

Preserve



Protect

Manage

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2014



January

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December

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Annual Communication 2013

Water^{Resource Center}

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) has begun planning and design of the Nine Mile Creek Water Resource Center. The Water Resource Center, located in Eden Prairie, will become the new District office, the home base for the District's education and outreach program, and a resource center for the public.



The District has hired LHB, Inc. as the architect for the project. NMCWD is currently working with LHB on the renovation design for the District's office and on the design for an addition to the existing home that will serve as the Water Resource Center.

The District is working with Barr Engineering to develop a landscape plan that will include outdoor learning spaces and the restoration of oak savannah and native prairie. NMCWD is also designing storm water best management practices that will treat and reduce storm water from the site. Interpretive signs and educational and artistic features will be incorporated throughout the site.

The District hopes to complete the design work in the winter of 2013 and begin construction in the spring of 2014.

Cost Share^{Grants}

Financial assistance is available to implement projects that protect and improve the water and natural resources within the NMCWD through the District's Cost Share Program. In 2013, NMCWD awarded 21 grants totaling over \$120,000. Projects included everything from raingardens and shoreline restorations to upgrading irrigation controls for the purpose of improving water conservation. Funds will be available again in 2014.

Visit the Cost Share Grants section of the District's website for more information.

CAC^{Updates}

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) advises the Board of Managers on water-related community concerns and issues and assists with the development and implementation of education activities, including helping to plan and host the Summer Education Series. The Summer Education Series in 2013 focused on family-friendly events. The events included a spring nature hike, a class on nature photography, geocaching, and a family fishing program.

The CAC meets quarterly, and there are openings on the committee. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Erica at 952-358-2276 or esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org.



Managing^{the Watershed}

Five Managers, appointed by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners to three-year terms, direct the activities of the District. The Managers work with state agencies, Hennepin County and the cities within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to implement the goals and policies of the approved water management plan set forth in state law. Watershed activities are funded through property tax levies.

Manager^{Updates}

After nine years of service on the Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers, Geoff Nash decided to not seek reappointment. His term expired in September 2013. Nash served as the District Treasurer for six years. During his tenure on the Board, Geoff helped the District hire its first employees, approve its current water management plan, and adopt new rules. The District is grateful to Geoff for his leadership and years of service.



Filling the vacant seat on the NMCWD Board of Managers is Louise Segreto. The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners appointed Louise on September 24, 2013. The Commissioners also re-appointed Steve Kloiber for his third three-year term.



Streambank^{Restoration Update}

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District completed the construction of the Hopkins Streambank Restoration project in 2013. The project was completed in two phases. Phase A started at the Nine Mile Creek headwaters just south of Excelsior Boulevard in Hopkins and included the stabilization of the creek banks and re-vegetation of the banks and adjacent upland areas.

Phase B stabilized, restored, and re-meandered an eroding and ditched section of the Creek in Valley Park in Hopkins. The Creek was re-meandered to a more natural alignment, after which bio-engineering techniques were used to prevent erosion. This included the use of natural materials such as boulder rock vanes in the channel and root wads to protect the banks. This phase also included the construction of a section of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in partnership with the City of Hopkins and Three Rivers Park District.



Nine Mile^{Newsletter}

Sign up for
our newsletter!

The NMCWD debuted its electronic newsletter in 2013. *Nine Mile News* is emailed quarterly to over 200 recipients. Newsletter topics include District updates, clean water tips, phenology, natural resource highlights and more. We look forward to growing our readership in the coming year. If you are interested in signing up to receive the newsletter, visit the District's website at www.ninemilecreek.org or contact Erica at esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org.

Salt^{Education}

Nine Mile Creek is on a low-salt diet. Salt that we use on our sidewalks and roads dissolves as it melts, but never actually disappears. Instead, the salt ends up in our lakes and creeks as the meltwater runs into storm drains and to local water bodies. There is no cost effective way to remove salt once it gets into our waters, so we must focus on preventing the pollution.

This year the District engaged in an innovative partnership to address salt use on school grounds. In partnership with Bloomington Public Schools and SFM (a workers' compensation insurance company), we developed and implemented a workshop titled *Winter Maintenance on School Grounds*. The workshop concentrated on winter maintenance issues specific to school grounds and focused not only on the environmental concerns of winter maintenance, but also on public safety concerns. In addition to this workshop, the District created a brochure on how to hire a snow removal contractor that uses winter best practices and also created a display on the impacts of salt on the environment.

You can help keep salt out of the Creek! Only apply salt after shoveling or snow blowing and only in areas where it is needed. Apply less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt is about a heaping coffee mug full. If there are salt crystals left on the pavement after the snow has melted, you have over applied. Sweep up the extra and reuse it or throw it in the trash. Remember, most salts don't work below 15° F (pavement temperature), so should not be applied. Instead, use a small amount of sand for traction.



Managers, Staff & Consultants

Corrine Lynch, Eden Prairie
President
Term Expires: Sept 2014

Kevin Bigalke
Administrator
952-835-2078

Steve Kloiber, Edina
Vice President
Term Expires: Sept 2016

Erica Sniegowski
Education & Outreach Coordinator
952-358-2276

Jodi Peterson, Bloomington
Secretary
Term Expires: Sept 2014

Louis Smith
Legal Advisor
612-344-1400

Maressia Twele, Minnetonka
Treasurer
Term Expires: Sept 2015

Bob Obermeyer
Engineering Advisor
952-832-2600

Louise Segreto, Edina
Manager
Term Expires: Sept 2016

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the District office.

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