#### 2018 MAWD Project & Program of the Year

#### **Preliminary Nomination Form**

The MAWD Awards Committee is now accepting Preliminary Nominations for Program or Project of the Year. This simple, one-page Preliminary Nomination Form must be submitted by August 17, 2018. When determining the finalists, the Awards Committee will consider: clearly defined need, creative partnerships, innovative financing, resourceful solutions, success at meeting goal, and public value. Finalists, in each category will be asked to complete a full nomination form. The Preliminary Nomination form only requires a project/program description up to 250 words.

MAWD Region:

Award Category (check one)

**Project Contact:** 

Name: Randy Anhorn Phone: 952.835.2078

Email: ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org

⊠ Project Watershed I	☐ Program  District: Nine Mile Creek Wa	☐ One atershed District	□ Two	⊠ Three				
Project/program name: Nine Mile Creek Stabilization and restoration Project								
Nominator (if different from above Watershed District) Project/Program Summary (Up to 250 words).								
The Nine Mile Creek watershed, located in southern Hennepin County, is highly developed and urbanized. As a result, Nine Mile Creek has experienced streambank erosion and in-stream habitat loss due to increases in stormwater runoff, resulting in the creek being listed for turbidity and biotic integrity on the State's impaired waters list. In addition to erosion problems and habitat loss, portions of the creek have been channelized and straightened.  The Nine Mile Creek Stabilization and Restoration Project was initiated on the north branch of Nine Mile Creek in the City of Hopkins in 2012. It continued downstream through the City of Edina and will be complete in 2018. The project will result in the stabilization and re-meandering of 15,000 linear feet along 4.5 miles of the creek. The project realigned portions of the creek in its historical channel, restoring its meander pattern and in-stream habitat by using bioengineering techniques. The techniques included root wads and biologs for streambank protection, vegetated reinforced soil stabilization for streambank stabilization, boulder rock vanes for grade control and in-stream flow control, and constructed riffles and pools for in-stream habitat.  The project has resulted in reduced nutrient and sediment loads, improved stream health, stabilized streambanks, improved habitat and the protection of property from erosion.  Project partners included the cities of Edina and Hopkins, private landowners, Hennepin County and the Three Rivers Park District. It was funded through Clean Water Funds, Hennepin County Environmental Response grant funds (for contaminated soils clean-up) and watershed district funds.								

### **Photos (Optional)**

You may include up to four (4) photos of your project or program.

Submit nomination materials to Mark Doneux, <a href="mark@capitolregionwd.org">mark@capitolregionwd.org</a> by <a href="mailto:August 17">August 17</a>, <a href="mailto:2017.">2017</a>.



Before and after at Reach 1 of the City of Edina portion of the project



Work in progress in the City of Hopkins portion of the project



Rock riffle at a site in the City Hopkins portion of the project.

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Award Category	(check one)	MAWD Region:		
☐ Project  Watershed Distr  Nine Mile Creek W		□ One	□ Two	⊠ Three
Project/program Watershed Sandl				

# Nominator (if different from above Watershed District) Project/Program Summary (Up to 250 words).

The watershed sandbox is a mobile, interactive education tool created in partnership with local artists and the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District. We created it to meet the need of explaining to people what a watershed is in a simple, hands-on way, since most people do not understand watersheds. Helping people understand watersheds and watershed districts is part of our education goals and necessary for the work we do, but they are difficult concepts to explain. The sandbox helps users of all ages see what a watershed is, and then create one in sand. While using the sandbox at events, it is also a tool for staff to have longer, more meaningful conversations with adults about water issues, while kids are engrossed in hands-on learning.

Through interactive virtual reality technology, the sandbox helps users understand the connection between topography and water flow. A projector shows elevations and topography lines on the sand below, in real time, as people move and shape the sand. Users can also control virtual water that "falls" onto the sand and see how it moves across the landscape they built. Thus, watersheds are formed and can be easily explained to users. We can also explain other difficult concepts like erosion, topographical features, pollution, and infiltration.

The sandbox has drawn in larger crowds to our watershed district booths at community events, and encouraged visitors to stay longer, allowing for deeper conversations about water issues. Over 550 people have interacted with the sandbox in the three months since its launch.

**Project Contact**: Name: Gael Zembal

Phone: 952-204-9691

Email: gzembal@ninemilecreek.org

## **Photos (Optional)**

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