

Seattle Water Department Reports and Writings, 1903-1948

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash.) Water Dept.
Title	Seattle Water Department Reports and Writings
Dates	1903-1948 (inclusive) 1903 1948
Quantity	.2 cubic foot, (1 box)
Collection Number	8200-16
Summary	Reports and writings regarding Seattle's Water Department.
Repository	Seattle Municipal Archives Seattle Municipal Archives Office of the City Clerk City of Seattle PO Box 94728 98124-4728 Seattle, WA Telephone: 206-233-7807 Fax: 206-386-9025 archives@seattle.gov
Access Restrictions	Records are open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for processing this record series was provided through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Historical Note

A public waterworks was created by City Charter amendment in 1875. However, Seattle was served primarily by small private water companies for the next decade-and-a-half. Following the Great Fire of 1889, citizens voted to fund creation of a municipally owned water system. The City purchased the private systems and began development of the Cedar River Watershed, and since 1891, has owned and operated a municipal water system. The system was administered by the Superintendent of Water under the auspices of the Board of Public Works. In 1905 the Department of Lighting and Water Works was created. Five years later, the Water Department became a separate entity. Most of the water used by the Seattle Water Department came from the Cedar River Watershed property, which also provided income for the department through the selling of logging rights. Several timber companies including Weyerhaeuser Company, Scott Paper Company and Pacific States Lumber Company, all had contracts with the Water Department. In the 1950s, Seattle voters chose to add fluoride to the city's water supply and charged the Water Department with the task of fluoridating. The election was a close one, however, and debate over the policy lasted into the '70s. In 1997 the Water Department was consolidated with the utilities of the Engineering Department to form Seattle Public Utilities.

Content Description

Miscellaneous reports, writings and statistics regarding the Water Department's history, water system, system safeguards, Cedar River watershed and finances. Also included is a list of lots to be sluiced for the 2nd avenue and Pine street regrade.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle Water Department Reports and Writings , Record Series 8200-16. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

8200-16: Water Department Reports and Writings , 1903-1948

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Financial Records	1903-1912
1/2	Reports - Cedar River Watershed	1932-1940
1/3	Reports and Writings - Water Department History	1913-1939
1/4	Reports - Water System	1925-1927
1/5	Municipal Water Safeguards in the City of Seattle	1931
1/6	Safeguarding Seattle's Water Supply	1930-1948
1/7	Statement of the Condition of the Municipal Lighting and Power Plant	1909
1/8	Water Works Statistics	1904-1911

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/9	Luther B. Youngs Biography and Obituary	1909-1923
1/10	Regrade List, 2nd Ave and Pine St	undated
1/11	Board of Public Works Proceedings List	1926

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Cedar River Watershed (King County, Wash.)

Municipal water supply--Washington (State)--Seattle

Water utilities--Washington (State)--Seattle

Corporate Names :

Seattle (Wash.) Water Dept.

Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Lighting and Water Works

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Finding aid prepared by Janet Ness

2011