



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

12800 Gerard Drive

Eden Prairie, MN 55346

(952) 835-2078

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

MEMO

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

### Program Updates

#### Education

NMCWD recently became the hosts for the City of Bloomington's Stream Table. This educational display uses water and a plastic sand-like media to show how streams flow and change in real time. It is useful for educating about erosion, pollution, streambank stabilization, and topography, among other topics. Gael and a few Master Water Steward volunteers will use this stream table at the International Spanish Language Academy at the end of November, to explore erosion and streambank stabilization techniques.

Gael presented to the Washburn Elementary Junior Naturalists group and helped them clean out stormdrain grates around their school.

The Smart Salting workshops for Parking Lots/Sidewalks was well attended and had good discussion among attendees. A few NMCWD permit holders attended the workshop.

Gael will be presenting at the Vernon Terrace Senior Living Community at the end of November on water issues.

#### Outreach

Staff used the stream table and story map at the Three Rivers Park District Climate Conversations event at the Hyland Ski Chalet. Attendees engaged in good discussions with staff about District projects, how climate change is affecting natural resources, and how early planning highlighted in the story map has positively impacted the natural resources in the District.

#### Professional development

Gael attended the Minnesota Naturalists Association conference in Sandstone, Minnesota. The conference dealt with big picture issues, including improving environmental equity and diversity, climate change impacts on resources and environmental education, and teaching with empathy and compassion. Lessons learned will be used to improve the District's educational program and outreach materials.

The Watershed Partners meeting for November also tackled environmental justice, equity and inclusion in water organizations. This topic is very helpful to discuss at so many varied venues, and staff will continue to work on improving inclusivity at the District.

Gael will also attend a workshop on communication that promotes the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **Meetings**

- Met with Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District staff to discuss equity and inclusion.
- Spoke with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Coordinator about potential benefits for District volunteers.
- Phone call to discuss Vernon Terrace presentation.
- Phone call with ISLA teachers to discuss curriculum
- Met with Edina Public Schools Building and Grounds Manager about a salt presentation
- Met with Children's Water Festival planning committee to discuss 2020 Festival and transition in Festival leadership
- Attended presentation and discussion on District's chloride rule for west metro partners
- Attended steering committee meeting for Master Water Stewards
- Met with Master Water Steward to discuss outreach and volunteer opportunities
- The Salt partnership also met in November, to discuss further education opportunities for reducing salt use around the metro.

### **Volunteers**

Gael will meet with CAC in December to discuss a volunteer appreciation gathering in early 2020. Date still to be determined.

### **Upcoming Events**

No public outreach events scheduled at this time.