

Conserving Water with Local and Regional Programs

During 2015, North City Water District purchased 622 million gallons of water, with an unaccounted water rate of 8.8% throughout our distribution system.

The Saving Water Partnership (SWP)—which is made up of North City Water District and 18 other water utility partners—has set a six-year conservation goal: reduce per capita use from current levels so that the SWP’s total average annual retail water use is less than 105 mgd from 2013 through 2018... despite forecasted population growth.

For 2015, the Saving Water Partnership met the goal, using 96.9 mgd despite a record hot summer. This was due in no small part to our customers’ participation in the following events and programs:

- 11 classroom presentations about water;
- 11 toilets replaced by one of our multi-family customers;
- 4 households within our district boundaries took advantage of the single family toilet rebate program;
- Over 50 people learning water-wise gardening tips at our Savvy Gardener classes (held in Fall and Spring);
- Over 2,000 people visiting our Water Education Booth at Shoreline Science (STEM) Festival, YMCA's Healthy Kids Day, the North City Jazz Walk, the Ridgecrest Ice Cream Social, and the Celebrate Shoreline Festival.

One Great Way to Conserve: \$100 Rebate on a Premium 1.1 gpf (or less) Toilet



Thinking about replacing your toilet? Here's a great reason to do it: a \$100 rebate from the Saving Water Partnership towards the purchase of a Premium 1.1 gallon per flush (gpf) (or less) toilet.

Compared to toilets installed prior to 1994, these new toilets use up to 20% less water... which can add up to noticeable savings on your water bill! Learn more:

<http://www.savingwater.org/rebates>

Second Year: Annual Customer Survey

Take the Water Conservation Survey on the Saving Water Partnership website and enter to win a free home water and energy-saving kit!

Go to:
www.savingwater.org



More About Water Quality

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. In Seattle's surface water supplies, the potential sources of contamination include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and protozoa from wildlife;
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which are naturally occurring; and
- Organic contaminants, which result from chlorine combining with the naturally occurring organic matter.

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. Food and Drug Administration and/or the Washington state department of agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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.

We at North City Water District encourage public interest and participation in the decisions that affect our drinking water. If you would like to learn more about our water, have questions about its quality, or would like to know what you can do to help keep our water supply clean, safe and abundant, please don't hesitate to contact us at 206.362.8100, or visit one of our Board of Commissioners meetings (every first and third Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm) at our District office, or you can contact any one of the following organizations:

Seattle Public Utilities
Phone: 206.634.3000
Website: http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/Water_Quality

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Phone: 800.426.4791
Website: <http://www.epa.gov.safewater>

Washington State Department of Health (DOH):
Phone: 800.521.0323
Website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800.426.4791



Conserve Water for Salmon

Conserving water during summer and fall months—when stream flows are lowest—not only saves money on your water bill, but helps keep ample water in the rivers and streams for salmon and other wildlife that live in and around our streams. This summer, look for upcoming information about the **Salmon SEEs** campaign to find out when and where you can observe the salmon making their annual migration to our local streams. Thank you for using water wisely!


District Project Updates:

Maintenance Building


In August of 2013, when the Northwest Church decided to shift their location in order to expand their outreach beyond Shoreline and Lake Forest Park, North City Water District agreed to purchase their property (located southwest of Hamlin Park in Shoreline) for our new maintenance facility. Since that time, the church has redesigned the old LA Fitness Facility at 19820 Scriber Lake Road in Lynnwood to serve as their new headquarters. Construction is nearing completion, and they will relocate to their new home later this summer. Initially we will relocate some of our crews to the site, but there won't be too many changes, as we won't begin design until we complete our North City Pump Station project.

North City Pump Station




The walls are up, the roof will soon be added, and the site is being prepared for underground piping. Limited site access requires considerable coordination with all the contractors that want to be on site at the same time. We are still on schedule for a fall opening of our new facility!



The North City Waves Newsletter is brought to you by North City Water District, and its Board of Commissioners: Ron Ricker (President), Larry Schoonmaker (Vice President), and Charlotte Haines (Secretary).

Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, or 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155.
206.362.8100 • www.northcitywater.org •  / NorthCityWaterDistrict

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Legislative Update Robbing Peter to pay Paul: what schools, bridges, and water systems have in common

Remember the Skagit River Bridge collapse, when every media outlet couldn't stop talking about our state's serious infrastructure problem? Fast forward three years, and our legislators are considering **eliminating** funds and the funding source that were dedicated to infrastructure improvements.

Known as the Public Works Trust Fund, this source of funding has enabled over \$2.6 billion in infrastructure improvements since 1985—including 21 low interest loans for \$23 million dollars of infrastructure projects right here in Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. The Public Works Trust Fund is key to helping us to keep rates low for water, sewer and stormwater services.

What caused our legislators' priorities to shift, even though our infrastructure is still in crisis? Two words: educational funding.


We at North City Water District are huge supporters of schools, and recognize the serious financial crisis that our educational system is facing. Something must absolutely be done. However, taking funding away from infrastructure does not seem wise, nor is it a sustainable solution.

Without funding for infrastructure repair and upgrade, the safety of bridges (over which school buses traverse), the safety of our water system (from which our children drink), and the safe removal of waste from homes, businesses and schools are all at risk—and no less critical to our children's well-being—especially when you consider the risk of an aging infrastructure during a major emergency event like an earthquake.

Sadly, the “invisibility factor” of infrastructure (the majority of which is underground) has led to Public Works Trust Funds being diverted to other uses: this was the 7th year in a row that legislators used money from this fund to balance the budget, hoping that infrastructure systems will keep functioning with minimal or emergency-only attention.

Here at North City Water District, we believe a significant reduction in financing for infrastructure improvements is not the best way to address the financial shortfall in our educational system. We believe **both** education **and** infrastructure are imperative to the well-being of our children and our state. If you too feel that infrastructure **and** schools are important, we urge you to contact your Legislator at:

<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/ContactUs.aspx>



2015 ANNUAL REPORT of DRINKING WATER QUALITY


Issue 2: April • May • June 2016

A newsletter for water-related issues and info Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

From Our Board...

by Ron Ricker, President

Now that the days are getting longer, many of us will be outside more... working, gardening, relaxing, or recreating. North City Water District staff will be more visible too, from maintenance crews replacing an underground pipe, or flushing a fire hydrant, to Commissioners educating our public about smart water usage. Staff and Commissioners alike have recently attended three such events: Million Step Challenge at Paramount Park, YMCA's Healthy Kids Day, and Shoreline STEM Festival. At each event, they encouraged attendees to fill their water bottles with the clean, cool water in our system, while learning about the importance of choosing tap over bottled water. We also took the time to educate our legislators, cities, counties and special purpose districts across our state about the importance of the Public Works Trust Fund—one of the leading sources of financing for addressing our state's critical infrastructure issues that is currently at risk for dissolution (read more about this on the back of this newsletter). Wherever we go, the common denominator in our efforts is always our passion for safe, affordable, available water.



Our Commissioners refilling water bottles at the Ridgecrest Million Step Challenge

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

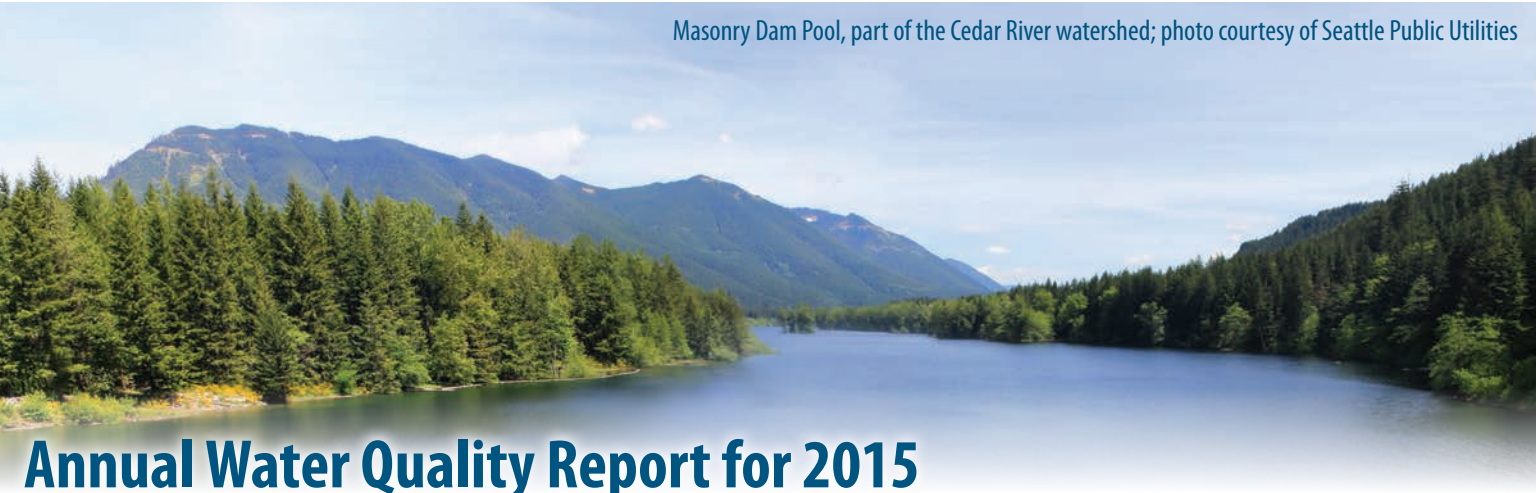
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- Legislative Update: schools vs. infrastructure?

Kate reduction available for 150 eligible low income persons. Call us or visit www.northcitywater.com

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1519 NE 177th Street
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206.362.8100





Annual Water Quality Report for 2015

North City Water District continues to maintain state and federal water quality guidelines that are significantly below EPA maximum levels.

All About Your Water

Who: Your drinking water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who sets drinking water quality standards, establishes testing methods and monitoring requirements for water utilities, sets maximum levels for water contaminants, and requires utilities to give public notice whenever a violation occurs. Your drinking water is tested frequently both by North City Water District and Seattle Public Utilities, our supplier, to ensure that high quality water is delivered to your home.

What: 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 (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800.426.4791.

When: Your water is continuously monitored 365 days a year.

Where: Your water comes from both the Tolt and Cedar River Watersheds.

How: Last year your drinking water was tested for over 200 compounds and additional contaminates. Tests are done before and after treatment and while your water is in the distribution system. The Tables presented on the following page list all of the contaminants detected in the most recent required water testing and compare them to the limits and goals set by the EPA and the State of Washington to ensure your tap water is safe. Not shown are more than 200 additional contaminants that were tested for, but not detected, in your drinking water. If you would like to see a list of these other compounds or if you have other water quality questions, do not hesitate to contact us. Please note: asbestos monitoring is not required for our District because all the asbestos pipe in our distribution system was replaced prior to 1991.

The Best News: Your water falls safely within state and federal guidelines for each and every contaminant, significantly below the EPA's levels.

Lead and Copper Monitoring Results

Our regional water supply does not contain lead or copper. However it is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. North City Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791, or visit their website at: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

People With Special Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than 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. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 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 1.800.426.4791.

If you would like to learn more about your water, or if you have questions about its quality, please don't hesitate to contact North City Water District at 206.362.8100.

Table 1: Water Quality Testing Results for 2015

Compounds that were not detected in 2015 are not included in these charts.

Types of Detected Compounds	Units	Primary Source	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Max. Allowed (MCL)	Levels in the Cedar River Watershed Average	Levels in the Cedar River Watershed Range	Levels in the Tolt Watershed Average	Levels in the Tolt Watershed Range	Meets EPA Stds.?
RAW WATER									
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	Naturally present in the environment	NA	TT	0.7	0.5 to 1.5	1.5	1.2 to 1.8	Yes
Cryptosporidium*	#/100L	Naturally present in the environment	NA	NA	1	ND to 8	ND	ND	Yes
FINISHED WATER SOURCE									
Turbidity	NTU	Soil runoff	NA	TT	0.4	0.1 to 1.2	0.07	0.04 to 1.4	Yes
Arsenic	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	0	10	0.5	0.4 to 0.7	0.6	0.4 to 0.7	Yes
Barium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	2000	2000	1.6	(one sample)	1.3	(one sample)	Yes
Bromate	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	0	10	ND	ND	0.4	ND to 2	Yes
Chromium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	100	100	0.27	0.25 to 0.33	0.2	ND to 0.24	Yes
Fluoride	ppm	Water additive to promote strong teeth	4	4	0.8	0.7 to 0.9	0.8	0.7 to 0.9	Yes
Nitrate	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits	10	10	0.01	(one sample)	0.10	(one sample)	Yes
Selenium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	50	50	ND	ND	ND	ND	Yes
Uranium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	0	30	ND	ND	ND	ND	Yes
SPECIFIC SAMPLES FROM NORTH CITY WATER DISTRICT'S DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM									
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	80	Average: 52 Range: 30 to 88				Yes
Haloacetic Acids (5)	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	60	Average: 41 Range: 20 to 42				Yes
Chlorine	ppm	Water additive to control microbes	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Average: 0.68 Range: 0 to 1.4				Yes

*Cryptosporidium was not detected in any samples from the Tolt Watershed supply (10 samples). It was detected in 2 of 9 samples from Cedar River Watershed supply.

Table 2: Lead and Copper Monitoring Results for the Tolt Watershed in 2014

None of the samples for the Cedar River Watershed are in North City Water District's area.

Lead and Copper Sampling Program and Units	Ideal Goal MCLG	Action Level ¹	Results of 2014 Samplings ²	# Homes Exceeding Action Level	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Lead, ppb	0	15	4.0	0 of 50	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Samples collected in homes within the Tolt water service area.
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.161	0 of 50	

¹ The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

² 90th percentile: 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

Table Definitions

MCLG: 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: Maximum Contaminant Level

The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2015 was 5 NTU, and for the Tolt it was 0.3 NTU for at least 95% of the samples in a month. 99.96% of the samples from the Tolt in December 2015 were below 0.3 NTU. 100% of the samples for the remainder of the year were below 0.3 NTU.

TT: Treatment Technique

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

EPA

United States Environmental Protection Agency.

ppm:

Parts per million.

ppb:

Parts per billion.

NA:

Not applicable.

ND:

Not detected.

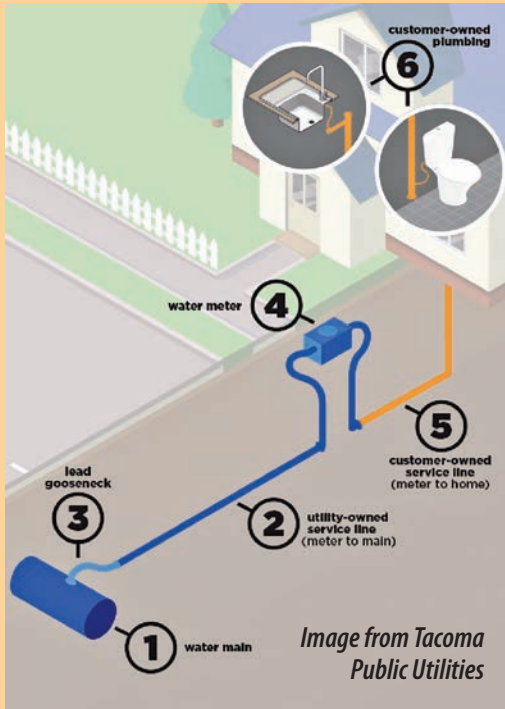
Testing Your Water System for Safety

After Tacoma Public Utilities detected high levels of lead in water samples taken from service lines that used lead goosenecks, a few of our customers contacted us to see if they too should be flushing their taps before using them.

Although North City Water District gets our water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), it comes to us via "transmission mains" (large pipes) which do not contain lead.

Transmission mains are like the trunk of a tree: the distribution system is like the branches, and the service lines are what connects the leaves (residences) to the branch. Tacoma's high lead levels were found in four homes with gooseneck fittings (a flexible lead coupling) located between the distribution system and the residence. SPU's water system is not connected to Tacoma's transmission or distribution water system.

Water is the universal solvent. When it leaves a treatment facility, it comes into contact with metals in the transmission, distribution, service lines, and eventually metals in the water lines within homes and businesses. SPU's Corrosion Control program, which has been in place since 1982, manages the interaction of water with all of those materials to help prevent it from leaching out metals (including lead).

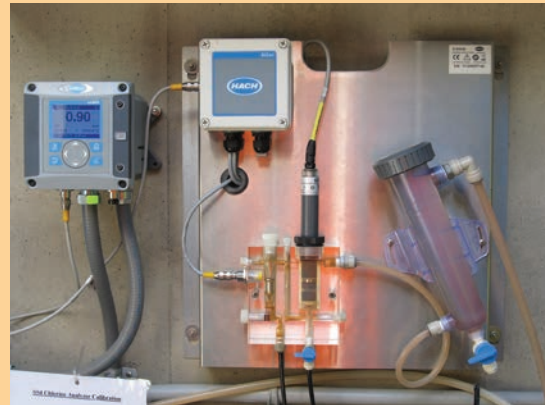


Says Elisabeth Lisican in the April 2016 edition of Water and Wastes Digest, "Water treatment protocols vary according to many factors, including the source and chemistry of the water and the makeup of the distribution system, and the operation of water utility is just as important as the investments being made in the system's infrastructure."

In addition to daily sample testing throughout the region, SPU also performs daily corrosion control monitoring at the treatment facilities, and several times a week at locations throughout the region. Here at North City Water District, we continually monitor the chlorine levels in our water at a number of locations, including the supply stations (where we get water from SPU), our reservoirs, pump stations, and throughout our distribution system. Rest assured, you have outstanding, safe drinking water in our system. If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call at 206.362.8100.



North City Water District staff monitoring water inside a pump station



Continuous monitoring at the North City Water District Supply Station (where we receive our water from SPU)