



**Northeast Sammamish
Sewer and Water District**
3600 Sahalee Way Northeast
Sammamish, Washington 98074

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Public Meetings

The Board of Commissioners meet on the first and third Wednesday at 7:30 AM. Board meetings are currently being held via Zoom. Log-in information is posted on the District's website at NESSWD.org.

More Information

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

Customer Service

Contact the District at (425) 868-1144 during normal business hours, or 24-hours per day in an emergency.

Pay Online

You can pay your bill at 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.

Family Size	Household Income That Does Not Exceed
1	\$ 40,500
2	\$ 46,300
3	\$ 52,100
4	\$ 57,850
5	\$ 62,500

For more information, or to apply, visit our website at NESSWD.org or contact Customer Service at (425) 868-1144.

We're here to serve you!

Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

Spring News



We are honored to serve as your water district commissioners. Our priority is providing you with the safest and best tasting drinking water in the region.

This newsletter contains our **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**. We are proud to inform you that frequent testing throughout 2020 showed that ***your drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards***. This report contains detailed information regarding the source of our water, test results and provides important information for you and your family about water and health.

We have also included information on district projects, tips on protecting our sewers and a reminder to have your cross connection tested to protect our community water.

We hope this report is helpful to you. Our goal is to be open and accessible to our customers. We encourage you to contact us at (425) 868-1144 or visit our website — NESSWD.org — if you have any questions or need additional information from commissioners or staff. Should you need to visit staff, masks & social distancing is required.

Thank you!



Board of Commissioners

Paul Robinett
President

Paul Sentena
Secretary

Wayne DeMeester

To Our Customers

We hope that you are staying safe during the public health crisis.

Your drinking water is safe and our system continues to operate without interruption.

Our office is now open for service. Masks are required and social distancing measures are in place for customer and staff safety.

You can make appointments to see staff by calling (425) 868-1144.

Please do not flush disinfectant wipes as they can cause pipes to clog and damage pumps.



District News

Cross Connection Backflow Certification Due

The District's cross connection program ensures the safety of your drinking water. The program identifies new cross connections, requires installation of backflow prevention assemblies, and requires assemblies to be certified on an annual basis. The tests ensure that the assemblies are not malfunctioning and potentially contaminating the District's water. **Test results must be reported to the District each year by May 31st.** This is the time of year when customers typically begin to activate their lawn irrigation/sprinkler systems and a good time to have the backflow device tested. The District will mail a current list of Certified Backflow Testers along with a test report in early Spring. You may contact the District and find out the name of the tester you used last year by calling our office at (425) 868-1144. Testers may use the District's testing form to report results.

Keep Fire Hydrants Clear

Please keep your water meter boxes clear of plants, shrubs, or trees. The District needs access to meter boxes to read your meter and perform maintenance. Over time, tree roots can damage meter boxes and cause water leaks. This can be costly and inconvenient due to repair bills, high water usage, and short-term loss of water.

Washington Administrative Code (WAC 246-293-650) requires all fire hydrants have a minimum of 3 feet of radial clearance to perform operation and maintenance. Fire hydrants must also have at least 18 inches of clearance from the pumper port to the ground and be visible for 50 feet from the direction of vehicular approach. We inspect hydrants annually to ensure these clearances are met. Please help the District by trimming or removing obstructive trees or hedges so that fire fighters can operate the hydrant in an emergency.

The District has several water appurtenances that are critical and must be accessible for maintenance and operation. These include gate valves, air vacuum release valves, and blow offs. These are enclosed in circular or square enclosures and should be at grade. **Please help keep these enclosures exposed and visible.**

Protect Your Sewer System

The District's sanitary sewer collection system consists of 63 miles of pipeline and 9 pump stations. A big challenge is clearing fat and debris from our sewers and pump stations. If unnoticed, this can cause backups in streets and homes.

Please do not flush the following items:

- Cleaning & Facial Wipes. Even if the label says they are flushable
- Fats, Oil or Grease of any Type
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Cotton Swabs & Dental Floss
- Paper Towels & Diapers
- Kitty Litter
- Band Aids & other Trash

Use sink strainers to catch food scraps and unwanted debris from going down the drain. Fat, oil, and grease should never be dumped down the drain and should be disposed of in the garbage. This applies to fats that are both solid and liquid at room temperature.

The District's New Vactor Truck

This purchase will help the District respond to water & sewer emergencies in a more timely and efficient manner, mitigating damage. The District has also seen an increase in the need for regular sewer line and pump station cleaning in recent years as tree root intrusion, debris, and fat, oil & grease accumulation have become a problem.



Update on Current District Projects

Sewer Pipe Lining

The District has completed phase 1 where approximately 2750 linear feet (lf) of pipe was lined. We are in design for phase II which is approximately 2000 lf planned for spring/summer 2021.

SCADA Replacement/Shake Alert

The contract for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) updates at the District wells is complete. The remote terminal units (RTUs) will communicate with the Master Control Center to run our system. In conjunction with the SCADA Replacement, we installed the Shake Alert early earthquake warning system at each well. SCADA is to be installed at the 700 MG Reservoir, the 216th Intertie and Lift Station 10 this year. Also, see Lift Station 14 and 15 Generators.

Sewer & Water Comprehensive Plans

We are in the process of updating both of our comprehensive plans. The water system plan is complete and has been approved by the King County Council and the State Department of Health. The sewer plan is still being developed.

SR202 Sewer Force-Main Relocation

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is replacing a culvert on SR202 which will require the District to relocate its sewer force-main. The District installed a temporary bypass prior to WSDOT's culvert work. The existing force-main will then be removed and a new force-main installed when the culvert is complete. This project is on hold by WSDOT.

Emergency Chlorination System

The District does not chlorinate its water. If an E.coli event were to occur such as the one that happened in Mercer Island or Sallal, the District may need to inject chlorine into the water to make it drinkable. This system

would only be used in the event of an emergency situation. This project design is complete and approved by DOH.



Well 4

The well is being rehabbed and the motor repaired and replaced. The rehab work is complete, the motor is repaired, and replacement is in process.

Shop Loft

We are in design for a storage loft in the District shop.

AMI

The Base Station will be located at the District office along with a monopole. Another monopole will be located at the .5 MG Reservoir with a repeater and four additional photocell repeaters will be placed on street light locations. Permits will be required from King County and the City for the monopoles as the poles are above 60 feet. The District requested pre-application meetings with both agencies. A pre-app meeting has been held with the City and we are still waiting on the County. There is also an application process with PSE underway.

Lift Station 14 & 15 Generators

The contract to replace lift station 14 generator has been awarded and construction will begin spring or summer. A new generator is being designed for lift station 15. We plan to replace the SCADA at these facilities at the same time for economy of scale.

Accounting Software Conversion

The District plans to convert its accounting software in 2021 as the existing software is no longer supported. There will be no change to the billing software.



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 tested at a laboratory. 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/programs/eap/labs/index.html>. Information on lead is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or online at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.



Residential Lead & Copper Test Results

2018 Testing	90th Percentile	MCL	MCLG	Number of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Range	Clean Water
Lead (ppb)	ND	AL = 15	0	0	ND to 0.0021	YES
Copper (ppm)	0.18	AL = 1.3	1.3	0	ND to 0.24	YES

Preserving Our Precious Water

The District has adopted the following water use efficiency goals:

- Achieve a reduction in water use per 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 reaffirmed in June 2016. The average water use per person from 2007 through 2020 was 20.34% lower than in 2006.

To assist conservation efforts, the District funds education programs, provides water conservation tips in our newsletters and on our website, uses an increasing block rate structure to encourage water savings, offers rebates for water efficient clothes washers and customer water conservation kits. We've also focused on maintaining a low leakage rate.

Your support of conservation efforts has cut water use by over 20% since 2006.



2020 Water Quality Report

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.

2020 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.	YES
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	N/A	0.163	0.119 to 0.213	Erosion of natural deposits	YES
Barium	mg/L	2	2	0.0017	ND to .0033	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	YES
Arsenic <i>(at treatment plant)</i>	ppb	10	0	6.20	5.10 to 8.70	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See notes for more information.	YES
Arsenic <i>(at untreated wells in well field)</i>	ppb	10	0	2.6	2.6	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See notes for more information.	YES
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.43	ND to 0.86	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits.	YES
Asbestos	mfl	7	7	0.118	N/A	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits.	YES
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s)	ppb	60	N/A	15	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.	YES

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 mfl = million fibers per liter 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.

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.

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 federal Food and Drug Administration and/or the Washington State Department of Agriculture water regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water

District Service Area

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

The southern water boundary for NESSWD is approximately at NE 20th while its southern sewer boundary is from NE 9th to NE 16th. 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 & 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.

District-Provided Arsenic Treatment

While the arsenic in the District’s water is well below the MCL, we realize some homeowners may wish to treat the water in their own homes to further reduce arsenic levels. One home option is reverse osmosis (RO). In the RO process, a high-pressure force pushes water through a membrane. Treated water is collected on the other side whereas contaminants and rejected water are unable to pass. RO membranes can effectively remove constituents from water, including organic carbon, salts, dissolved minerals such as arsenic, and color .

While neither the Department of Health nor the District endorses or supplies home based point of use systems, if you choose to look into one, make sure it is certified for use with drinking water and is specific to reduction of arsenic.

Sources & Storage

In 2020, NESSWD produced approximately 251 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 3,310 connections or about 9,930 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 which was updated in 2012 and 2019. 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 — two half-million gallon underground reservoirs and a three million gallon tank shared with SPW. Both Districts pump water into the tank and withdraw the water as needed. As a result, customers in Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District also receive water from SPW sources.

You may contact Sammamish Plateau Water for information on their water sources at (425) 392-6256, or go to the their website at **www.spwater.org**.

Your water meets, or exceeds, every state and federal standard.