chair, Highlands Ranch Metro District Board of Directors

How are we doing?

The Metro District periodically engages with residents through a community survey to explore their satisfaction with the maintenance level of parks and trails and the variety of outdoor recreation programs offered. The survey also helps to identify unmet needs for services and programs. The most recent survey was conducted in 2023. This data helps the board to update our organization's long-range plan.

The board of directors is in the process of creating a community dashboard to monitor and report to residents how well the organization is meeting priorities set forth in the long-range plan.

We would like to hear from you. What are you curious about? Would you like to know how often playground equipment is inspected? Do you want to know how much staff time and funding is spent on graffiti removal? Do you ever wonder how much the Metro District spends to maintain parkway landscape?

Please visit highlandsranch.org/news to complete a brief survey to let us know the topics you are curious about. We can't wait to hear from you.

Stephanie

Stephanie Stanley
General Manager, Highlands Ranch Metro District



Metro District UPCOMING EVENTS

The Metro District and our partners have fun community events planned through the end of the year.

National Prescription Drug Take Back
Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Highlands Ranch Substation



Landmark Lecture Series: Colorado Women in World War II
Monday, Nov. 18, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Highlands Ranch Mansion. Tickets required.

The Last Stop – Halloween Event
Thursday, Oct. 31
6:30-9 p.m. at the Highlands Ranch Mansion

Holiday Celebration
Saturday, Dec. 7
10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Highlands Ranch Mansion

Fall Yard Waste Composting and Tree Recycling Event
Saturday, Nov. 9, 8 a.m.-noon at Redstone Park, center parking lot



Santa Visits
Saturday, Dec. 14
9 a.m.-noon at the Hendrick Office Building, 62 Plaza Drive

Veterans Day Celebration
Monday, Nov. 11
6:30 p.m. at Douglas County Libraries at Highlands Ranch

See the full list of Highlands Ranch Metro District events at highlandsranch.org/events.



Project updates around the Ranch

The Metro District is continually working to maintain and improve Highlands Ranch amenities at our facilities and in our parks, parkways and open space. Visit highlandsranch.org/projectupdates for more information.

Dad Clark Gulch channel stabilization

Construction began in July on the stabilization of Dad Clark Gulch below Toepfer Park to Highlands Ranch Parkway. The goal of the project is to restore, stabilize, improve and protect drainageways in the open space. Channel work includes grading, rock replacement and restoration of the stormwater pond. Completion of the project is expected in the spring of 2025.



Toepfer Park improvements

Improvement plans continue for Toepfer Park, 9320 Venneford Ranch Road. Conceptual plans were released to the public for feedback in June. In late August, the Metro District gathered additional input for playground replacement. Final design is underway, with construction expected to begin in early 2025.

New sidewalks at the Highlands Ranch Mansion



Construction of new sidewalks began in early September at the Highlands Ranch Mansion. The sidewalks provide pedestrian access to the Mansion property from both driveways off Ranch Road to the north and Gateway Drive to the south of the Mansion. Construction is expected to be complete in October.

Restroom replacement

During winter of this year, a new concrete restroom will replace the old, cedar restroom at Dad Clark Park. The new vault restroom will be relocated approximately 400 yards east of the existing structure to improve access for installation and maintenance. It will comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act access guidelines. Dad Clark Park is at 3385 Astorbrook Circle.

Southpark Pickleball Complex

The new outdoor Southpark Pickleball Complex, at the southwest corner of S. Broadway and County Line Road, will break ground Oct. 23. The new complex will be built in partnership between South Suburban Parks & Recreation and the Metro District. The cost of design, construction and maintenance will be shared, and both districts will offer programming at the complex for their residents.

Features of the complex were shared with residents during a June public input meeting. The site will feature 19 north-south facing courts, 147 parking spaces, plumbed and heated restrooms, lighting, shade pavilions with picnic tables, and low-water landscaping. The courts will all be fenced and will have acrylic surfacing.

Playground replacements at Marcy & Welte parks

Two new playgrounds – one of which has been completed at Marcy Park and one that is still in progress at Welte Park – will offer kids even more fun at our local parks. The new equipment at both locations will provide more inclusive play spaces that encourage social interaction. New poured-in-place rubber surfacing replaced the previously used engineered wood fiber playground mulch. At each location, play elements were selected based on user feedback.



Marcy Park is at 9373 Desert Willow Road, and its playground reopened during August. Welte Park is at 6512 Freeport Drive, and the playground is expected to be completed by mid-October.

Quebec median renovation

The Metro District is in the final stages of design for a renovation of the median on Quebec Street south of Gleneagles Village Parkway. The renovation will consist of removing most of the old plant material and adding raised planters to protect the plant material. The irrigation system will be revised as well to take advantage of water conservation principles. Trees will also be added to these raised beds. There will be variations of hardscape in between the raised sections of the median. Final design will be completed this fall with a tentative construction start date of early 2025.

Sign up for news about local project updates

Learn more about the Metro District's projects, news, events and updates by sending an email message to info@highlandsranch.org. Include "Sign me up for eNewsletters" in the subject line.

Want to stay plugged in to news about Douglas County's projects in Highlands Ranch? Visit douglas.co.us and select the Sign Up for Emails option at the bottom of the home page.

The HRCRA also offers a variety of eNewsletters on subjects including events, fitness, general interest, race series and more. Sign up at hrcaonline.org.



The construction timeline is largely weather-dependent but is expected to last through next summer. Once open, the complex will offer drop-in play, court rentals, camps, clinics, leagues, private instruction and tournaments.

Apply for 2025 Citizens Academy program

Are you interested in learning how Highlands Ranch operates? Would you like to meet new people who are curious about community engagement and leadership opportunities? Then the Highlands Ranch Citizens Academy may be a great opportunity for you to invest your time and talents.



Founded in 2020, the eight-week citizen engagement program is held Thursday evenings throughout January and February at different locations around the community. Presentations are focused on local topics including local government, collaborations, parks, recreation and open space, water and wastewater, public safety, community planning, public works and much more.

Open to Highlands Ranch residents, the program shares presentations from local leaders, staff and previous program graduates, as well as behind-the-scenes tours of local facilities.

Learn more about the Highlands Ranch Citizens Academy by contacting Sherry Eppers at seppers@highlandsranch.org or visiting highlandsranch.org/citizensacademy.

Proposed 2025 budget available online for resident review

Metro District staff has completed the 2025 proposed budget. Staff is thoughtful during budget development to align expenditures with board priorities while acting as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. The Metro District strives to provide the highest level of service for our residents while maintaining a low tax environment.

While the Metro District currently has a strong financial position, recent property tax legislation may impact future revenue. As part of the budget process, staff members prepare a plan for the upcoming year that can be sustained into the future. Prior to budget adoption, the board will review the 10-year forecast to ensure long-term financial stability and the ability to maintain existing assets and continue to provide high quality services.

2024 key dates for the 2025 budget:

- **Oct. 15** - The 2025 proposed budget is posted online for the board and public to review. The document will be posted to the Metro District's website at highlandsranch.org. If you would like a hard copy, please contact finance@highlandsranch.org.
- **Nov. 26** - The Metro District will hold a public hearing on both the 2025 budget and 2024 revised budget at 6 p.m. at 62 Plaza Drive, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129.
- **Dec. 11** - Board meeting to consider budget adoption, setting of fees and mill levy at 6 p.m. at 62 Plaza Drive, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129. The public is invited to attend.
- **Dec. 15** - Deadline for certification of mill levy to Douglas County commissioners.

Did you know ...

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners chose to leave Tri-County Health Department and created the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) in 2022, saving the county's taxpayers more than \$800,000 annually. The DCHD was designed by residents and is focused on their specific needs. The DCHD is overseen by a 10-member board of Douglas County residents appointed by the Douglas County commissioners.

You might wonder about the role of public health when nearly 95% of our community has private health insurance. If you eat out, take your child to daycare, have a septic system, or have obtained a birth certificate, you've already interacted with the DCHD.

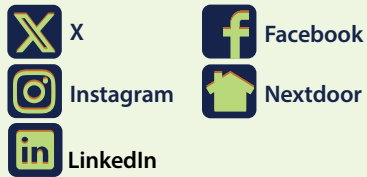
The DCHD helps keep childcare centers, grocery stores, and restaurants safe, monitors disease, provides education on pressing health issues in Douglas County, and provides some clinical health services to qualifying families.

Learn more about DCHD at douglas.co.us/health-department.



When you visit highlandsranch.org, you will find valuable information about the programs, services and activities of the Highlands Ranch Metro District.

You'll also find links to fellow service providers in the community. New features continue to be added, so visit often.



Metro District Contacts:

Highlands Ranch Metro District
62 Plaza Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
Phone: 303-791-0430
Fax: 303-791-3290
Email: info@highlandsranch.org

Metro District Parks, Recreation & Open Space Service Center
3280 Redstone Park Circle
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
Phone: 303-791-2710
Fax: 303-470-9516
Email: info@highlandsranch.org

Recreation Contacts:

Metro District Recreation Services
Phone: 303-791-2710
Fax: 303-470-9516
Email: recreationinfo@highlandsranch.org

Senior Center
Phone: 303-785-0320
Email: seniorcenterinfo@highlandsranch.org

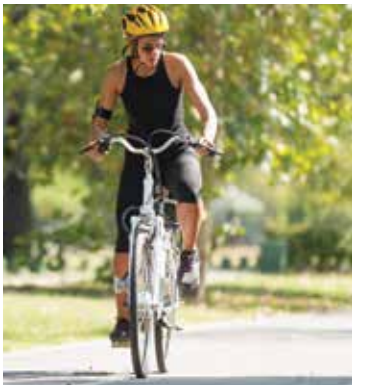
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Keep yourself and others safe when e-biking

Electric bikes, e-scooters and other e-vehicles have become increasingly popular for their convenience and eco-friendliness. With the ever-growing, wide range of options available on the market, it can be confusing to understand where these e-vehicles are allowed and where they are prohibited.

In 2018, Metro District's rules were amended to allow Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on our trails and other areas where bikes are allowed. Other electric personal assistance mobility devices are allowed if they are less than 200 pounds, are less than three feet in width, and cannot exceed a speed of 20 mph when electrically assisted.

What are Class 1 & 2 e-bikes?

Class 1: Pedal assist only, with motor assistance up to 20 mph. (After top speed is reached, the motor will stop helping.)

Class 2: Pedal assist or throttle power, with motor assistance up to 20 mph. (Bike can operate with or without the cyclist pedaling.)

What kind of e-bikes are prohibited on Metro District trails and property?

Class 3 e-bikes and beyond are not allowed on trails or pedestrian paths. Class 3 e-bikes can reach speeds up to 28 mph while electrically assisted and are better suited for use on the road or in bike lanes.

Are other types of electric vehicles – like lightweight e-scooters or e-skateboards – allowed?

They are if they have a maximum speed of 20 mph, are less than three feet in width and are less than 200 pounds.

Are there other examples of electric vehicles that are prohibited on Metro District trails and property?

Electric motorcycles, mopeds, low-power motor scooters such as Vespas, electric dirt bikes and golf carts are some examples of e-vehicles that are not allowed on pedestrian trails.

Who has the right of way – pedestrians or e-bikes?

Trail etiquette requires yielding to slower trail users, so all e-vehicles operated on paths and sidewalks yield the right of way to pedestrians. Use an audible signal before passing on the left.

What steps can I take to stay safe while e-biking?

E-bike or other e-vehicle riders should control their speed and braking, know area traffic laws, wear a well-fitted protective helmet, limit distractions from cell phones or ear buds, and always be courteous to other trail users.

How can I report unsafe behavior or accidents involving e-vehicles in parks?

If it is not an emergency, page Metro District park rangers at 303-540-2311, or call the Douglas County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at 303-660-7505. If you or someone else is injured, call 911.

Focusing on waterwise landscaping

The Metro District strives to be a good example of water conservation year-round. Metro District staff monitors water usage in parks and on parkway landscaping carefully and implements water saving strategies. This year, the following areas of bluegrass were converted to reduce water needs:



TLC Challenge at Cougar Run Park

In partnership with Centennial Water and Sanitation District, the Metro District was awarded a Transformative Landscape Change Challenge grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The grant program encourages transitioning water thirsty landscapes – like large areas of underused bluegrass – to waterwise, pollinator-friendly landscapes. At Cougar Run Park, 8810 Venneford Ranch Road, Metro District staff modified irrigation for a 1,500-square-foot plot to prepare for sod removal and more than 300 "Garden in a Box" plants. The patch of formerly water-thirsty bluegrass is now home to waterwise, flowering plants like Colorado Yarrow, Golden Rod, Lavendar Bee Balm and Pineleaf Penstemon.

East side of Broadway at Southpark Road

Roughly 22,000 square feet of landscape was recently converted on the east side of Broadway, just south of Southpark Road. Beyond showing its old age, this stretch of landscape was hit particularly hard by the 2023 tornado. The project was successfully completed in August and received high praise from neighboring residents. Large areas of bluegrass were replaced with water-friendly plants, wood mulch and cobble borders. Large boulders were incorporated throughout the project, and newly planted ornamental trees will help screen nearby townhomes from the busy street while still allowing views of the mountains. Small areas of new sod called Tahoma-31, a type of Bermuda grass, were incorporated into the project and will result in an average 40% water savings and a significant reduction in mowing frequency.

Gateway median

The small median on Gateway Drive at Broadway consisted of a few trees and 1,700 square feet of bluegrass. This median was recently overhauled by adding decorative boulders, cobblestone and wood mulch. The trees remain but the bluegrass was replaced with hardy, flowering perennials like penstemon, salvia and primrose. The center of the median is planted with two types of ornamental grasses – Heavy Metal Switchgrass and Blue Grama Blonde Ambition Grass plants.

More bluegrass conversion projects are slated for next year, including a 40,000-square-foot section of parkway landscaping along Venneford Ranch Road near Dolton Way.



Follow us on social media

Keep up on local news, events, emergency notifications, project news and more by following us on social media. We're on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Nextdoor and X sharing updates, opportunities, photos and more. Learn more at highlandsranch.org/news.

Staff spotlight on fleet crew

Going behind the scenes at the Metro District's fleet building offers a glimpse at a hardworking crew surrounded by trucks on lifts, sparks in the welding bay and a constant flow of equipment in and out.

The fleet team includes three technicians and a supervisor who all care for 65 vehicles and hundreds of pieces of small equipment such as snow blowers, string trimmers and more. Their work includes making repairs, performing preventive maintenance, upfitting work trucks to the needs of specific field crews, and fabricating other custom solutions.

The ability to do all of this in-house saves the Metro District significant time and money. More importantly, the well-maintained equipment directly benefits residents. Plowed trails, mowed parks, well-groomed ball fields, trimmed trees, emptied trash cans, and more are reliant on the support the fleet section provides every Metro District field crew.

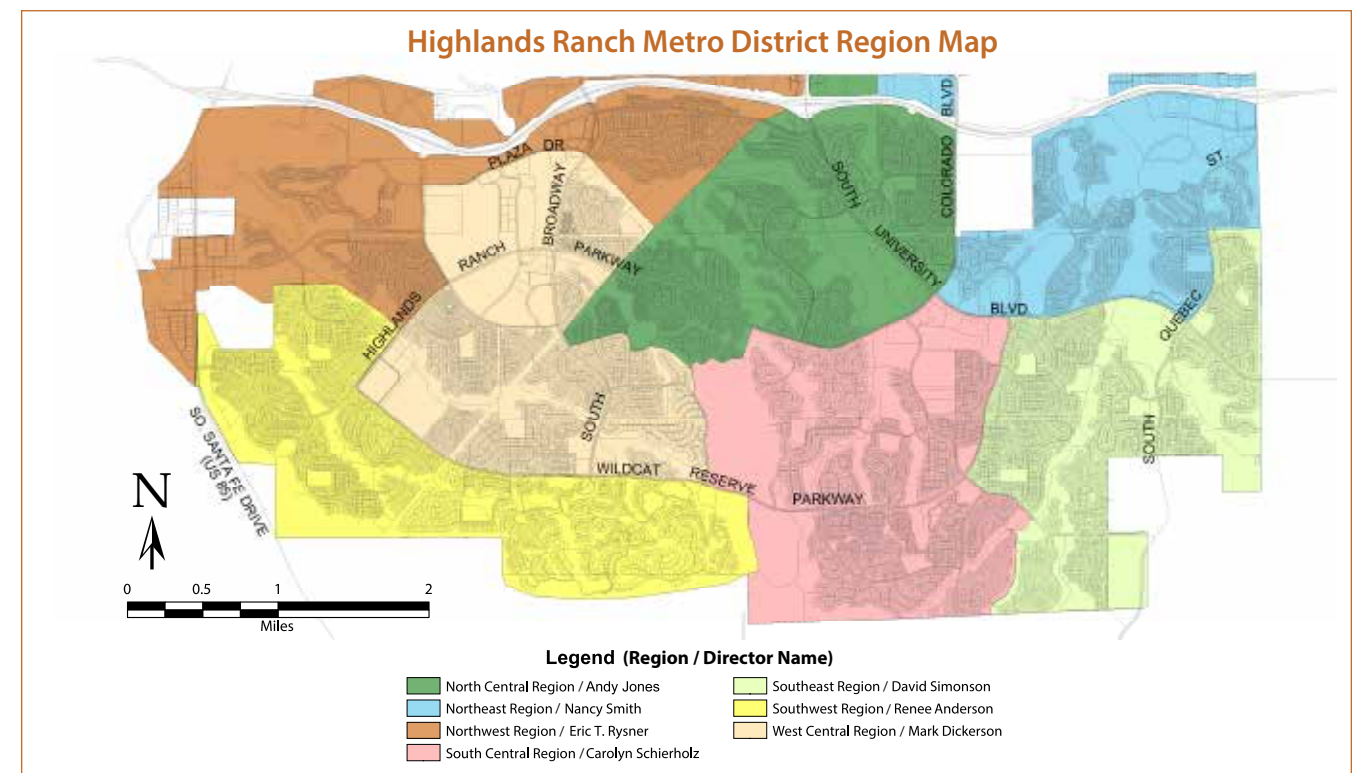


Seats open in 2025 special district director elections

Both the Metro District and Centennial Water & Sanitation District will hold director elections on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. The polling place will be at the Hendrick Office Building, 62 Plaza Dr. in Highlands Ranch. Absentee ballot applications are available on our website.

The Metro District will have four open seats in the following geographic regions: West Central, Southeast, South Central and Northwest.

Special district elections are held in May of odd-numbered years, per Colorado statute that is specific to special districts and differs from other elections. Learn more about the special district director elections, find voter forms and more at highlandsranch.org/elections and at centennialwater.org/vote.



Questions about signs on Metro District property?

Whether you're planning a garage sale, neighborhood block party or campaigning for the upcoming election, it's important to know the rules regarding temporary signs on Metro District property. The Metro District has temporary sign placement rules year-round to protect irrigation systems and ensure signs do not become a nuisance or a dangerous distraction along roads.

- All temporary signs on Metro District property must be free standing. Signs cannot be staked into the ground or attached to trees, light poles, traffic signals and signs, utility boxes, fences or other fixed objects.
- For multi-day events, temporary signs may not be placed for more than five days. For the purposes of the upcoming election, this means free standing signs can stay up for a total of five days any time between the day before ballots are mailed and the day after the election.
- Temporary signs may not be larger than 2 feet by 3 feet.
- All signs should be removed within 24 hours of the completion of an event.

These rules apply to Metro District property in the community, including our parkways and parks. These rules do not impact residential property.

To read the full temporary sign rules, please visit highlandsranch.org/resources.



Last month, the Metro District forestry crew was hard at work with Saluting Branches at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Saluting Branches is a national day of service when tree care professionals volunteer their time and skills to care for trees at national cemeteries in honor of our nation's veterans. The program began 10 years ago, and the Metro District has been proud to volunteer each year.

Learn more about Saluting Branches at salutingbranches.org.



Free composting and tree recycling this autumn

With the arrival of fall, it's time to prune trees and shrubs, rake leaves and clean up your garden beds. Be sure to mark your calendar for our Yard Waste Composting and Tree Recycling Event on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 8 a.m. to noon.

While the Metro District has long offered seasonal tree limb recycling events, this is the first time we're also offering a free yard waste composting drop-off.

The drop-off location will be in the center parking lot of Redstone Park, 3280 Redstone Park Circle, and is free to all Highlands Ranch residents. Separate lanes will be available to drop yard waste and tree limbs.

Yard waste:

Accepted items:

- grass clippings
- garden waste, weeds and brush
- pine cones and pine needles
- leaves

Loose material will not be accepted. Please use paper yard waste bags or reusable containers to transport your items. We discourage bagging yard waste in plastic bags due to the environmental impact and fact that they take longer to empty into our drop-off bins.

Tree limbs:

Accepted items:

- tree limbs less than 12 inches in diameter
- woody plant materials

We cannot accept finished lumber or root balls.

Free mulch and compost will be available to residents on a self-serve basis. For questions, please email info@highlandsranch.org.

Metro District's public works staff focuses on well-planned & maintained infrastructure

The Metro District's public works department manages a variety of infrastructure improvement projects to help maintain and improve our infrastructure.

Open space channel stabilization

The Metro District, in partnership with the Mile High Flood District, identifies projects that will reduce flood risks, ensuring safe and cost-effective public infrastructure, and preserve healthy streams. To support these efforts, a stormwater fee on water bills is specifically designated for the restoration and maintenance of drainage channels throughout our community's open space. This funding is crucial for upgrading existing infrastructure, maintaining channels and rehabilitating degraded areas.

One such restoration is underway in the Dad Clark Gulch channel between Toepfer Park and Highlands Ranch Parkway. It is expected to be complete in spring 2025. In the past five years, five channels

throughout Highlands Ranch have been restored and maintained by these projects. By prioritizing these initiatives, both organizations aim to build a more resilient community that can better endure severe weather and protect natural waterways.

Residential streetlight LED conversions

The LED conversion program was launched in collaboration with Xcel Energy, aiming to replace outdated residential high-pressure sodium fixtures. This transition to LED technology incurs no additional costs and significantly improves efficiency and cost-effectiveness of streetlights. LEDs use much less energy, leading to lower utility bills and decreased maintenance requirements due to their longer lifespan. Overall, this shift is a sustainable choice that not only enhances lighting quality, but also benefits the environment and the community by reducing operational costs.

Learn more about public works projects at highlandsranch.org/projectupdates.

Senior center FAQs

Q: Who owns the Highlands Ranch Senior Center?

A: The Highlands Ranch Metro District is the owner of the senior center. Information about both the new facility and the many senior programs offered to people 55 and older is available at highlandsranch.org/seniorcenter.

Q: Will a traffic signal be located at the senior center entrance?

A: At this time, there will not be a traffic signal at the entrance. The traffic signal study that was conducted in this location did not meet traffic levels that require a signal. Douglas County will be conducting a study on the entirety of Highlands Ranch Parkway in 2025. This area will be included in that study. The entrance to the senior center is marked by an attractive monument sign featuring the senior center logo.

Q: Will there be opportunities to volunteer at the senior center?

A: Yes, the Metro District has hired Lyndsey George as a guest services and volunteer coordinator. He is building a comprehensive volunteer program at the Highlands Ranch Senior Center. Lyndsey can be reached at lgeorge@highlandsranch.org.

Q: What types of activities will be in the new facility?

A: The center will be bustling throughout the day with enrichment, health, technology, art, culinary and exercise classes. See Pages 12-15 of this guide for program information. There will also be many opportunities for socialization, volunteerism and drop-in recreation. Staff will be on hand to answer questions about resources for aging in place, and the community can rent rooms in the center on evenings and Saturdays for social events and meetings.



The senior center ceiling, shown here, features a consistent architectural detail using a circular design, which is repeated throughout the facility.

Human Services will have an office at senior center

A Douglas County Human Services office will occupy approximately 2,000 square feet and will act as an important satellite facility dedicated to delivering essential human services to the community. This office plays a key role in connecting individuals and families with vital information, resources, and referrals tailored to their specific needs. By functioning as a central hub of support, it aims to enhance community well-being and ensure that residents have easy access to a wide range of services. It will be operated independently of the Senior Center with its own entrance. For more information, please contact Douglas County Human Services at 303-688-4825.

Highlighting the senior center's unique features



The Highlands Ranch Senior Center will soon open to the public. As final details of the new facility take shape through the construction process, we'd like to share a sneak peek at some of the architectural features that make the 22,000-square-foot senior center unique.

- OZ Architecture designed the building in a western theme with an architectural inspiration from other local buildings, including the Highlands Ranch Mansion. Materials used in both the interior and the exterior reflect a natural western style.
- The porte cochere, pictured above, is a covered entrance welcoming visitors to the building.
- An important architectural feature is the consistent use of a circular design. You'll see a circular pattern repeated, outdoors and inside – in details at the porte cochere and patio, in the lobby chandelier, along the hallway ceiling, and in the multipurpose room's lighting design.
- Intentionality of the acoustical design was an important feature in the building. Acoustical ratings are aimed to enhance the visitor experience by improving audio quality for conversations as well as amplified sound in the multipurpose room.
- Hearing loop audio technology is incorporated into the multipurpose room and all program rooms. This technology is an assisted listening device using a wireless signal that integrates into hearing aids from a microphone or speaker. Hearing aids must be set to receive the signal. The amplified signal is transmitted through an antenna in the floor.
- Two bocce courts are available for play adjacent to the covered outdoor patio. Bocce ball provides individuals with an engaging physical activity, social interaction and healthy competition.

Learn more about the senior center construction at highlandsranch.org/seniorcenter.

Senior center construction update

Progress continues on both the interior and exterior finishes of the senior center. However, Xcel Energy's installation of the electrical meter continues to cause delays. Until the electrical service installation is complete, we are unable to announce an opening date.

The building's interior is taking shape as finishes are progressing significantly. Subcontractors are concentrating on lights, fixtures and millwork. Tile accents are being installed at the fireplace and in the activity rooms. The hearing aid sound loop was installed in the multi-purpose room, and metal ceiling panel installation continues in the lobby and corridor. Vinyl flooring installation has begun in the multi-purpose room.

Most exterior finishes are complete, but work continues above the porte cochere and patio deck cover. Exterior metal paneling has been installed at the east porte cochere, and frames for the storefront doors are in place. Site work around the building is nearing completion. The contractor has poured concrete curbs for the bocce ball area and completed the underground electrical trenching for the bollards. Fine grading for the concrete flatwork has begun and flatwork is expected to be complete by mid-October. The final layer of asphalt is scheduled to be installed in mid-October, which will be followed by parking lot striping.



Something's in the water: The impact of community engagement

By Lauren Appleby, Digital Communications Specialist

When was the last time you thought about the water from your tap? We often take for granted the simple act of turning on our faucets and receiving clean, reliable water. However, behind it is a complex system managed by a dedicated team at Centennial Water. The next time you turn on your faucet, remember this: water matters, and so does your connection to it.

Why care about water?

Every drop of water has a story. By understanding where it comes from and how it is treated, we can begin to appreciate its value. Consider this: the water you drink today is the same water that existed on Earth millions of years ago. This long-lived journey of water highlights the delicate balance we must maintain to ensure its long-term availability. When we care about water, we are caring about our future. This means being mindful of water usage, supporting conservation efforts, and staying informed about issues such as drought and water quality. Beyond individual actions, it is essential to understand the bigger picture. This is where your connection with Centennial Water becomes so important.

Building relationships with your water provider

We are not just a water provider, we are part of this community, just like you. And like any good neighbor, we believe in open communication. At Centennial Water, we do not just deliver water; we deliver trust. Our team works day and night to ensure the highest quality standards for our residents. By engaging with us, you become part of a community that values and protects its water resources. Attend community events, follow us on social media, and subscribe to our eNewsletter to stay in the loop. Your questions, concerns, and ideas help shape the services we provide. After all, water is a shared resource, and thus, a shared responsibility.

Staying connected with the touch of a button

In today's digital world, it is easier than ever to stay connected. Follow Centennial Water on Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Nextdoor for tips, water quality updates, behind-the-scenes looks, and so much more. Social media is not only a great tool for collaboration and engagement, it serves as an opportunity to create a positive ripple effect that benefits the entire community. Visit centennialwater.org/social to connect with us on your preferred platform.

Stay tuned for the next chapter

We have some big things in the works (or shall I say in the water) that will further strengthen our identity and connection to our community. We are gearing up for a transformation that we believe will resonate with you and reflect the pride we have in serving Highlands Ranch and Solstice. Stay tuned for what is coming in 2025. You won't want to miss what is dripping in Highlands Ranch.

Time to break up with your sprinkler system... water budgets end Oct. 15

The time has come to wind down your watering as outdoor water budgets end Oct. 15. Here's a few things to keep in mind:

- The average first frost in Denver typically falls between Oct. 1-10. Scaling back on your outdoor watering now can help protect your pipes and prep your landscape for the cold temperatures that are on their way.
- Kentucky bluegrass is supposed to go dormant over the winter months. Dormancy is how Kentucky bluegrass protects itself from cold temperatures. The grass blades turn brown, and the root system remains alive underground, waiting for spring.
- After Oct. 15, customers are allocated 1,000 gallons of water per billing cycle for supplemental watering. This is intended for you to water your trees and plants during extended dry periods through the winter.
- Over the winter, you and your landscape may be dreaming about ColoradoScape. Use the time wisely and start planning for your spring turf conversion project. Visit centennialwater.org/coloradoscape for more information.

2024 fee schedule

Shelters*	Resident	Nonresident
Neighborhood park	\$18/hr.	\$27/hr.
Community park	\$30/hr.	\$45/hr.
Civic Green stage	\$50/hr.	\$75/hr.
Central Park patio	\$50/hr.	\$75/hr.

Picnic Packs

Field Day Fun	\$25	\$29
Lawn Games	\$25	\$29
Happy Kids	\$25	\$29
Lawn Tennis	\$25	\$29
Volleyball	\$42	\$48
Croquet	\$35	\$40
Cornhole Toss	\$35	\$40
Tumbling Timbers	\$15	\$18

*Two-hour minimum rental required
Damage deposit required for all picnic packs.

Sports Fields	Resident	Nonresident
Bocce/Horseshoe Court	\$6/hr.	\$9/hr.
Pickleball Court	\$6/hr.	\$9/hr.

Bring a bag of fun to your party

The Metro District's Picnic Packs are a fun and convenient addition to enhance special occasions. We offer daily rentals of fun-filled packages. Please contact parkreservations@highlandsranch.org to review picnic pack options.



Mark your calendar – 2025 park shelter reservations begin Jan. 2

Easily request a park shelter reservation online

To celebrate at a Highlands Ranch park, you can visit highlandsranch.org/reservations anytime to submit an online request. The 2025 requests will be accepted beginning at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 2. All requests will be processed in the order they are received. If you need assistance, please contact our reservation coordinator at parkreservations@highlandsranch.org or 720-240-5932.

- Check availability calendars at highlandsranch.org/reservations.
- Make sure the shelter you would like to reserve will accommodate your group. An event with more than 100 requires special permitting.
- Please review park rules prior to submitting your request.



Lebsack Tennis Center

Redstone Park, Highlands Ranch

Welcome to your Lebsack tennis community!

9325 Foothills Canyon Blvd.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
720-261-3503 or
303-791-2348

psparer.tennis@gmail.com
lebsacktennis.com

Lebsack Tennis Center is a public tennis facility owned by the Metro District.

All programs are administered by Mile High Performance Tennis.

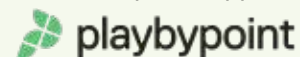


Courts are open year-round for regular play (weather permitting).

Juniors and adult programs are staffed by USTPA-certified instructors and offered March - November, including:

- Small group instructional classes
- Weekly adult drop-in drills
- Juniors' high performance drills
- Private and semi-private lessons
- Adult and junior tournaments
- Monthly socials

For program information and registration, or to reserve a court, please visit lebsacktennis.com, or download the **Playbypoint** smartphone app.



Follow us on Instagram [@lebsacktennis](https://www.instagram.com/lebsacktennis) for information and updates.



Winter season Oct. 14 – Nov. 24.
Registration is open.

Programs for players of all ages and abilities!



COMING SOON to a faucet near you. Release date: January 2025

Prepare for a new wave of innovation focused on customer service, transparency and you – our community!

We invite customers to get connected, sign up for our eNewsletter, follow us on social media and visit our website. We want you to get tuned in so you're ready for what's coming in January.

Visit centennialwater.org/social to get connected today and stay tuned for the ultimate upgrade to your water experience!



Drip by drip we're preparing to unveil something extraordinary.



FITNESS CLASSES

All fitness classes are located at Mountainview Christian Church until the senior center opens. Visit highlandsranch.org/myactivecenter for fee information.

Classes run as a monthly session, but drop-ins are available. Contact kireland@highlandsranch.org to register as a drop-in. Registration for classes is available two months prior on the first of the month at 8:30 a.m.

Medicare Discounts: Members who have Renew Active, SilverSneakers, Silver & Fit, and Active & Fit are eligible for a discount on fitness classes up to the maximum monthly amount set by the insurance plan. Contact staff for details. Please remember – you must show up to class for the senior center to be reimbursed.

Chair Yoga

This chair-based yoga class is a mix of seated and standing stretches for relaxation, flexibility and mindfulness. Suitable for all levels, including those with limited mobility, this class promotes overall well-being and health.

Days & time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.
November session – Nov. 4 - 20
December session – Dec. 2 - 18
January session – Jan. 6 - 29

Gentle Yoga

This is a slower-paced class with a focus on longer holds in the asanas to cultivate mindfulness, increased flexibility and balance. The class requires the ability to transition comfortably from the floor to standing. Please bring your own mat.

Day & time: Mondays, 10 – 11 a.m. or Tuesdays, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. (January only)
November session – Nov. 4 - 18
December session – Dec. 2 - 16
January session – Jan. 6 - 27 (Mondays), Jan. 7 - 28 (Tuesdays)



Tai Chi - New

This class offers a gentle and accessible introduction to Yang-style Tai Chi. Whether you're new to Tai Chi or looking to refresh your practice, this class provides a supportive environment to learn basic principles and movements. The focus will be improving your balance, vitality and core strength,

while incorporating mindfulness practices for a greater well-being.

Day & time: Mondays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
January session – Jan. 6 - 27

Ageless Grace®

This brain health fitness program targets memory, creativity and physical fitness. This class incorporates seated exercises to improve joint mobility and strength.

Day & time: Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m. – noon
November session – Nov. 5 - 19
December session – Dec. 3 - 17
January session – Jan. 7 - 28



Strength & Balance - Beginner

This class, tailored for newcomers to fitness, improves heart health, muscle strength, endurance, balance and flexibility. Chairs are used for seated exercises and standing support. Equipment is provided, but please bring one-to five-pound weights.

Days & time: Wednesdays and Fridays, 11: 15 a.m. – noon
November session – Nov. 1 - 22
December session – Dec. 4 - 20
January session – Jan. 3 - 31

Strength & Balance - Advanced

This class is for exercisers seeking a faster pace. It boosts heart health, muscle strength, endurance, balance and flexibility. Equipment is provided, but please bring one-to eight-pound weights.

Days & times: Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 – 11 a.m. or 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.
November session – Nov. 1 - 22
December session – Dec. 4 - 20
January session – Jan. 3 - 31

Tai Chi for Limited Mobility & Arthritis - New

This gentle Tai Chi class is suitable for individuals with limited mobility. Participants can choose to practice standing or sitting. You will focus on relaxation, stretching, balance, inner power, mindfulness and Qigong exercises while improving joint mobility.

Day & time: Thursdays, 10 - 11 a.m.
January Session – Jan. 2 - 30

SilverSneakers Cardio Circuit - New

This standing class alternates upper body strength work with low-impact cardio to maximize fitness benefits.

Days & time: Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
January Session – Jan. 2 - 30

Core Conditioning

This workout is designed to enhance your strength and stability. This class emphasizes core engagement and requires you to transition smoothly between floor and standing positions. Please bring your own mat.

Days & time: Fridays, 9 - 9:45 a.m. or Tuesdays, 10-10:45 a.m. (January only)
November session – Nov. 1 - 22
December session – Dec. 6 - 20
January session – Jan. 7 - 28 (Tuesdays), Jan. 3 - 31 (Fridays)

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS



Card Making

We'll guide you through the basic card making process, after which you'll have time to craft your own personalized cards.

Fee: Member: \$2, Nonmember: \$3
Day & time: Tuesdays, Nov. 12, Dec. 10 & Jan. 14, 1 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Bingo

Bingo is a great activity to stimulate your brain. Meet new friends as you play this fun game. Please bring your own dauber. If you don't have one, you may purchase one for \$1.50 at the event.

Fee: No fee
Days & times: Wednesday, Oct. 16, 12:45 - 4 p.m., and Tuesday, Nov. 19, 9:30 a.m - noon
Location: Recreation Center at Southridge



Holiday Wreath Making

Learn the basics of making an evergreen wreath for your winter décor from CSU Extension master gardeners. Discover which plants work best and how to get the most out of your yard trimmings. Materials provided.

Fee: Member: \$16, Nonmember: \$18
Day & time: Friday, Nov. 22, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center



Drawing Studio

Learn the core fundamentals of drawing and how to use lines to add depth and form and develop shading and value. Discover how to use varieties of pencils to create different patterns, techniques and textures in your drawings. All levels of experience are welcome.

Fee: Varies by session
Days & time: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – noon.

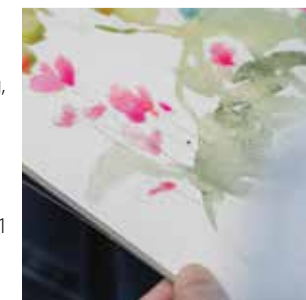
Location: Metro District Service Center

November session – Nov. 4 - 20
December session – Dec. 2 - 18
January session – Jan. 6 - 29

Watercolor Painting

Discover the joy of watercolor painting with this beginner class. Learn the basics and create designs for journaling, card making and more. Dive into fun designs and projects, culminating in a beautiful, frameable masterpiece. All levels of experience welcome.

Fee: Member: \$27, Nonmember: \$31
Day & time: Fridays, 10 a.m. - noon.
Location: Highlands Ranch Senior Center
January session – Jan. 3 - 31



Beginner Bridge

Learn the basics of bidding, game play and strategy in a fun, interactive setting.

Fee: Member: \$16, Nonmember: \$18
Day & time: Fridays, 10 a.m. - noon.
Location: Highlands Ranch Senior Center
January-February session – Jan. 10 - Feb. 28

Senior Center Memberships

Inaugural memberships are available for purchase at the Highlands Ranch Metro District Service Center, 3280 Redstone Park Circle, until the senior center opens. After opening, annual memberships and day passes will be available for purchase at the senior center. Annual memberships will cost \$60 per year for Highlands Ranch residents aged 55 and older, and \$72 per year for nonresidents. Day passes for nonmembers will cost \$2.50 for Highlands Ranch residents and \$3 for nonresidents.



Meet Lyndsey George, guest services and volunteer coordinator

The senior services team is pleased to welcome Lyndsey George. Lyndsey is an experienced guest services and volunteer coordinator with more than seven years of experience building engaging volunteer programs and opportunities at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Lyndsey excels in creating intriguing opportunities and developing a community feeling for volunteers.



He looks forward to building a comprehensive volunteer program at the Highlands Ranch Senior Center. In his free time, Lyndsey spends his time with his wife and two young boys hiking and exploring. Lyndsey can be reached at lgeorge@highlandsranch.org.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Reverse Mortgage: What It Is and Is Not

Fee: Member: \$2, Nonmember: \$3
Day & time: Monday, Oct. 28, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Nourish Meals on Wheels Program

Fee: No fee
Day & time: Tuesday, Oct. 29, 1 - 2 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Medicare 101

Fee: No fee
Day & times: Monday, Nov. 4, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Location: Douglas County Libraries at Highlands Ranch

Charitable Gifting Strategies

Fee: Member: \$2, Nonmember: \$3
Day & time: Thursday, Nov. 7, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Estate Planning 101

Fee: Member: \$2, Nonmember: \$3
Day & time: Thursday, Dec. 5, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Generational Issues Around Finances

Fee: Member: \$2, Nonmember: \$3
Day & time: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Senior Center Rentals

Looking for an attractive and affordable venue for a social event or meeting? The Highlands Ranch Senior Center has a large multipurpose room with a maximum capacity of 240. Meeting rooms with capacities ranging from 25 to 95, are available for community use on weekday evenings and Saturdays. For an application and guidelines, please contact Jill Hall, senior services manager, at jhall@highlandsranch.org or 720-468-4820.



HEALTH & WELLNESS TALKS

Alzheimer's & Other Dementias: 10 Signs

Fee: Member: \$2, Nonmember: \$3
Day & time: Wednesday, Oct. 16, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Brain & Body Health

Fee: Member: \$2, Nonmember: \$3
Day & time: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Health of the Aging Eye Talk and Consult

Fee: Member: \$2, Nonmember: \$3
Day & time: Monday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Effective Communication with Loved Ones Living with Dementia

Fee: Member: \$2, Nonmember: \$3
Day & time: Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

CLINICS & WELLNESS CHECKS

Vaccine Clinics: Flu and COVID

Fee: No fee
Day & time: Monday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Douglas County Libraries at Highlands Ranch

Blood Pressure Checks

Fee: No fee
Day & time: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m. - noon
Location: Metro District Service Center

Hearing Clinic

Fee: No fee
Day & time: Monday, Dec. 16, 1 - 4 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Morning Coffee Chat

Fee: No fee. You pay for your food and/or beverage.
Day & time: Tuesdays, 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Location: Corner Bakery Café, Highlands Ranch

Lunch Bunch

Fee: No fee. You pay for your food and beverage.
Day & time: Wednesday, Oct. 30, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Olive Garden, Highlands Ranch

Day & time: Wednesday, Nov. 20, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Parry's Pizza, Highlands Ranch

Day & time: Wednesday, Dec. 18, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Lazy Dog, Highlands Ranch

Social Hour/Dinner

Fee: No fee. You pay for your food and beverage.
Day & time: Thursday, Nov. 7, 4 - 6 p.m.
Location: Postino at Central Park, Highlands Ranch
Day & time: Thursday, Dec. 12, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Location: Old Blinking Light

Friendsgiving Monthly Luncheon

Entertainment by The Legendary Ladies
Fee: \$18
Day & time: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Location: Recreation Center at Southridge

Friends of the Highlands Ranch Senior Center

The purpose of the Friends of the Highlands Ranch Senior Center (Friends), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization comprised of all senior center members, is to support the Highlands Ranch Metro District programs that help older adults pursue meaningful educational, social, health, recreational, volunteer and leadership activities. This allows them to age independently in Highlands Ranch. Through its many fundraising efforts, the Friends supports senior center scholarships and programs.

Visit the Friends' website at friendsofhrsc.org for more information.

TRIPS

Learn About Travel to Beautiful Eastern Canada

Have you ever wanted to see historic Quebec City and Montreal, the amazing Niagara Falls and Thousand Islands and the metropolitan cities of Toronto and Ottawa? We will be travelling to these lovely areas of Canada during the peak season for fall colors. Learn more about this nine-day motorcoach trip and how you can be part of the senior center's first extended travel adventure. This trip includes first class and deluxe hotel accommodations, 12 meals, roundtrip airfare from Denver International Airport, all baggage handling (one bag per person), transportation via deluxe air conditioned motorcoach from the Highlands Ranch Senior Center to the airport, all taxes and service charges and trip leader. A representative from Collette will be in attendance to provide the details for this magnificent trip, scheduled for Sept. 26-Oct. 4, 2025.

Fee: No fee for this informational session
Day & time: Tuesday, Oct. 22, 1 - 3 p.m.
Location: Metro District Service Center

Registration

Registration is required for all senior center programs and activities. Must be at least 55 years of age or a senior center member to participate. For more information and to register, visit highlandsranch.org/myactivecenter.

Plans changed and you can't attend a program?

If you are unable to attend a free program, please go to highlandsranch.org/myactivecenter and select My Activities from the dropdown list below your name in the top right-hand side of the screen. There you can select remove, which will remove you from the program and allow others to participate. For paid classes, contact staff.

Class full? Put your name on the waitlist.

If a class is full on MyActiveCenter, contact staff to put your name on the waitlist. A space will often become available before the start of the program.

For information about program details, visit highlandsranch.org/myactivecenter, call 303-785-0320, or send an email to seniorcenterinfo@highlandsranch.org.





Try out the free Fitness Court at Central Park

The outdoor Fitness Court at Central Park is part of the world's largest outdoor gym network. Stop by 1367 Park Central Drive any time during park hours to complete a free outdoor bodyweight circuit-training session.

The equipment is for ages 14 and older and accommodates a variety of skill levels and abilities. Users can download the accompanying app, which delivers new workouts and challenges on a regular basis. Learn more at highlandsranch.org/explore.

See senior center programs on Pages 12-15.

Residential Customer

A Publication Providing Information for:

Recreation Programs • Youth & Adult Sports • Parks & Open Space Projects • Local Government Updates

Highlands Ranch Metro District
62 Plaza Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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Attend a board meeting

Metro District board meetings are held at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month (with rare exceptions due to holiday schedules) at the John D. Hendrick Office Building, 62 Plaza Drive. Board study sessions are held the Wednesday prior to board meetings at 6 p.m. at the same location. Visit highlandsranch.org/agendas for a meeting schedule. Meetings are currently being held both via Zoom and in person. The public is encouraged to attend.

Centennial Water and Sanitation District board meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the last Monday of each month (with rare exceptions due to holiday schedules) at the John D. Hendrick Office Building, 62 Plaza Drive. Monthly board study sessions are held the Tuesday prior to the board meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the same location. Visit centennialwater.org to view a meeting schedule. Meetings are currently being held both via Zoom and in person.

Open Space Information Center

Are you interested in reducing wildfire risk on your property? Or are you curious about preventing conflicts with coyotes and other types of local wildlife?

The Metro District owns and manages more than 2,600 acres of open space in our community. Resources for homeowners living near open spaces are available on our website in the Open Space Information Center at highlandsranch.org/OSIC.

Report a Concern

If you see an issue, concern or problem on Metro District property, please let us know. Having more helpful eyes in the community lets us be even more responsive.

Examples of issues residents can share include broken sprinklers, graffiti, tree damage, wildlife issues and more.

While some concerns shared with us are the responsibility of another service provider in Highlands Ranch – such as the Highlands Ranch Community Association, Douglas County Sheriff's Office or Douglas County government – we will always try to connect you to the appropriate resource.

Visit highlandsranch.org/report to submit information to our staff.



Register for CodeRED notifications

CodeRED will alert you by phone, email, and text about emergencies in your area. It will also provide you with instructions on what to do to protect life and property. The system will notify you about police activity, lost children, wildfires and other emergencies nearby. Learn more and register at public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/84B13CCD6B41.