

Project Spotlight:
Two New Water Mains Coming to our South-End Service Area

You may have heard the old saying, “build it and they will come,” however that approach would not be wise when it comes to the design and operation of a water system.

Your water system requires a carefully balanced network of distribution to maintain consistent water movement and pressure throughout all neighborhoods—from higher elevations to lower, from normal residential use, to seasonal increases, as well as the occasional higher demand for fire flow.

Engineers around the world recommend that water mains be upsized only when there is sufficient demand, like an increase in housing or businesses in a given area. If we constructed a larger water main than what is necessary, water pressure, water movement, and the resulting water quality would deteriorate.

6th Avenue NE and NE 168th Street Water Main

In the southwest corner of our District, near the Lynnwood Link Shoreline South Light rail station, new development is planned on 6th Avenue, south of NE 155th. The District is taking the lead on upsizing the water main on 6th Avenue this summer, with a contract that began at the end of April. The connections on NE 148th and NE 152nd Streets were installed in 2023; this summer the area on NE 168th Street at 25th Avenue NE will have its water main replaced. All of these projects affect water movement in the southern part of our District.

NE 155th Street Water Main

Back in 2012, when the old Bingo Hall located at the intersection of 5th Avenue NE and NE 165th Street was being redeveloped, the developer was required to do several water system improvements to help get adequate fire flow to the property.

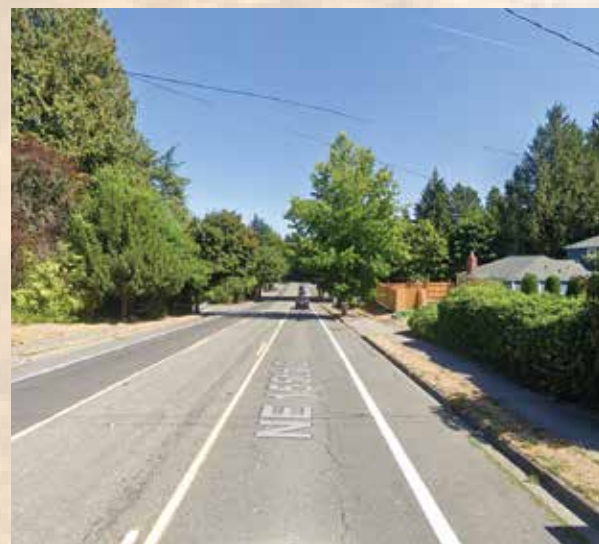
Those system improvements were already included our longer-term goals, however by proposing a shared cost arrangement with the developer, we were able to complete the improvements ahead of schedule, and best of all, at half the cost.

The result was the creation of a new pressure zone at the apex of the Ridgecrest Neighborhood, at the same time that we were already creating a similar new pressure zone at the apex of the North City Neighborhood—both classified as “615 pressure zones” because the water pressure is approximately 615 feet above mean sea level.

During those 2012 improvement efforts, several sections of the water main were upsized to 8” along NE 155th Street, while other 6” sections that were still in good shape remained. Fast forward more than a decade, and we’re planning to upsze those remaining 6” water mains on NE 155th Street, from 6th to 15th Avenues NE, and connect them to an existing large diameter north/south water main.

This project is currently under review; we expect to start construction on it later this year.

For more information about these projects, visit our website at: <https://northcitywater.org/development/current-projects/>



About Your Water Quality

Sources of drinking water (both tap 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 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.

How to Learn More

We at North City Water District encourage public interest and participation in the decisions that affect our drinking water. To learn more about our water supply, its quality, and what you can do to help keep our water clean, safe and abundant, please don’t hesitate to contact us at 206.362.8100.

You are also welcome to attend our Board of Commissioners meetings, which take place at 3:00 pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month. View our schedule and agendas at: www.northcitywater.org/resources/meeting-schedule-agendas-and-minutes-2/

Additional information about your water can be obtained from:

Seattle Public Utilities: 206.615.0827
www.seattle.gov/utilities/your-services/water/water-quality

Washington State Dep’t. of Health (DOH): 800.521.0323
www.doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Hotline: 800.426.4791
www.epa.gov/safewater - and - www.epa.gov/sdwa

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/drinking-water/about/how-to-read-drinking-water-quality-reports.html>

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 • customerservice@northcitywater.org • www.northcitywater.org • [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict) / NorthCityWaterDistrict

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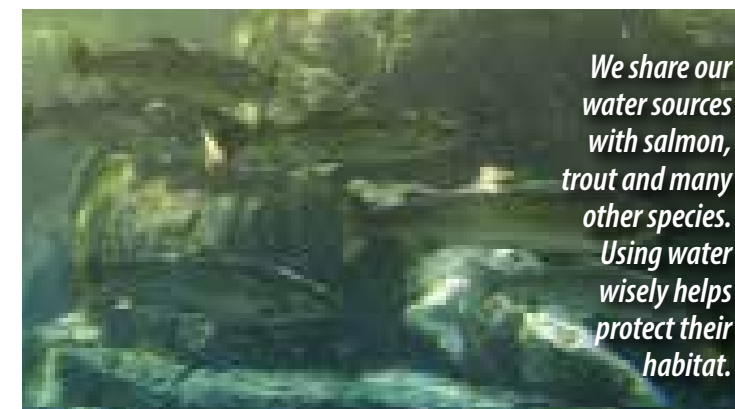
the savvy gardener
FREE SAVVY GARDENER CLASSES!

We were thrilled to debut our new large presentation screen during our first FREE Savvy Gardener class of the year. Come join us for more this summer!

Our April class saw record attendance from community members learning all about growing sustainable, beautiful, drought resistant and chemical-free gardens, thanks to ecoPRO Certified Sustainable Landscape Professional and class presenter Peggy Campbell. Interested in joining us for future classes? Mark your calendars, watch our website and Facebook for more information, and call or email us to sign up!

Knockout Gardens
Designing Your Own Permaculture Paradise
 Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 – 8:00 pm • by Marianne Binetti

Perma-What?
Winning the War on Water Use with Great Plants and Techniques
 Thursday, September 11, 6:30 – 8:00 pm • by Jessi Bloom



North City WATER DISTRICT
2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY
 A newsletter for water-related issues and info
 Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

Issue 2: April • May • June 2025

From Our Board... While it seems like spring took a long time to get here, we’ve already begun thinking about summer temperatures, melting snow pack, and reservoir levels. This winter saw another lighter than usual volume of snow, but our regional water source, Seattle Public Utilities is doing a good job managing our watershed in preparation for summer’s higher usage. Also on our mind this spring is the close-out of several large development projects, including Sound Transit’s Lynnwood Link, along with upcoming capital improvement projects that will enhance the efficiency of water movement, quality, and fire flow (described in more detail inside this newsletter). As always, our staff and Commissioners will be on hand at a number of community outreach events this year and welcome your questions about anything water-related!

Christian, the newest member of our maintenance crew, educating kids about their water at Lake Forest Park Elementary School’s Science Fair

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

- Annual Water Quality Report for 2024
- Water Test Results Tables and Definitions
- UCMRS Test Results
- Conserving Water Together
- Free Family Fun at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center
- Two New Water Mains in the South End
- About Your Water Quality
- Free Savvy Gardener Classes

Inside This Issue

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The Tolt River Watershed; photo courtesy of Seattle Public Utilities

Annual Water Quality Report for 2024

North City Water District is proud to report water quality test results that are within state and federal guidelines, and significantly below EPA maximum levels.

All About Your Water

Where Is Your Water From? Tolt and Cedar River Watersheds, both of which are pristine, protected mountain sources.

Who Tests Your Water? 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 and business.

How Safe is Your Water? Your water falls safely within state and federal guidelines for each and every contaminant, and significantly below the EPA's maximum levels.

What is Your Water Being Tested For? 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 is available by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800.426.4791.

When is Your Water Tested? Out of roughly 100 EPA-regulated contaminants, some parameters are tested continuously, some are tested daily, some are tested weekly, some monthly, some quarterly, and some annually—all in accordance with federal and state regulations. Others, such as UCMR (Unregulated Contaminants) monitoring or herbicides, are only required to be tested once every 6 years.

How is Your Water Tested? Over 200 compounds are tested and not detected; most of this monitoring occurs once every several years. 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 (number below). Note: asbestos monitoring is not required for our District because all asbestos pipe in our distribution system was replaced prior to 1991.

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 from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791 or at <http://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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791. If you would like to learn more, or have questions about water quality, just give us a call at 206.362.8100.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Table 1: Water Quality Testing Results for 2024

Types of Detected Compounds	Units	Primary Source	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Max. Allowed (MCL)	Levels in the Cedar River Watershed		Levels in the Tolt Watershed		Meets EPA Stds.?
					Average	Range	Average	Range	
RAW WATER									
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	Naturally present in the environment	NA	TT	0.73	0.5 to 1.23	1.24	1.12 to 1.39	Yes
FINISHED WATER SOURCE									
Turbidity	NTU	Soil runoff	NA	TT	0.41	0.16 to 2.1	0.04	0.02 to 0.29	Yes
Arsenic	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	0	10	0.4	0.3 to 0.6	0.23	0.2 to 0.3	Yes
Barium	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits	2000	2000	1.3	1.2 to 1.5	1.2	1.1 to 1.4	Yes
Bromate*	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	0	10	1.3	ND to 14	0.3	ND to 3.8	Yes
Fluoride	ppm	Water additive to promote strong teeth	4	4	0.65	0.6 to 0.7	0.7	0.6 to 0.8	Yes
Nitrate	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits	10	10	ND	One sample	0.8	One sample	Yes
SPECIFIC SAMPLES FROM NORTH CITY WATER DISTRICT'S DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM									
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	80	Average: 43 Range: 31.8 to 51.3			Yes	
Haloacetic Acids (5)	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NA	60	Average: 35 Range: 19.4 to 40.5			Yes	
Chlorine	ppm	Water additive to control microbes	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	Highest Monthly Average: 0.95 Range: 0.04 to 1.54			Yes	

*The Washington State Department of Health requires utilities to notify customers in the event of a minor monitoring violation. It was determined that Seattle Public Utilities experienced a minor monitoring violation for the Cedar Treatment Facility on June 21, 2024, when one part of the monitoring equipment failed to record a portion of data for one of the seven operating ultraviolet (UV) treatment units. Other data was available for that UV unit showing that UV treatment was still occurring, so there were no public health implications. Repairs were made, system programming improved, and operators were provided with additional training to help prevent this from happening in the future. If you have any questions about this event, please call Seattle Public Utilities at 206-615-0827.

Table 2: Lead and Copper Monitoring Results for the Tolt Watershed in 2023

Samples are taken every three years; the next samples will be taken in 2026. Five of the 51 samples in the Tolt Watershed were taken in NCWD's service area. None of the samples for the Cedar River Watershed were from NCWD's service area.

Lead and Copper Sampling Program and Units	Ideal Goal MCLG	Action Level ¹	Results of 2023 Samplings ²	# Homes Exceeding Action Level	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
Lead, ppb	0	15	3.0	0 of 55	Corrosion of household plumbing systems. Samples collected in homes within the Tolt water service area.
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.18	0 of 55	

¹The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. ²90th percentile: 90 percent of the samples were less than the values shown.

Table 3: UCMR5 Results for 2024

Compounds Tested	Units	Max. Allowed Residual	August Results	October Results
Lithium, Total	ppb	0.0050	ND	ND
PFAS*	ppb	Various*	ND	ND

*Per-and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS). Visit our website for additional information and to view test results for the 25 types of PFAS that were tested:

<https://www.northcitywater.org/about-your-water/pfas/>

In 2021, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) enacted legislation that requires public water systems to test drinking water for the group of man-made chemicals labeled PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) by December 2025. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), our source of drinking water, has been monitoring for PFAS in 2015, 2018, and 2023. In 2024, North City Water District began testing SPU's water at the point where it enters our system. In every test to date, your drinking water tested safe and protected from these contaminants. To learn more about PFAS testing and regulations, and the measures that Washington state is taking to restrict PFAS in products, visit the DOH website: <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas> You can also learn more about PFAS from the EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>

Compounds that were not detected in 2024 are not included in these charts.

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.

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.

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.

TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: Turbidity is a measure of how clear the water looks. The turbidity MCL that applied to the Cedar supply in 2024 is 5 NTU, and for the Tolt supply it was 0.3 NTU for at least 95% of the samples in a month. 100% of Tolt samples in 2024 were below 0.3 NTU.

NA: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected.

ppm: 1 part per million = 1 mg/L = 1 milligram per liter.

ppb: 1 part per billion = 1 ug/L = 1 microgram per liter.

1 ppm: = 1000 ppb.



Free Family Fun at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center

Nestled above the shores of Rattlesnake Lake in the Cascade foothills near North Bend, The Cedar River Watershed Education Center offers you and your family a uniquely enjoyable way to connect with the source of your drinking water. Learn about the area's natural and cultural history, enjoy entertaining and award-winning "Water is Magic" exhibits, test your skill at managing reservoir levels, and listen to the 'rain drums' create Native American, Afro-Cuban and Balinese rhythms.

When you're finished exploring the Center, consider taking the scenic 1-mile paved trail to Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area: a sparkling turquoise oasis offering ample opportunities for picnics and swimming. For those who love to hike, a 2-mile trail leads from the recreation area to a stunning view from the top of Rattlesnake Ledge.

The Center is open Thursday and Friday, noon to 5pm, and Saturdays 10am to 5pm, at 17905 Cedar Falls Road SE in North Bend, Washington. The access gate to the recreation area is open dawn to dusk every day. The Center is closed on July 4, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

www.seattle.gov/utilities/crweec

Conserving Water Together

Water Use Efficiency Report

Because our District is part of a regional water system, we take an active role in managing water use to minimize the amount of purchased water that goes unused. During 2024, NCWD purchased 549.3 million gallons of water, with 2.3% distribution system leakage rate—well below the state standard of no more than 10% water loss.

Our region in particular has achieved dramatic results due to heightened water conservation efforts: in the early 1990s, the average gallons used per person per day was over 160. Today, the actual use is just 52 gallons per person per day in our region. Our District conservation efforts have included everything from public outreach, rebate programs, and tiered pricing, to changes in federal and state plumbing codes—all of which is shared annually by our regional program, the Saving Water Partnership: www.savingwater.org

During our District's last Comprehensive Water System Plan developed in 2018, our stated goals were to a) continue supporting community education about the District and water issues; and b) continue supporting

Saving Water Partnership's regional conservation goal of keeping the total average annual retail water use of SWP members under 110 mgd through 2028, despite forecasted population growth. During 2024, we were proud to once again exceed that goal by achieving 94.5 mgd. Here's how how you helped make that possible:

	2024	Past 5 Years
Clothes Washer Rebates (Single and Multi-Family).....	0	20
Toilet Rebates (Single and Multi-Family).....	0	15
Irrigation Timer Rebates.....	3	5
Attendees at our Free Savvy Gardener classes.....	165	778
Students at Nature Vision Classroom Presentations.....	890	2,275
Visitors to Water Education Booths at Community Events.....	880	30,480

Speaking of community events, we will once again be on hand with our Water Education Booths at four events this summer: Lake Forest Park's Garden Tour and Market, Celebrate Shoreline Festival, North City Jazz Walk, and Lake Forest Park's Picnic in the Park. We hope you'll pay us a visit... we love meeting neighbors and answering questions about water!

Public Meeting to Discuss Water Use Efficiency

Join us at our July 15, 2025 Board meeting, starting at 3:00 pm in our conference room at 1519 NE 177th Street in Shoreline, to learn about our updated water conservation goals. Learn more at: www.northcitywater.org/about/conservation