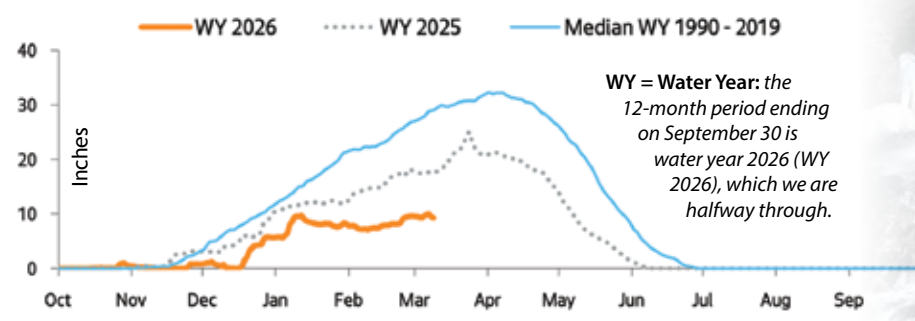


This Year's Snowpack

Combined weighted average of the Cedar and Tolt Watersheds' snow water equivalent



While we are all looking forward to a warm spring so we can spend more time outdoors working in our gardens, going hiking, or enjoying the many outdoor events our region has to offer, this past winter had some of the lowest snowfall on record, resulting in a lower than average snowpack.

The benefit of snowpack is a slower, more steady release of water supply; given that most of the precipitation came in form of rain instead of snowpack this year, what is the outlook for this year's water supply?

As you know, our water comes from the Tolt and Cedar River watersheds, purchased through Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). Based on current conditions and forecasts, SPU anticipates the regional water system will have sufficient water supply both people and fish. As always, we continue to ask our customers to use water wisely.

Toilets are the #1 cause of undetected water leaks in the home (and resulting high water bills). If your toilet flapper is more than a few years old, pick up a new flapper kit the next time you're at the hardware store. It's an easy do-it-yourself replacement. While you're at it, pick up some new rubber washers and gaskets for your faucets, outdoor hoses, and shower heads—faucets are the second most common cause of water leaks.

Emergency Response Plan Update

Public water systems everywhere are currently in the process of reviewing their existing operation systems to ensure their emergency response plans are up to date.

Making sure our community has adequate water in the event of an emergency requires our staff undergo emergency response training, and have specific procedures 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.

This year, we'll incorporate a number of capital improvement projects we've completed, and review all of our procedures for emergencies—from water main breaks due to changes in temperature, shifting underground soil, and the age of the water main, to much larger scale natural disasters such as the "Cascadia Earthquake." Being proactive about emergency preparedness will help us provide our customers with safe, reliable drinking water during an emergency.



Plant This, Not That!

Wednesday, April 15 • 6:30–8:00 pm
at North City Water District's Conference Room

Which plants thrive best in our climate? What "popular" plants become troublemakers over time? Learn how to avoid problems and common mistakes when creating beautiful outdoor spaces. Class is free but you must register to attend: customerservice@northcitywater.org or 206.362.8100.



NORTH CITY WAVES

Issue 1: January • February • March 2026

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

From Our Board...

Ron Ricker, Board President

The importance of a proactive approach to water system planning and project coordination can never be understated. From our founding back in 1931, we've always been able to keep ahead of water system maintenance through long-term proactive planning. This method not only results in smaller incremental rate increases over time, it helps keep overall costs lower by not having to address frequent repairs. In keeping with this philosophy, we are awaiting permits from the City of Lake Forest Park to replace two of our oldest water lines later this year, located on 37th and 38th Avenue NE, between NE 162nd and 165th Streets. We're also looking forward to working with Sound Transit to coordinate water main relocations and related system updates that support their Bus Rapid Transit project along NE 145th Street in Shoreline, and along Bothell Way in Lake Forest Park; we're awaiting permits from the City of Shoreline for the Shoreline portion. Seeking out ways to coordinate projects with other agencies means we only have to open the streets up once—reducing commuter headaches and the impacts on local businesses.

FREE GARDENING CLASSES with the savvy gardener

Mark Your Calendars:

- April 15: Plant This, Not That
- May 12: Sustainable Veggie Gardening
- June 3: Native Plant Beauty + Water Conservation
- Sept. 15: Fall & Winter Chores for an Easier Spring

Watch our website for details!

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

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

Three Ways to Stay in Touch:

- April 15 Savvy Gardener Class
- Emergency Response Plan Update
- This Year's Snowpack Implications
- Contract with Seattle Public Utilities
- Update to the Wholesale Water
- Infrastructure Funding at Risk Again

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:

Ron Ricker (President), Patricia Hale (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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Infrastructure Funding Once Again at Risk in Washington State

Our State is facing significant budget challenges. As lawmakers grapple with budget shortfalls and billions in proposed new reductions, cities and utility districts are voicing concern over legislative discussions about making significant cuts to a fund that affects all of us: the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA), also known as the Public Works Trust Fund.

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

The PWAA has been responsible for helping to keep our area's infrastructure proactively maintained and affordably financed—including 10 low interest loans for projects amounting to \$17.1 million dollars right here in Shoreline and Lake Forest Park.

We at North City Water District recognize the serious financial crisis that our state is facing. However, taking funding away from infrastructure does not seem wise, nor is it a sustainable solution.

- EPA's most recent Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey estimates Washington's water systems require approximately \$16.3 billion over the next 20 years.
- The 2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey identifies more than \$8.6 billion in documented Washington wastewater and stormwater needs—in addition to shortfalls for transportation and other sectors.
- Washington state planning documents identify billions in drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and transportation needs that exceed available funding, as reflected in the most recent funding cycles:
 - Ecology's clean water funding round received nearly 200 eligible wastewater and stormwater applications for roughly \$658 million; only 121 projects were funded with \$156.8 million.
 - PWAA received 69 applications for ~\$262 million; only 51 projects were funded with ~\$175 million.

There is no uncertainty about whether an infrastructure funding gap exists. The policy question is how to finance it.



Sadly, the "invisibility factor" of infrastructure (most of which is underground) has led to Public Works Trust Funds being repeatedly diverted to other uses.

Time and again, our legislators have drained money from the Public Works Assistance Account to fill budget shortfalls, hoping that infrastructure systems will keep functioning with minimal or emergency-only attention.

The result? Critical infrastructure projects get deferred, systems that are past their life cycle must be maintained more frequently at higher expense, failing systems get consolidated at lower efficiency, and utilities get relocated—all of which eventually trickles down to become higher utility rates.

Keeping the PWAA intact not only helps maintain our state's liveability and economy, it helps keep associated rate increases to a minimum.

North City Water District believes a significant reduction in financing for infrastructure improvements is not the best way to maintain the viability of our state. We are actively involved with our legislators in urging the state to uphold their commitment to our state's infrastructure and reject any revenue diversions.

If you too feel that infrastructure funding is important, we urge you to contact your Legislator at: <https://leg.wa.gov/legislators>

Update to the Wholesale Water Contract with Seattle Public Utilities



Back in 1931, residents and business owners of what was then known as the "Lago Vista" development and surrounding areas voted to establish King County Water District 42 (the original name of what eventually became North City Water District) to formalize a utility that would supply local spring and well water to our rapidly growing community.

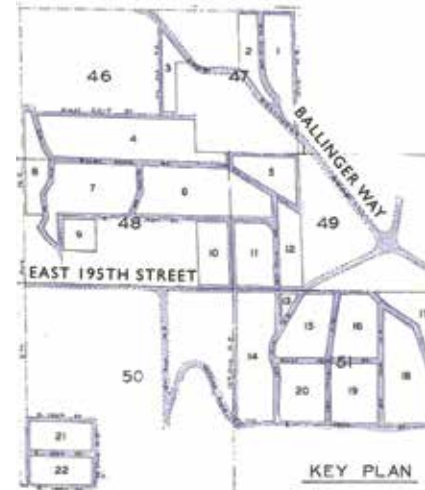
We accomplished a lot during our first five years: elected our first commissioners, selected professionals to design the water system, adopted our first Water System Plan, applied and received our first infrastructure financing from the government, installed new water mains, and built our very first water reservoir.



In March 1936, recognizing that we could not provide adequate water supply from the existing spring or well to support our growing community, we became the first water purveyor to obtain an agreement to purchase wholesale water from the City of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed.

In 1982, we formalized that original agreement into a 30 year wholesale water contract, which allowed us to participate in regional water system planning and rate making.

By the 1990s, 28 purveyors were purchasing water from the City of Seattle. We and several others held lengthy discussions over multiple water issues, including the need for a new long-term wholesale supply contract. In 2000-2001, the District and twelve other purveyors negotiated a new 60 year contract. Not all the purveyors signed at the same time; some formed Cascade Water Alliance; many had contract sections written specifically for their utility, which made managing wholesale contracts challenging.



North City Water District Commissioners seated: Ron Ricker (3rd from left), Charlotte Haines (5th from left), and Patricia Hale (far right); District Manager Diane Pottinger standing in the second row, to the left of the woman in the purple top

Because that 60 year contract included "opener provisions" that would allow us to reopen negotiations at 20 years (2021) and 40 years (2041), in 2021 we and the purveyors chose to address a number of evolving issues with a Contract Amendment.

Our current amended contract is quite a bit more extensive than the first one: at left is our two page contract from 1936; whereas our most recent contract signed by our Board of Commissioners on September 15, 2025 is 127 pages.

As one of 17 water purveyors (including special purpose districts and cities) that currently hold wholesale water contracts with the City of Seattle, we recently joined with other purveyors to celebrate the completed contract signing, as seen in the above photo.

We meet monthly throughout the year to discuss financial, policy and operational issues that impact one or more of us. There are also additional programs that meet on a regular basis to discuss water quality and conservation programs.