

King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

We in the Pacific Northwest are exposed to disaster risk reduction information on a regular basis—from preparedness websites about earthquakes, wildfires, and eruptions, to tsunami exit routes we see posted along the Pacific coast.

Disaster preparedness is likewise an integral part of North City Water District’s operations. Making sure our community has adequate water in the event of an emergency requires our staff undergo emergency response training, and specific measures are in place for emergencies, ranging from earthquake valves at our reservoirs, back up generators, and emergency water filling stations, to participation in the ShakeAlert(tm) program.

These and other measures are all defined in our District’s Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was recently updated and submitted to King County along with school districts, other water districts, and cities who participated in their Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Having a clearly outlined and approved plan not only ensures our staff are aware and ready to address unforeseen circumstances, it has historically enabled the District to apply for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants from the federal government, which has allowed us to address projects sooner rather than later by coordinating with the County.

For more information about the Hazard Mitigation Plan, visit King County’s website at:
<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/executive-services/governance-leadership/emergency-management/plans/regional-hazard-mitigation>

For helpful resources to make sure you and your loved ones are prepared, visit their information page:
<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/executive-services/health-safety/safety-injury-prevention/emergency-preparedness>

Free Gardening Classes in 2025

North City Water District • 1519 NE 177th Street in Shoreline

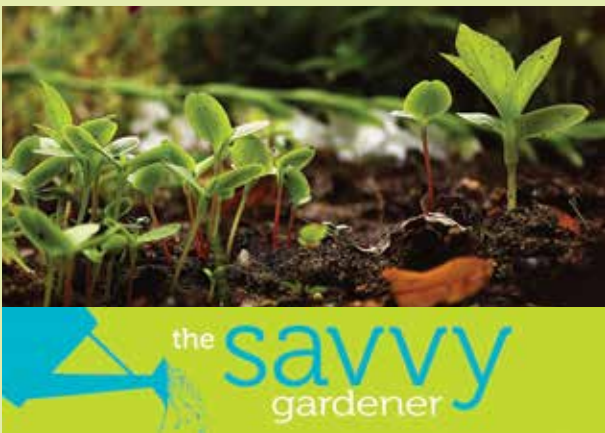
We’re excited to bring you another outstanding lineup of FREE gardening classes this year! Mark your calendars and watch our website and Facebook page for more details as the dates draw near.


Wednesday, April 2
Sustainable Gardening: A Better Way to Beautiful

Tuesday, May 13
Attracting Birds, Bees and Butterflies

Wednesday, June 4
Knockout Gardens: Winning the War on Water Use with Great Plants and Techniques

Thursday, September 11
Perma-what? Designing Your Own Permaculture Paradise





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 2025

From Our Board...

Patricia Hale, Board President

Reliable infrastructure requires reliable funding. Yet the news about funding sources for infrastructure is looking more and more uncertain—both at the state level as well as the federal government. Here in Washington state, budget talks will become even more critical over the next few months, given all the reductions being proposed. One such reduction we fervently hope is not enacted is the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA), which has benefited our communities for over 40 years by providing cities, counties, and special purpose districts with low-interest loans for critical infrastructure. Sadly our state’s projected four-year budget shortfall will likely place the PWAA in jeopardy. North City Water District will be monitoring both state and federal legislative actions and will continue serve as a public advocate for proactive, long term solutions to infrastructure. In the words of Mami Hara, Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Water Alliance and former General Manager/CEO of Seattle Public Utilities, *“Infrastructure is the manifestation of our values.”*

HOW DO YOU USE WATER?

Take the survey from the Water Research Foundation by April 30 and you could win a new iPad!

bit.ly/reuwssurvey

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

- Three Ways to Stay in Touch:**
- 1) Email customerservice@northcitywater.org to have your email address added to your account for alerts, news, free classes and more
 - 2) NextDoor: <https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/wa/shoreline/north-city-water-district/>
 - 3) Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict

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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.

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The Impact of Fires on Water System Infrastructure

A little over a month ago, when fires devastated neighborhoods in and around Los Angeles, local water agencies were questioned and criticized about adequate water supply. These excerpts from an article written by one of LA's special purpose district water providers give helpful context and perspective.

Tom Majich, General Manager of the Kinneloa Irrigation District, began his article with a metaphor: "Imagine a small coffee shop that sells 200 to 300 cups of coffee on an average day, and a few days a year might sell 400. That is how community water systems are designed to operate. The random 400-cup day is similar to what a water system may experience on a day with high customer demand, [along with] a few isolated structure fires. That's what water systems are designed [to accommodate]."

But imagine if someone came into the coffee shop and ordered 40,000 cups of coffee. That order couldn't possibly be filled—there aren't enough beans, cups, people to make it, or people to serve it.

That 40,000-cup order is similar to the demand that was placed on local water systems during the Los Angeles fires.

If water systems wanted to scale up to fill that "unexpected 40,000 cup order," much like a coffee shop, they'd need to do some serious expansion—including a much larger space, much more equipment, a larger inventory, and a larger staff—all of which would remain idle most of the time.

As Mr. Majich explains, "Building a coffee shop that can handle this is theoretically possible, but for 99.99% of the time when demand is not extraordinary, it would probably have to sell coffee for over \$100 a cup to support that spare capacity."

The analogy holds true for a water utility. Building an enhanced system with the capacity to handle an unprecedented disaster that might occur once every 20 or 30 years is certainly possible, but only at a significant cost for enhanced infrastructure, more equipment, and staff that are inactive most of the time—all of which would translate into a significant rate increase.

While expanding capacity for rare occurrences isn't the best use of public and personal resources, North City Water District will continue to invest in infrastructure resilience and emergency preparedness, along with system enhancements that meet the needs of our increasingly higher-density residential customer base.

Should you have any questions, give us a call at 206.362.8100—we are here to serve you!

*Source: No water system is built with capacity for fires like Palisades, Eaton
Opinion piece by Tom Majich,
special to the Los Angeles Times
February 9, 2025*



Status of Infrastructure Funding in Washington State

Our State is facing significant budget challenges. As lawmakers grapple with a projected four-year budget shortfall and the Governor's proposed billions in new reductions, cities and utility districts are voicing concern over the potential for significant cuts to a fund that affects all of us: the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA, aka Public Works Trust Fund).

Since 1985, the PWAA has been providing low-interest financing to cities, counties, and special purpose districts to repair, rehabilitate and improve community infrastructure—ranging from roads and bridges, drinking water, wastewater, and storm water, to solid waste/recycling, and broadband.

Our concern stems from what happened a few years ago, when a similar budget shortfall caused the state legislature to divert funds from the PWAA towards other programs.

North City Water District is actively involved with our legislators in urging the state to uphold their commitment to our state's infrastructure and reject any revenue diversions. Keeping the PWAA intact not only helps maintain our state's liveability and economy, it helps keep associated rate increases to a minimum.

Project Spotlight: Two New Water Mains for the Sheridan Beach Neighborhood From initial planning stages to impending construction

Water Main on 41st Street to Beach Drive

2011 It began on a quiet Thursday in December 2011. North City Water District employees were just getting ready to go home when the phone began ringing with calls from Sheridan Beach residents who didn't have any water. Our crews went out immediately and turned on a valve to restore water.

Our long term plan included the addition of a second water supply line to the neighborhood, but we had just embarked on a multi-year series of projects at our North City reservoir site, which needed to be completed first.

2017–2018 All of the projects at the North City reservoir site were completed by early 2017. At that time, Sound Transit was midway through the design of the Lynnwood Link project along I-5. We discussed the potential for doing a project in conjunction with Sound Transit along NE 145th Street/State Route 522, but after many discussions with them, doing this project simultaneously was not a viable option.

2021–2025 We hired Consor Engineering consultants to help us explore options for locating the additional water supply line to the area. After investigating multiple scenarios, they recommended connecting the existing water main on 41st Street with the water main on Beach Drive, and our Board agreed this was the most efficient and cost effective approach. Once we receive the final permit from King County Parks for crossing the Burke Gilman Trail, our contractor, B&B Utilities and Excavating is ready to begin and expects to complete the project in the near future.

Water Main on Beach Drive Crossing

2019 In the process of developing our most recent Water System Plan, we did a number of tests to see how well the computer hydraulic model could accurately predict water flow and pressure at multiple locations. One of the areas selected was the northern half of the Sheridan Beach neighborhood.

When we compared the hydraulic modeling numbers against the readings for water flow and pressures that we measured in the field, the numbers didn't match up. Upon investigation, our crews discovered the water main under McAleer Creek had been capped off on either side of the creek. Back in the office, we found in our Commissioner meeting minutes that a broken water main had been repaired by plugging each end of the water main on September 27, 1972, waiting for water levels in the creek to drop low enough to allow repair. Unfortunately, those repairs never happened.

2021–2025 We hired Psomas to help us identify the best method to connect the water main. After considering several options and working with the City of Lake Forest Park, we agreed to use a "boring" machine instead of replacing and connecting the two existing water mains... as shown in the illustration below.

The District has completed multiple State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklists and a Critical Areas report. We are hoping to get our permit any day now, after which we'll advertise for construction.

As with all of our projects, if a residence or business will be impacted or without water for any duration during construction, we will notify them several days in advance, and provide an estimate as to how long they will be without water. Should you have any questions about these projects, feel free to give us a call at 206.362.8100.

