

Celebrating Drinking Water Week

OUR SAFE, CLEAN WATER IS BOTH A PRIVILEGE AND A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Every year during the first week of May, Northshore Utility District joins with water agencies across the U.S. to celebrate Drinking Water Week. This is an opportunity to recognize the value of safe, clean water for our everyday lives, and the importance of protecting our water sources.

It wasn't long ago that waterborne diseases like cholera and typhoid cost millions of lives, even in relatively developed nations. Advances in how we treat and distribute water, and water treatment regulations, have virtually eliminated these diseases in the U.S. In fact, the Center for Disease Control names water treatment among the most significant public health advancements of the 20th Century.

Today, we own the privilege of expecting high quality water every time we turn on our tap. But it's a privilege we don't want to take for granted. In many underdeveloped parts of the world, access to clean water sources and safe delivery systems is scarce. In some U.S. cities, aging water infrastructure has led to contamination issues, and drought threatens an ongoing safe supply.

We are fortunate in our area to have plentiful, high-quality water sources. But we must still do our best to protect this precious resource we use every day to meet our vital needs.

Northshore Utility District systems are in good shape. We invest millions of dollars annually—43 million over the last five years—in capital improvements to your water and sewer systems, to make sure they will continue to serve our growing communities into the long-term future. But as part of the regional water system, we are mindful always of the responsibility to steward our water source and systems.



CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED:

Located above the shores of Rattlesnake Lake.

Provides drinking water to 70% of 1.4 million people in greater Seattle.



TOLT RIVER WATERSHED:

12,500 acres of protected land in the Cascade foothills east King County.

Supplies 30% of drinking water for 1.4 million people in the Seattle region.

As members who share in the same regional water system, here are a few ways we can each do our part to protect our water source and supply:

- ▶ **Find and repair leaks** in your home to prevent water waste—learn how at www.nud.net/leaks.
- ▶ **Be careful what you flush** to keep our waterways clean. Anything flushed through the storm and wastewater system can end up in our beautiful Puget Sound. To safely dispose of common home waste, including used motor oil, cooking oil and grease, expired medications, and cleaning products, see www.hazwastehelp.org.
- ▶ **Visit a local watershed** to see for yourself where our water comes from and how we can all best protect it. Family-friendly tours and education opportunities at the Cedar River Watershed are linked at www.nud.net/water-wise. 💧



Water Saving Tips for Summer

Landscapes and gardens are the biggest source of excess water use in summer. But a beautiful, low-maintenance, and water-smart landscape is within reach! Below are some of our top tips.



MULCH

Add a few inches of good mulch—leftover leaves, bark, or compost—to help keep moisture in and weeds out.

TIP: Make sure soil is moist before laying mulch.



WATER WISELY

Lawns need just about 1" of water a week to stay healthy during the dry months.

TIP: Use a tuna can to track the time to reach 1", and spread that time out over the week.



TIME IT WELL

Irrigation timer issues can lead to big water-waste problems! Check irrigation timer settings carefully and regularly.

TIP: Use your meter to track exact water use—see nud.net/read-meter.



WATER WITH THE WEATHER

Early morning or late evening is best for less evaporation.

TIP: If you have an irrigation system, use a rain-sense timer. See www.nud.net/gardening for \$100 rebate offer.

Find more sustainable gardening advice and free indoor/outdoor water-saving resources available to you at www.nud.net/water-wise. 💧

**Northshore
Utility District
Board of
Commissioners**

Matt Breysse,
President

Robert Peterson,
Board Secretary

Bruce Gardiner,
Commissioner

Don Ellis,
President

Trudy Rolla,
Commissioner

Board of
Commissioner
Meetings
are held at the
District Office
on the first and
third Monday
of each month
at 5:30 p.m.
(except holidays)



District Office

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**COMMUNITY
EVENTS
COMING UP:**

June 2—Emergency
Prep Workshop @
Northshore Fire. Info at
www.nud.net/prepare.

June 17—Family-
Friendly Safety Fair/
Pancake Breakfast @
Northshore Fire



Changing Water Filters Enough?

If you are not regularly changing the filters on your home water filtration systems, you may be exposing yourself to unsafe bacteria.

The water that comes into your home has been treated at the water source, tested, and monitored constantly to make sure it is safe to drink. Part of the water treatment process includes adding chlorine to the water and maintaining specific levels throughout the water distribution system. A residual chlorine is what keeps bacteria from forming and growing in the water system.

Many homes use water filters to increase water clarity and taste. But over time, these filters become clogged with organic matter, which can cause or promote bacterial growth—nothing you want to drink.

For your own health and safety, please change water filters regularly, according to the manufacturer's instructions.



Bacteria can enter the water filters at first install, and grow as organic matter clogs an unchanged filter. Replacing filters on schedule helps maintain water quality.



TIP

Simply flushing at the tap (not through the filter) with cold water for 1-2 minutes will improve water taste. The chlorine smell is typically strongest when water has been sitting for several hours.



TIP

Don't keep old ice. Use up or change ice trays regularly.

Please contact our water quality office any time with questions at waterquality@nud.net or (425) 398-4419. You can find more information about common water quality issues at www.nud.net/waterquality. 💧



**THE VOLUNTEER
CREW (MINUS A
FEW) WHO GAVE
THEIR TIME ON
A SUNNY
SATURDAY TO
HELP KEEP OUR
ROADS CLEAN.**



Beware Phone Payment Scam

Northshore Utility District (NUD) was recently made aware of phone scams targeting District customers. The scammers threaten service termination unless the customer makes immediate payment of a delinquent bill over the phone.

NUD never solicits payments over the phone; in fact, NUD does not take phone payments. Currently, if payments are delinquent, NUD customers will receive a reminder letter, not a phone call.

Please beware and protect yourself from this and other potential scams that target utility customers:

- ▶ Any caller who demands immediate payment is suspicious.
- ▶ Scammers claiming to be utility representatives may leave a message to call back, usually an unfamiliar 1-800 or area code number.
- ▶ Do not give access to any person claiming to be a utility representative without proper identification. NUD representatives will always identify themselves with a District vehicle, uniform, and ID badge.

Please contact us (or associated utility provider) first if you receive a suspicious call, and do not share credit card or bank information over the phone. A NUD representative can be reached 24 hrs/day at (425) 398-4400. Contact law enforcement if you see someone impersonating a District representative without proper identification. 💧



NUD in the Community

NUD volunteers recently completed another "Adopt-A-Road" community clean up. For over 12 years, we've kept our stretch of road clean along Juanita Drive, named "Nancy's Mile," after a beloved employee who passed away.

We are also excited to help support the new Kenmore Community Garden at Northlake Lutheran Church. While unable to provide free water for the plots, NUD's Board and GM worked with organizers to offer a hydrant meter, without sewer costs, at a "public benefit" water rate. We hope this important community work achieves great success! 💧