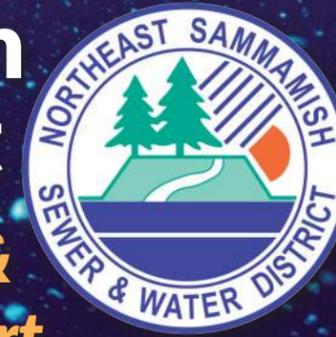


# Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

## Summer News & 2021 Water Quality Report



**W**e are honored to serve as your locally elected Board of Commissioners and are providing this newsletter to update you — **our valued customers** — on the activities of the District. We have also included our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report which contains valuable information on your water resource and the results of testing throughout 2021 which shows that your drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards.

Our top priority is to provide safe and reliable water to our customers. We conduct frequent water quality tests and prioritize system upgrades in order to maintain these high standards and protect the health of our community.

This Water Quality Report provides you with details on the source of our water, its properties and the steps we take to monitor, protect and conserve our water resource.

In addition, the newsletter contains water conservation tips, information on our system upgrades and news — including the announcement that your drinking water was named “**Best Tasting Water in the Northwest**”.

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 breaking information, tips on how to conserve water and contact details for Commissioners and District staff.

## Thank you!



### Board of Commissioners

**Paul Robinett**  
*President*

**Paul Sentena**  
*Secretary*

**Wayne DeMeester**



### To Our Customers

The District office is now open for service. Masks are not required, but for customer and staff safety we ask all unvaccinated individuals to wear a mask.

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

Please **do not flush** any disinfectant or wet wipes — even those marked as “flushable” by the maker. Wipes **do not** degrade in the sewer which causes pipes to clog & backup into your home and damages pumps.

# Ten Ways to Conserve Water

(and save money!)

1. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. Water comes out of the average faucet at 2.5 gallons per minute. Don't let all that water go down the drain while you brush!
2. Save gallons of water by turning off the faucet after you wet your hands until you need to rinse.
3. Flush with less. Older toilets use a lot of water. Place a half gallon jug of water in the toilet tank to reduce water use. Do NOT use a brick as it will break down and damage your toilet.
4. Use a plumber or DIY to fix leaky faucets.
5. Head to the car wash. When you wash your car take it to a car wash that recycles the water, instead of washing at home with the hose.
6. Cut showers short. Older showers use up to 5 gallons of water per minute. Update your shower head or install a flow restrictor.
7. Choose efficient fixtures. Aerating your faucets, investing in a low-flow toilet, choosing efficient shower heads, and opting for a Water Sense rated dishwasher and washing machine can add up to big savings in both water & electricity.
8. Shrink your lawn. Even better: lose the lawn completely. Use native and drought resistant plants to eliminate the need to water.
9. Only run the dishwasher & washing machine when it's full. Those half-loads add up.
10. Keep an eye on your bill to spot leaks. If your water bill spikes suddenly, there's a good chance that a leak is the culprit. Call in a plumber to check your lines to save water and cash!

## District News

Northeast Sammamish Water District's drinking water has been named the **Best Tasting Water in the Pacific Northwest** by the American Water Works Association.

The District won the AWWA "Best of the Northwest Taste Contest" held in Tacoma where it faced off against competing water districts from Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

The District advanced to the Northwest competition after being named King County's best tasting drinking water in March by a panel of drinking water specialists at the AWWA local competition.

This is the second time that the District has been named the best tasting water in the Northwest and the fifth time it has been named as having the best tasting drinking water in King County.

"We are proud of the high quality of our drinking water and honored to be considered the best in King County and the Northwest," said Paul Robinett, President of the District's Board of Commissioners. "We are committed to protecting this resource and providing our customers with safe, reliable and great tasting drinking water at a reasonable cost."



## 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 2021 was 20.36% 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.**



# 2021 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 byproducts 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.

# 2021 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   | 0.119 to 0.213 | Erosion of natural deposits   | <b>YES</b>  |
| Barium                                     | mg/L  | 2   | 2    | 0.0017  | ND to .0033    | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.   | <b>YES</b>  |
| Arsenic (at treatment plant)               | ppb   | 10  | 0    | 4.70    | 3.40 to 8.00   | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See notes for more information. | <b>YES</b>  |
| Arsenic (at untreated wells in well field) | 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. | <b>YES</b>  |
| Nitrate                                    | ppm   | 10  | 10   | 0.50    | ND to 1.00     | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits.  | <b>YES</b>  |
| Asbestos                                   | mfl   | 7   | 7    | 0.118   | N/A            | Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits.  | <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    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.

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 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.

## District 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 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 & 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 2021, NESSWD produced approximately 250 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 3,312 connections or about 9,935 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.

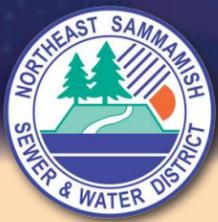
NESSWD maintains three storage tanks — a one-half million gallon (MG), a .6MG and a 3MG tank shared with SPW. Both Districts pump water into the tank and withdraw the water as needed. As a result, customers in Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District also receive water from SPW sources.

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



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

The District's Arsenic Removal Filter System



## 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](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



# Update on Current District Projects

### Sewer Pipe Lining

The District is lining 6100 feet of 44-year old concrete pipe to extend its useful life. We have completed Phase I of this project which lined 2,754 linear feet. Phase II has been delayed until 2023. The project is currently in permitting.

### SCADA Replacement / Shake Alert

The Phase II contract for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) updates at District wells is complete. The remote terminal units (RTUs) will communicate with the Master Control Center to run our system. The District is now in Phase III of the project which will update SCADA at the .5MG and 3MG tanks, an intertie and four lift stations.

### Manhole Lining

Phase I of this project is complete. Phase II of the project has been delayed until 2023. The project is currently in permitting.

### SR202 Sewer Force-Main Relocation

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is replacing a culvert on SR202 which will require relocation of a sewer force-main. The District installed a temporary bypass prior to WSDOT's culvert work. WSDOT has delayed the culvert work to 2024. When WSDOT completes this project, the bypass will be activated, the existing force main removed and a new force main installed by the District.

### Emergency Chlorination System

The District does not chlorinate its water. If an E.coli event were to occur similar to what occurred 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. This project has been designed and approved by the Washington State Department of Health. We have purchased the equipment and plan to construct the system this year.

### Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI)

The District is moving from radio read meters to AMI. We have determined we need two antennas installed and various repeaters throughout the water service area. This project is currently in permitting.



District staff replacing a fire hydrant.

### Lift Station 14 & 15 Improvements

This project will install a new generator at lift station 15 along with improvements to the motor control panel. A similar project will also be done at lift station 14. This project has been awarded but construction has not begun.

### Lift Station 8

This lift station is approximately 35 years old and needs to be rehabilitated. We will replace pumps and motors, add a stationary generator and replace the SCADA and motor controls. This project is in the design phase.

### Wellfield Generator

This project is to provide a necessary backup generator to ensure wellfield operation in the event of a power outage. Transfer switches and control panel upgrades will also be installed at the wells. This project has been awarded but construction has yet to begin.

## Residential Lead & Copper Test Results

|              | 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         |





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

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## 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           | \$ 45,300                             |
| 2           | \$ 51,800                             |
| 3           | \$ 58,250                             |
| 4           | \$ 64,700                             |

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!**

## Public Meetings

The Board of Commissioners meets monthly on the first & third Wednesday at 7:30 AM. Board meetings are being held in-person at the district office and via Zoom. Log-in information is posted on our 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/eh/dw/swap/maps/>

## Customer Service

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

## Pay Online

You can pay your bill at **NESSWD.org** anytime day or night. Please visit our website to sign-up.

