



the

savvy

gardener

FREE SAVVY GARDENER CLASSES!

Presented by the Saving Water Partnership and Cascade Water Alliance

Discover how to create a beautiful, healthy and waterwise garden!

## Free Classes for Our Community... from children to adults!

The Saving Water Partnership is a group of local water utilities in Seattle and King County working together to help customers save water and money. As part of the regional program, all participating water purveyors (including North City Water District) pay a portion of their funds to cover various public programs, including rebates for multi-family, commercial and industrial customers, as well as public education events such as the Savvy Gardener classes, and youth education:

### Youth Education Programs

Taught by an outside organization called Nature Vision, these free, first-come/first-served, 45 to 60 minute innovative programs included both in-class and field programs. Topics ranged from water conservation, water cycle, and water quality, to salmon cycle, soil quality, aquatic insects and more (see chart at right)—all in support of Washington State Science Standards, STEM education, and the adoption of Next Generation Science Standards.

This year the programs filled up in record-breaking time in the Shoreline / Lake Forest Park area, even though we more than doubled the number being offered. North City Water District was proud to be involved!

### Savvy Gardener Classes for Adults

For the past two years, North City Water District has also participated in the Saving Water Partnership’s Savvy Gardener classes, several of which are held in the large conference room of our administrative headquarters.

Mark your calendar for our next class: **“Simply Lovely: Great Plants for Northwest Gardens”** coming up on Tuesday April 28. More information and registration details will be forthcoming on our website and Facebook page... but don’t forget to check out all of the Savvy Gardener classes being offered this year on the Saving Water Partnership website at: [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org)

Grade:	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Program:													
Water Cycle – Terrariums													
Water Cycles Round!													
Waterwise Gardening													
Drip Irrigation													
Watershed Ecosystems													
Water Conservation													
Water Supply													
Salmon Cycle													
Watershed Dynamics (Enviroscape)													
Watch the Flow, Above & Below													
Watershed <b>Field</b> Experience													
Aquatic Insects Dip <b>Field</b> Experience													
Healthy Water, Healthy Soil													
Healthy Water, Healthy Ecosystems													

NORTH CITY

Water District

Formerly Shoreline Water District



NORTH CITY WAVES

A newsletter for water-related issues and info

Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

Issue 1: January • February • March 2015

### From Our Board...

by Charlotte Haines, President

Although our new name is only a year old, come August 2015, we will have been serving our area’s water needs for 84 years. During these eight decades, we have seen many changes in how a water system operates—from the types of material, the size of the pipes, and the need for storage and pump stations, to computerized monitoring systems that help maintain the system. Our first water system supplied neighborhoods from the King / Snohomish County line to just north of the City of Seattle city limits, and as far east as Lake Washington to 5th Avenue NE in the west. Water shortage concerns were not uncommon then either—we instituted our first water conservation rules in the summer of 1949: “no sprinkling allowed between 4:30 and 7:30 pm and not at any time during the day in which a fire occurred anywhere in the District.” Fortunately we are not expecting a water shortage this summer, as detailed in the article inside this issue. The one thing that has not changed? Our 100% dedication to improving and updating your water system!

Original reservoir, 1936



North City Waves Newsletter ~ a publication by North City Water District

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- Project Update: North City Pump Station
- Will We Have a Water Shortage?

### Inside This Issue

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The North City Waves Newsletter is brought to you by North City Water District, and its Board of Commissioners:

Charlotte Haines (President), Ron Ricker (Vice President), and Larry Schoonmaker (Secretary).

Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, or 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155.

206.362.8100 • [www.northcitywater.org](http://www.northcitywater.org)

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Both photos courtesy of Seattle Public Utilities



## Will We Have a Water Shortage This Summer?

*This question will have an official answer on April 1, 2015 when a coalition of public agencies gets together for a comprehensive review... however current indicators look optimistic for sufficient water.*

For a number of months now, staff from the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and a number of other agencies have been closely tracking and monitoring the leading indicators of water supply—including snow and precipitation levels, as well as the water levels in both of our area’s two main water reservoirs: the Masonry Pool Reservoir and the South Fork Tolt Reservoir.

Snowpack and precipitation are measured on a water year (October through September) as identified by the US Geological Survey. Although our snowfall was limited in the mountains this winter, rainfall events along with proactive management by SPU staff are all looking favorable towards meeting our region’s water needs this summer without any restrictions.

### Delicate Balancing Act

Predicting the water supply can be as difficult as predicting the weather. However managing the water supply is also a delicate balancing act. In an average precipitation year, our area’s two main watershed reservoirs have just enough water stored for one water cycle year. Why?

If not enough water is released in the winter, there could be flooding. If too much is released, there won’t be enough stored for the dry summer months. Drought conditions in the spring could prevent the reservoir from filling adequately.

### Interconnected Decision-Making

Water supply in our region is all interconnected. Salmon, lakes, locks, and people all share the same limited amount of water gathered and stored in the Cedar River watershed. Managing water levels helps ensure adequate

supply for fisheries, public recreation, water levels in Lake Washington, and the operation of Ballard Locks, not to mention safe passage for fish, navigation, salinity control, and adequate summer residential water use.

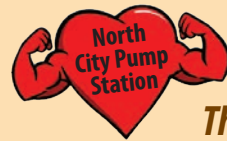
### Optimistic Data Thus Far

Every week, SPU updates the water supply conditions on their website, comparing current information with historical averages. This year, precipitation in both watersheds is about the same as the 60 year average. In fact, SPU staff began filling the reservoirs earlier this year, so as of today, there is more water available this year than compared to the long term average.

Yes, we have far less than the 30 inches of historical snowpack (and less than 10 inches of snow in the watersheds) this year. However, when we compare the current year’s water use for our region against where we were 20 years ago, water usage rates are down considerably even though the population in our region has grown.

SPU will continue to monitor the lake levels closely, especially if we are to have a significant rainfall event or two like we traditionally have each spring. Too much rain too fast can have a rapid impact on the reservoir and cause flooding of the Cedar River through Renton. SPU staff will continue to closely coordinate with all of the involved agencies to make sure there is an appropriate amount of water being stored and managed all throughout the year.

For more information and to view the current status of our water supply, visit the City of Seattle’s website and type in “Water Supply Conditions” in the search line.



## Project Update: North City Pump Station

*Think of it as the “heart” of a water district—helping to move water throughout every pipe and corner of our District—all while maintaining critical water pressure. North City Water District’s new Pump Station “heart” is being constructed very soon!*

Over the past several years, we’ve shared many articles about the improvements taking place at the North City Reservoir site. As of this year, we’re ready to begin the last and most critical project, our new Pump Station. While we depend primarily on gravity to help us with the movement of water throughout our water system, our pump station is truly the heart of the system—much like a human heart pumps blood through the body while maintaining adequate pressure.

Back in 2007, preliminary evaluations that a new Pump Station, along with internal upgrades to our 3.7 MG reservoir, could provide enhanced water pressure for the least possible cost—despite having to demolish the old 0.4 MG reservoir to make room for the new Pump Station. To confirm these findings, we explored 14 design scenarios that the Pump Station would be able to handle

(engineering report graphic below), then completed an “Improvement Grade Efficiency Audit” along with the final design recommendations.

As of this writing, our new Pump Station is nearing construction—as the final stage of a 9-year long project on this site, entailing everything from wireless carrier lease negotiations (for the wireless antennas on top of the adjacent reservoir), to internal and exterior improvements of the reservoir itself. Assuming the low bid is acceptable, we expect to select the Pump Station contractor in April, with construction expected to be complete within roughly 12 months. Stay tuned for future updates, and feel free to call us if you have questions at 206.362.8100.

