

Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—

**Business & Repair Office Hours**  
7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

**Business Number:**  
829-8726

**Repair Number:**  
829-2193

**Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year:**  
829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG

**Facebook:**  
Brainerd Public Utilities

All Electrical Work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed with the State of Minnesota.



## 20 TIPS TO SAVE WATER AT HOME

 <b>Mulch plants to help them retain water</b>	 <b>Use a rain barrel to gather rainwater</b>	 <b>Soak pots and pans rather than letting water run</b>	 <b>Compost rather than use garbage disposal</b>
 <b>Turn off the water while washing your hands</b>	 <b>Wash clothes in cold water</b>	 <b>Join a community pool rather than installing one</b>	 <b>Limit showers to 5 minutes</b>
 <b>Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth</b>	 <b>Use a refillable water bottle rather than multiple drinking glasses each day</b>	 <b>Wash fruits and vegetables over a pan to collect water</b>	 <b>Fix leaks as soon as they are discovered</b>
 <b>Take a shower rather than a bath</b>	 <b>Cook food in as little water as possible</b>	 <b>Run your dishwasher only when full</b>	 <b>Don't let the water run while shaving</b>
 <b>Collect running water while waiting for it to heat up and use on plants or lawn</b>	 <b>Scrape dishes rather than rinsing before washing</b>	 <b>Add a nozzle to your hose to control flow</b>	 <b>Install a low flow shower head</b>

### SECURITY LIGHTING

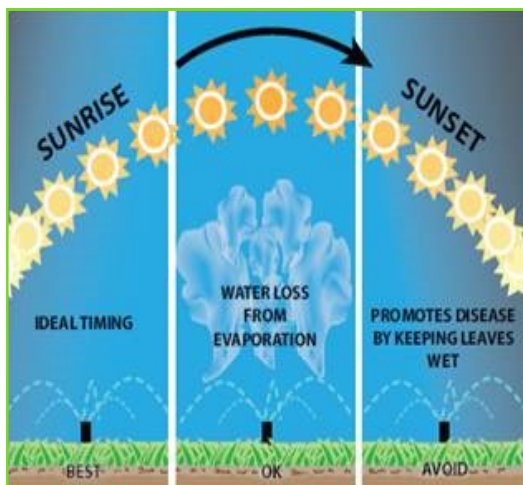
BPU offers a security lighting program. Security lighting illuminates possible safety hazards to make your property safe at night, and protects your home or business by discouraging vandalism, theft, and burglary.

Security lighting is available to residential, commercial, and industrial customers. BPU maintains the security light.



### Reminder

Please do NOT plant trees, shrubs, etc. within 10 feet of electrical transformers and/or junction boxes.



### Summer Sprinkling Credit

Summer is coming and for all our residential customers who like to keep their lawns lush and green, and their gardens plentiful, BPU summer sprinkling rates will soon be in effect.

**The sprinkling rate will begin after your meters have been read in May.** This credit is applied to your sewer charges (waste treatment and waste collection) on the bills you receive in June, July, August, & September.

For the above months, your sewer charges will be billed on the monthly average water consumption of your bill from November, December & January.

## Call Before You Dig, But Beware — Not Every Utility Gets Marked!

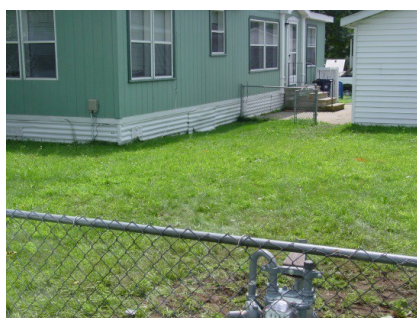
Imagine this: you have a project that requires you to make a hole in the ground with a shovel, a trencher, a skid-steer or some other digging tool. You're aware that hitting an underground utility — a pipe, power line, fiber cable, etc. — can be expensive and dangerous. You want to do the right thing and adhere to the law, so you contact Gopher State One Call, generate an excavation ticket, and wait 48 hours for utility people to mark the areas you must avoid. With the utilities marked, the ground surface becomes an explosion of colors, and you're clear to start your project. Right? Wrong!

The law does not require ALL underground utilities to be indicated; the ones falling in the category of "private facilities" may go unmarked, including some electric and natural-gas facilities. Your in-ground sprinkler system probably will not be marked, along with a substantial portion of the sewer line under your yard. If there are gas or electric facilities buried after the meter ("downstream" from the meter in the directional flow) on your property, they may not be marked, either. These are all examples of "private facilities" that are not owned by the utility, but by the property owner — and therefore not required to be marked by utility employees.

In light of this reality, what can you do to assure your personal safety and the integrity of your private facilities as you complete your project? These actions will help:

1. If you are not the original property owner, it may be necessary to contact previous owners or long-time neighbors to determine whether private facilities were installed prior to your ownership.
2. Be a detective. Look around the proposed excavation site for clues, including:
  - a. A gas meter with no yellow markings on the property
  - b. An electric meter with no red markings on the property
  - c. In-ground sprinkler heads
3. If you have a city sewer system, the operator is required to mark it in the right-of-way and indicate the spot where it leaves the right-of-way and goes into your property. If it's not marked, call the city and find out where your service line comes off the main sewer pipe and goes into your yard. Use hand tools to dig carefully around the spot where it should be.
4. If you have a septic system, locate it (or hire a private locator) and mark it yourself so you can avoid damaging it.
5. Look for devices powered by gas or electricity — things like lights, grills, or heated swimming pools — that do not have markings leading to the device.
6. If evidence suggests that private facilities are present in the ground where you will be working, consider hiring a private locator. A private locator is someone who will come to the job site and attempt to locate private, underground facilities.

Anytime an excavation occurs, care must be taken. Knowing what steps to take on your own, even after Gopher State One Call has been contacted, will assure a safe and successful project.



**If you are moving**, please notify our office at 825-3200 at least a day in advance to have your meters read for your final bill. Please have your forwarding address ready to give to us. Also, if you are selling your property, we need the new owner's name and contact information when you call in to final your account.

service with us or transferring service in our service area. The application is on our website at [www.bpu.org](http://www.bpu.org). If you are renting a residence, BPU will not read the meters until we have received a completed application and a copy of your lease and drivers license.