



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers
FROM: Gael Zembal
DATE: September 9, 2020
RE: Education & Outreach Coordinator's Report for September 2020 Board Meeting

Program Updates

Adult Education

We have created a presentation (adapted from one given by Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District) to accompany the in-person raingarden maintenance class. The class itself was piloted with a small group of CAC, MWS, and Non-profit BMP partner staff; it will be updated and repeated at the end of September.



The parking lot and sidewalk online workshop went very well; it also included a few District permittees.

K12 Education

The Normandale Hills Elementary raingarden project has been postponed to spring. The project has also been awarded a grant from the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter. This grant will partially cover the cost of plants, mulch, and compost for the garden.

Outreach

9 Mile Creek signs have begun to go up on roads crossing the creek around the District. Thank you to Bob Cutshall and the City of Hopkins for their help. About one third of unmarked crossings have been marked in the cities of Edina, Hopkins, and Eden Prairie.

Miscellaneous

Program and Outreach Overview

Erica and I are working on a presentation on the District's E&O program to show the Board in October.

Meetings

All-staff meetings to check in and track progress, twice weekly

- Aug 27 Installed creek crossing signs
- Aug 28 Met with Madeline S to discuss education initiatives
- Aug 31 Met with Hopkins City Staff to install creek signs
- Aug 31 Met with Master Water Steward
- Sep 1 Meeting with District lawyer, consultants, and staff
- Sep 1 Installed creek signs with Bob Cutshall
- Sep 2 Virtual Parking Lots and Sidewalks webinar
- Sep 2 Virtual meeting with MN Association of Realtors education coordinator
- Sep 3 Met with Oak Grove Presbyterian member for raingarden class preparation
- Sep 3 Met with Erica to discuss outreach initiatives
- Sep 4 Met with Cardinal Creek buckthorn project volunteers to plan next steps
- Sep 8 Attended virtual webinar on lawncare best management practices
- Sep 9 Watershed Partners virtual meeting
- Sep 9 Master Water Stewards virtual partner meeting
- Sep 10 Met with Erica to plan for Greencorps member
- Sep 14 Virtual presentation on American Indian history and culture
- Sep 15 Met with Erica to discuss outreach initiatives

Volunteers

Citizen Advisory Committee

Many CAC members have been making use of the newly provided continuing education funds to attend virtual conferences. So far, 4 members have either attended or are registered for conferences. They are asked to provide a summary to me, and a short presentation to the full CAC about what they learned at the September 24th meeting.

Master Water Stewards

A Master Water Steward from 2020 has finished her capstone, a raingarden in Bloomington.

Cardinal Creek Buckthorn project

For the past few years, volunteers have been working to clear buckthorn and other invasive plants from the City of Eden Prairie trail adjacent to Discovery Point. They have reached the end of the trail and are now working to prep the site for seeding. The District has purchased seed, and staff and volunteers will be seeding before the end of September.

Upcoming Events

- Sep 18 Photo Contest Deadline!**
- Sep 23 Raingarden Maintenance workshop | Oak Grove Church, invite only
- Sep 24 CAC meeting | Teams meeting | 6-8 PM