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Winter News

District Updates

Cost Share Grants Available

Cost share grants are available for projects that take place within the Nine Mile Creek watershed. Apply for a grant to install a raingarden, shoreline buffer, or other project that protects or improves the water and natural resources of the District. Applications are due March 20th. [Learn more.](#)

Join us on Wednesday, February 19th from 5:30-6:30 PM at the District office (12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie) to hear about our improved Cost Share Grant application process and to get your project questions answered. No RSVP is needed to attend.





Raingarden installed with a 2019 cost share grant.

Join our team- summer intern position open

We are currently accepting applications for a summer intern. The candidate for this part-time position will enhance their knowledge of watershed management, natural resources and local government, while providing support for the District's education & outreach program and regulatory program. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 28. Learn more and how to apply at: ninemilecreek.org/summer-employment.

High water levels

There is still snow on the ground, but the District is looking ahead to spring and potential flood risk. 2019 was the wettest year on record. It also rounded out the wettest five year period on record. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has [more information](#) about this record setting period. The National Weather Service has updated their [spring flood outlook](#) analyzing the risk factors for significant flooding. While flooding is not certain, river and lake levels are high going into spring, as are soil moisture levels. More factors that influence flooding are yet to be determined, such as how fast the snow will melt and the amount of spring rain.

The District is continuing to provide technical resources to our cities and local partners to help them prepare for the potential of localized flooding events. We will also continue to monitor water levels in our watershed. Watch for additional information and resources in the coming weeks.



Water rushes down Nine Mile Creek during the spring 2019 snowmelt

2020 Photo Contest

Calling all photographers! We are seeking picture of Nine Mile Creek or anything within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants, and outdoor recreation. Winter and spring photos are especially needed. Winners of the photo contest will have their pictures published in the 2021 Nine Mile Creek photo calendar. The calendars are distributed free of charge throughout the watershed. Photos are due by 9/18/20. Learn more at: ninemilecreek.org/photo-contest.





Wing Lake. Photo by John Albers, 2014 photo contest winner

Congratulations to our Volunteers of Distinction



The District is grateful to have the support of talented volunteers. In February, we honored four volunteers for dedication to their volunteer work with the District and their passion for clean water with Volunteer of

Distinction awards. Thank you to them and all our volunteers!

Pictured from left to right: Maria K, Lisa M, Education Coordinator Gael, Ember K, and Jenifer P

Upcoming Events

Cost Share Grant Information Session

Wednesday, February 19, 2020: 5:30 PM

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point ([12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie](#))

Grant funds are available to residents, associations, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within District boundaries. Many types of projects are eligible for grant money, including raingardens, shoreline buffers, permeable pavers, and native restorations. Do you have questions or want to learn more? Attend this Cost Share Information Session to hear a presentation on the program and get your questions answered. No RSVP is required. Cost Share Grant applications are due on March 20, 2020.

For more information visit ninemilecreek.org/get-involved/grants or contact Erica at 952-358-2276.



Snapshot



Discovery Point, the District's office and grounds, were covered in frost on a winter morning.



**Nine Mile Creek
Watershed District**
12800 Gerard Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
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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.



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Signs of Spring

District Updates

Cost Share Grant Applications due on March 20

Cost share grants are available for projects that take place within the Nine Mile Creek watershed. Apply for a grant to install a raingarden, shoreline buffer, or other project that protects or improves the water and natural resources of the District. Applications are due Friday, March 20th by 4 PM. Learn more and apply at: ninemilecreek.org/get-involved/grants.

Don't have time to get an application in this year? The District will have grant funds available again in March 2021.





Raingarden installed with a cost share grant.

Lawns to Legumes accepting applications for fall 2020

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is now accepting applications for the Lawns to Legumes program for fall 2020 projects. This program aims to increase residential habitat for at-risk pollinators across the state by providing residents with workshops, free [planting guides](#), and opportunities to apply for reimbursement for gardening projects. The new application period will remain open through June 2, 2020.

For more information on the program, go to bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l. To apply for a grant, go to bluethumb.org/apply-for-lawns-to-legumes-assistance/



Risk for major flooding has decreased

The National Weather Service has updated their [spring flood outlook](#) analyzing the risk factors for significant flooding. Due to recent dry weather the risk for major to moderate flooding has decreased. However, soils are still very wet and river and lake levels continue to be high. With the amount of spring precipitation unknown, there is still a chance for spring flooding.

The District continues to provide technical resources to our cities and local partners to help them prepare for the potential of localized flooding events. We also continue to monitor water levels in our watershed.

Photos needed!

Calling all photographers! We are seeking picture of Nine Mile Creek or anything within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants, and outdoor recreation for our 2020 photo contest. Winners of the photo contest will have their pictures published in the 2021 Nine Mile Creek photo calendar. The calendars are distributed free of charge throughout the watershed. Photos are due by 9/18/20.

We especially need spring photos, so now is a good time to get out in the watershed and take pictures! Learn more about the contest at: ninemilecreek.org/photo-contest.



Freezing Creek. Photo by Ryan G, 2018 photo contest winner

Adopt a Drain



Protect lakes and creeks in your community by adopting a drain! Volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers, and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt a Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution. To sign up, go to adopt-a-drain.org.

Upcoming Events

[A statement on COVID-19](#)

Due to the rapidly evolving situation surrounding COVID-19, the District continues to assess and monitor the outbreak in order to protect the health and safety of the community, our visitors, volunteers and employees. This includes supporting work-from-home, as needed and appropriate, and reminding everyone of the importance of good hygiene practices. For current updates and information on any cancellations, visit: ninemilecreek.org/covid-19-update/.

Current updates:

District staff will not attend or have a booth at the Eden Prairie Expo on Saturday, March 21 at Grace Church.

More info on COVID-19

Check out the CDC's website [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0501-prevent-covid-19-spread.html) to learn more about how we can all help contain this virus. Most important is that if you have a fever or other cold symptoms, have traveled to any area currently experiencing ongoing community transmission in the last 14 days, or may have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, please stay home.

Hopkins Valley Park Cleanup

Saturday, May 9, 2020: 1-3:30 PM

Valley Park ([700 8th St. S., Hopkins](https://www.hopkinsmn.gov/7008thStS))



Help clean up trash around Nine Mile Creek in Hopkins' Valley Park! Please wear clothing that covers the arms and legs, and closed toe shoes. We encourage you to wear rubber boots, so that you can get to the trash in the wet areas around the creek. Gloves, bags, trash grabbers, and snacks will be provided. RSVP at ninemilecreek.org/hopkins-valley-park-clean-up/

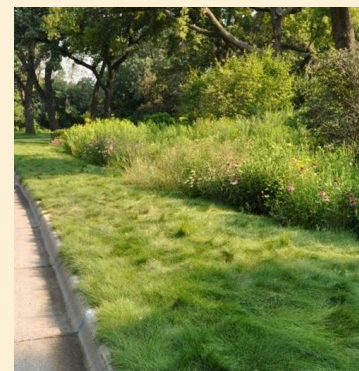
Sustainable Lawns: Fescues and Flowers

[May 28](#) | [June 2](#) | [June 8](#)

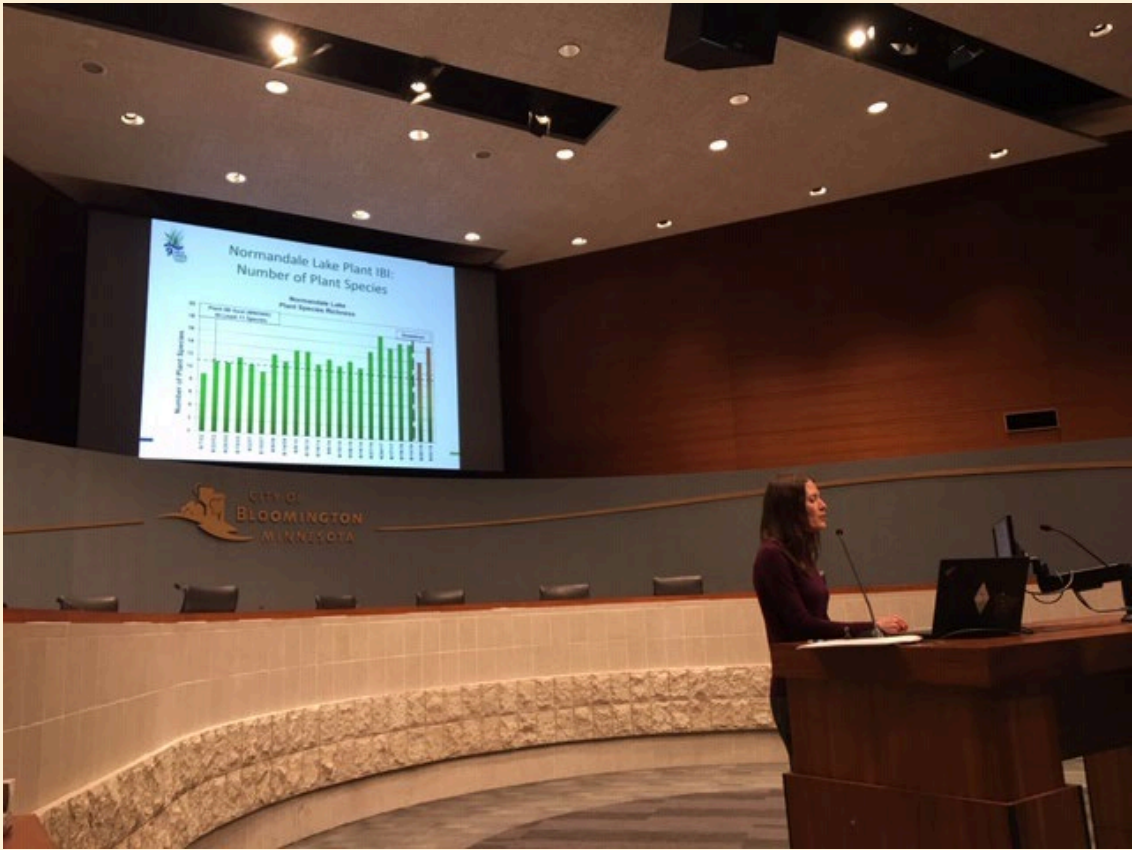
6-7: 30PM

Various locations--click dates for more details and to RSVP!

Join us for an evening workshop and learn how to convert your traditional grass into a no-mow lawn or pollinator lawn. The terms "no-mow" and "low-grow" refer to a type of grass called fine fescues. These species are one of the most shade tolerant turfs, require less water, and little to no mowing. In this practical workshop you'll learn everything from how to assess your current lawn, to selecting the right seed and planting and maintaining a no-mow or pollinator lawn. RSVP by clicking on the dates above, or at ninemilecreek.org/upcoming-events/



Snapshot



The District's engineer presents at the Normandale Lake Community Meeting held at Bloomington Civic Plaza on March 11.



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Normandale Lake Updates

You are receiving this newsletter because you indicated an interest in the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project. Please read on for information about a community meeting, project history, and plans for 2020.

Normandale Lake Community Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 | 6:30-7:30 PM | Bloomington City Council Chambers

Curious about how well the drawdown and alum treatment worked at Normandale Lake? Join the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and City of Bloomington on March 11 from 6:30-7:30 PM to hear past project results, learn more about carp management studies, and hear more about the upcoming herbicide treatment for curly-leaf pondweed in Normandale Lake and upstream areas.

The presentation will take place in the City Council Chambers, inside Bloomington Civic Plaza, at [1800 W Old Shakopee Rd.](#) There will be time for questions after the presentation.

Normandale Water Quality Improvement Project

Project Background

The Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project has worked to address phosphorus levels in the lake and curly-leaf pondweed, an aquatic invasive plant. High phosphorus levels can contribute to algae blooms and water quality concerns. Prior to the project, the lake also had an abundance of curly-leaf pondweed, which can result in limited plant diversity. Excessive curly-leaf pondweed in a lake can also cause late summer algal blooms.

Through the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has been working to address these issues.

Project Steps

Lake Drawdown (2018/2019)

A winter freeze of a lake's sediment bed can kill the reproductive structure of curly-leaf pondweed, called a turion, thus stopping the plant's reproductive cycle. A lake must be drained for this to occur. Managing curly-leaf pondweed to improve water quality and improve native plant diversity was a goal of this step of the project.

In order to drain Normandale Lake, a temporary pump and an existing bypass pipe was used to draw the lake down in late-summer 2018. At the same time, the District installed a larger bypass pipe to maintain the lake drawdown and decrease potential impacts of rainfall or snowmelt events during the drawdown period. The lake was left empty over the winter of 2018-2019. Nine Mile Creek flows through Normandale Lake, so it was a quick process to refill the lake starting in early March 2019.



Normandale Lake with no water in it (drawn down) (2018)

Alum Treatment (2019)

The alum application was conducted on May 7-8, 2019, after the lake was refilled. Alum was applied from a treatment barge. When aluminum is applied to a lake as a solution of alum (aluminum sulfate), it forms an insoluble aluminum hydroxide floc that settles to the lake bottom. The aluminum binds with phosphorus in the sediment to prevent it from recycling back into the water column. Conducting the alum treatment before aquatic plants are reestablished in the lake will allow the aluminum floc to reach the sediment more evenly.



A alum treatment occurs on Normandale Lake (2019)

Curly-leaf Pondweed Herbicide Treatment (2020)

The herbicide treatment will occur in the spring of 2020 to target any remaining curly-leaf pondweed in Normandale Lake. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has developed a Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) for Normandale in response to a request from the District. The LVMP allows for a whole lake herbicide treatment, dependent on the outcome of spring 2020 plant surveys. Either endothall or diquat will be used for the herbicide treatment, which will be decided after the spring plant survey. The LVMP is available at ninemilecreek.org/normandale or via email or mail by contacting the District at esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org.

A contractor will apply the herbicide from a treatment boat or barge. The herbicide treatment may need to occur yearly, for up to five years. The need for herbicide treatment will be assessed yearly based on plant surveys.

Carp Management (ongoing)

A 2018 fish survey indicated that carp were at a level in Normandale Lake where management was recommended. A follow-up fish survey conducted by the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District in 2019 indicated that the drawdown did not impact the number of fish species in the lake. However, the carp population in the lake may have benefited, as was seen in the large number of young carp in the lake in 2019. In addition, 12 carp were radio-tagged for tracking in 2019. In the summary prepared for the District by Carp Solutions, it was reported that carp were leaving Normandale Lake, suggesting that there are carp nurseries outside of the lake. Efforts will continue in 2020 to determine the best methods for carp control in Normandale Lake.



Two young carp were counted during a fish survey on Normandale Lake (2019)

Normandale Lake Monitoring Results

The District continued to monitor Normandale Lake in 2019 to determine the success of the projects at the lake.

The weather conditions during the winter of 2018-2019 when Normandale Lake was drawn down were conducive to a hard freeze of the sediment in the lake. Measurements taken at the beginning of February 2019 showed that the top 15 to 24 inches of the sediment across Normandale Lake was frozen, which was a good indication for seeing successful results from the drawdown.

During 2019, the District conducted follow-up plant surveys, a turion survey, and water quality monitoring. The goal of the turion survey was to determine the level of turions in the lake's sediment following the drawdown. It was found that turions were present at 19 of the 50 sample points, and that there would be variability in the 2020 growing season in how much curly-leaf pondweed would be present at the sites. The plant surveys showed that the drawdown was successful in reducing the amount of curly-leaf pondweed in the lake. These results are in-line with District expectations that the drawdown would manage the curly-leaf pondweed population, and an herbicide treatment would be needed to treat remaining pockets of the invasive plant.

Barr Engineering, the District's engineering firm, is currently preparing the 2019 water quality monitoring report. Look for it soon on our website: ninemilecreek.org/lake-creek-monitoring.

The drawdown did not significantly impact the fish population or number of species in Normandale Lake. A fish survey conducted in 2019 found many young fish, indicating that species, including black crappies

and carp, successfully reproduced after the drawdown was complete. In 2020, the District is continuing to work with Carp Solutions to investigate carp management strategies that are suitable for Normandale Lake. Fish survey reports are available at: ninemilecreek.org/normandale.



Adopt a Drain!

You can help keep Normandale Lake healthy by adopting a storm drain! Volunteer to keep leaves and trash out of a storm drain near your home and protect a lake that you love.

Sign up at adopt-a-drain.org.

District Updates

High Water Levels

There is still snow on the ground, but the District is looking ahead to spring and potential flood risk. 2019 was the wettest year on record. It also rounded out the wettest five year period on record. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has [more information](#) about this record setting period. The National Weather Service has updated their [spring flood outlook](#) analyzing the risk factors for significant flooding. While flooding is not certain, river and lake levels are high going into spring, as are soil moisture levels. More factors that influence flooding are yet to be determined, such as how fast the snow will melt and the amount of spring rain.

The District is continuing to provide technical resources to our cities and local partners to help them prepare for the potential of localized flooding events. We will also continue to monitor water levels in our watershed. Watch for additional information and resources in the coming weeks.





Water rushes down Nine Mile Creek during the spring 2019 snowmelt

Upcoming Events

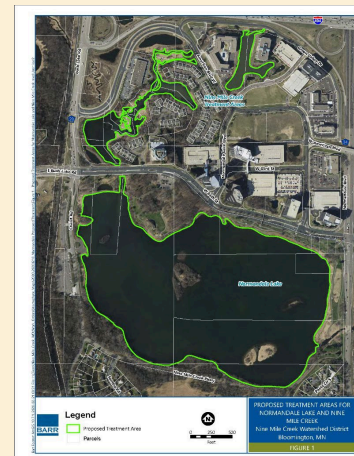
Normandale Lake Community Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2020: 6:30-7:30 PM

Bloomington Civic Plaza (1800 W Old Shakopee Rd.,
Bloomington)

City Council Chambers

Attend this Normandale Lake community meeting to learn about the planned herbicide treatment for curly-leaf pondweed in spring 2020. Hear about the outcomes of the lake drawdown and alum treatment, and find out about plans for carp management. Members of the public are welcome to comment and ask questions on the planned activities.



Subscribe to Nine Mile News!

Would you like more information about District programs, trainings, grants and projects? Subscribe to our e-newsletter, Nine Mile News, by clicking the Subscribe button.

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COVID-19 UPDATE

District Office Closed to Public

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District's response to COVID-19



The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) office will be closed to the public starting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, until further notice. Staff are encouraged to work remotely and will be available via phone and email. If you need to contact a staff member directly, you can find their contact information on our website at: ninemilecreek.org/about-us/our-staff.

The March 18 District board meeting has been rescheduled to **Thursday, March 19 at 5 pm**. Interested public can learn how to access the meeting at: ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/rescheduled-board-meeting.

For all general inquiries, please contact the District's Administrator, Randy Anhorn, at 952-835-2078

or ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org.

We will provide updates as conditions change at: ninemilecreek.org/covid-19-update/. Thank you for your understanding during these times.

Submit permits electronically

NMCWD permitting staff will continue to receive and process permits normally, and continue to provide a high level of customer service.

Permitting materials **should be submitted electronically** while the NMCWD office is closed to the public. Permit fees and the original signed application should be **mailed** to the District (Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Attn: Lauren Foley, 12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie, MN 55346).

Contact Lauren Foley, Permit & Water Resources Coordinator, at 952-204-9690 or lfoley@ninemilecreek.org to submit materials and for general questions or inquiries regarding permits.


Education program update

We have canceled all education events through April 15th, and are not planning on rescheduling any canceled events. We are monitoring the situation closely, and will re-evaluate programming as needed in the coming weeks.

For future events, it is more important now for you to RSVP. That way, if we need to quickly cancel an event, you will be notified without having to check [our website](#) or the [upcoming events](#) page for updates. Contact Education Coordinator Gael Zembal for more details on programming: 952-204-9691 or gzembal@ninemilecreek.org.

Cost Share Grant applications due this Friday 3/20

The cost share deadline has not changed and applications are due by 4 PM on March 20th. Applications will be accepted electronically or by mail. Contact Erica Sniegowski, Program and Project Manager, at 952-358-2276 or esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org to submit a cost share grant application and for general questions or inquiries regarding grants.





Raingarden installed with a Cost Share Grant



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Spring news

District updates

Cost Share Grants Awarded



This month, the Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers awarded Cost Share Grants to successful applicants. Funding was based on recommendations from a subcommittee of the Citizen's Advisory Committee, as well as recommendations from staff and select board members. The Board approved \$145,317.50 in funding, to a variety of applicants, including residential homeowners and townhome associations, and a business, nonprofit and city applicant.

Types of projects approved in this round included raingardens, shoreline buffers, and native habitat

restorations. These projects will help soak water into the ground, prevent pollution to lakes and Nine Mile Creek, and help improve habitat in the watershed.

Thank you to all who applied. We will offer grants again in 2021. The application deadline is Friday, March 19, 2021. Visit our [Grants](#) page for more information.

Nine Mile Creek Precipitation Forecast



The District worked with the National Weather Service to get detailed precipitation forecasts for our watershed. The forecasts are updated every six hours and are made over a seven day period. We will use this data to assist our partners in flood planning and prevention. You can access the forecasts at: weather.gov/mpx/nmc

If you have flooding concerns at your home, the City of Edina recently created [Actions for Flood Resilient Homes fact sheets](#). The fact sheets include common actions to reduce your exposure and vulnerability to flooding at your home.

Project Updates

District Work during Stay at Home Order

On April 8, Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-33, expanding the Stay at Home order to limit the community spread of COVID-19. The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has closed our office, Discovery Point, to the public, and directed staff to work at home to comply with this Executive Order. Board meetings are also being conducted [virtually](#) until further notice. To participate in board meetings, find the meeting under [Upcoming Events](#).

The Board of Managers passed a [resolution](#) that determined certain activities are exempt from this order. The District has found the work to fall within one or more “critical sector” categories described by the executive order and associated guidance. The Board of Managers has directed that such work must be conducted with the minimum possible number of workers necessary for safe and effective completion of the work, and in a manner that conforms to health standards and guidelines related to COVID-19, including standards for social distancing and hygiene.

You can view the description of these critical services and the basis for their exemption [here](#).

Nonprofit Stormwater BMP Project Update



Raingarden installation will begin in May at five nonprofit sites in Bloomington and Edina.

The District identified the five sites through a prioritization and engagement process that began in 2017, which was funded through the [Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment](#), with a match from the District. The District continued to work with the partners throughout the planning and design process. As the installation phase begins, the District, along with Master Water Stewards, will provide information and education about the benefits of raingardens to the organizations' members.

The raingardens will capture and soak in stormwater runoff from the sites. This will reduce the amount of runoff, phosphorus, and sediment that reaches Nine Mile Creek and other local waterbodies, helping to keep these waterbodies clean and healthy. An [Opportunity Grant](#) from Hennepin County will offset capital improvement funds utilized by the District to install the raingardens. For more information, visit our [Project](#) page.

Upcoming Events

Virtual Education Programs

To protect our staff, presenters, and the public, the District will host our events virtually through the end of May. We will continue to assess the situation, and adjust plans for the summer accordingly.

The District will send links to webinars and online presentations via email to those who RSVP. For those without email or reliable internet access, a phone in option for events is also available.

Contact Education and Outreach Coordinator Gael with questions: gzembal@ninemilecreek.org or 952-658-9104.

Adopt a Drain for Earth Day!



Adopt-a-Drain invites Minnesotans to honor Earth Day's 50th birthday by cleaning up their street between April 17th and April 30th. Adopting a storm drain is an easy way to have a positive impact on our environment while maintaining a safe social distance. Find out more at [Clean Water MN](https://www.adopt-a-drain.org/).

Adopt a Drain: Hopkins

Saturday, May 9, 2020: All day

Your neighborhood

In order to practice good social distancing, the May 9th cleanup event at Valley Park in Hopkins is now an Adopt a Drain campaign!

While we will no longer be coming together to clean up Nine Mile Creek in Valley Park, you can still do your part to clean up the creek. On May 9th, go out into your neighborhood and clean a storm drain.

You can still make a difference while social distancing in your neighborhood.

Go to [adopt-a-drain.org/](https://www.adopt-a-drain.org/) to get started.



Sustainable Lawns: Fescues and Flowers

Thursday, May 28, 2020: 6-7:30 PM

Zoom Webinar

Are you tired of mowing your lawn? Looking for a more sustainable option that requires less water? Join us for an evening webinar and learn how to convert your traditional grass into a no-mow lawn or pollinator lawn. The terms "no-mow" and "low-



grow" refer to a type of grass called fine fescues. These species are one of the most shade tolerant turfs, require less water, and little to no mowing.

In this practical webinar you'll learn everything from how to assess your current lawn, to selecting the right seed, planting, and maintaining a no-mow or pollinator lawn. You will have an opportunity to ask the presenter questions in the Q&A at the end.

Register here: ninemilecreek.org/turf1/

Volunteer

Social distance volunteering

If you are looking for ways to stay involved while social distancing, we have opportunities for you!

You can adopt a drain at any time! It's a good way to get out of the house, keep your community clean, and help the environment.

We also have zebra mussel detection kits for people to Adopt a Dock that District staff can deliver after the Stay at Home order is lifted. This is a great way to monitor a local lake for early detection of any new infestations of the invasive zebra mussel. Email Gael for more information.

You can also subscribe to our volunteer updates newsletter to hear about other opportunities throughout the year.

Subscribe to Volunteer Newsletter



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Summer news

District updates

District Work during Stay Safe Minnesota Order

Though restrictions across the state are easing, District work under COVID-19 conditions remains largely unchanged. Staff continue to work remotely as often as possible and remain available via email and phone. Discovery Point, the District's office, is still closed to the public. The Board of Managers will continue to conduct meetings virtually until further notice. To participate in board meetings, find the meeting under [Upcoming Events](#).

The Board of Managers passed a [resolution](#) that determined certain activities as critical sector work. The Board of Managers has directed that such work must be conducted with the minimum possible number of workers necessary for safe and effective completion of the work, and in a manner that conforms to health standards and guidelines related to COVID-19, including standards for social distancing and hygiene.

You can view the description of these critical services and the basis for their exemption [here](#). For more information on the Stay Safe Order, visit the State of MN [website](#).

Welcome back, Megan!

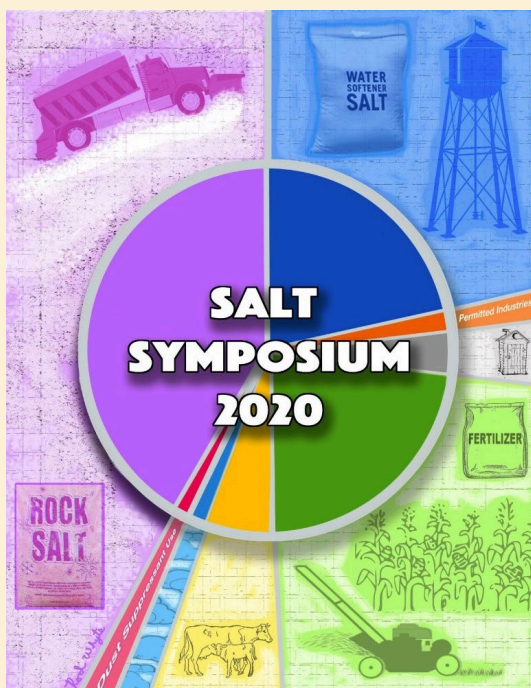


Megan was hired as the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District intern for the summer of 2020.

Last summer, Megan worked as an intern for the District helping lead education events and creating new educational games. Now, Megan is excited to join us again as the education and outreach intern with hopes to continue educating the public on the preservation and restoration of the Districts' land and water resources. With interests in biology, conservation ecology, and education, Megan hopes to become a high school biology teacher after completing college. She currently attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a biology major with an education certificate. After obtaining her bachelor's degree in biology, Megan hopes to attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to complete a master's program in secondary education. Besides working to promote restoration of public waters, Megan enjoys spending time outside and in her art studio.

2020 Road Salt Symposium-August 4 and 5

[Live Streamed](#)



Attend the 2020 Salt Symposium! Click [here](#) to register today!

This year's event, the 20th of its kind, is bolder and broader than ever before to reflect the shifting perspectives on chloride use and its impacts on the environment.

Each day will begin with a keynote speaker- Brooke Asleson, who is *Rolling out the Minnesota Chloride Management Plan*, and Alycia Overbo, presenting her work on *Minnesota's Chloride Sources*.

Day 1 will be new chloride reduction topics: water softening, fertilizers, and dust suppressants.

Day 2 delivers latest developments in winter

maintenance for chloride reduction.

You can find the agenda, a hyperlinked list of sponsors and vendors, and instructions on how to become a sponsor or vendor by visiting fortinconsulting.com/salt-symposium.

Become a GreenCorps member!

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is hosting a MN GreenCorps AmeriCorps member, September 2020 to August 2021. Members can gain experience working to improve water quality, educating the public on environmental issues, reducing greenhouse gases, or training new environmental professionals. MN GreenCorps and its members have educated thousands of volunteers in communities around Minnesota and have made positive impacts on many service projects. **Apply by June 15** at www.pca.state.mn.us/mngreencorps



Minnesota GreenCorps



Project Updates

Lake Cornelia alum treatment



Project Purpose

Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina are shallow lakes with poor water quality that are on the state's impaired waters list for excess nutrients. The project will work to control nutrient levels (phosphorous) in Lake

Cornelia and Lake Edina. Because water flowing out of Lake Cornelia eventually flows into Lake Edina, reducing the amount of nutrients coming out of Lake Cornelia will improve Lake Edina and downstream water resources.

Alum treatment

When aluminum is applied to a lake as a solution of alum (aluminum sulfate), it forms an insoluble aluminum hydroxide floc that settles to the lake bottom. The aluminum binds with phosphorus in the sediment to prevent it from recycling back into the water column. Conducting the alum treatment before aquatic plants are reestablished in the lake allows the aluminum floc to reach the sediment more evenly.

HAB Aquatic Solutions applied the alum from a treatment barge, pictured above. The alum treatment for Lake Cornelia was completed on May 22nd. Go to our [projects](#) page for more information.

Nonprofit Stormwater BMP Project Update



Construction of raingardens at five nonprofit sites in Bloomington and Edina is currently occurring. By installing raingardens, like this one at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, we are helping protect water quality in Nine Mile Creek and local lakes. To find out more, visit our [projects](#) page.

Upcoming Events

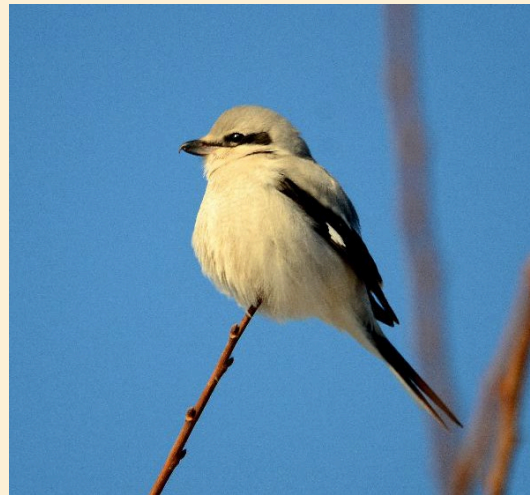
Nature Photography Basics

Tuesday June 16, 2020: 7-8 PM

Webinar

Join this webinar to learn the basics of photographing nature and the wildlife around us! Dick Bergstrom will guide you through composition details such as lighting and the Rule of Thirds, as well as how to capture those tricky wildlife shots. After the presentation, you will be prepared to take your camera or phone out into the watershed and capture the beauty of nature. This class is just in time for you to enter the pictures you take into our [photo contest!](#)

Register at ninemilecreek.org/nature-photography/



Writing Nature Nearby

Tuesday, July 21, 2020: 6:30-7:30 PM

Webinar



Author Amber Stoner will lead a session on writing using nature as inspiration! No writing experience necessary.

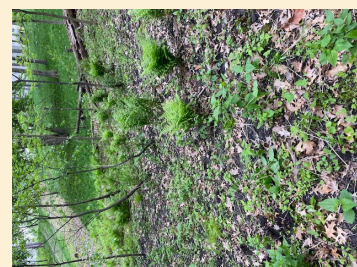
The webinar will end around 7:15 to give you time to go outside and practice what you've learned! The presenter will also be available for a live Q&A after the presentation.

RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/writing-nature-nearby/

Volunteer Spotlight

Social distance volunteering

Our volunteers are still hard at work (in a safe, socially distanced way) improving habitats and protecting water! Ember, Bob P and Bob C have been clearing invasive buckthorn, garlic mustard, and narrow-leaved bittercress from a section of trail in Eden Prairie for nearly four years. Together with a crew of Master Water Stewards, they cleared well over 30 bags of garlic mustard just this spring!



Because of their hard work and dedication, many native plants have begun to grow in this area again, including ferns, jack-in-the-pulpit, and native cherry trees. In partnership with the District and the City of Eden Prairie, a native seed mix will be spread this fall.

Clean Water Tip



Sweep up the clippings

Grass clippings may seem like the unimportant aftermath of mowing your lawn, but incorrect disposal of grass clippings can harm lakes and creeks, and nearby wildlife. Although it is a common practice to leave lawn clippings in the street or to bag clippings after mowing, there are easier and healthier methods to handle grass clippings. In fact, the best place for grass clippings is on your lawn! If they fall into the curb, sweep or blow them back up into your lawn. This practice can naturally nourish your grass, and reduce the need for fertilizer.

Snapshot



A fawn takes some wobbly first steps watched over by its mother at Discovery Point's outdoor seating area. Angie D found this little frog enjoying one of the signs at Discovery Point.

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

12800 Gerard Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
P. 952-835-2078

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



ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org
ninemilecreek.org



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Summer news

District updates

Submit photos to our Photo Contest



We are seeking pictures of Nine Mile Creek or any natural scene within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants, and outdoor recreation.

Winners of the contest will have their photos published in the 2021 Nine Mile Creek Photo Calendar. The

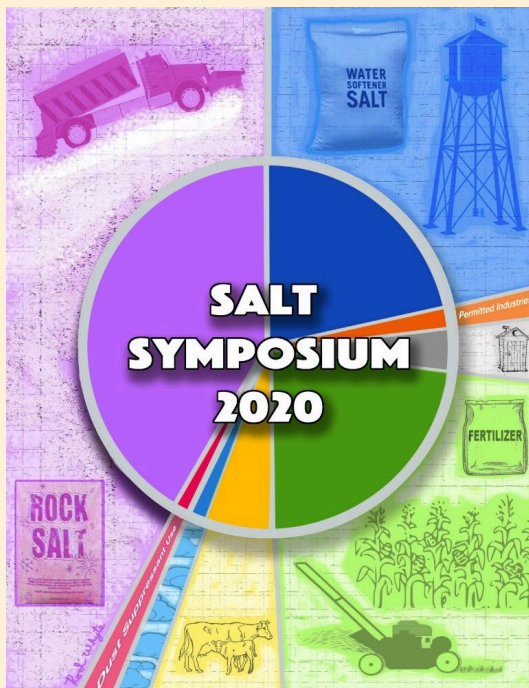
calendars are distributed free of charge throughout the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Judging of photographs will be completed by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and its Citizen Advisory Committee. Approximately 25 photos will be selected for the calendar. We will notify winners by mid November 2020, and credit winners in the 2021 calendar.

The deadline to submit is September 18, 2020. For rules and entry form, visit: ninemilecreek.org/photo-contest/

2015 Winner: Wing Lake by J Albers

2020 Road Salt Symposium-August 4 and 5

Live Streamed



Attend the 2020 Salt Symposium! Click [here](#) to register today!

This year's event, the 20th of its kind, is bolder and broader than ever before to reflect the shifting perspectives on chloride use and its impacts on the environment.

Each day will begin with a keynote speaker- Brooke Asleson, who is *Rolling out the Minnesota Chloride Management Plan*, and Alycia Overbo, presenting her work on *Minnesota's Chloride Sources*.

Day 1 will be new chloride reduction topics: water softening, fertilizers, and dust suppressants.

Day 2 delivers latest developments in winter maintenance for chloride reduction.

You can find the agenda, a hyperlinked list of sponsors and vendors, and instructions on how to become a sponsor or vendor by visiting fortinconsulting.com/salt-symposium.

Project Updates

Goldfish study in Lake Cornelia system



Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina are shallow lakes with poor water quality that are on the state's impaired waters list for excess nutrients. The District is working on projects to control nutrient levels (phosphorous) in Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina. Because water flowing out of Lake Cornelia eventually flows into Lake Edina, reducing the amount of nutrients coming out of Lake Cornelia will improve Lake Edina and downstream water resources.

An alum treatment was conducted in late May to reduce phosphorous levels in Lake Cornelia. Unfortunately, Lake Cornelia also has an infestation of goldfish. The lake is surrounded by potential nursery lakes. Goldfish are not native to Minnesota. When released to lakes and creeks, goldfish are destructive to native species and their habitats. They stir up the bottom sediment when they eat, increasing the cloudiness of the water, releasing nutrients that fuel algae growth, and impacting aquatic plant growth. Goldfish can survive in low oxygen conditions and can tolerate larger fluctuations in water temperature than native fish. This allows them to thrive and out-compete native fish species in certain conditions, reducing the biodiversity of the water body.

With the support of a grant from Hennepin County, the District is conducting a study to track movement of the goldfish to better understand their mobility, spawning patterns and likelihood to travel/spread within a lake system. We are currently collecting a sample of goldfish to attach antennae to, before releasing them, so that we can track their movements. Finally, a goldfish removal method will be tested to determine effectiveness of stopping goldfish spread.

Nonprofit Stormwater BMP Project Update



Four out of the five raingarden basins at the nonprofit sites have been planted. The fifth will be planted soon. These raingardens will help catch and slow water flowing off of hard surfaces. The water will then filter into the ground slowly, cleaning the water. To find out more, visit our [projects](#) page.

Planted raingarden at St. Luke's Lutheran Church & Mt. Olivet Rolling Acres in Bloomington.

Upcoming Events

Writing Nature Nearby

Tuesday, July 21, 2020: 6:30-7:30 PM

Webinar



Let's turn our attention to the flora, fauna and landscapes nearby us. To capture our impressions in writing, Amber Stoner will lead a session on how to use writing prompts to look closer, to interact with nature, and to write freely on the page. This webinar will help you deepen your sense of place and strengthen your relationship to nature nearby. No writing experience necessary.

The webinar will end around 7:15 to give you time to go outside and practice what you've

learned! The presenter will also be available for a live Q&A after the presentation.

RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/writing-nature-nearby/

Cost Share Grant Information Session

Thursday, August 27, 2020: 6:30-8 PM

Webinar

Grant funds are available to residents, associations, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within District boundaries. Many types of projects are eligible for grant money. A few examples include: raingardens, shoreline restoration, permeable pavers, native restoration, and more!

Do you have questions or want to learn more? Attend this online Cost Share Information Session to hear a presentation on the program and get your questions answered. The next time Cost Share Grant applications will be accepted is in March 2021.



RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/cost-share-information-session/

Clean Water Tip



Don't release aquarium pets!

Nearly all of our lakes and ponds are connected. What gets released into one pond can travel and spread to another. If you have an aquarium animal or plant that you no longer want, contact a retailer or vet to find out how to safely and humanely get rid of it. It is illegal to release most non-native species, including goldfish, into the wild in Minnesota.

The District has identified an infestation of goldfish in Lake Cornelia in Edina, which is surrounded by potential nursery lakes. We received a \$20,000 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention grant from Hennepin County in 2020 to research goldfish in the Lake Cornelia system. Researchers will tag 500 goldfish and determine how the fish migrate and use the data to develop a management strategy. Education will also play a major role in this project.

For more information on aquarium pets, and re-homing events, visit habitattitude.net/my-interest/aquarium-fish/

Snapshot



Thanks to Master Water Steward Marcie H for capturing this shot of our intern and WSB staff on Lake Nancy! They are electrofishing: sending light shocks into the water to stun fish, which they catch with long nets. They then measure the fish and insert a tracking device in them, and release them back into the water.

The restoration at Discovery Point is blooming with a profusion of wild bergamot flowers!



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Summer news

District updates

Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina Recreational Water Advisory



August 26, 2020

The public is advised to have no contact with the water in Lake Cornelia or Lake Edina.

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) has confirmed that there are high numbers of blue-green algae in Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina. High levels of blue-green algae are a concern because this type of algae can produce algal toxins, which can pose a health threat for pets and people. The NMCWD is urging residents to stay out of the water and keep pets away from the water, as well.

Analyses of water samples that the NMCWD took from Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina in mid-August indicate blue-green algae numbers that exceed the World Health Organization (WHO) threshold for moderate probability of adverse health impacts from algal toxins. The NMCWD will collect another sample from Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina in two weeks. The NMCWD will release updated information at ninemilecreek.org/lake-cornelia-recreational-water-advisory on algal levels when it is available following the sampling event.

Now is the time of year where blue-green algae blooms start to appear throughout the metro area. Always remember, when in doubt, best keep out. The District is on the look-out for suspected blue-green algae blooms in the lakes that are part of its yearly monitoring program. If you suspect a blue-green algae bloom, you can email pictures of the suspected bloom to algae.mpca@state.mn.us.

For more information on harmful algae blooms, you can also call the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at 651-757-2822 or 800-657-3864. In addition, report human health effects to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) [Foodborne and Waterborne Illness Hotline](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hab/index.html) at 1-877-366-3455. For health questions, citizens can contact MDH's Waterborne Diseases Unit at 651-201-5414 or visit the [MDH's Harmful Algal Bloom web page](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hab/index.html).

Additional information on blue-green algae and harmful algal blooms is available at:

WWW.PCA.STATE.MN.US/WATER/BLUE-GREEN-ALGAE-AND-HARMFUL-ALGAL-BLOOMS

WWW.HEALTH.STATE.MN.US/DISEASES/HAB/INDEX.HTML

Submit photos to our 2020 Photo Contest



We are seeking pictures of Nine Mile Creek or any natural scene within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants, and outdoor recreation.

The deadline to submit photos is September 18, 2020. For rules and an entry form, visit: ninemilecreek.org/photo-contest/

Winners of the contest will have their photos published in the 2021 Nine Mile Creek Photo Calendar. The calendars are distributed free of charge throughout the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Judging of photographs will be completed by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and its Citizen Advisory Committee. Approximately 25 photos will be selected for the calendar. We will notify winners by mid November 2020, and credit winners in the 2021 calendar.

2019 Photo Contest Winner: Fishing by Aldo A

Come tour Nine Mile Creek!



Click the picture to go on a virtual tour of Nine Mile Creek! Watershed district staff filmed a video tour, following the creek as it winds its way through the cities of Hopkins, Minnetonka, Edina, Eden Prairie, and Bloomington.

Project Updates

Rosland Park Stormwater Filtration Project



The City of Edina and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District have entered into a cooperative agreement to begin installing a filtration project in Rosland Park in Edina.

The new project going in at Rosland Park aims to help clean up Lake Cornelia. Much of the water that flows into Lake Cornelia first comes off of hard surfaces, and carries a great deal of phosphorous, as well as other pollution. Phosphorous is a nutrient essential to plant growth, but too much of it in a lake can cause unwanted algae growth. The project in Rosland Park aims to filter some of that phosphorous out of the water before it enters Lake Cornelia, and make the lake healthier.

The rendering pictured here shows what the finished filtration structure may look like. Water from Swimming Pool Pond will be pumped through this vault, instead of going directly into Lake Cornelia. Inside the vault, water will pass through different types of filter material to remove phosphorous. Then, the cleaner water will be pumped into Lake Cornelia. Water levels will be continuously monitored, not only in Lake Cornelia and Swimming Pool Pond, but also in lakes connected to this system, like Lake Otto, and pumping will stop when levels dip below a certain point.

You can view a video explanation of this project by clicking the picture, or on our YouTube channel, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rktCgKjXbsw>

Upcoming Events

Cost Share Grant Information Session

Thursday, August 27, 2020: 6:30-8 PM

Virtual Meeting

Grant funds are available to residents, associations, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within District boundaries. Many types of projects are eligible for grant money. A few examples include:

raingardens, shoreline restoration, permeable pavers, native restoration, and more!

Do you have questions or want to learn more? Attend this online Cost Share Information Session to hear a presentation on the program and get your questions answered. Changes to our restoration grants will also be explained during the info session. The next time Cost Share Grant applications will be accepted, with the exception of habitat restoration grants, is in March 2021.



RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/cost-share-information-session/

MPCA Smart Salting Training

Wednesday, September 2, 2020: 9 AM - 2 PM

Live Webinar



This training offers information about best practices for managing snow and ice on parking lots and sidewalks. These practices will help you save money, time, and the environment. Training is free.

RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/smart-salting-parking-lot-sidewalk/

Training Topics:

- Material Selection
- Application Rates
- Equipment Calibration
- Deicing & Anti-icing
- Practical Tips
- New Maintenance Methods

Public Hearing/Special Board Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2020: 5:30 PM

[Virtual Meeting](#)

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers will convene a special meeting for the

purpose of holding a public hearing on its proposed 2021 budget and levy, act on a permit, to get an update on the District's current high-quality wetland inventory analysis study and a demonstration on the District's new MS4Front Permit and Cost-Share Grant Software. The link to join is posted here: ninemilecreek.org/public-hearing/

Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2020: 7-9 PM

[Virtual Meeting](#)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District President has determined that an in-person meeting of the Board of Managers is not prudent or practical. The Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers will hold their monthly meeting remotely on September 16 at 7pm. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by accessing the web-based conference, or by phone (conference call). Link will be posted here as the date gets closer: ninemilecreek.org/board-meeting/

CAC Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2020: 6-8 PM

[Virtual Meeting](#)

The Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet virtually on September 24th to discuss education and outreach initiatives, as well as photo contest entries. CAC meetings are open to the public.

Blue-green algae: when in doubt, best keep out



It's the time of year where blue-green algae blooms start to appear throughout the metro area. Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are a natural part of our freshwater systems, but these algae blooms can become harmful to people and pets.

During a blue-green algae bloom, the water may look like it has spilled green paint on the surface. While not all blue-green algae blooms are harmful, some blue-green algae blooms can secrete toxins that are harmful to people and pets. Harmful algae blooms are most likely to occur during warm weather in shallow, nutrient-rich lakes. You and your pets can become sick if you have contact with, inhale airborne water, or swallow water that contains blue-green algal toxins. So, it is best to avoid contact with lakes with potential blue-green algae blooms. Remember, when in doubt, best keep out.

What if I suspect a blue-green algae bloom?

If you suspect a blue-green algae bloom email pictures of the suspected bloom to algae.mpca@state.mn.us. For more information on harmful algae blooms, you can also call the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at 651-757-2822 or 800-657-3864. In addition, report human health effects to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) [Foodborne and Waterborne Illness Hotline](#) at 1-877-366-3455. For health questions, citizens can contact MDH's Waterborne Diseases Unit at 651-201-5414 or visit the [MDH's Harmful Algal Bloom web page](#).

How you can help!

To help prevent algae blooms, limit the amount of nutrients entering your lake. Pollutants like grass clippings, leaves, and fertilizer can enter lakes through storm drains or direct runoff and fuel algae blooms. Keeping these pollutants off the street and cleaning them up from around storm drains helps reduce the

amount of nutrients entering a lake that fuel algae blooms. If you live on a lake, make sure you don't mow to the edge of the lake and consider installing a shoreline buffer. This will help reduce runoff and pollutants from entering the waterbody. You can even get a grant from the District to help install a shoreline buffer! Learn more about the importance of keeping storm drains clean, and adopt a drain near your home, at <https://adopt-a-drain.org/>.

Snapshot



Thank you to our intern, Megan, for all her hard work this summer. We recently celebrated her last week with the District with a socially distanced lunch. Megan helped update our outreach materials, including new lake fact sheets that will be debuting soon. She also helped inspect cost share grant projects and monitor goldfish in Lake Nancy.

Watch for our new Nine Mile Creek crossing signs when you are out and about. We are replacing some of the old, green creek crossing signs and adding signs to new locations to give the creek more visibility!



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Fall news

District updates

Cost Share Grants Changes



Did you know the District now offers two types of [Cost Share Grants](#)? You can apply for either a Habitat Restoration grant or a Stewardship grant.

Habitat Restoration Grants

Habitat restoration restores native plant communities in an area where native plants have been degraded or removed. Invasive plant removal is not eligible for funding but may be used as the grant match. These grants require a 50% grant match.

The deadlines to apply for this type of grant are July 22, 2021, and October 21, 2021.

Funding limits and other information is available at: ninemilecreek.org/get-involved/grants/restoration-grants/

Stewardship Grants

Stewardship grants prevent stormwater pollution to our lakes and Nine Mile Creek, along with other benefits. There are many kinds of projects that qualify for these grants including raingardens, shoreline buffers, permeable pavers, green roofs, and chloride reduction projects. These grants require a 25% match.

The deadline for this grant type is March 19, 2021.

Funding limits and other information is available at: ninemilecreek.org/get-involved/grants/stewardship-grants/

Welcome Managers Kvam and Hunker



In early October, Erin Hunker was reappointed to the Board, and Peggy Kvam was appointed to fill a vacancy. As a MN Water Steward volunteer and a former Citizen Advisory Committee member, Manager Kvam has years of experience with the District. In addition, she has served the community in many capacities, including as a Board Member for the League of Women Voters and as a Minnetonka Park Board member. We are happy to welcome Manager Kvam and to have Manager Hunker join us for a second term.

Peggy Kvam, the District's newest Board Manager

Seeking Citizen Advisory Committee Members

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is accepting applications to fill vacant positions on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is a volunteer advisory group that supports the watershed district in its mission to manage, restore, and protect water resources.

Priority application deadline: by 5 PM on Friday, December 4, 2020.

CAC members must live within the district.

Apply here: ninemilecreek.org/about-us/citizen-advisory-committee/



Become a Jr. Watershed Explorer



We are looking for young naturalists to become Junior Watershed Explorers! In this self-guided program, you will explore the Nine Mile Creek Watershed, complete fun indoor and outdoor educational activities, and learn about your relationship with water. Best for grades 3-8.

Complete the activity booklet to earn your free Junior Watershed Explorer sticker and water bottle! Click the button below, or fill out this form to have a free copy (or copies) mailed to you.

ninemilecreek.wufoo.com/forms/jr-watershed-booklet-request-form/

Mail me the booklet!

State of the Waters Save the Date

State of the Waters and Calendar Release scheduled virtually for January 6, 2021



The 2021 Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Photo Calendar will be officially debuted on January 6, 2021, at our State of the Waters event. Thank you to everybody who submitted pictures to our photo contest, and we look forward to recognizing the winning photographers.

RSVP at: ninemilecreek.org/state-of-waters/

Thank you!

Thank you also to the members of the Citizen Advisory Committee who helped select the winning pictures.

Want to be part of the fun?

Take a video of you and your immediate family saying "we are the watershed!" and send it to Gael at gzembal@ninemilecreek.org and you will be featured in our video at the State of the Waters event!

Adopt a Drain

Track your impact and protect lakes and creeks!



Despite the snow, it's not too late to adopt a drain in your neighborhood! to find which ones need adopting, go to adopt-a-drain.org.

TRACK YOUR IMPACT!

If you have adopted a drain already, thank you! Please take a minute to tell us how much debris you've picked up from the streets and sidewalks around your drains. You don't need to be precise; your best guesstimate will be fine.

IT'S EASY TO REPORT THE DEBRIS YOU COLLECT

1. Log into to your account at adopt-a-drain.org
2. Click on "track impact"
3. Estimate the total amount you've collected from all of your drains since you last reported.

You can report the estimated debris in pounds or gallons. Thanks so much for your participation in Adopt-a-Drain. Working together, we can protect and improve the quality of our water.

If you have any questions, please email us: adoptadrain@hamline.edu

Upcoming Events

Kiss the Ground Documentary Screening

Thursday, December 10, 2020: 6:30-8 PM

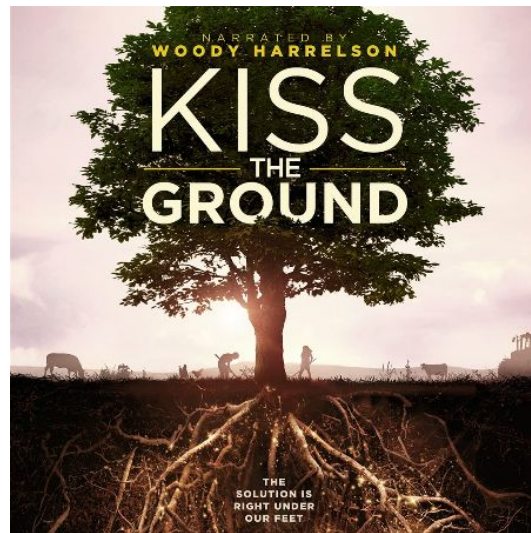
Virtual Streaming

From *Kiss the Ground* website:

Kiss the Ground reveals that, by regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and

visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle.

RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/movie-night/



Upcoming Board Meetings

Wednesday, November 18, 2020: 7-9 PM

Wednesday, December 16, 2020: 7-9 PM

[Virtual Meeting](#)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District President has determined that an in-person meeting of the Board of Managers is not prudent or practical. The Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers will hold their monthly meeting remotely on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by accessing the web-based conference, or by phone (conference call).

Link will be posted, when available, at: ninemilecreek.org/board-meeting/

CAC Meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2020: 6-8 PM

[Virtual Meeting](#)

The Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet virtually on November 19th to discuss education and outreach initiatives. CAC meetings are open to the public.

Interested in joining the CAC? Check [our website](#) for more information and to get an application!

State of the Waters and Photo Calendar Release

Wednesday, January 6, 2021: 6:30-7:30 PM

[Virtual Gathering](#)

Celebrate the release of the 2021 Photo Calendar at this years' State of the Waters event! We'll celebrate photographers and the work we accomplished for clean water in 2020. Even though we had to be physically distant, we were able to stay connected through our volunteers, clean water projects, and communications.

RSVP on our website: ninemilecreek.org/state-of-waters/

Going above and beyond to reduce salt: Hillcrest

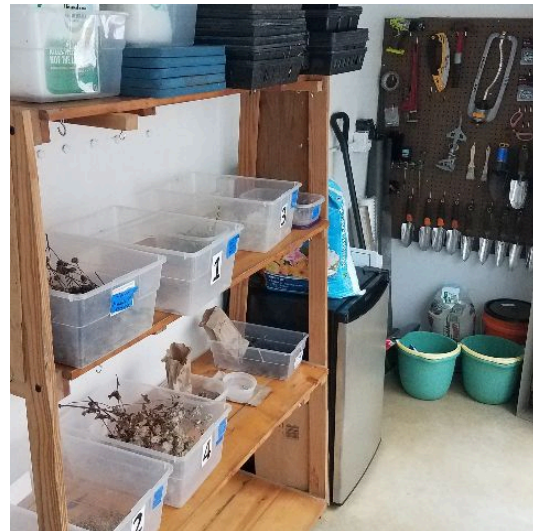
Development, LLLP



Hillcrest Development, LLLP manages the Pentagon North and Pentagon Village properties in Edina, among others. Redevelopment and improvements at these sites required them to get a permit from the District; as part of this process, they needed to create a Chloride Management Plan. However, Hillcrest Development went above and beyond the plan requirements and have begun an outreach campaign to include all their tenants in reducing salt use. They created flyers and mugs to inform tenants about how they can all help reduce salt. The flyers will be posted above their salt buckets and distributed to tenants, as well.

This is a great way for multi-tenant properties to encourage salt reduction. Way to go Hillcrest Development! Learn more about how you can reduce your own salt use at your home or business at: ninemilecreek.org/salt-reduction/

Snapshot



In late September, volunteers and staff prepped and seeded the Cardinal Creek trail in Eden Prairie. What had once been choked with buckthorn will soon be a diverse mix of native grasses and flowers! Photo by Ember K. Our MN GreenCorps member has been working on a seed propagation lab in the greenhouse at Discovery Point.



Watershed District

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Winter news

District updates

2021 Photo Calendars Available!



The long awaited photo calendars have arrived! Every other year, we hold a photo contest and members of the community submit their favorite photos of the watershed. Staff and Citizen Advisory Committee choose the pictures, and then we print them up into this beautiful calendar. Thank you so much to the photographers who submitted pictures. Look for our annual

communication in the calendar, and a special e-newsletter with the annual communication at the end of December. We will be honoring the photographers that have photos in the calendar at our State of the Waters celebration on January 6, 2021.

While supplies last, copies are available for in person pickup at these locations. Please check their hours and COVID procedures before you go.

Edina Library: 5280 Grandview Sq, Edina

Hopkins Library: 22 11th Ave N, Hopkins

Penn Lake Library: 8800 Penn Ave S, Bloomington

Oxboro Library: 8801 Portland Ave S, Bloomington

Eden Prairie City Center: 8080 Mitchell Rd, Eden Prairie

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point: 12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie (office foyer open 8:30 AM–3:30 PM, Mon–Fri, closed on holidays)

You can also request up to two free calendars mailed to your home with this link or the button below: ninemilecreek.wufoo.com/forms/2021-photo-calendar-request-form/

Mail me a calendar

Become a Jr. Watershed Explorer



Need a winter activity for the kids in your life? Request a free activity booklet, so they can become Junior Watershed Explorers! In this self-guided program, kids will explore the Nine Mile Creek Watershed, complete fun indoor and outdoor educational activities, and learn about their relationship with water. Best for grades 3–8.

Complete the activity booklet to earn a free Junior Watershed Explorer sticker and water bottle! Click the button below, or use this link to have a free copy (or copies) mailed to you. ninemilecreek.wufoo.com/forms/jr-watershed-booklet-request-form/

Request a booklet

Seeking Citizen Advisory Committee Members

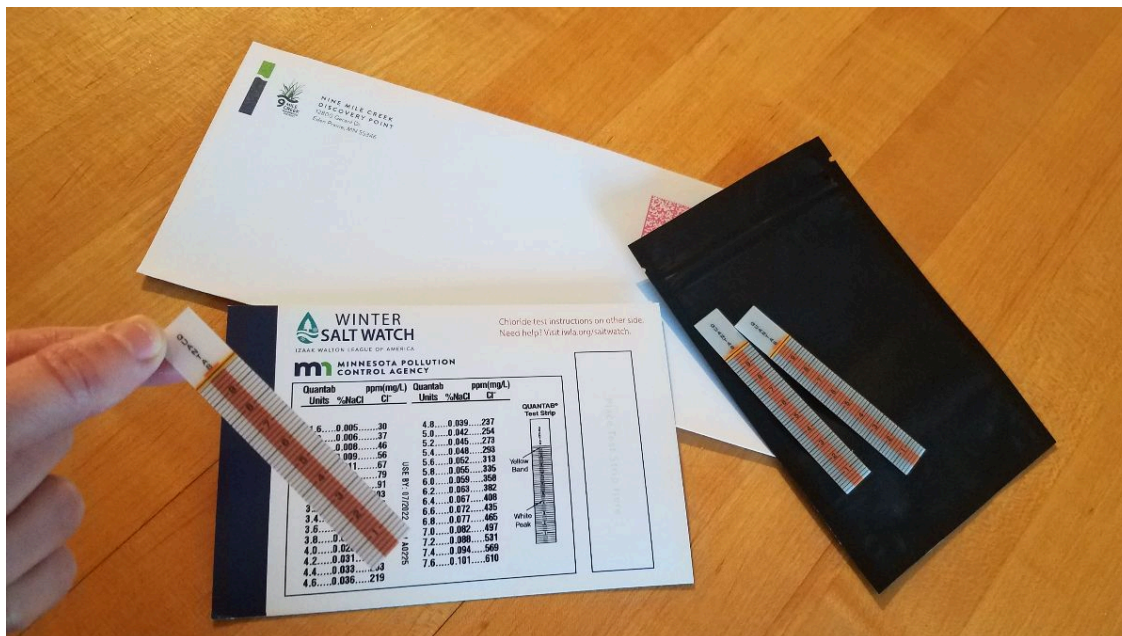
The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is accepting applications to fill vacant positions on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is a volunteer advisory group that supports the watershed district in its mission to manage, restore, and protect water resources. CAC members must live within the

Apply here: ninemilecreek.org/about-us/citizen-advisory-committee/



Citizen Advisory Committee members help at programs (pre-COVID)

Salt Watch Volunteers Needed



Chloride is a permanent pollutant. Once it is in our waterbodies it is virtually impossible to get out, and it only takes one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. Become a Winter

Salt Watch Volunteer, and together we can work to reduce chloride pollution!

This program was created in partnership with Izaak Walton League of America.

[Order a chloride test kit](#)

State of the Waters–Join us!

State of the Waters celebration scheduled virtually for January 6, 2021



Even though we had to be physically distant, we stayed connected through our volunteer works, water projects, and communications. That is what inspired the theme of this year's event, "We are the watershed!" Tune in as we celebrate all the projects and successes of 2020 with a few short videos and live presentations. We will also be recognizing photographers whose pictures appear in the 2021 photo calendar.

January 6, 2021 | 6:30–7:00PM

RSVP to receive the link for the virtual event at: ninemilecreek.org/state-of-waters/

Thank you!

Thank you also to the members of the Citizen Advisory Committee who helped select the winning pictures.

Want to be part of the fun?

Take a video of you and your immediate family saying "we are the watershed!" and send it to Gael at gzembal@ninemilecreek.org and you will be featured in our video at the State of the Waters event!

Upcoming Events

State of the Waters and Photo Calendar Release**Wednesday, January 6, 2021: 6:30–7:00 PM****Virtual Gathering**

Celebrate the release of the 2021 Photo Calendar at this years' State of the Waters event! We'll celebrate photographers and the work we accomplished for clean water in 2020. Even though we had to be physically distant, we stayed connected through our volunteers, clean water projects, and communications.

RSVP to receive the link to the virtual event at: ninemilecreek.org/state-of-waters/

MPCA Smart Salting Parking Lots and Sidewalks Training**Wednesday, January 20, 2021: 9 AM – 2:30 PM****Live Virtual Training****Cost \$25 per device**

Get certified by the MPCA as a Smart Salter! This training offers information about best practices for managing snow and ice on parking lots and sidewalks. These practices will help you save money, time, and the environment.

All those who manage snow and ice and apply salt should attend this training. This training is hosted in partnership with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District.

RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/smart-salting-parking-lot-sidewalk/

**MPCA Smart Salting for Property Managers****Wednesday, February 3, 2021: 9 AM – 1 PM****Live Virtual Training****Cost \$25 per device**

This training is geared towards property managers, or those who hire winter maintenance contractors. Topics covered include impacts of salt, educating your workforce, legal issues, and communicating with property users among other topics.

Participants who pass the optional test can earn the MPCA Smart Salting for Property Managers Certification.

RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/mpca-salt-property-managers/

Cost Share Grant Info Session**Thursday, February 11, 2021: 5:30–7 PM****Live Virtual Meeting**

Stewardship and habitat restoration grants are available to fund projects that protect or improve water and natural resources within the District. Grant funds are available to residents, associations,

nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within District boundaries.

Do you have questions or want to learn more? Attend this online Cost Share Information Session to hear a presentation on the program, learn more about the two new grant tracks (stewardship grants and restoration grants), and get your questions answered.

RSVP to get a link to the virtual info session: ninemilecreek.org/cost-share-information-session/

Upcoming Board Meetings

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 : 7-9 PM

Wednesday, February 17, 2021: 7-9 PM

[Live Virtual Meeting](#)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District President has determined that an in-person meeting of the Board of Managers is not prudent or practical. The Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers will hold their monthly meeting remotely on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by accessing the web-based conference, or by phone (conference call).

Link will be posted, when available, at: ninemilecreek.org/board-meeting/

Stewardship Grant Application Deadline

March 19, 2021

Stewardship cost share grants help homeowners, associations, businesses, schools, and other organizations install projects that prevent stormwater pollution to our lakes and Nine Mile Creek. Examples of projects include raingardens, shoreline buffers, and permeable pavers. Find more info at: ninemilecreek.org/get-involved/grants/stewardship-grants/

Cost Share Grant Spotlight: Cream and Amber



Raingarden and permeable paver patio at Cream and Amber in Hopkins after installation in 2019

After one and a half years, the permeable paver patio and rain garden installation at Cream and Amber coffee shop in Hopkins continues to thrive. Both the garden and pavers capture rain water and pollutants before they get into storm drains that lead to Nine Mile Creek. Cream and Amber received a cost share grant from the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District in 2019 for the installation of these practices that help keep our local water resources clean.

From Cream and Amber owners, Katie and Kacey— "The patio provides a space for customers to sit outside and enjoy meeting with friends or reading a good book, while also collecting precipitation after a rainstorm. We're also excited to have native plants in the raingarden that bring a part of the natural Minnesota landscape to the suburbs of Minneapolis."

Grant funds are available to residents, associations, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within the boundaries of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Learn more about the types of grants available at: ninemilecreek.org/grants

Snapshot



Check out our new display! The Roots Puller, developed by Blue Thumb, shows people how deep native plant roots go into the ground. We are excited to share it with you when we can come together again. Also, look for more of our new creek crossing signs that are going up around the District. These signs are located where a road crosses Nine Mile Creek.



**Nine Mile Creek
Watershed District**

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Eden Prairie, MN 55346
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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.



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