



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers
FROM: Gael Zembal
DATE: September 12, 2019
RE: Education & Outreach Coordinators Report for September 2019 Board Meeting

Program Updates

Education

Gael presented an Edible Hike at Discovery Point at the end of August. This was the last event of the 2019 Summer Education Series. The SES programs reached nearly 200 people this summer, more than in previous years.

NMCWD programming is moving into winter education now, with 3 smart salting workshops coming up this fall. We are glad to partner with the City of Edina and the citizen group Stop Over Salting to host some of these trainings.

September will also see many school field trips to Nine Mile Creek and District lakes for students to do water quality activities and macroinvertebrate studies. We are again partnering with Edina High School and Hennepin County on Riverwatch this fall.

Outreach

The 60th anniversary State of the Waters event is on September 25th at the Hyland Hills Ski Chalet—staff are looking forward to a spectacular event!

The popup cart will be present at Bloomington Heritage Days in September.

Miscellaneous

Gael will be attending the Minnesota Association for Environmental Educators Conference in October, as well as the Water Resources Conference.

Volunteers

One 2018 Master Water Steward has finished her capstone project in Minnetonka. The MWS graduation party for this year's Stewards is on Tuesday, October 8th from 6-8:30 at the State Fairgrounds.

Upcoming Events

Sep 18	Smart Salting Parking Lots/Sidewalks: 9-3 PM; Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point
Sep 23	Smart Salting for Property Managers: 9-1; Good Samaritan UMC, Edina
Sep 25	State of the Waters: 5-7 PM; Hyland Hills Ski Chalet

Summary of Masters Program

Courses

Over the course of the past year and a half, I pursued a Masters degree in Environmental Education from Hamline University. I will briefly describe the classes I took, my capstone project, and its impact on the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

Because I already had credits towards this degree from a previous job, I was able to finish on an accelerated timetable. I took Foundations of Natural Science and Environmental Education, Environment and Society, Biomes, and History of the Environment. These courses provided a historical basis of the environmental education movement, as well as key leaders in the creation of environmental education. I gained knowledge and understanding of environmental history and what impact it has had on society, education, and the scientific community. In the Environment and Society class, we toured environmentally friendly facilities and projects in the Twin Cities, including some watershed district projects. I also received more education in the plants and animals that live in the 3 biomes of Minnesota. All this information served as a base for the creation of my capstone project, an Education Plan for the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

Capstone

The Education Plan provides a guide for the next two years and serves as a complement to the goals laid out in the 10 year Water Management Plan. My capstone project will serve to help direct and prioritize the efforts of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District education program. I reviewed Education Plans from other watershed districts, as well as our own education and outreach program. I will continue to review and refine this document and post it to the District's website when it is finalized.