

Attention Gardeners...

Free Savvy Gardener Classes are back!

Our online gardening classes were such a hit last year, we've scheduled four new classes in 2021—currently all online, but that status may change to in-person classes if/when COVID restrictions allow. All you need is a access to email, and a laptop, tablet or smart phone.

Thursday, March 18, 2021 • 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
A Birds Eye View: Gardening Class for Families
Taught by Emily Bishton, online via Zoom

Designed to engage the whole family, this class is full of fun facts about songbirds and hummingbirds, and which plants and garden features will bring “winged wonders” to your garden all year round!

Thursday, May 6, 2021 • 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Easy Peasy Edibles: Growing Your Own Food
Taught by Jessi Bloom, online via Zoom, with option for in person if restrictions lift

This class will teach you how to grow edibles that are low maintenance, resilient and sustainable, so you can enjoy your own harvest for years to come!

Thursday, June 24, 2021 • 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Bees and Butterflies
Taught by Ladd Smith, online format to be determined, with option for in person if restrictions lift

Butterflies, bees and birds bring movement, color and pollination to our gardens. Come learn how easy it is to bring more wildlife into your yard, complete with plant lists that attract these special creatures.

Thursday, September 2, 2021 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Know Our Gardens: winning the war on water use
Taught by Marianne Binetti, online format to be determined, with option for in person if restrictions lift

This class is packed with recommendations for rock solid drought-resistant plants, sneaky tricks, and fun ideas that will add more color and excitement to your landscape while lowering your water bills.

All four classes are free, but you must provide your name and email address to theresah@northcitywater.org in advance so you can receive a link to join the online class.



It's time to find those leaks!

Did you know? A running toilet can waste as much water as 15 showers... every day! Fix a Leak Week is a great time to check your home.

In years past, North City Water District partnered with local schools to distribute toilet leak detection kits during the annual Fix-A-Leak Week. Although COVID made that impossible this year, we're still encouraging our customers to participate by checking for leaks.

Bathroom

- Is water slowly dribbling into the bowl even though you haven't flushed? You've got a leak.
- Is your toilet intermittently hissing, even though you haven't flushed? You've got a leak.
- The easiest way to detect a toilet leak is with food coloring. Put a couple drops of food coloring in the tank, don't flush, and wait a little while. If the color appears in the bowl, you've got a leak.

Faucets

- Turn the faucet on and off. Then, look and listen for water dripping out of the faucet or pooling around the base of the fixture.

Showerheads

- Turn the showerhead on and look for any dripping water or stray sprays at connection points.

Tubs

- Turn the tub on, then divert the water to the shower. If there is still a lot of water coming from the tub faucet, you may need to replace the spout diverter.

Looking for more tips and tricks for finding and fixing leaks? Visit www.savingwater.org. Many of the repairs may be much simpler than you think!



Issue 1: January • February • March 2021 A newsletter for water-related issues and info Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

From Our President...

by Patricia Hale, Board President

The recent Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the opening of our new Maintenance Facility was a special moment for us—over 30 years of planning and hard work finally culminated in the modern, well-equipped building our crew has long deserved. However, the moment held a special meaning for me personally, as a tangible reminder of the impact of community involvement. In short, I became a Commissioner because of this new facility. My interest in North City Water District began during the Maintenance Facility's initial planning stages, as a resident of the neighborhood, attending all of the public meetings that the District held to inform and gather input from the community. This led me to start attending Commissioner meetings, where I witnessed first-hand the level of dedication and passion held by the people who serve and work for this Special Purpose Water District. In early 2019, I was thrilled to join the District as its newest Commissioner. So the next time you drive by our new Maintenance Facility, remember that you too can participate: attend a board meeting (currently taking place online due to COVID), learn more about what we do, and consider getting involved. It's a rewarding way to serve your community!

FOUR FREE SAVVY GARDENER CLASSES

Thursday March 18
Thursday May 6
Thursday June 24
Thursday September 2

Details inside!

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

- From Our President
- Ongoing Emergency Preparedness
- Keep Your Water Safe with Cross Connection Control
- Free Savvy Gardener Classes
- Fix Those Leaks During Fix a Leak Week

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:

Patricia Hale (President), Ron Ricker (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 • [f](https://www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict) / NorthCityWaterDistrict

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Ongoing Emergency Preparedness

Prepare in a Year: our latest program to ensure staff are ready and available during a natural disaster emergency

Emergency preparedness is something we take seriously at North City Water District, knowing how vital these proactive efforts will be to help us ensure safe, reliable water supply in the event of an emergency.

Over the past several years, we've invested in a series of programs, training efforts, and infrastructure improvements to help us address emergencies—whether caused by a localized event such as a broken water main, to larger scale natural disasters such as a potential earthquake (often referred to in regional planning efforts as the “Cascadia event” in our area). These efforts have included:

NCWD Emergency Preparedness Efforts To Date

- Joined **ShakeAlert** (the early warning system developed by the U.S. Geological Survey).
- Installed **earthquake valves** at both of our water reservoirs that will close automatically to prevent water loss in the event of significant earth movement.
- Installed **backup generators** at all three of our most critical facilities: the main North City/ Denny Clouse Pump Station, the new Maintenance Facility, and the Administrative Headquarters.
- Held several multi-agency meetings to prepare for coordinated emergency responses under the umbrella of **King County's Hazard Mitigation Planning** program.
- Trained all staff and Board of Commissioners in FEMA's **Incident Command System (ICS)** — a component of the National Incident Management System that helps us be eligible for FEMA funding during disaster recovery.

- Constructed **emergency water filling stations** at our reservoirs (shown at right).
- Asked our ratepayers to provide voluntary **emergency contact information**—if you haven't already, feel free to email us at customerservice@northcitywater.org, or give us a call at 206.362.8100 with your info.

12 Month “Prepare in a Year” Program for Staff

Emergency plans only work if we have people to carry them out, so this year we've initiated a new effort: Washington State Emergency Management Division's 12-month “Prepare in a Year” program for all District staff. Each month we'll dedicate a staff meeting to address one of the following topics:

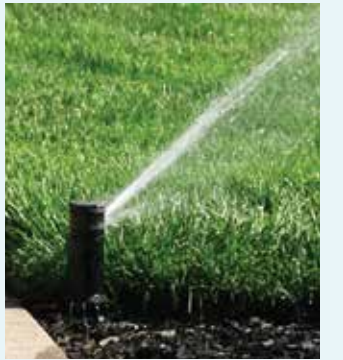
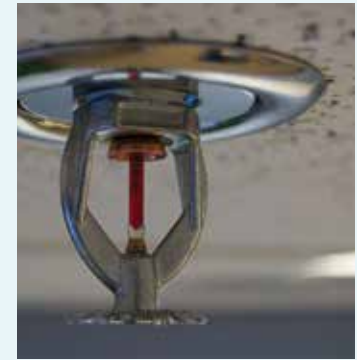
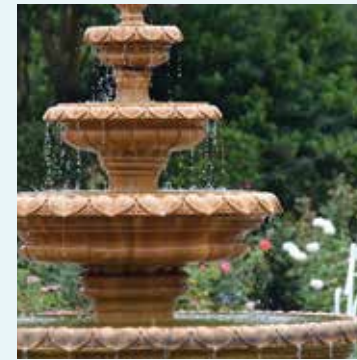
January: Communications Plan
February: Action Plan
March: Water
April: Grab & Go Kit
May: Important Documents
June: 2 Weeks Ready
July: Fire Safety
August: Utility Safety
September: Under the Bed
October: Drop, Cover, and Hold On
November: Shelter in Place
December: Home Hazard Hunt

These efforts help ensure our staff and their households are prepared and available to assist our customers in the event of a localized emergency as well as larger scale natural disasters.

How to Prepare Your Household

If you'd like to use these same preparedness tips for your household, download the entire “Prepare in Year” Washington booklet at this website:

<https://mil.wa.gov/personal>



Do you have one of these in your home or business?

- ☐ Fire Sprinkler system
- ☐ Lawn irrigation system
- ☐ Swimming pool
- ☐ Hot tub / jacuzzi tub
- ☐ Decorative fountain
- ☐ Livestock watering system
- ☐ Hydraulic boat lift
- ☐ Water makeup lines (supplying a boiler or hydronic heating)

If you checked any of the above, OR if you are a business of (most) any kind, OR if you raise farm animals, you are required to:

1. Have a “Cross Connection Control” (backflow prevention) device installed;
2. Have a state certified Backflow Assembly Test performed annually; and
3. Send us a copy of the test result.

Help Us Keep Your Water Safe with Cross Connection Control

North City Water District is responsible for providing safe drinking water to all of our customers. But keeping our water safe is a two way street. We rely on you, our customers, to be aware of any cross-connection to the water system that you might have on your property, and to protect those connections with a backflow prevention device that is tested annually to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

What is a Cross Connection?

A cross-connection is a point in a plumbing system where it is possible for a non-potable substance to come into contact with the potable drinking water supply. For homeowners, these commonly include irrigation systems, private fire sprinkler systems, boiler systems, and pool or pond equipment.

What's the Concern?

Backflow occurs when water flows opposite to its intended direction, either from a loss of pressure in the supply lines or an increase in pressure on the customer's side. Backflow comes with the potential for cross-contamination: when water that has contacted chemicals or hazardous compounds flows back into the drinking water system.

To ensure you receive clean, safe drinking water, the District monitors backflow protection though its cross-connection control

program, in accordance with WA State Administrative Code (WAC) 246.290.490. Customers with backflow devices receive annual reminder letters from us when their backflow test is due.

We are pleased to report that North City Water District customers came through with flying colors in 2020—nearly all registered backflow devices were tested by year's end, despite the challenges created by the pandemic. Thank you all!

What can you do?

1. Educate yourself about possible cross-connections to the water system. A good place to start is our website, under About Your Water > Backflow and Cross Connection Control
2. For existing backflow customers, be sure your information is up to date and let us know your preference for receiving reminders (email or regular mail).
3. If you already have a backflow device, be sure to schedule your annual test in advance. If you have questions about your due date, or would like to receive a list of registered testers in the area, or if you have any other questions or concerns, our staff is here to help make compliance as easy as possible. Contact us at:

waterquality@northcitywater.org
206.362.8100