



Your District, Your Community

As a Special Purpose Water District, we make a point to routinely participate, involve, support, and educate our community. Here are just a few of the ways we're doing that:

Fix a Leak Week: Water Conservation and Education

For the sixth year in a row, North City Water District will once again be a proud participant in the Environmental Protection Agency's annual national Fix-A-Leak Week from March 20–26, as inspired by the Saving Water Partnership.

We've already begun working with Shoreline and Lake Forest Park teachers for this year's program—encouraging students to become "Leak Detectives" in their own homes, while helping them recognize the importance and various methods of water conservation.

This year, in addition to providing dye strips that give kids a fun, easy way to test their home toilets for leaks, we've provided teachers with optional class study outlines and activity materials from the American Water Works Association to augment the learning experience.

However, we've kept the same popular incentives from past years: classes with 100% participation are entered into a prize drawing for classroom supplies and pizza parties.

Want to test your toilet?
Stop by our office for a free Leak Detection Kit, and take a moment to check all of your faucets, hoses, and irrigation systems for leaks. If you'd like to conserve even more, we have low flow shower heads, faucet aerators and garden hose washers available too.

Found a leak, but don't know what to do?
Visit www.savingwater.org for information on saving water, fixing leaks, and possible rebates!

Meeting Room for Non-Profits and Government


Did you know? Our Board Room is available to community non-profit groups and governmental organizations—free of charge—whenever the room is not in use for District business. So far it has proven to be a valued community asset: in 2016, a total of 27 community groups used the room, amounting to over 250 hours of free meeting space, including the North City Jazz Walk, and free community "Savvy Gardener" classes (two future classes listed below).

Interested in reserving our Board Room? Contact Theresa Harrington at theresah@northcitywater.org or call 206.362.8100. View our Facility Use Agreement and Guideline form at: www.northcitywater.org/forms

Upcoming Events

A third way we love to connect with our community is face to face, answering questions, handing out water and water bottles, and providing advice about everything from water meters and irrigation systems, to conservation tips. Mark your calendars for our participation in the following:

- March 9—free Savvy Gardener Class "Soil Building Secrets for Greener Gardens" at North City Water District
- March 11—Lake Forest Park Annual Earth Smart Green Fair at Third Place Books
- March 29—free Savvy Gardener Class "Creating a Snack Walk Garden" (kid friendly!) at North City Water District
- April 29—Million Step Challenge at Paramount Park
- April 29—Healthy Kids Fair at Dale Turner YMCA
- May 20—STEM Fair at Shoreline Community College



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 2017

From Our Board...

by Ron Ricker, President

Infrastructure continues to be in the news, and the news is uncertain: on one hand we're hearing promises of increased federal funding, while on the other hand, grants tied to infrastructure funding from the EPA have already been frozen. Meanwhile here in Washington state, legislators are proposing to eliminate one of our core infrastructure funding sources in order to divert those funds to schools. Significant reductions in infrastructure funding paint a bleak future: not only would it be extremely difficult to plan for the necessary development to accommodate growth, but it would be even more challenging to address new infrastructure mandates being proposed by state and federal government. **Reliable infrastructure requires reliable funding.** Through diligent attention to our state's legislative actions, and ongoing involvement with local and national infrastructure organizations, North City Water District will continue to serve as a public advocate for proactive, long term solutions to infrastructure.

TWO FREE



Classes in March

Soil Building Secrets

Thursday March 9



Snack-Walk Gardens

Wednesday March 29



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

- 1) Join www.nextdoor.com for neighborhood news and notices
- 2) Follow us on www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict
- 3) Sign up for news, alerts, free classes and more on our website at www.northcitywater.org


Three Ways to Stay in Touch

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The History of Water Supply in King County

Water quality, joint coordination, topography and gravity—all of these have played a key role in the evolution of our water supply.

From the Water Resource Act of 1971, to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, our drinking water has been positively affected by a variety of federal and state laws that regulate water quality.

Washington state likewise passed several additional laws to ensure safe, high quality drinking water that meets all regulatory requirements, but they didn't stop there. The Public Water Systems Coordination Act of 1977 took water system management a step further: requiring all water utilities in our state to identify and document specific policies and procedures that would ensure they coordinate with other water utilities and logical governments in the same geographic area during all planning and construction efforts. Quite the mouthful, but also quite the benefit for the ratepayer.

In 1985, King County identified four different Critical Water Supply Areas: Vashon Island, Skyway, South King County; and East King County—North City Water District is included in the latter. However these four areas differ from actual water utility service area boundaries. Why?

Water decisions have long been based on what's best for the ratepayer. If you could deliver water to a parcel of land via natural gravity, rather than paying for mechanical pumps and the electricity to operate the pumps, which serves the ratepayer best? Gravity, hands down. And so our area's natural hilly topography and resulting gravity flows were typically the way water service areas and providers were identified, rather than city or county boundaries.



The 1985 efforts by King County staff included a preliminary assessment of water supply and fire protection issues which were adopted by County Council in the same year. A total of nineteen recommendations were made to once again ensure that we could all work together to meet our regional needs.

In 1986, the County identified a total of 1,029 existing water systems in East King County—ranging from Bellevue with approximately 29,000 service connections, to the Carnation Research Farm with 6 service connections. All of the utilities agreed to work together to ensure that the water systems developed throughout this area were consistent with regional needs. Final utility boundaries were solidified in the 1996 update.

East King County Coordinated Water System Planning

As our region continues to grow, plans are already being discussed as the Puget Sound Regional Council asks, “What will the region be like in 2050, when today’s kindergartners are 30-something?” As a Special Purpose District, our sole focus is to provide you and our future citizens with reliable, high quality water. To learn more about water utility planning and development, visit:

<http://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/utilities-technical-review-committee/coordinated-water-system-plans.aspx>



New Maintenance Facility

For many years, North City Water District has been exploring various options for improving our maintenance facility, including expanding our existing crew-only facility at 15th Avenue NE and NE 169th Street, and purchasing a site that could accommodate our needs. In 2014, we purchased the former Northwest Church property near Hamlin Park off 15th Avenue NE in Shoreline, as this option offered the best overall cost for our needs.

When the interest rates dropped this past summer, we had our bond rating reviewed by Moody's Investors Service: they confirmed our outstanding operations with an ongoing Aa3 Bond Rating as of October 25, 2016. With such a great rating, we went to the bond market and on November 2, 2016, sold \$7.685 million dollars of 30 year revenue bonds which will be applied to the maintenance building and other capital projects.

The District used a Request for Qualification process to identify the most qualified architectural team to help us redesign the site for our maintenance building: Wagner Architects will help us convert the property into a maintenance facility for our crew.

As of this month, we have begun preliminary design and are exploring various build-out options for the site. We look forward to working with our neighbors this coming spring and summer as we develop our vision for the site.

North City Pump Station is Nearly Complete!

Our new North City Pump Station is almost ready to begin operation! As soon as Seattle City Light completes some final electrical work, we'll demolish the old pump station, clean up the site, and install landscaping—the final steps in this project's multi-faceted, carefully coordinated, many-year history.

In honor of the occasion, we thought it might be interesting to step further back in history—not only to give you a broader perspective on how this project came to be, but to provide a relevant example of why infrastructure, and its critical relationship to development, is always at the forefront of our minds.

When our water system was originally designed in the 1930s, its primary purpose was to provide water for personal consumption. Sparse population and low demand enabled reliable distribution through water mains (pipes) that were only 2 or 3 inches in diameter. Hard to believe, in this age!

In 1958, the National Board of Fire Underwriters defined standard recommendations for improved fire service capabilities in high density areas, but not in primarily residential communities, like those served by North City Water District. However our Commissioners decided to be proactive and adopt the same high standards: we replaced hydrants and valves, and upsized all 2 and 3 inch diameter water mains with 6 and 8 inch mains in residential areas (except on dead end cul-de-sacs).

Fast forward to today, as some of our residential areas transition from single family to multi family and/or commercial areas, water mains are now being upsized to as large as a 12 inch diameter, in order to meet current standards and codes for fire flow. Just as more development causes more water main diameters to increase, we also need more water storage, and a facility that can boost water pressure through these larger pipes during the event of a fire.

Our new pump station is designed to accommodate increased water storage as well as increased pressure throughout our system, including the higher elevations. Its pumps (pictured above left) can distribute water at tremendous capacity—up to 3500 gallons per minute—to help put out fires in larger structures faster than ever.

With great pride, we welcome this new “heart of our system.” North City Water District is now well-positioned to meet the needs of our area's anticipated development for the next 25... maybe 50 years!

Congratulating Toby, Our New Inspector

When Toby Bigger first came to work for us in 2010, he already had over ten years of experience in utility construction. He spent the next six years working his way up from Utility Level 1 (reading meters and performing basic system maintenance) to Utility Level 3 (extensive utility infrastructure construction). No surprise, when a position for Construction Inspector opened up here at the District, his breadth of experience and perspective in utility construction made him a perfect fit for the job, and, in his words, “allowed me to take my passion for water utilities to the next level.” In his current role, Toby oversees the same types of projects that he used to work on himself for well over a decade—visiting job sites, interfacing with contractors, and occasionally meeting with owners and developers. We're extremely proud of his expertise, dedication and positive attitude. If you see him out inspecting a utility construction project in our area, don't hesitate to stop and say hello! He's always eager to talk water.

