

Continued Reinvestment in Water System Infrastructure

As we reported last summer, the District was nearly complete with several multiple year “vertical” projects (projects that are above ground, versus “linear” projects that are below ground / not visible). This past winter our consultants have worked on more “linear” projects, with several that have gone out to bid or been recently awarded to a construction company.

2012.09 New Maintenance Facility

The final step of this project—enclosing the vehicle bays—was delayed due to the lack of available steel. We hope to complete this in late spring (over 20 weeks since it was awarded last fall to Faber Construction).

CIP 2021.01 2.0 MG Reservoir Maintenance

This project is out to bid, we expect to award it in mid-March; construction will begin in late spring and take roughly 8 weeks to complete.

CIP 2021.02 8” Water Main Replacement on 25th Avenue NE

This project to replace the main on 25th Ave NE between Ballinger Way and Forest Park Drive NE was recently awarded to B&B Construction and should take roughly six weeks to complete.

CIP 2021.03 30th Ave NE Service Lines

This project is nearly complete, we are just waiting on getting signed easements for the new water main. The total cost of construction came in just below the original \$94,382 bid.

CIP 2021.04 Beach Drive Creek Crossing

The District’s consultant is continuing to work with the City of Lake Forest Park to approve a final design layout. Once that is completed, the consultant can then work on the design and permitting of this project. We hope construction can occur later this year or next year.

CIP 2021.05 - CIP Project 131A 200th Avenue 12” Water Main

Bids were recently opened for this project and we expect to award the contract in March. Construction should begin in early summer and is expected to take 4 weeks.

CIP 2021.06 3.7 MG Reservoir PAX Mixer

When the District’s 3.7 MG reservoir was due for routine cleaning and maintenance, we also replaced its PAX Mixer to ensure proper water movement and quality.

CIP 2022.02 Bothell Way Crossing

We anticipate designing a redundant water supply to the Sheraton Beach area later this year, with little to no interruption in the flow of traffic along Bothell Way.



90 YEARS • 1931–2021

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 2022

From Our President...
by Patricia Hale, Board President

How will North City Water District respond to and recover from a possible earthquake? Over the past several years, District staff and commissioners have been undergoing extensive disaster preparedness trainings led by our employee, Jesse Foss, including a recent training focused on helping our staff’s families cope with the impacts that an emergency might have on their households. Then in June, we’ll be participating in a four-day “Cascadia Rising” emergency exercise, in which local, state, and federal agencies, tribal nations, private sector, and non-governmental organizations from Washington, Oregon and Idaho will practice coordinated response efforts in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. However, training is only one aspect of emergency preparation: we’ve also installed earthquake valves on our water reservoirs, emergency back-up generators on all key system operations, and added emergency water filling stations; we’ve joined the U.S. Geological Survey’s ShakeAlert advance warning program; and we continue to collect emergency customer contact information so we can keep you fully informed in the event of an emergency. We want to make sure you have access to the water you need, no matter what the situation!



One of our first emergency training sessions, pre-COVID

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
- Our 90 Year History: Part 3 of 4
- Ongoing Local Agency Communications
- Fircrest Campus Fire Flow Testing
- Senator David Frockt Awarded
- Ongoing Infrastructure Maintenance
- Free Savvy Gardener Classes

Inside This Issue

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Attention Gardeners: mark your calendars for FREE classes from



- **Small Space Gardening: Growing Your Own Food**
Thursday, April 7, 2022 • 6:30–8:00 pm
- **Weed Wars: Winning the Battle Without Chemical Warfare**
Thursday, June 24, 2022 • 6:30–8:00 pm
- **Fall and Winter Chores to Make Spring Gardening Easier**
Thursday, September 22, 2022 • 6:30–8:00 pm



Visit our website for monthly class announcements and registration details:
www.northcitywater.org



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 / NorthCityWaterDistrict

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90 Years of Excellence

The Story of North City Water District, Part 3 of 4

The middle three decades of our history could be summed up in two words: continual growth.

During the early 1960s, our crews were busy addressing the impacts of I-5's construction on our water system—ranging from leaks caused by soil disruption during construction, to system reconfigurations within our newly segmented service area.

Once the highway's construction was complete, dead end water mains were capped, and services west of I-5 were transferred to Seattle Public Utilities.

Meanwhile, the majority of the steel water mains we'd been forced to install during WWII's iron shortages were leaking—by as much as 30%—and the problem kept getting worse.

Our system needed an extensive, phased water main replacement, and it was going to require a rate increase—something that had not been done since our District was founded more than 30 years prior. Not surprisingly, customers were not happy.

After two months or more research and additional public meetings, nearly everyone understood the necessity of the upgrades, and our very first rate increase was passed.

By 1966, more than 75% of our system was given a new 50-year life cycle with cast iron and ductile iron water mains, almost all of which were upsized to 6 inch diameter (or greater) for excellent fire flow during emergencies.

Keeping up with our area's rapid development didn't stop there. In the early 1970s, we installed a computer telemetry system, which enabled us to closely monitor the water use and quality across every corner of our service area.

Then when the City of Seattle initiated a demand metering program for wholesale customers (including our District) to "rectify the regional impacts during peak demand periods" (summer), we began constructing additional water storage components to "level out" the demand, which in turn would enable us to avoid having to pass along costly demand charge penalties to our ratepayers.

We began by removing our old 50 thousand gallon reservoir and the adjacent 1 million gallon (MG) reservoir (both pictured at right), which made room for a new 3.7 MG reservoir, as well as a Booster Pump Station that would maintain the water pressure in our higher elevation service areas during times of reservoir drawdown. We then adjusted our pressure zone boundaries to ensure uniform water pressure across all service areas.

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As the 1962 Seattle World's Fair had locals and tourists enjoying panoramic views from the city's new Space Needle, the views at North City Water District were focused in a very different direction: underground.



Removal of our old 50 thousand gallon reservoir and the adjacent 1 million gallon reservoir in preparation for a new 3.7 MG reservoir and Booster Pump Station.



3.7 MG reservoir construction in the 1970s

Other improvements included the rehabilitation of Booster Pump Station 1, piping modifications to the 0.4 MG reservoir to improve supply distribution, and the construction of Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) Stations 7, 8, and 9. (PRVs help us better control the water pressure within a specific pressure zone, which ensures adequate water flow and optimum pressure throughout our water system's facilities.)

The same pace continued during the 1980s, with the replacement of more water mains to accommodate improvements made by King County and the Department of Transportation, and another 2.0 MG concrete reservoir for additional water storage.

Keeping in Touch with Local Agencies

This year marked the 7th year in a row that the Commissioners from two Special Purpose Districts (Shoreline Fire Department and North City Water District) have gotten together to share what's going on in each of our service areas, and how to better support our communities by working together. During our hybrid meeting, we discussed Shoreline Fire Department's impending agreement with Northshore Fire Department to contract for Administrative Services, and what the impacts of that will be for both of us. We also talked about potential joint training opportunities, future capital projects, and the results of the Fircrest Fire Flow testing. Keeping the lines of communication open is not only a benefit during day to day operations, it's critical during emergency situations. We all agreed that we look forward to meeting again, hopefully in person next time!

Fire Flow Testing for the Fircrest Campus

On a dark night in January, our crews joined the staff and contractors from Department of Social and Health Services to conduct fire flow testing on several hydrants at the Fircrest Campus on 15th Avenue NE. Fircrest Campus is being considered for redevelopment and increased density, the first of which is a new 120-bed nursing facility. Its associated water system plan and design/construction of the nursing facility was included in Washington State's adopted 2021-2023 capital budget. We applaud DSHS's proactive approach to planning for the future, and stand ready to provide testing in other areas later this year.



2.0 MG reservoir construction in the 1980s

By the end of the 1980s, our customer base had grown to well over 8,000 connections and roughly 22,000 population!

Visit our website to read monthly blog posts detailing each decade of our 90 year journey (in addition to these newsletter summaries). Our goal is to give you a first-hand look into the level of foresight, planning, and dedication that has made your special purpose water utility one of the best in the nation.



Senator David Frockt Awarded

This winter, the Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts (WASWD) awarded four state legislators for their outstanding service on behalf of Special Purpose Districts during the 2021 session, including our very own Senator David Frockt (D-Seattle).

Senator Frockt has long been a proponent of regular reinvestment in state infrastructure, and has visited our District several times to gain a first-hand understanding of what it takes to maintain and upgrade a water system.

He is also a strong supporter of Washington state's Public Works Assistance Account. Thanks to his negotiations in 2021, this critical source of utility infrastructure funding was preserved and are now being utilized for over \$120 million in new and improved utility infrastructure, including 15 projects by special purpose water and sewer districts.