



What's with the Street Graffiti?

Ever wonder what those colorful markings are on the street or sidewalk near you? That's your friendly local utility provider doing a "Location Request."

Whenever a property owner, developer, or contractor plans to dig down 12 inches or more, each utility must come out to the location and use color-coded paint or small flags to indicate where their underground service lines are, in order to keep them from getting severed.

Back in 2017, when the placement of real estate signs was included in this requirement, the frequency of Location Requests began rising. Since then, our area's surge in new development has increased the frequency even more.



Call 1-800-424-5555
(or just dial 811)

Whether you're planning a DIY project that involves digging, or planting a large bush or tree, be sure to call 811 to initiate a free Location Request. Then when you see these colorful markings on the street or sidewalk, see if you can decipher our code!

Paint Colors Used in Location Requests:

Proposed Excavation
Temporary Survey
Electric Power
Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum
Communications, Alarm or Signal, Cables or Conduit
Potable Water
Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, Slurry Lines
Sewer and Drain Lines



Keeping in Step with Our Community All Year Long

If there's one thing we love as much as taking care of your water, it's getting the chance to support our community and meet our customers! Here's how we did that in 2024:

- Savvy Gardener:** these free gardening classes in our conference room saw an average of 45 people attend in March, April, May and September. Ready for more in 2025? Watch our website, Facebook, NextDoor, and your billing statement for next year's classes!
- Celebrate Shoreline:** we love attending this event every summer so we can answer our community's water-related questions, hand out free gifts, fill up your water bottles, and engage kids with fun educational materials and water conservation games.
- Lake Forest Park Picnic in the Park:** this allows us to meet customers on the other side of our service area with the same enthusiasm, gifts, and games!
- North City Jazz Walk:** we continue to be one of the long-time sponsors of this community event (and host of one of the musicians) every year in August.
- Tree Lighting:** December 6 was our 25th year lighting up North City with a 34 foot tall "Christmas tree" of blue and green LED lights on top of our 3.7 MG reservoir, during North City Business Association's annual holiday event!



Issue 4: October • November • December 2024 Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

From Our Board...

Patricia Hale, Board President

As the year comes to an end, it seems like yesterday when I first answered the call to be a commissioner for North City Water District but in fact, it is nearly six years since I was first sworn in. During the past six years, we have had some major highlights such as the beginning of construction for the Lynnwood Link Light Rail station here in Shoreline (summer of 2019), navigating the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2022), completing construction of our new maintenance facility (2021), and the planned redevelopment of Fircrest Campus—yet this doesn't begin to include all the other capital reinvestments we routinely do. I'm proud of our staff and their long term approach to making strategic infrastructure investments. Our outstanding proactive maintenance and operations program means we won't have to replace the pipes for more than 50 years in the future. And finally, we're proud to report that we've recently completed our third audit this year and have passed all three with flying colors!



Despite a little drizzle, the parking lot at Les Schwab Tires was filled with music, refreshments, and a very special visit from Santa during the 25th annual Tree Lighting Festival, where North City Water District's holiday tree lit up the night sky from the top of our 3.7 MG reservoir!

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:

- Keeping in Step with Our Community
- Street Graffiti = Location Requests
- Modest Rate Increase in 2025
- Working Closely with Firemen
- Protect Your Pipes from Freezing
- No Lead Found in Water Service Lines

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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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No Lead Found in our Water Service Lines!

More than a year of meticulous research, documentation, and inspections has confirmed what North City Water District long believed: no lead pipes were found in our water system, including service lines on our customers' side of the meter.

In 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Health requested all water utilities to perform a Lead Service Line Inventory, with results submitted by October 16, 2024.

Because the District has never used lead in our service lines from the water main to the meter, the goal of our inventory was to confirm this fact, while focusing on the Customer-Owned portion—the line that runs from the water meter to your home (excluding the plumbing inside your home).

We began by building a database of every property in our service area (8,138 accounts) that included the date when the water line was

connected, and categorizing any connections installed after King County banned the use of lead service lines in the mid 1950s as “non-lead.”

From there, we combed through historical contracts, design standards, and the King County Plumbing code—all the way back to when our first water mains were installed in 1936—to identify if lead was ever allowed in the Customer-Owned side of the system prior to the ban. We also ran a voluntary customer survey to find out if customers had ever replaced their water line, or were willing to check their own pipes.

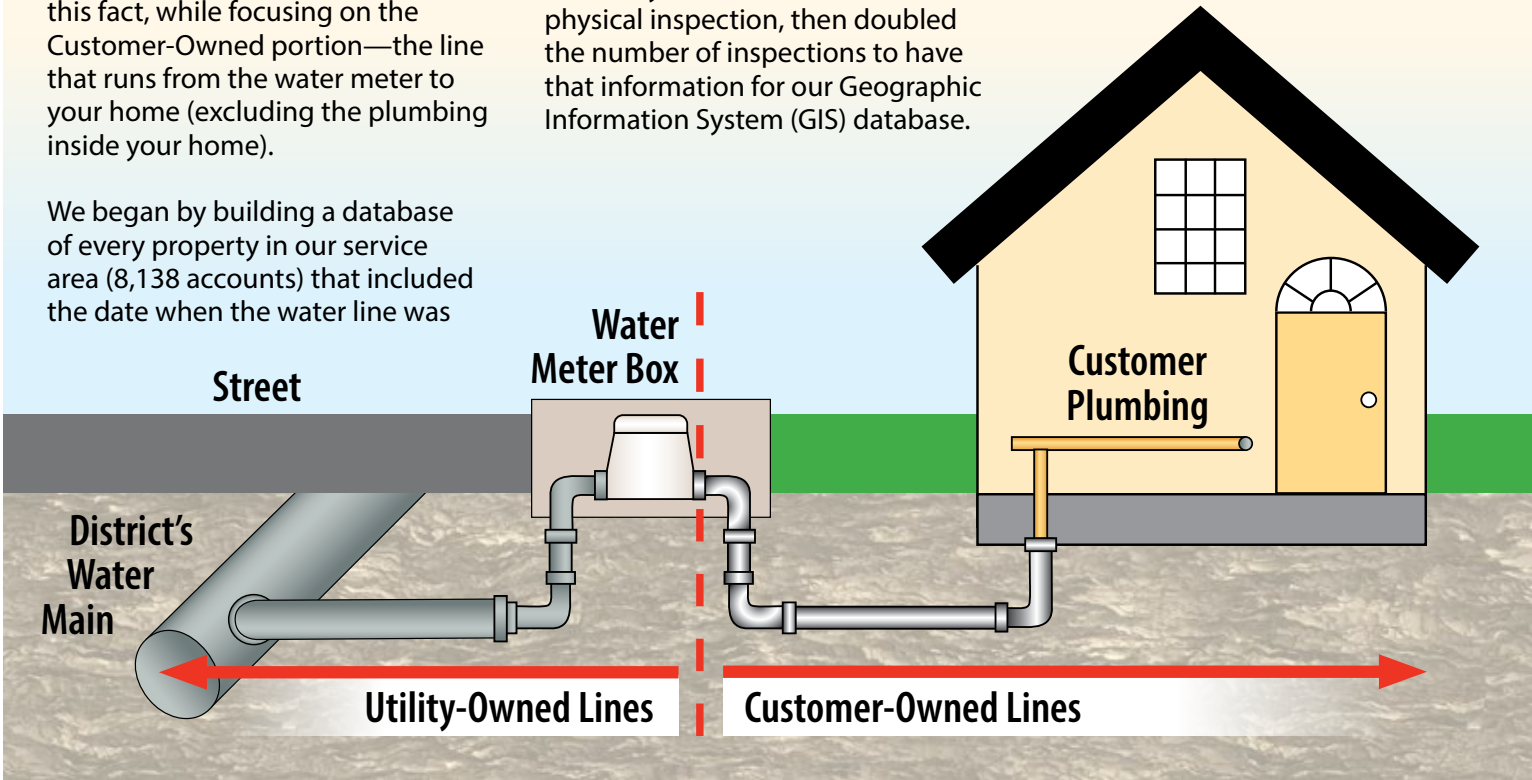
For the remaining unknown service lines, we used the EPA’s approved statistical analysis method to randomly select addresses for physical inspection, then doubled the number of inspections to have that information for our Geographic Information System (GIS) database.

Lastly, physical inspections were performed by observing the Customer-Owned line where it connected to the meter box; with exception to a few services that had issues preventing us from accessing the pipe (e.g., concrete poured all around the meter box).

The results of our inventory are available to everyone on our website at www.northcitywater.org

We were thrilled to confirm that none of the water service lines that we inspected contained lead, and we’re excited to incorporate the wealth of information we gathered during this process into our GIS database!

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



P-p-protect your p-p-pipes from FREEZING

2024 is already off to a cold start. Last year, freezing weather in mid-January caused the ground to shift and a couple of our water mains to break. Our on-call staff were just as busy helping many of you discover how to turn your water off. Some didn't have a shut-off valve between the meter and the point where the water line enters the house, others didn't know where it was located. Please take a moment to get prepared and protect your home before an emergency:

1. Locate and test your master water shut-off valve. If you can't find it, give us a call now and we can meet you on site to show you how to shut it off.
2. Disconnect and drain all watering hoses.
3. Insulate all exposed faucets and exterior pipes.
4. Insulate interior pipes and faucets in cold areas (attics, basements, garages, and crawl spaces).

Working Closely with the Fire Department Helps Keep Your Water System in Top Shape

During August and September, North City Water District employee Jesse Foss conducted five separate classes showing firefighters from Shoreline Fire Department how to properly operate a fire hydrant. Together, our goal was to identify ways to close fire hydrants after usage in a way that would minimize impacts to other customers connected to our water system, while also answering any questions about the water system and fire fighting methods. We love having such a supportive ongoing relationship with our area's first responders, and sincerely appreciate their dedication!



Modest Rate Increase in 2025

Each Fall, North City Water District conducts an annual review of finances and develops a budget for the upcoming year. Copies are available on our website; an overview is below:

2025 Projected Revenue:

- Other Revenues**
\$476,393 (5% of our total revenue)
- IRR Service Revenue**
196,065 (2% of our total revenue)
- Non-Single Family Service Revenue**
\$2,152,063 (24% of our total revenue)
- Firelines Service Revenue**
\$83,988 (1% of our total revenue)
- Single Family Service Revenue**
\$6,612,021 (68% of our total revenue)

2025 Projected Expenses:

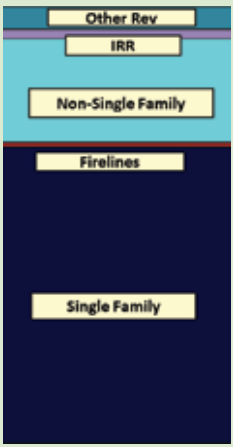
- Add to Reserves**
\$277,792 (3.1% of our total costs)
- Capital Transfer Costs**
\$1,200,000 (13.3% of our total costs)

- Debt Service**
\$1,075,767 (11.9% of our total costs)
- Vehicle Replacement**
\$96,000 (1.1% of our total costs)
- Net Employee Costs**
\$2,378,453 (26.3% of our total costs)
- Taxes and Franchise Fees**
\$981,683 (10.9% of our total costs)
- Purchased Water and Power**
\$1,514,374 (17.2% of our total costs)
- Operations & Maintenance**
\$439,320 (4.9% of our total costs)
- Admin, PO, Customer Service**
\$1,031,961 (11.4% of our total costs)

Balancing the Budget

95% of the District's revenue comes from water use, and 2024 marked the lowest water use in over 20 years, thanks to the great job our community has done conserving water. The resulting revenue shortfall requires we closely monitor and

2025 Revenues \$9,034,530



2025 Expenses \$9,034,530



make necessary adjustments to avoid overspending. One of the many ways we do this is to coordinate our capital projects with other developers in order to share costs—something we're continuing to do this coming year. These measures help us make small, annual, incremental rate increases rather than holding off for a large increase to make your water bills as predictable as possible. In light of all of these factors in 2023, our adopted 2024 budget will include a 4% rate increase.