

Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District



Summer News and 2022 Water Quality Report

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

As we head into the summer season, we wanted to provide you with this update on our activities along with a detailed review of your local water resource and its quality.

This newsletter contains information we hope you will find helpful on system upgrade projects, water conservation, 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 2022 shows that **your drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards**.

To maintain the highest standards of safe drinking water, we conduct frequent water quality tests and prioritize system upgrades in order to uphold these high standards and protect the health of our community.

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

Our goal to be open and accessible to you. You can call us at (425) 868-1144 or visit our website — **NESSWD.org** — for the latest information, tips on water conservation and to find contact details for Commissioners and staff.

Thank you!



Board of Commissioners

Paul Robinett
President

Paul Sentena
Secretary

Wayne DeMeester

Forever Chemicals in Water

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) collects drinking water test results for a family of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are sometimes called “forever chemicals” because they stay in the environment for a very long time. PFAS are a growing environmental contaminant of concern because some PFAS chemicals can be toxic to people and can build up over time in our bodies.

The District has received questions about PFAS in our drinking water. When the District did voluntary testing for PFAS in 2019 and 2021 **zero PFAS were detected**.

The first required compliance test is in 2025.

UPDATE

Construction Projects

Sewer Pipe Lining

The District is lining 6100 feet of 45-year old concrete pipe to extend its life. We have completed Phase I which lined 2,754 linear feet. The Phase II contract has been awarded and construction is expected to begin in July. This project is being funded by a public works trust fund loan with an interest rate of 1.39%.

SCADA Replacement/Shake Alert

The Phase II 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. The District is now in Phase III of the project which will update SCADA at the .5MG and 3MG tanks, an intertie and four sewer lift stations.

Manhole Lining

Phase I of this project is complete. The contract for Phase II has been awarded and work has begun. This project is being funded by a PWTF loan with a 1.39% interest rate.

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. WSDOT postponed their culvert work to the spring/summer of 2023. We have heard little from WSDOT on this project and suspect it may be further postponed. When WSDOT performs the culvert work, the bypass will be activated, the existing force main removed and a new force main installed.

Emergency Chlorination System

The District does not chlorinate its water. If an E.coli event occurred much like what 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. This project has been designed and approved by the Washington State Department of Health. The equipment has been installed at the .6 MG Crest Reservoir and will be installed at the .5 MG reservoir later this year.



New manhole casting (top), ladder and joint grout (lower).

Automated Meter Infrastructure

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. The permits for this project

have been obtained. The two poles for the antennae have a four month lead time and installation will occur when the poles are received. The repeaters have been installed. About 1700 new meter registers have been installed and we have about 1200 on hand to be installed. We have about 3300 meters so we are about 88% complete when the on-hand meters registers are installed.

Lift Station 14 & 15 Improvements

This project is to install a new generator at lift station 15 with motor control improvements. Motor control panel improvements will also be done at lift station 14. This project is substantially complete.

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.

Well Field Generator

This project is to provide a backup generator for the well field in the event of power outages. Transfer switches and control panel upgrades will be installed at the wells. This project has been awarded but construction has not begun. There is a needed part that is not expected to be available until late July.

AC Pipe Replacement

The District was awarded a Department of Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) pre-construction loan of \$510,000 with a \$10,000 loan fee and 0% interest for survey, design and permitting for the replacement of approximately 11,000 lineal feet of AC pipe. The surveyors have been working in the area. Once the survey is complete, design work will start. The project is mostly located on NE 37th Way, Sahalee Way NE, NE 36th St and Sahalee Dr East. Construction will likely begin in 2024. The District will be applying for additional funding for the construction.



Ten Ways to Conserve Water (and save money!)

1. Turn off the tap while brushing. 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 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 restricter.
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. 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. Watch your bill to spot leaks. If your water bill spikes, there's a good chance that a leak is the culprit. Call in a plumber to check your lines!

Preserving Our Precious Water

The District has adopted the following water use efficiency goals:



Achieve reduction in customer demand per equivalent residential unit (ERU) by the year 2026, with 2019 as the base year. This will result in a demand per ERU of 184 gpd per ERU by 2026.



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.

The goals were affirmed with the adoption of the 2020 Water System Plan Update by the District and approval by the Washington State Department of Health in 2021. The average gallons per day per person water usage from 2020 through 2022 was 8.38% higher than in 2019. Water usage in 2019 was the lowest since 2008 and using that as the base year in the goal may need to be re-evaluated.

The District continues to fund education programs, print conservation tips in our newsletters, have an increasing block rate structure, provide rebates for water efficient clothes washers, meter sources and customer services, provide water conservation kits to our customers & maintain a low leakage rate.



2022

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.

2022 Source Water & Distribution System Test Results							
Detected	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range	Typical Sources	Clean Water
Radium 228	pCi/L	5	N/A	0.40	0.078 to 0.827	Erosion of natural deposits.	YES
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	N/A	0.0397	ND to 0.119	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 (at treatment plant)	ppb	10	0	3.00	2.20 to 4.60	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See notes for more information.	YES
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.	YES
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.3667	ND to 1.10	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 Acid (HAA5s)	ppb	60	N/A	6	N/A	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; Erosion of natural deposits.	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

N/A = Not Applicable

mfl = million fibers per liter

ppb = parts per billion

ppm = parts per million

mg/L = milligrams per liter

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

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.

The tables present the results of our 2022 water quality monitoring. Where tests are required less than annually, the most recent results for the monitoring period are presented. For more information about any item in this report, please contact Laura Keough at (425) 868-1144.



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.



Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants & children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse effects. Adults can have increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) is responsible for certifying labs in Washington.

A list of certified labs can be found at <https://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 <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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

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 water 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 2022, NESSWD produced approximately 238 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.

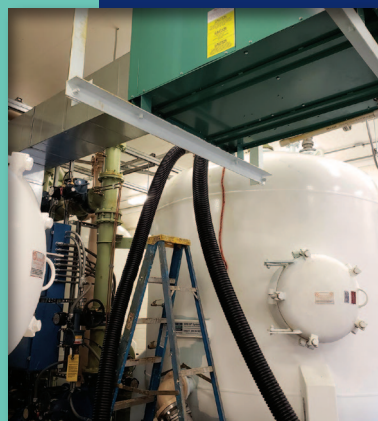
The District does operate a filtration plant to remove hydrogen sulfide and arsenic.

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 well 4. Well 3 and the well field were assigned moderate susceptibility ratings. 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 www.spwater.org.



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

***The District's Arsenic
Removal Filter System.***



Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

3600 Sahalee Way Northeast
Sammamish, Washington 98074

Prsrt Std
US Postage
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Low Income Senior Discount

A discount program is available for all customers who are at least 62 years of age with a limited family income. You qualify if you meet the criteria below.

Family Size	Household Income That Does Not Exceed
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1	\$ 47,950
2	\$ 54,800
3	\$ 61,650
4	\$ 68,500

To apply, visit our website at nesswd.org or contact Customer Service at (425) 868-1144.

Dialysis

If someone in your family is a home dialysis patient, please contact Customer Service and let us know to guarantee water service.

Public Meetings

The Board of Commissioners meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 AM. We encourage you to attend in person or via Zoom. Log-in information and updated meeting schedules are 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 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.

