



9 MILE CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

2017
ANNUAL COMMUNICATION



*Erin Hunker, the Watershed
District's Newest Board Member*

Managing the Watershed

Five managers, appointed by Hennepin County Commissioners to three-year terms, direct the activities of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. The Board of Managers works with state agencies, Hennepin County and the cities within the District to implement the goals and policies of the approved water management plan set forth in state law. Watershed district activities are funded through property tax levies.

Corrine Lynch, after serving since 1999 on the board of managers, decided not to seek reappointment. Her term expired in September 2017. The District is thankful for Corrine's dedicated service to the District, and for the leadership she provided. Corrine helped hire the first employees of the District, guided the District through updating its water management plans and rules, through the building of its office at Discovery Point, saw the completion of a major streambank restoration project on Nine Mile Creek, and the start of another, along with many other projects that helped improve the District's water resources.

In September, Hennepin County Commissioners reappointed Jodi Peterson to her third term on the board. In addition, the commissioners appointed Erin Hunker to fill the vacant position on the board left by Corrine Lynch. Erin is a professional engineer. She has 15 years of experience in drainage and water resources planning, engineering and design that she brings to the board. Erin is also a volunteer Master Water Steward for the District.



Water Quality Monitoring,
Photo by Barr Engineering

Lake and Creek Monitoring

The District's lake and stream monitoring program collects water quality data from waterbodies across the watershed. In 2017, the District monitored Nine Mile Creek, Glen, Shady Oak, Minnetoga, Lone, Edina, Cornelia, and Normandale Lakes and Carmel Pond. The District's monitoring program provides information and data about the past and present water quality conditions within the watershed. The data collected establishes a reference point for normal water quality conditions, tracks changes, and informs additional studies. The data also allows the District to measure the success of past and ongoing projects that seek to improve the health of District waterbodies. Our monitoring reports are available on our website at: ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/lake-creek-monitoring.



Before and After Restoration on
Reach 1 of Nine Mile Creek

District Projects

EDINA STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT The Edina Streambank Stabilization Project focuses on restoring and stabilizing the banks of Nine Mile Creek through the City of Edina. The project is working on about 3.5 miles of the 5.7 miles of Nine Mile Creek that flow through Edina. The District will use streambank restoration techniques such as realigning the creek channel, native plantings, and rock vanes. The project will result in improved stream health, stabilized stream banks, improved habitat, and the protection of property from erosion.

NORMANDALE LAKE PROJECT The District, in partnership with the City of Bloomington, is evaluating how to improve the health of Normandale Lake. Barr Engineering, the District's engineering consultant, identified four lake management options as potential solutions to address water quality and nuisance plant and algae issues. Originally a shallow wetland, Normandale Lake was built for flood control. Any plans for Normandale Lake must comply with the Army Corps of Engineers permit issued in 1979 for the creation of the lake. The permit contains several special conditions, including restrictions on plant control and dredging in the western portion of the lake. The District and City of Bloomington are currently working with the Corps to determine which management options are allowed under the permit. The District intends to begin a project on Normandale Lake in 2018.

DISCOVERY POINT HABITAT RESTORATION The District has developed a multi-year restoration plan for the five-acre Discovery Point property. The property, where the District's office is located, is heavily infested with invasive buckthorn. Buckthorn removal began in early 2017 on about an acre of the property, with installation of native seed occurring in the spring. Restoration will continue on another section of the property in 2018. The project aims to show different methods of buckthorn control, as well as multiple strategies for replanting. The District will share lessons learned at Discovery Point with others interested in doing their own restorations.

Cost Share Grants

The District gives grants to support community work to keep local waterbodies clean. In 2017, we awarded 19 grants that totaled over \$159,000. Many types of projects are eligible for grant money. Installed projects have included raingardens, shoreline and streambank restorations, habitat restorations, and floating islands. Floating islands are man-made wetlands that reduce nutrients in a waterbody. 2017 was the first-time floating islands were installed in a District water body through the grant program. Learn more about the District's cost share grants and how to apply at: ninemilecreek.org/get-involved/grants.



Floating Island Installed with a
Cost Share Grant

NATURE NOTES: Clean up leaves and trash from the curb by your home this fall—you will help keep these pollutants out of our lakes and streams.

Regulatory Controls and Permitting Program

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers adopted its current rules and regulations in 2008 to protect water resources during construction projects. These rules set thresholds for when a construction project must have a District permit; the permits have protection measures and standards to prevent harm to local lakes and the creek. In a nearly fully developed watershed such as Nine Mile Creek, rules provide consistent standards of protection, and provide treatment to areas that had not been treated before. The District issued 110 permits in 2017, as of the last part of October.

As part of the development of the District's fifth generation Water Management Plan, the District reviewed and revised portions of the rules. This process includes feedback from the District's Technical and Citizen Advisory Committees. The resulting rule changes undergo a required 45 day comment period. After the managers review any received comments, the new rules will go into effect March 1, 2018.

Education and Outreach

The District offers programs and workshops to get everybody involved in protecting our lakes and Nine Mile Creek. In 2017, our public programs reached over 3,600 people. Some of the more popular programs included family fishing and a buckthorn removal workshop. You can find our programs at ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events.

Our partners help make each program successful. This year we partnered with many organizations, including Hennepin County, cities, and local groups such as Let's Go Fishing Eden Prairie. We also partnered with six schools to bring hands-on learning to students in our District.

POPUP EDUCATION CART The District, in partnership with the City of Bloomington, received an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention grant from Hennepin County. The grant funded the creation of a popup education cart, designed by three local artists. The cart traveled around Bloomington and brought hands-on educational activities to park users and residents that taught about protecting local water resources from AIS.

Volunteer Programs

Volunteers play an important role in keeping our waters healthy. In 2017, volunteers cleaned trash out of Nine Mile Creek in Hopkins and removed buckthorn in Eden Prairie. Other volunteers, like the Master Water Stewards, work directly with their neighbors to reduce water pollution in their communities. Our Master Water Stewards program had five participants graduate in 2017, and six more began their training in October. Master Water Stewards' capstone projects (projects such as raingardens) help keep water clean and teach neighbors actions they can take to protect lakes and creeks. Volunteers in the Adopt a Dock program checked Bush and Bryant Lakes for zebra mussels. Adopt a Drain, our newest volunteer program for residents of Bloomington, has already helped keep over 50 storm drains clear of leaves, grass clippings and other debris. Because rain washes anything that's on streets down storm drains and into local lakes and rivers, keeping storm drains clear of debris is an important way that residents can help prevent pollution.



Protection Measure to Prevent
Erosion, Photo by Barr Engineering



Nine Mile Creek Popup
Education Cart



Cleaning up Nine Mile Creek
Photo by E. Husevold



2017
ANNUAL
COMMUNICATION



The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is about 50 square miles and encompasses the land area draining to Nine Mile Creek. We are a public entity that works together with our partners and community stakeholders to manage, protect and enhance the District's water resources for everyone's benefit. We serve the residents, property owners and visitors of the cities in our District: Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Richfield.

Front and back cover photos: Ryan Gottsleben

Find the District on Social Media!

Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn



Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point
12800 Gerard Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
P. 952-835-2078
E. ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org
ninemilecreek.org

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the District office.

Managers, Staff & Consultants

Erin Hunker, Manager / Term Ends: 2020
Steve Kloiber, President / Term Ends: 2019
Jodi Peterson, Vice President / Term Ends: 2020
Grace Sheely, Secretary / Term Ends: 2019
Maressia Twele, Treasurer / Term Ends: 2018
Randy Anhorn (952-835-2078) / Administrator
Erica Sniegowski (952-358-2276) / Education & Outreach Manager
Gael Zembal (952-204-9691) / Education & Outreach Specialist
Louis Smith (612-344-1400) / Legal Advisor
Bob Obermeyer (952-832-2600) / Engineering Advisor