

68th Ave NE Bridge Closure Lessons

COORDINATED RESPONSE FROM STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

When the 68th Ave NE bridge had to be closed following NUD construction activities that caused a sinkhole, we saw just how vital this connecting roadway is for our residents and regional commuters. Thankfully, NUD and its contractor were able to repair the damaged road quickly, limiting the closure to just under two days. But we want to take a moment to address some of the issues that came up during the situation, as well as thank the many people involved that brought about a safe and fast resolution.

THE CAUSE: On December 3, 2018, NUD's contractor began tunneling underneath 68th Ave NE to install a new sewer line. The existing sewer line is being replaced in preparation for Kenmore's upcoming bridge replacement project. The decision was made to tunnel underneath to allow 68th Ave NE to remain open during construction. At the time the sinkhole formed, tunneling was nearly complete.

THE ACTIONS: When news of the critical road failure hit during the evening of December 17th, both NUD and Kenmore teams sprang into immediate action. NUD crews worked throughout the night to assist the contractor in assessing the damage and make preparations for repairs. In addition, NUD and Kenmore worked with county inspectors to evaluate the bridge's safety, which led to closing all lanes out of precaution.

NUD worked closely with Kenmore's communications team to share information as quickly as possible with residents and commuters impacted by the closure.

Collecting every electronic message board available within the local area (as far south as Kent), NUD staff staged Kenmore-approved detour routes and scheduled available traffic control police officers to help reroute commuters safely.

To ensure continued emergency services, NUD and Kenmore officials opened the northbound lanes to emergency vehicle



Above: NUD construction contractors complete repaving and road restoration on the southbound lane of the 68th Ave NE bridge on Wednesday, December 19th—two days after the sinkhole and road closure.

access on Tuesday, December 18th. We also opened NUD's secondary emergency operation center at the Inglemoor water tank site on Finn Hill as a satellite facility for Northshore Fire crews.

THE RESULTS: When the road was fully reopened to traffic late afternoon Wednesday, December 19th, it was the result of many long overnight hours and the coordinated efforts of multiple agencies. NUD owes our thanks to the City of Kenmore, NEMCo (Northshore Emergency Management Coalition), the Northshore Fire Department, the Police Officer Guild (for traffic control), and communication teams with Kenmore, Bothell, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park and Woodinville.

We also thank our residents and local commuters for your patience during the long and often grueling detours. Along with our agency partners, we will use the situation, and your feedback, to help us improve our coordinated preparation and response for future incidents.

This 600-foot long connecting bridge plays a huge role in keeping the community running smoothly. So do the interconnected relationships that were key to responding, meeting immediate needs, and getting things done safely and quickly. This event showed that we have strong community structures in place to draw on when need arises.



ANSWERING YOUR BRIDGE PROJECT FAQs:

In response to some of your FAQs about the project and the incident, we've shared further information at www.nud.net/68bridge, including links to Kenmore's bridge replacement project info. Please contact us anytime with other questions. 💧

NUD Staff Giving Back



NUD Board President Don Ellis with Mary's Place Chief Development Officer Lea Tiernan.

Each year NUD employees raise funds for a local organization serving our community members in need. This year we were able to run two separate giving drives to benefit Kenmore's Mary's Place family shelter.

As part of the Holiday Giving Tree, our staff gathered gifts to fulfill 30 kids' special requests. Together NUD employees and Commissioners (with a generous donation from our former general manager) raised \$1670 to directly support the Kenmore shelter's family services.

As members of this community, our staff feel honored to contribute to Mary's Place's important work.

The Mary's Place Kenmore shelter is currently at capacity. To learn more about how they're helping moms, dads and kids on their journey out of homelessness, visit marysplacesattle.org. 💧

**Northshore
Utility District
Board of
Commissioners**

Don Ellis,
President

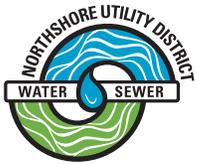
Tom Mortimer,
Board Secretary

Matt Breyse,
Commissioner

Bruce Gardiner,
Commissioner

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)



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Did we do a good job for you? Think of something we can do better? Send us a quick message at www.nud.net/contact-us.

Thank you for sharing!
We are always listening.

More Free Gardening Classes this Spring

Join us for our 2019 gardening class series, all taught by local sustainable landscape professionals and master gardeners.

All classes will be held here at NUD. **To reserve your free seat, contact conservation@nud.net or (425) 398-4417.**

**Tues, April 2, 6:30-8pm:
"Top 10 Eco Gardening Hacks"**

with Jessi Bloom, best-selling author and owner/lead designer of N.W. Bloom EcoLogical Landscapes.

Let's discuss the Top 10 issues that PNW gardeners face—and their simple solutions or "hacks". We'll cover problem weeds, water (too much or not enough), easy edibles, common bugs and making the most of your garden.

**Tues, April 16, 6:30-8pm:
"Knock Out Gardens: Winning the War on Water Use with Great Plants & Techniques"**

with Marianne Binetti, popular radio host and author

Get inspired to plant not just shrubs and perennials that will survive in our climate, but plants that make a knock out statement when grown together, and that will also smother weeds and solve other landscape problems.

**Tues, April 30, 6:30-8pm:
"Favorite Northwest Natives"**

with Greg Rabourn, educator and radio personality

Discover just how beautiful, sustainable, and low-maintenance gardening can be with native plants! Get plant lists and design tips to create your Northwest Native haven that needs less water, pesticides and fertilizers, reduces invasive species, and attracts valuable native wildlife.

Find full class descriptions and other local classes at www.nud.net/gardening.

2019 Rate Study

The District's annual rate study will be completed and take effect in March 2019. We have been notified of 2019 rate increases from our wholesale suppliers—King County for sewer treatment and Seattle Public Utilities for wholesale drinking water.

At times, NUD has been able to absorb small wholesale hikes to avoid raising service rates. This practice is not always possible. But we pledge to continue operational efficiencies and sound fiscal policies that help us keep costs as low as possible while managing future needs responsibly. **Please watch for the new rate notification letter in March.**

Is Our Water System Earthquake Ready?

As part of the ongoing important discussion about how our region will prepare to face a catastrophic earthquake, we wanted to share some of the efforts Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and NUD have made and are making to protect your water supply during disasters.

SPU REGIONAL SYSTEM EFFORTS:

SPU has published detailed earthquake planning information at www.seattle.gov/util. In addition to the 2018 study, which will guide future investments over a 50-year period, SPU has already spent 30 years working to retrofit the regional water system to withstand earthquakes, and completed more than \$100 million in seismic upgrades so far.

NUD LOCAL SYSTEM EFFORTS:

NUD's water supply is dependent on SPU, but we have also worked to prepare the District's system to preserve our water storage in an earthquake event. NUD's investments include hardening storage tanks, installing flexible fittings at tank bases, and seismic controls that connect to automatic shut off pumps and valves. When triggered by ground shaking, these automated valves will close to preserve water storage and protect equipment.



Photo courtesy Romac Industries

NUD will install joint restraints (such as in the photo above) on a major water pipeline in our system for added earthquake protection.

We recently completed a study of a major water transmission main. The study showed the main is in great shape. But the District plans to install added reinforcements on sections of the pipeline which will help keep the pipe joints from separating under stress.

We are also looking to develop additional water supply sources to draw on if a major event interrupts our primary supply. Among other options, these include emergency water wells, expanding interties with utilities that border our area, and drafting from other supply sources.

We will continue working to make sure our most vital resource is protected in a large emergency. But in a major disaster, every home should be prepared with an emergency water supply to meet your critical needs—at least one gallon per person or pet for 7-10 days.

You can find information about preparing and storing your emergency water supply at www.nud.net/prepare, as well as links to SPU's seismic study pages.