



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:** Gael Zembal  
**DATE:** October 20, 2021  
**RE:** Education & Outreach Coordinator's Report for October Board Meeting

## Program Updates

### Education

School visits are wrapping up for the fall, with nearly 250 students, parents, and teachers engaged in learning about water and water quality. Many students expressed interest in participating in the Adopt a Drain program. I visited students in their classrooms to teach about the water cycle and water quality, as well as macroinvertebrate id (pictured here at Highlands Elementary). I also led a field trip for students of Glen Lake Elementary at Lone Lake Park in Minnetonka.



I also worked with second graders at Normandale Hills Elementary in Bloomington to use their new raingarden in their lessons on seed dispersal, pollinators, and plant ID. All told, our education program has reached students in six schools most of our member cities.



### Outreach

I attended multiple outreach events, including the EV Expo at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. There, I promoted our grants program, and talked about the raingarden installed last year through our partnership in the Non-Profit BMP Project.

I also attended the Bloomington Farmer's Market in September, again to talk about our habitat restoration grants, and the benefits of native plants to water quality.

Lastly, I shared a table with RPBCWD at the Eden Prairie Volunteer Fair.

## Professional Development

The workshops, trainings, and conferences I have attended in the past month have given me lots of new directions to pursue in providing better and more equitable outreach to our watershed stakeholders. From September to November, I will have attended these trainings/conferences:

- MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Management Showcase
- Water Resources Conference
- BWSR Academy
- Opposition and Outrage in Public Participation Course (from IAP2 organization)
- Improving Restorations webinar series
- MN Climate Adaptation partnership webinars
- MN Naturalists Association Conference
- Seed Collection and Propagation Strategies with Three Rivers Park District

## Meetings and Presentations

All-staff meetings to check in and track progress (2 weekly)

September 24 Edina High School virtual macroinvertebrate ID presentation

September 27 UMN Women's Nature Club program at Discovery Point

September 29 International Spanish Language Academy classroom visit

October 4-7 IAP2 Outrage in Public Participation training

October 5 Hennepin County Environmental Educators group meeting

October 11 Normandale Hills Elem. raingarden class

October 12 Gatewood Elem. water cycle presentation

October 13 Watershed Partners meeting

October 14 Culturally Aware and Relevant Engagement group monthly meeting

October 15 Glen Lake Elem. field trip to Lone Lake Park

October 18 Highlands Elem. macroinvertebrate id class

October 18 Normandale Hills Elem. raingarden class

## Volunteers

As of October 20, we had 3 openings on the CAC for 2022. The CAC met October 6. The Adopt a Dock and CAMP programs are winding down, and kits are coming back for winter storage. CAC and MWS volunteers also helped on many of the school visits.

## Upcoming Events

Nov 9 MPCA Smart Salting Parking Lots and Sidewalks | 9 AM – 2:30 PM