



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point
12800 Gerard Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
(952) 835-2078
ninemilecreek.org

MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers
FROM: Erica Sniegowski
DATE: September 9, 2021
RE: Groundwater Grants

Background

The District has initiated a groundwater cost share grant program that has a \$100,000 allocation for 2021. The grants are available to cities with a maximum grant award of \$25,000, and a required 10% match. We accept grant applications on a rolling basis, and the grants are administratively approved.

We have received an application from Eden Prairie and Hopkins. Minnetonka, Bloomington, and Richfield have indicated interest in applying this year, as well.

Applications

City of Eden Prairie

The City of Eden Prairie grant application is to conduct a water conservation review of the city's drinking water system within the District. The work will include (1) desktop assessments to determine the largest 100 water users located within the District boundaries, (2) preparation of a mailer/flyer for each of these customers that includes a summary of their past water use for direct education on water conservation, (3) identification of the appropriate persons who are able to implement the recommended changes to send the information to for consideration, (4) set up appointments to meet with up to 20 customers to review their existing equipment, operations and landscaping to assist in identifying water conservation opportunities and potential ideas for cost savings, and (5) preparation of a follow-up communication with a list of recommended modifications along with potential estimated cost savings for each recommendation.

The grant request is for \$24,890. This grant will be administratively approved.

City of Hopkins

The City of Hopkins grant application is to create a pollinator garden, native planting and fescue area along Nine Mile Creek in Valley Park. The space would be approximately 30X15 feet, where educational signage and site amenities that would allow for a space where residents can learn about what native plantings, pollinator gardens and fescue look like, how to care for them and what value they add to the ecological system. The City's goal is to educate residents on why groundwater quality and quantity matters and encourage residents be good stewards of groundwater through simple measures like planting pollinators and native plants at home.

The grant request is for \$12,168. Staff would like direction from the board on elements of this grant and will bring these items up for discussion at the board meeting.

Request

This item is for informational purposes.

Attachment

Eden Prairie grant application



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point
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Eden Prairie, MN 55346
(952) 358-2276
ninemilecreek.org

GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION

Contact Information

Municipality: City of Eden Prairie

Mailing address: 8080 Mitchell Road

Primary contact: Rick Wahlen

Job title: Manager of Utility Operations

Phone: (952) 949-8530

Email: RWahlen@edenprairie.org

Secondary contact: Leslie Stovring

Job title: Water Resources Coordinator

Phone: (952)-949-8327

Email: LStovring@edenprairie.org

Background Information

Municipal total per capita water use (2020): 109.1 gallons/person-day

Municipal residential per capita water use (2020 gallons/person day): 75.2 gallons/person-day

Municipal ratio of peak month to winter month water use (2020): 2.3

Proposal Information

Give a 2-3 sentence summary of funding request:

The City of Eden Prairie (City) requests funding to conduct a water conservation review of our drinking water system within the NMCWD. The work will include (1) desktop assessments to determine the largest 100 water users located within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (District) boundaries, (2) preparation of a mailer/flyer for each of these customers that includes a summary of their past water use for direct education on water conservation, (3) identification of the appropriate persons who are able to implement the recommended changes to send the information to for consideration, (4) set up appointments to meet with up to 20 customers to review their existing equipment, operations and landscaping to assist in identifying water conservation opportunities and potential ideas for cost savings, and (5) preparation of a follow-up communication with a list of recommended modifications along with potential estimated cost savings for each recommendation.

Give a description of expected project outcomes (ex. annual gallons saved, # of trainings held):

The City's largest water users within the District will obtain education both in writing and in-person with respect to past water usage, and steps they can take to conserve water and reduce costs. Where changes to equipment, operations and/or landscaping are recommended, customers will also be directed to rebate and/or grant programs that may help with implementing the recommended changes, such as the District, City or Hennepin County. The City envisions a reduction in the ratio of peak month to winter month water use for these customers, as well as an overall decrease in annual water use within the District.

Total project budget: \$27,720

Grant request: \$24,890

(no more than 90% of total budget, \$25,000 max)

Authorization

Name(s) of responsible party: City of Eden Prairie

Signature(s):

Date:

Project Narrative

1. The project must support one or more of the groundwater conservation cost share program goals:

- Protect and preserve groundwater quality and quantity
- Promote groundwater conservation through education and/or behavior change

Give a description of your proposed project that includes the objectives and expected outcomes.

The City requests funding to promote groundwater conservation through education and/or behavior change. Our experience has been that many of our large water users are either not aware of the amount of water used (due to how bills are processed and paid by management companies, rather than by the individuals responsible for maintenance or management of on-site operations), or, they may not be aware of ways in which they could conserve water, and reduce their operational costs. Our proposed scope of work will start by identifying the 100 largest water users located within the District boundaries, conducting individual desktop assessments to identify information relevant to each property and identifying who would be the key person to reach out to for this program. Information collected will be summarized and distributed through a mailer/flyer for direct education on individual water use. The City will then work in-person with up to 20 of those customers to review their existing equipment and operations to assist in identifying water conservation opportunities and potential ideas for cost savings. Through these activities, the largest water users in the District will become better educated with respect to their prior water use, and the steps they could take to conserve water and thereby reduce costs. Where changes to equipment, operations and/or landscaping are recommended, customers will be directed to rebate and/or grant programs that may help with implementing the recommended changes such as the District, City or Hennepin County. The City will also conduct a review of relevant pages on our web site that could be updated to support this program.

2. Provide a project timeline.

September 2021 – Grant awarded

October-November 2021 – Prepare summary of past water use for its 100 largest water users

December 2021-January 2022 – Prepare flyer/mailling on water conservation and distribute with summary

January-March 2022 - Identify 20 users for in-person evaluations

March-August 2022 – Onsite evaluation and follow-up

September 2022 – Report to District

3. What educational components are included in your project? Include how you will measure outcomes.

1. Prepare summary of water use history for largest water users within the District
 - i. Determine baseline water use and summer (irrigation) use
 - ii. Provide water use in terms of gallons used and estimated consumer cost.
2. Prepare mailer/flyer for direct education on water conservation
3. Provide water use summary and mailer/flyer to largest water users
4. Conduct in-person follow-up assessments to identify water conservation opportunities and potential ideas for cost savings
5. Update the City's web site update to provide water conservation measures that could be taken by all water users.

Outcomes will be measured in the following ways:

1. Number of large volume water users reached;
2. Number of on-site assessments completed;
3. Potential water use reductions/cost savings identified; and,

Contact Erica with questions prior to submitting your application at 952-358-2276 or esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org.

4. Tracking of customers water use in subsequent years (outside of grant scope)

Answer 3a and 3b if your project's main goal is education. (Example: trainings, workshops, school equipment)

3a. Who is your target audience?

The City's 100 largest water users within the District boundaries

3b. What new knowledge do you expect your audience to leave with?

Their specific water use history; opportunities to lower their water use in the future; and what this might save them in terms of water use and cost. They will also become aware of applicable rebate and/or grant programs available to help implement changes. -

4. How will you share the results from the project?

1. Mail/Email
2. In Person/Zoom Meetings
3. City Web Site
4. Reporting to NMCWD

☒ YES ☐ NO The NMCWD may share information about the project on the District's website and social media.

☒ YES ☐ NO I have read the current Groundwater Conservation Grant Guidelines.

☒ YES ☐ NO I understand that a final report and request for reimbursement is due within 30 days following conclusion of project.

LABOR COSTS (Contractors, Consultants, In-Kind Labor)						
Service Provider	Task	# Hours	Rate/Hour	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Total
City of Eden Prairie	Provide Raw Water Use Data to Consultant	6	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
St. Croix Environmental, Inc.	Prepare Individual Summaries of Water Use History (100)	100	\$ 95.00	\$ 9,500.00		\$ 9,500.00
St. Croix Environmental, Inc.	Prepare General Water Conservation Mailer/Flyer	10	\$ 95.00	\$ 950.00		\$ 950.00
City of Eden Prairie	Distribute Summary of Water Use and Mailer/Flyer (100)	12	\$ 75.00		\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
St. Croix Environmental, Inc.	Conduct In-Person Assessments/Follow-up (20)	140	\$ 95.00	\$ 13,300.00		\$ 13,300.00
City of Eden Prairie	Conduct In-Person Assessments/Follow-up (20)	10	\$ 100.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
St. Croix Environmental, Inc.	Reporting of Results	12	\$ 95.00	\$ 1,140.00		\$ 1,140.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
			Subtotal:	\$ 24,890.00	\$ 2,350.00	\$ 27,240.00

Groundwater Conservation Grants require a 10% match.
For questions, contact the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District office at 952-358-2276.

% Match: 10.2092352