

# Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District



## SUMMER NEWS & 2017 WATER QUALITY REPORT

**W**e are honored to serve as your water district commissioners and we are committed to providing you, our valued customers, with the region's safest and best tasting drinking water

This newsletter contains information we hope you will find helpful on system upgrades, conservation tips, customer service resources and general news.

In addition, **we have also included our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.** You will find that testing conducted throughout 2017 shows that **your drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards.**

Our priority is to provide safe and reliable water to our customers and we conduct frequent water quality tests and prioritize system upgrades in order to maintain these high standards and protect public health.

This report will provide you with details on the source of our water, its quality and the steps we take to monitor, protect and conserve our water resource. We hope you find it informative.

It is our goal to be open and accessible to our customers. You can call us at (425) 868-1144 or visit our website — **NESSWD.org** — for the latest information, tips on how to conserve water and contact details for Commissioners and District staff.



### Board of Commissioners

Wayne DeMeester • *President*     Paul Sentena • *Secretary*  
Paul Robinett

## INSIDE...

- ▶ 2017 Annual Water Quality Report
- ▶ District Implements Shake Alert Technology
- ▶ Save with Summer Conservation Tips
- ▶ Low Income Senior Discount Available

# DISTRICT LEADS ON EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

The Northeast Sammamish Water and Sewer District is leading the way in disaster preparedness, customer protection and safe drinking water. The District is the first in the Pacific Northwest to implement Shake Alert technology as part of an advanced earthquake early warning system to automatically perform system functions.

In the case of a seismic event, protecting our fresh drinking water supply is essential. The Shake Alert system has been developed in conjunction with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network along with the University of Washington. The District is among the very first utilities in the region to test and install the safety measures as part of a USGS pilot program.

**“The District is the first in the Pacific Northwest to implement Shake Alert technology as part of an advanced earthquake early warning system”**

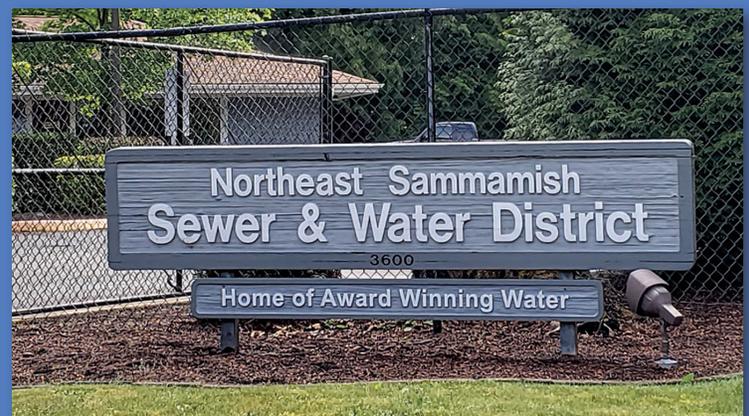
Through a network of sensors, the Shake Alert technology will identify an earthquake when it first begins, calculate the intensity of the event and send out early warning signals that will protect staff and infrastructure that are potentially in harm’s way. Booster pumps at reservoirs will automatically shut down and/or valves will close or throttle down before the earthquake hits so

**“By implementing the Shake Alert technology we will be protecting infrastructure needed to provide water to your family and those first responders assisting our community to recover from an earthquake.”**

*Commissioner Wayne DeMeester*

that water will not be lost when pipes break. In addition, wells will temporarily shut down in order to protect pumps from damage.

The District is currently featured in a PBS special broadcast detailing this new, ground-breaking, technology. The safety of your drinking water is our first priority and we are proud to be one of the leaders in testing and implementing this cutting-edge earthquake safety system.



*The District office sign has been updated to highlight the many taste awards our water has received.*

# SAVE WATER & MONEY! SUMMER CONSERVATION TIPS.

In summer, average household water use more than doubles, mostly due to landscape irrigation. With just a few simple steps, you can reduce your landscape's water needs.

**Reducing water use will both preserve our resource and save dollars on your bill.**

## WATER AT THE RIGHT TIME

Water early in the morning, when the air is still and evaporation to heat is minimized. With time regulated irrigation systems, it only takes minutes to adjust your watering pattern.

## MONITOR FOR LEAKS

Check hose connections for drips and repair leaky exterior spigots. Most fixes are simple "do-it-yourself" tasks, but use a plumber for complicated tasks. Annually inspect your irrigation systems for leaks and promptly replace broken sprinkler heads.

## COLLECT RAIN

Create your own water supply by collecting rain runoff. Rain barrels are inexpensive and offer fast and easy installation.

## KNOW YOUR SOIL

If you see irrigation water pooling or running off into the road you're watering too much. Some soil types can't absorb large amounts

of water at once. Use short, repeated cycles to deliver water at a rate the soil can absorb. Most irrigation controllers can be quickly programmed for multiple cycles. Also, adding organic matter to your soil will improve its water holding capacity.

## BUILD BASINS

Mound soil to form a water collection basin around plants and shrubs. This will reduce runoff and concentrate water at the roots.

## USE NATIVE PLANTS

Carefully consider lawn needs. Lawns need twice as much water as beds filled with flowers and shrubs. Replace grass with native plant groupings or outdoor living areas.

## MULCH SOIL

Apply a 2-inch layer of mulch to planting beds to slow water evaporation from soil. Mulch also suppresses weeds and saves you time.

## UPDATE EQUIPMENT

Replace and upgrade irrigation equipment, including timers and sprinklers. Look for low precipitation rate sprinklers, smart controllers, and low-volume micro-irrigation, such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses, bubbler irrigation and micro-sprinklers. These water plants at a rate the ground can absorb, minimize evaporation, runoff and over spray.

## DE-THATCH & AERATE

Help lawns absorb water efficiently by limiting thatch and aerating on a regular basis.

## MOW CORRECTLY

Mowing at the proper height for summer growing conditions cuts the need for water. Lawn experts in this area recommend mowing to a height of 2".





## Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

3600 Sahalee Way Northeast  
Sammamish, Washington 98074

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## PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Board of Commissioners meet every month on the **first and third Wednesday at 7:30AM** in the District office. Visit [NESSWD.org](http://NESSWD.org) for more info.

## MORE INFORMATION

on source water assessments is available from the Washington State Department of Health website at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/swap/maps>

## HERE TO SERVE YOU

The NESSWD office is open  
Monday through Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM  
3600 Sahalee Way Northeast  
Sammamish, Washington 98074  
**(425) 868-1144**

## PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

You can pay your bill at [NESSWD.org](http://NESSWD.org) anytime day or night.  
Just visit our website to sign-up.



## LOW INCOME SENIOR DISCOUNT

A discount program is available for customers who are at least 62 years of age with a limited family income.

You qualify if you meet these criteria.

<i>Family Size</i>	<i>Household Income That Does Not Exceed</i>
1	\$ 37,450
2	\$ 42,800
3	\$ 48,150
4	\$ 53,500

For additional information, or to apply, please visit our website at [NESSWD.org](http://NESSWD.org) or contact the District Customer Service office at (425) 868-1144.

***The Northeast Sammamish Water and Sewer District is here to serve you!***

# 2017 Water Quality Report



## WATER CONSERVATION GOALS & PLAN

The District has adopted the following water use efficiency goals:

- Achieve a reduction in water use per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) of five percent by the year 2021, with 2006 as the base year.
- Increase awareness among all water users of the value and importance of conserving water and of the methods available to achieve reductions in water use.



These goals were affirmed by the Commissioners in June 2016 and, **together, we've reduced the average District water use per person by 18.93% compared to 2006.**

## HEALTH INFORMATION

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants (coliforms), such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.





## NESSWD SERVICE AREA

The District is bordered by Lake Sammamish on the west, the Redmond-Fall City Road on the north and at about 239<sup>th</sup> on the east. Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District (NESSWD) overlaps with the Sammamish Plateau Water (SPW) on its southern border.

The southern water boundary for NESSWD is approximately at NE 20<sup>th</sup> while its southern sewer boundary is from NE 9<sup>th</sup> to NE 16<sup>th</sup>. Customers in this overlapping area receive a sewer bill from NESSWD and a water bill from SPW. This overlap exists since neither District had both water and sewer service available at the time of development. As a result, for customers to have both water and sewer connections, each District provided one of the utilities. We mail you this update even if you receive your water from SPW.

**NESSWD's consumers are 99% residential with no commercial accounts** except for a few condominium complexes, one school, Sahalee Country Club and the Sahalee Maintenance Association. We have no industrial customers in the District.

## OUR SOURCES & STORAGE

In 2017, NESSWD distributed approximately 247 million gallons of water. The District is supplied entirely by ground water pumped from five wells. There are three wells in the Evans Creek Valley and two on the Plateau. These wells serve approximately 3,300 connections or about 10,560 people.



**The District adds no chemicals to our water supply for disinfection or other purposes.** The District does operate a filtration plant to remove hydrogen sulfide and arsenic.

The District adopted a wellhead protection plan in 1995 and updated the plan in 2012. The plan defined wellhead protection areas (WHPA) for each well or well field. Contaminant inventory and risk assessments were conducted for each WHPA. The risk assessment determined that all identified potential contaminant sources were of low risk to the District's wells. The Washington State

Department of Health has assessed a low contaminant susceptibility rating to wells 3 and 4. The well field was assigned a moderate susceptibility rating. The District continues to monitor for new risks that may arise.

NESSWD maintains three storage tanks. The District has two half-million gallon underground reservoirs and a three million gallon tank shared with Sammamish Plateau Water. Both Districts pump water into that tank and withdraw the water as needed. As a result, customers in Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District also receive water from Sammamish Plateau Water's sources. Please contact Sammamish Plateau Water for water quality information on their sources at (425) 392-6256, or go to their website at [www.spwater.org](http://www.spwater.org).



# 2017 SOURCE WATER TESTING RESULTS

Detected	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range	Typical Sources	Clean Water
Radium 228	pCi/L	5	N/A	0.28	0.156 to 0.417	Erosion of natural deposits.	<b>YES</b>
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	N/A	0.163	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits	<b>YES</b>
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	3.60	1.40 to 5.80	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See notes for more information.	<b>YES</b>
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.25	ND to 0.74	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits.	<b>YES</b>
TTHM	ppb	80	N/A	7.00	N/A	By-products of drinking water disinfection. While the District does not disinfect its water supply, a very small amount of chlorine enters the system from Sammamish Plateau Water at the very south end of the District.	<b>YES</b>

## NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

**MCLG or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MCL or Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. The MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL = Action Level      ND = None detected      TTHM = Total Trihalomethanes      ppb = parts per billion  
 N/A = Not applicable      pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)      ppm = parts per million

**Arsenic:** While our drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Washington State Board of Health prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

The Food and Drug Administration and/or the Washington State Department of

Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/Aids or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Environmental Protection Agency/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

For more information about any item in this report, please contact Laura Keough at (425) 868-1144.



## CONSTANT TESTING TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

**No homes tested in the District have ever exceeded the action levels for lead and copper.**

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

**You can reduce your potential exposure to lead.** For any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold water tap for drinking, cooking and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead.



If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water laboratory tested. The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) is responsible for certifying labs in Washington. A list of certified labs can be found at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/eap/acclabs/labquery.asp>. Information on lead is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## RESIDENTIAL LEAD & COPPER TEST RESULTS

2017 Testing	90th Percentile	MCL	MCLG	Number of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Range	In Compliance?
Lead (ppb)	ND	AL = 15	0	0	ND to 0.0019	<b>YES</b>
Copper (ppm)	0.22	AL = 1.3	1.3	0	ND to 0.32	<b>YES</b>