Program Updates

Adult Education

The District’s last smart salting workshop on February 18th produced an innovative new pilot program. A City of Hopkins employee who attended talked to management to create a salt recycling/take back program for Hopkins residents. This pilot will hopefully prevent salt waste and provide a successful model for other city take back programs.

We will once again host the Sustainable Lawns workshop series with Gregg Thompson, in partnership with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD, Carver County WMO, and the City of Bloomington.

K12 Education

I took the sand box to Poplar Bridge Elementary at the end of February to discuss water flows, topography, and urban design with 5th graders. It was well received. I have begun scheduling other school visits with the watershed sandbox, as well as creek visits for this spring.

Outreach

In partnership with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD and the Carver County WMO, we have had materials present at numerous outreach events, including a Climate Action event, the Bloomington Home Improvement Fair, and also at the upcoming Eden Prairie Home, Landscape, and Garden Expo. Here is a picture of a Bloomington staff member with the sandbox before the Home Improvement Fair.

We have begun developing a connection with the Normandale Japanese Garden and their event planning team. A member of this team applied to our CAC last year and has invited us to table at their Earth Day event in April.
Public Programs
Erica and Lauren presented an information session on the new Cost Share Grant process and nearly 50 people attended.

We have scheduled a few of our public summer programs, with more to be finalized towards the end of March.

Partnerships
City meetings
I have been working on scheduling meetings with our city partners to discuss how we can collaborate on programming for elected officials, as well as other topic areas. So far, it seems as though it is better for us to reach this audience through special events, rather than presenting at city council meetings. We have also discussed having short time blocks during meetings of special committees on the overall partnership between cities and the District, and projects that we are working on. Once I have met with all our partners, I will include a more thorough summation of what was discussed.

Meetings
February 20  Met with CAC member for tabling training
February 26  Talked with Erica about E/O initiatives progress
March 4     Met with City of Edina to discuss E/O initiatives
March 10    Met with Randy and Erica to discuss intern applications
March 11    Attended Watershed Partners meeting, and Flyer translation project meeting
March 12    Met with Eden Prairie and Bloomington partners to discuss E/O initiatives
March 12    Met with RPBCWD staff to discuss equity initiatives
March 13    Met with Hopkins and Minnetonka partners to discuss E/O initiatives

Volunteers
Master Water Stewards
Erica and I attended the last class of the Master Water Stewards 2019/20 cohort to discuss their capstone projects with them. We have two project groups moving forward, one planning to install a raingarden in Bloomington, and another to install a pocket pollinator habitat in Hopkins. We will continue to work with them to ensure successful completion of their capstones this year.

Upcoming Events
March 20   Cost Share Grant deadline
March 21   Eden Prairie Home Expo | 9 AM-3PM | Grace Church
April 9    CAC Meeting | 6-8 PM | Discovery Point
May 9      Hopkins Valley Park Clean up | 1-3:30 PM | Valley Park, Hopkins