



## WATER SOURCES & STORAGE

In 2015, the District distributed approximately 254 million gallons of water. The District is supplied entirely by ground water pumped from five wells. The District has three wells in the Evans Creek Valley and two on the Plateau. These wells serve approximately 3,288 connections or about 10,520 people. **There are no chemicals added to the District's water supply for disinfection or other purposes.** The District does have a filtration plant to remove hydrogen sulfide and arsenic.



The District adopted a wellhead protection plan in 1995 and updated the plan in 2012. The plan defined wellhead protection areas (WHPA) for each well or well field.

Contaminant inventory and risk assessments were conducted for each WHPA. The risk assessment determined that all identified potential contaminant sources were of low risk to the District's wells. The Washington State Department of Health has assessed a **low contaminant susceptibility** rating to wells 3 and 4. The well field was assigned a moderate susceptibility rating. The District continues to monitor for new risks that may arise.

NESSWD has three storage tanks. The District has two half-million gallon underground reservoirs and a three million-gallon tank shared with Sammamish Plateau Water. Both Districts pump water into that tank and withdraw the water as needed. As a result, customers in Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District also receive water from Sammamish Plateau Water's sources. Please call Sammamish Plateau Water for water quality information on their sources at (425) 392-6256 or go to their website at [www.spwater.org](http://www.spwater.org).



## WATER CONSERVATION GOALS & PLAN

In September 2003, the State Legislature passed the Municipal Water Supply Efficiency Requirements Act. The Water Efficiency Rule requires all municipal water suppliers to set water efficiency goals and provide annual performance reports on achieving these goals to customers and the Washington State Department of Health.

The District has adopted the following water use efficiency goals:

- Achieve a reduction in water use of five percent by the year 2021, with 2006 as the base year.
- Increase awareness among all water users of the value and importance of conserving water and of the methods available to achieve reductions in water use.

These goals were affirmed by District Commissioners in June 2016. **Together, we've reduced the average water use per person in the District by 18% from 2007 through 2015.** The District continues to fund education programs with conservation tips in our newsletters, has instituted a block rate structure to encourage conservation, provides rebates toward the home purchase of water efficient clothes washers, makes water conservation kits available to our customers and has prioritized system upgrades to minimize the rate of water leakage.

### Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

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Sammamish, Washington 98074

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## Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District 2015 WATER QUALITY REPORT



*From Your  
Commissioners*

**T**his 2015 Water Quality Report contains valuable information about our water resource. We are pleased to report that frequent testing throughout 2015 showed that **our water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards.**

We're honored to serve as your Northeast Sammamish Water and Sewer District commissioners and have prepared this report to you — **our valued customers** — about your water.

**Our first priority is to provide safe and reliable drinking water** and we conduct ongoing water quality tests and system upgrades in order to maintain high standards and protect public health.

In this report you will find detailed information on the quality and source of our water, along with updates on our conservation programs.

We are here to serve you and we encourage you to call us with any questions. For more information, please contact District Manager Laura Keough at (425) 868-1144.

*Thank you!*

### Board of Commissioners

Paul Sentena · *President*   Paul Robinett · *Secretary*  
Wayne DeMeester



Visit our website at [NESSWD.org](http://NESSWD.org)



## DISTRICT WATER WINS AWARDS AGAIN

Northeast Sammamish Water District's drinking water has — **once again** — been recognized for its outstanding taste at two recent events.

Our District's water was named the best tasting water in King County in March and was also ranked among the best in the Northwest earning second place among all districts and cities in the Pacific Northwest section of the American Water Works Association's May meeting in Boise.

The District's drinking water has won numerous taste contests both nationally and locally.

"Our drinking water is of the highest quality and our primary responsibility is protecting this precious resource," said Paul Sentena, President of the District's Board of Commissioners. "It's our job to provide safe, reliable and great tasting drinking water at a reasonable cost."

*Our  
drinking  
water wins  
local and  
national  
recognition*



Commissioners Paul Sentena and Wayne DeMeester along with District Manager Laura Keough accept the 2016 Best Tasting Water Award on behalf of the District



## SERVICE AREA



The District is bordered by Lake Sammamish on the west, the Redmond-Fall City Road on the north and at about 239<sup>th</sup> on the east. Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District (NESSWD) overlaps with Sammamish Plateau Water (SPW) on its southern border. The southern water boundary for NESSWD is approximately at NE 20<sup>th</sup> while its southern sewer boundary is from NE 9<sup>th</sup> to NE 16<sup>th</sup>. Customers in this overlapping area receive a sewer bill from NESSWD and a water bill from SPW. This overlap exists since neither District had both water and sewer access available at the time of development. As a result, for customers to have both water and sewer connections, each District provided one of the utilities. By law, we are required to mail you this update even if you receive your water from SPW.

NESSWD's service area is 99% residential with no commercial accounts except for a few condominium complexes, one school, Sahalee Maintenance Association and the Sahalee Country Club. There are no industrial customers in the District.



## HEALTH INFORMATION

The sources of drinking water (both tap water 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants (coliforms), such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



In order to ensure that 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. The Food and Drug Administration and/or the Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

|   |       | EPA's Allowable Limits |     |         |            |                              |              |
|---|-------|------------------------|-----|---------|------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Detected  | Units | MCLG                   | MCL | Average | Range      | Typical Sources              | Clean Water? |
| <b>WELL 3 (06/2010) / WELL 4 (05/2012) / EVANS CREEK WELL FIELD (08/2010)</b> |       |                        |     |         |            |                              |              |
| Radium 228  | pCi/L | NA                     | 5   | .42     | -.03 to .7 | Erosion of natural deposits. | <b>YES</b>   |
| Radium 226  | pCi/L | NA                     | 5   | 0.1     | NA         | Erosion of natural deposits. | <b>YES</b>   |

### NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

**MCLG or 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 or Maximum Contaminant Level:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. The MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL = Action Level      ND = None detected      MFL = Million fibers per liter      ppb = parts per billion  
 NA = Not applicable      pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)      ppm = parts per million

**Arsenic:** While our drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**Coliform:** Purveyors are required to collect coliform samples from representative points throughout the distribution system at least once a month. The number of necessary sample is based on population served and the District is required to collect ten samples per month. No coliforms were detected during the District's routine sampling in 2015.

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 can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is 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.

Environmental Protection Agency/ Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



NESSWD Crest Treatment Plant that effectively filters detectable arsenic from our groundwater system. This facility is an additional method we use to ensure your water is the purest available.

### 2014 Lead & Copper Residential Monitoring Results

|              | 90th Percentile | MCL      | MCLG | # of Homes Exceeding Action Level | Range of Results | In Compliance |
|--------------|-----------------|----------|------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Lead (ppb)   | ND              | AL = 15  | 0    | 0                                 | ND - ND          | Yes           |
| Copper (ppm) | .22             | AL = 1.3 | 1.3  | 0                                 | ND - .28         | Yes           |

**No homes tested in the District have ever exceeded the action levels for lead and copper.**

In Washington State, lead in drinking water comes primarily from materials and components used in household plumbing. The more time water has been sitting in pipes, the more dissolved metals, such as lead, it may contain. Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in pregnant women and young children.

**You can reduce your potential exposure to lead.** For any drinking water tap that has not been used for 6 hours or more, flush water through the tap until the water is noticeably colder before using for drinking or cooking. You can use the flushed water for watering plants, washing dishes, or general cleaning. Only use water from the cold water tap for drinking, cooking and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) is responsible for certifying labs in Washington. A list of certified labs can be found at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/index.html). Information on lead is available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

|   |       | EPA's Allowable Limits |     |         |              |   |              |
|---|-------|------------------------|-----|---------|--------------|---|--------------|
| Detected  | Units | MCLG                   | MCL | Average | Range        | Typical Sources   | Clean Water? |
| <b>COMPLETE INORGANIC &amp; PHYSICAL TESTS:</b> WELLS 3 & 4 (05/2004), EVANS CREEK WELL FIELD (05/2010), BLENDED WELLS 3 & 4 WITH FILTRATION (11/2015)<br><b>ARSENIC:</b> WELLS 3 & 4 BLENDED AT CREST ARSENIC REMOVAL FACILITY (Monthly through 2015)<br><b>NITRATES &amp; NITRITES:</b> WELL 4 & EVANS CREEK WELL FIELD (05/2015), WELL 3 (09/2015) |       |                        |     |         |              |   |              |
| Arsenic   | ppb   | 0                      | 10  | 7.48    | 6.60 to 8.30 | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See notes for more information.   | <b>YES</b>   |
| Nitrate   | ppm   | 10                     | 10  | .33     | ND to 1.00   | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits.  | <b>YES</b>   |
| TTHM  | ppb   | NA                     | 80  | .80     | ND to 1.60   | By-products of drinking water disinfection. While the District does not disinfect its water supply, a very small amount of chlorine enters the system from Sammamish Plateau Water at the very south end of the District. | <b>YES</b>   |

### Board Meetings

The Board of Commissioners meet every month on the **first and third Wednesday at 7:30AM** in the District office. Visit [NESSWD.org](http://NESSWD.org) for more info.

### Source Water Assessments

Information is available from the Washington State Department of Health website at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/swap/maps>

### NORTHEAST SAMMAMISH SEWER & WATER DISTRICT

Open Monday to Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM  
 3600 Sahalee Way Northeast • Sammamish, Washington 98074 • (425) 868-1144  
 (may be used for after-hours emergencies)