

# Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

## Summer News and 2023 Water Quality Report



**N**ow that the summer season is upon us, we wanted to provide you with this update on District activities and include a **detailed review of your local water resource and its quality.**

We are honored to serve as **your** water commissioners and are committed to providing you — **our valued customers** — with the safest and best tasting drinking water.

This newsletter contains information we hope you will find useful, including details on system upgrade projects, water conservation tips, customer service resources and news of your water resource being named **"Best Tasting Water"**.

We are also including our **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report** which details the results of testing conducted 2023. This rigorous testing shows that your water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards.

Our first priority is to maintain safe drinking water for our customers. We conduct frequent quality tests and prioritize system upgrades to protect community health while preserving the high quality of your drinking water.

This report details the source of our water, its quality and the steps we take to monitor, protect and conserve our precious water resource. We hope it is helpful and informative to you.

It is our goal to be open and accessible to our customers. You can call us at (425) 868-1144 or visit our website — **NESSWD.org** — for the latest information, tips on water conservation and contact points for Commissioners and staff.



### Board of Commissioners

**Paul Robinett**  
*President*

**Paul Sentena**  
*Secretary*

**Wayne DeMeester**

### Forever Chemicals in Water

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) collects drinking water test results for a family of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are sometimes called "forever chemicals" because they stay in the environment for a very long time. PFAS are a growing environmental contaminant of concern because some PFAS chemicals can be toxic to people and can build up over time in our bodies.

The District has received questions about PFAS in our drinking water. When the District did voluntary testing for PFAS in 2019 and 2021 **zero PFAS were detected.**

The first required compliance test is in 2025.

# UPDATE

## Construction Projects

### AC Pipe Replacement

A Department of Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) pre-construction loan of \$510,000 with a \$10,000 loan fee and 0% interest was awarded to the District for survey, design and permitting for the replacement of about 11,000 lineal feet of AC pipe. The surveying is complete and design work is in progress. The project is mostly located on NE 37th Way, Sahalee Way NE, NE 36th Street & Sahalee Drive East. Construction will begin after the LPGA golf tournament in late July. This \$5 million project is funded by a Public Works Trust Fund Loan with a 1.39% interest rate.

### Sewer Pipe Lining

The District completed lining 6100 feet of 45-year old concrete pipe to extend its useful life. Phase I which lined 2,754 linear feet was completed in 2020. Phase II lined the rest of the pipe and was completed Summer 2023. Phase II was funded by a Department of Commerce Public Works Trust Fund Loan with a 0.89% interest rate.

### Manhole Lining

Phase I & II of this project are complete. Phase II was funded by a Department of Commerce Public Works Trust Fund Loan with an interest rate of 0.89%.

### Automated Meter Infrastructure

The District is moving from radio read meters to Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI). To do so we installed two poles and repeaters. New meter registers are required to be compatible with AMI. About 95% of the meter registers have been installed and the remainder will be installed throughout 2024.

### Emergency Chlorination System

The District **does not** chlorinate its water. If an E.coli event occurred the District may need to use chlorine to make our water safe. **This will only be used in an emergency.** The project has been designed and approved by the Washington State Department of Health. The equipment has been installed at the .6 MG Crest Reservoir and will be installed at the .5 MG reservoir later this year.

### Shake Monitor

Shake monitor equipment has been installed at the District Office, District Shop, Crest Reservoir, Booster Station and Treatment Facility. This year we will install equipment at Lift Stations 3 and 5.

### Lift Station 8

This station is 35 years old and must be updated. The pumps and motors will be replaced along with the SCADA and motor controls. We will also add a stationary generator to ensure continuous operation. This project is in the design phase and we are in the process of completing the PWTF loan application.





# 2023 Water Quality Report

## Preserving Our Precious Water

The District has adopted the following water use efficiency goals:



Achieve a one percent reduction in customer demand per equivalent residential unit (ERU) by the year 2029, with 2021 as the base year. This will result in a demand per ERU of 207 gpd per ERU by 2029.



Increase awareness among all water users of the importance and value of conserving water and of the methods available to achieve reductions in water use.

The goals were adopted by the Board of Commissioners on September 6, 2023. The average gallons per day per person water usage from 2022 through 2023 was 6.46% lower than in 2021.

The District continues to fund education programs, print conservation tips in our newsletters, have an increasing block rate structure, provide rebates for water efficient washers, meter sources and customer services, provide water conservation kits to our customers and maintain a low leakage rate.



## 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.



Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.



Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

# 2023 Source Water & Distribution System Test Results

Detected	Units	MCL	MCLG	Average	Range	Typical Sources	Clean Water
Radium 228	pCi/L	5	N/A	0.453	0.078 to 0.827	Erosion of natural deposits.	<b>YES</b>
Barium	mg/L	2	2	0.0017	ND to .0033	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	<b>YES</b>
Arsenic <i>(at treatment plant)</i>	ppb	10	0	4.700	3.300 to 6.800	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. See notes for more information.	<b>YES</b>
Arsenic <i>(at untreated wells in well field)</i>	ppb	10	0	2.6	N/A	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	0.3667	ND to 1.10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits.	<b>YES</b>
Asbestos	mfl	7	7	0.118	N/A	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; 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

N/A = Not Applicable

mfl = million fibers per liter

ppb = parts per billion

ppm = parts per million

mg/L = milligrams per liter

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**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.

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 federal Food and Drug Administration and/or the Washington State Department of Agriculture water regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water

which must provide the same protection for public health.

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.

The tables present the results of our 2023 water quality monitoring. Where tests are required less than annually, the most recent results for the monitoring period are presented. For more information about any item in this report, please contact Laura Keough at (425) 868-1144.

## 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 & sewer service 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. We mail you this update even if you receive your water from SPW.

NESSWD's water consumers are 99% residential with no commercial accounts except for a few condominium complexes, one school, Sahalee Country Club and the Sahalee Maintenance Association. We have no industrial customers.

## District-Provided Arsenic Treatment

While the arsenic in the District's water is well below the MCL, we realize some homeowners may wish to treat the water in their own homes to further reduce arsenic levels. One home option is reverse osmosis (RO). In the RO process, a high-pressure force pushes water through a membrane. Treated water is collected on the other side whereas contaminants and rejected water are unable to pass. RO membranes can effectively remove constituents from water, including organic carbon, salts, dissolved minerals such as arsenic and color.

While neither the Department of Health nor the District endorses or supplies home based point of use systems, if you choose to look into one, make sure it is certified for use with drinking water and is specific to reduction of arsenic.

## Sources & Storage

In 2023, NESSWD produced approximately 243 million gallons of water. The District is supplied entirely by ground water pumped from five wells. There are three wells in the Evans Creek Valley and two on the Plateau. These wells serve approximately 3,316 connections or about 9,385 people.

### **The District adds no chemicals to our water supply for disinfection or other purposes.**

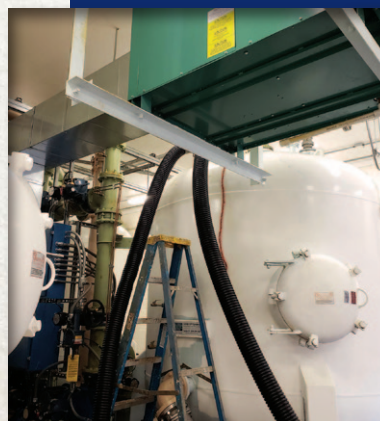
The District does operate a filtration plant to remove hydrogen sulfide and arsenic.

The District adopted a wellhead protection plan in 1995 which was updated in 2012 and 2019. 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 well 4. Well 3 and the well field were assigned moderate susceptibility ratings. The District continues to monitor for new risks that may arise.

NESSWD maintains three storage tanks — a one-half million gallon (MG), a .6MG and a 3MG tank shared with SPW. Both Districts pump water into the tank and withdraw the water as needed. As a result, customers in Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District also receive water from SPW sources.

You may contact Sammamish Plateau Water for information on their water sources at (425) 392-6256 or go to [www.spwater.org](http://www.spwater.org).



***Your water meets, or exceeds, every state and federal standard.***

*The District's Arsenic Removal Filter System.*



# Testing to Protect Your Family

**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.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants & children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse effects. Adults can have increased risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

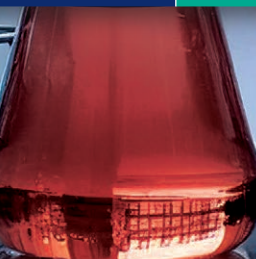
If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) is responsible for certifying labs in Washington.

A list of certified labs can be found at <https://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 <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



## Residential Lead & Copper Test Results

	90th Percentile	MCL	MCLG	Number of Homes Exceeding Action Level	Range	Clean Water
Lead ppb	ND	AL = 15	0	0	ND to 0.0021	<b>YES</b>
Copper ppm	0.050	AL = 1.3	1.3	0	0.024 to 0.052	<b>YES</b>



# Best Tasting Water Award Winner!



Northeast Sammamish Water District's drinking water won **THIRD in North America** in the American Water Works Association's best tasting water competition after being named the **Best Tasting Water in the Pacific Northwest**.

The District advanced to the Northwest competition after being named King County's **best tasting drinking water for the sixth time** by a panel of drinking water specialists at the AWWA local competition. 2024 was the third time that the District was named the best tasting water in the Northwest.

"We are proud to have won 3rd place in North America in the AWWA best tasting water contest and are extremely honored to be considered the best in King County and the Northwest," said Paul Robinett, President of the District's Board of Commissioners. "We are committed to protecting this resource and continue providing our customers with safe, reliable and great tasting drinking water at a reasonable cost."



## Ten Ways to Conserve Water (and save money!)

1. Turn off the tap while brushing. Water comes out of the average faucet at 2.5 gallons per minute. Don't let all that water go down the drain while you brush!
2. Save gallons of water by turning off the faucet after you wet your hands until you rinse.
3. Flush with less. Older toilets use a lot of water. Place a half gallon jug of water in the toilet tank to reduce water use. Do **NOT** use a brick as it will break down and damage your toilet.
4. Use a plumber or DIY to fix leaky faucets.
5. Head to the car wash. When you wash your car take it to a car wash that recycles the water, instead of washing at home with the hose.
6. Cut showers short. Older showers use up to 5 gallons of water per minute. Update your shower head or install a flow restricter.
7. Choose efficient fixtures. Aerating your faucets, investing in a low-flow toilet, choosing efficient shower heads, and opting for a Water Sense rated dishwasher and washing machine can add up to big savings in both water & electricity.
8. Shrink your lawn. Use native and drought resistant plants to eliminate the need to water.
9. Only run the dishwasher & washing machine when it's full. Those half-loads add up.
10. Watch your bill to spot leaks. If your water bill spikes, there's a good chance that a leak is the culprit. Call in a plumber to check your lines!



**Northeast Sammamish  
Sewer and Water District**  
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Sammamish, Washington 98074

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## Low Income Senior Discount

A discount program is available for all customers who are at least 62 years of age with a limited family income. You qualify if you meet the criteria below.

Family Size	Household Income That Does Not Exceed
1	\$ 52,700
2	\$ 60,250
3	\$ 67,800
4	\$ 75,350

To apply, visit our website at [nesswd.org](http://nesswd.org) or contact Customer Service at (425) 868-1144.

## Dialysis

If someone in your family is a home dialysis patient, please contact Customer Service and let us know to guarantee water service.

## Public Meetings

The Board of Commissioners meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 AM. We encourage you to attend in person or via Zoom. Log-in information and updated meeting schedules are posted on the District's website at [nesswd.org](http://nesswd.org).

## More Information

on source water assessments is available from the Washington State Department of Health website at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/swap/>

## Customer Service

Contact the District at (425) 868-1144 during normal business hours, or 24-hours in an emergency.

## Pay Online



You can pay your bill at [nesswd.org](http://nesswd.org)



anytime of the day or night. Please visit our website to sign-up.