

Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District



Summer News & 2018 Water Quality Report

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

We have prepared this newsletter to deliver the most current information and updates on our water system along with conservation tips and helpful resources.

We have also included our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. And we are pleased to inform you that frequent testing throughout 2018 showed that **your drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards.**

We have prepared this report so that you — **our valued customers** — can be fully informed about your water and the activities of the District as we manage this precious resource.

This report contains detailed information regarding the source of our water, lists test results and provides important information for you and your family about water and health.

We hope this report is helpful to you and it is our goal 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 either commissioners or staff.

Thank you!



Board of Commissioners

Wayne DeMeester
President

Paul Sentena
Secretary

Paul Robinett

INSIDE...



**2018 Annual Water
Quality Report**



**Clean Audit for
the 21st Year!**



**Save with Water
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District Staff Comes Through for Customers.



Maxine Ruthven

Dear Laura:

I wish to commend two truly amazing gentlemen — Art Primeau and Steven Neubauer.

Yesterday I flushed my wedding ring down the toilet. After having a plumber come out and realizing it was already in the sewer system my husband drove to your office to ask for your help.

It was past office hours — yet they opened the door, listened and without hesitation jumped to help.

They arrived fully prepared and went to work. To say they were determined to find the ring would be selling them short. What really touched me was their unbelievable kindness, their relentless determination and work ethic. All this for a complete stranger.

I can say with complete honesty I am not certain who was happier when they found my ring.

Art and Steven, you found a ring in a sewer — but to me you returned a story, a piece of family and a part of a legacy that would have been lost.

There is no way to thank you, but know each time I wear my ring you will be thought of and appreciated.

Laura you have an incredible team — I am at a loss for words.

Sincerely,
Maxine Ruthven



Steven and Art with the recovered wedding ring

For NESSWD staff, this is not a 9-to-5 job. We are committed to our customers no matter the problem.

That's why this recent letter means so much to us and to each of our Commissioners.

We're here to serve you!

Ten Ways to Save Water and Money on Your Utility Bill

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. **Turn off the tap while washing your hands.**

Save a few 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. **Fix your leaks.** Use a plumber or DIY to fix leaky faucets for big water savings.

5. **Head to the car wash.** When you wash your car take it to a car wash that recycles the water, rather than washing at home with the hose.

6. **Cut your showers short.** Older showers use up to 5 gallons of water per minute. Install a flow restrictor in every shower head

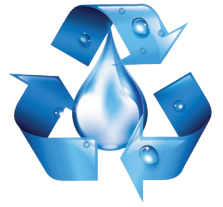
7. **Choose efficient fixtures.** Aerating your faucets, investing in a low-flow toilet, choosing efficient shower heads, and opting for a Water Sense rated dishwasher and washing machine can add up to big water savings.

8. **Shrink your lawn.** Even better: lose the lawn completely. Use native and drought resistant plants to cut the need to water.

9. **Only run the dishwasher & washing machine when it's full.** Those half-loads add up to gallons of wasted water.

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!

Washer Rebates



The District offers \$50 rebates for qualifying Energy Star washers. Go to **NESSWD.org** to download the rebate form or call the District office for details.

Hydrant & Meter Care

Meter boxes must be kept clear of all plants. NESSWD needs access to meters for reading, and plants, trees and their roots can damage meters and your service line. This could cause a major leak, expensive repair bills and a high water bill.



For safety, every fire hydrant must have a three foot clearance area. Hydrants also need 18" of clearance between the pumper ports and the ground. Hydrants need to be visible for 50 feet from the roadway. Firefighters need room to work the hydrants, and in an emergency, the more clearance the better.

The District also maintains access ports near the street or in the utility easement. While these may conflict with your desired landscape plans they must always be visible and accessible.

District Earns Clean Audit for 21st Year!

The Washington State Auditor recently gave the District a clean audit after reviewing the accuracy of the District's financial statements, internal controls and compliance with state laws and regulations.

"As Commissioners, we are committed to ensuring the financial creditability of the District," said Wayne DeMeester. "That includes the proper handling of every dollar paid by our customers and spent by the District. I'm proud of another perfect rating."



Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

3600 Sahalee Way Northeast
Sammamish, Washington 98074

Prsrt Std
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit #4776

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	\$ 38,750
2	\$ 44,300
3	\$ 49,850
4	\$ 55,350

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

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

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** 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/swap/>**

We are here to Serve You!

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

Pay Online

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



Water Conservation

In 2003, the Legislature passed the Municipal Water Supply Efficiency Requirements Act. The Water Efficiency Rule requires all water suppliers to set efficiency goals and provide annual performance reports.

The District has adopted the following water use efficiency goals:

- Achieve a reduction in water use per ERU of 5% 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.

These goals were reaffirmed by NESSWD Commissioners in June 2016. **The average water use from 2007 through 2018 was 19.36% lower than in 2006.**

The District continues to fund education programs, offer rebates for water efficient appliances, provide water conservation kits and focus on a low leakage rate throughout our distribution system.



2018 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.

2018 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
Arsenic	ppb	10	0	3.40	2.70 to 4.60	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See notes for more information.	YES
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.22	ND to 0.66	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

Detected	Amount Detected	MCL	MCLG	Typical Sources	Clean Water
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	N/A	0	Coliforms are naturally present bacteria in the environment and are an indicator for other, potentially-harmful, bacteria. The District had one sample test positive. Repeat samples were taken at the same location and both upstream and downstream. All wells were also sampled. All repeat samples were negative.	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.

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.

NESSWD 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 the 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 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.



Our Sources & Storage

In 2018, NESSWD distributed approximately 239 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 — 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.

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.

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/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.

RESIDENTIAL LEAD & COPPER TEST RESULTS

2018 Testing	90th Percentile	MCL	MCLG	Number of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Range	Clean Water
Lead (ppb)	0.0017	AL = 15	0	0	ND to 0.0019	YES
Copper (ppm)	0.22	AL = 1.3	1.3	0	ND to 0.32	YES

