



## Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

12800 Gerard Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

(952) 835-2078

[www.ninemilecreek.org](http://www.ninemilecreek.org)

# MEMO

**TO:** Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers  
**FROM:** Gael Zembal  
**DATE:** March 11, 2020  
**RE:** Education & Outreach Coordinators Report for March 2020 Board Meeting

## Program Updates

### Adult Education

The District's last smart salting workshop on February 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

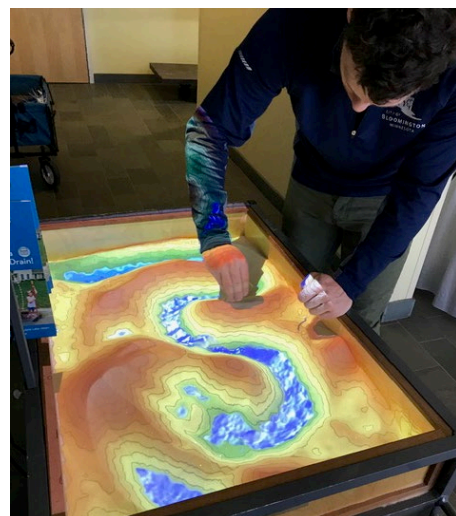
### K12 Education

I took the sand box to Poplar Bridge Elementary at the end of February to discuss water flows, topography, and urban design with 5<sup>th</sup> 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 do discuss intern applications
March 11 meeting	Attended Watershed Partners meeting, and Flyer translation project
March 12 initiatives	Met with Eden Prairie and Bloomington partners to discuss E/O
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