Welcome Volunteers!

Thanks for signing up for our new Volunteer Updates newsletter. This newsletter includes details about an upcoming volunteer training and opportunities for you to get involved with the watershed. We hope you enjoy volunteering with us, as much as we enjoy working with you!

Volunteer Training
Tuesday, April 11
6:30-8:00 PM at Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

Are you interested in volunteering for Nine Mile Creek? Come to a training on Tuesday, April 11 from 6:30-8:00 PM. You'll learn about what it means to be a watershed district volunteer and what opportunities there are to help in the watershed. We'll also discuss your ideas about volunteering.

RSVP on the Volunteer Training event on our website.

Featured Opportunities

Discovery Point Grounds Volunteer

We need help maintaining our landscaping beds. All you need is a couple hours each month during the growing season, and a small amount of plant ID experience. Nine Mile Creek will host a weeding social every month, where volunteers can weed together, and eat snacks on the patio afterwards!

You can find a description and pictures of each bed at the Volunteer.
Opportunities page on our website.
Click on the Sign Up Genius button to sign up for a garden bed by June 9th!

Become a Master Water Steward

Keep lakes and creeks clean in your community!
The watershed is now accepting applications to become a Nine Mile Creek Master Water Steward. The Master Water Stewards program is a volunteer education and outreach program designed to equip citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to help improve water quality at the local level. Stewards take classes every other week from October to April from experts in the fields of hydrology, stormwater management, water policy, community-based social marketing, landscape assessment, and installation of clean water practices. Then, they install a pollution prevention project, and perform other volunteer service in their watershed.

Becoming a Master Water Steward is a great way to connect with like-minded people, protect the environment, and beautify your neighborhood.

Go to www.masterwaterstewards.org to learn more.
### Upcoming Volunteer Events

**Valley Park Clean Up**  
**Sunday, May 7, 2017: 1-4 PM**  
Valley Park, Hopkins *(700 8th St. S, Hopkins)*

Help keep Nine Mile Creek clean! We need volunteers to clean up trash along Nine Mile Creek in Hopkins' Valley Park. How many bags do you think we can fill? The District will have gloves and bags available. Snacks and water will be provided, along with free water bottles.

Register at:  

**Planting Event**  
**Saturday, September 9, 2017: 9 AM-12 PM**  
Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point: *(12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)*

Help us plant 1,000 native plant plugs in the restoration area at Discovery Point. Learn about habitat restoration and native plants, while helping to restore what was once a buckthorn infested area of the property. We’ll provide tools, snacks, and lunch!

Register at:  

**Buckthorn Bust**  
**Saturday, October 28, 2017: 9 AM-12 PM**
Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point: (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)

No experience needed! Come learn how to remove buckthorn, and help us clear a section of the Discovery Point property of this unwanted invasive. We will have some hand tools available, but bring yours as well. Safety equipment, morning snacks and lunch provided!

Register at: https://www.ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/buckthorn-bust/

Snapshot

Our volunteers have lots of fun while helping at Nine Mile Creek programs and events. A former MinnAqua intern helps with a fishing program, and Sea Life employees help keep stormdrains clear of trash and leaves. If you have a great idea for a volunteer event, let us know! Photo Credit: L Xiong and G Zembal.

Find us on Social Media!
Spring Opportunities to Help the Environment

With warmer weather and longer days come more and more volunteer opportunities. Volunteering with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District will help you connect with your neighbors, understand your watershed better, and get you outside and moving! Read on to find out about our Volunteer Training, a good way to get started as a volunteer with the watershed. You will also read about our upcoming volunteer event cleaning up trash at Hopkins' Valley Park.

We hope you will consider volunteering with us this year!
Volunteer Training (rescheduled)

**Wednesday, April 26**
6:30-8:00 PM at Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

Are you interested in volunteering with Nine Mile Creek? Come to this training on Wednesday, April 26th. You'll learn about all the volunteer opportunities with the watershed, and the resources you can check out to make your own volunteer projects a success. You will also learn tips and tricks to effectively interacting with the public as a volunteer.

Master Water Stewards will receive 1.5 hours of CEUs.

RSVP on the Volunteer Training event on our website.

Upcoming Volunteer Events

**Valley Park Clean Up**
**Sunday, May 7, 2017: 1-4 PM**
Valley Park, Hopkins (700 8th St. S, Hopkins)
Help keep Nine Mile Creek clean! We need volunteers to clean up trash along Nine Mile Creek in Hopkins’ Valley Park. How many bags do you think we can fill? The District will have gloves and bags available. Snacks and water will be provided, along with free water bottles.

Register at: www.ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/hopkins-valley-park-clean-up/

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**Featured Opportunities**

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You can find a description and pictures of each bed at the Volunteer Opportunities page on our website. Click on the Sign Up Genius button to sign up for a garden bed by June 9th!

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**Find us on Social Media!**
Tidy streets and healthy lakes: neighborhood leaf cleanups

Little actions can have big impacts, especially if you get your neighbors on board! Whether the Japanese beetles are defoliating your trees early, or you're just excited for fall, it's not too early to think about neighborhood leaf clean ups.

Keeping the gutters clear of leaves protects downstream lakes and creeks, and makes your street look tidy. We can help you get started planning a neighborhood leaf clean up--contact Gael at gzembal@ninemilecreek.org for more information.
Upcoming Volunteer Events

Buckthorn Bust
Saturday, October 28, 2017: 9 AM - 12 PM
Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)

No experience needed! Come learn how to remove buckthorn, and help us clear a section of Discovery Point of this unwanted invasive. We will have some hand tools available, but bring yours as well. Safety equipment, morning snacks and lunch provided!

RSVP here: www.ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/buckthorn-bust/

Featured Opportunities

Become a Master Water Steward!

If you've wanted a way to give back to your community, meet some fun people, and help our environment, this program is for you!

Master Water Stewards learn from top industry professionals and become a force for positive change in their communities.
Visit www.masterwaterstewards.org for more information, and to apply.

Attend an upcoming information session for more details.

Thursday, August 24th: 5:30-6:30
Depot Coffee House (9451 Excelsior Blvd, Hopkins)
Tuesday, September 19th: 5:30-6:30
Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)

View more dates here: masterwaterstewards.org/info-sessions/

Find us on Social Media!

Facebook  Pinterest  Instagram  LinkedIn  Website

Want more District updates?

Subscribe to our e-newsletter, Nine Mile News. You will learn about upcoming events, get updates on District projects, and receive tips on how to keep water clean. Click the button below to subscribe.

Subscribe

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Thank you to all our Volunteers!

State of the Waters Volunteer Recognition
Wednesday, December 13, 2017: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Throughout the year, many dedicated people volunteer their time and energy to improving water quality around our District. If you have volunteered with the District, please join us in celebrating your hard work!
The State of the Waters celebration will take place on Wednesday, December 13th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Eden Prairie Community Center in the Cambria Room (16700 Valley View Road, Eden Prairie). We will have a light dinner and a presentation.

The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP on our website by December 5th: ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/dec13/

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**Successful Buckthorn Bust**

On Saturday, October 28th, over 25 intrepid volunteers braved the chilly weather to cut down buckthorn. Two groups cleared about half an acre of buckthorn, an invasive shrub that chokes out native forest plants. Some of the buckthorn they cut down was over 20 feet tall.

This volunteer buckthorn bust was part of a larger, multi-year restoration plan on the grounds of Discovery Point. This plan aims to demonstrate various buckthorn removal strategies and various methods to replant afterwards. The District will share lessons learned at Discovery Point with others interested in doing their own restorations. To learn more, visit our website: ninemilecreek.org/9-mile-creek-discovery-point/around-discovery-point/restoration/

Stay tuned for a volunteer planting in spring of 2018!

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**Featured Project**

**Master Water Steward Volunteers: a look back at a successful raingarden**

Last summer, three Master Water Steward volunteers helped two neighbors put in a 150 square foot raingarden in Eden Prairie. This garden
captures water off the roof, and soaks it into the ground. Nearly a year later, the plants have grown in nicely, and provide beautiful spring and fall blooms for the residents.

Master Water Stewards learn from industry professionals and become a force for positive change in their communities.

Visit [www.masterwaterstewards.org](http://www.masterwaterstewards.org) for more information, and to apply.