

2014 Annual Communication

District Monitoring Efforts Help Track Health of Nine Mile Creek & Lakes

The NMCWD actively monitors the water quality of Nine Mile Creek and 20 lakes in the watershed. The District uses the data that is collected to determine the overall health of Nine Mile Creek and the lakes and to plan water quality restoration projects that will help improve the health of the creek and lakes.

There are four automated creek monitoring stations on Nine Mile Creek. The NMCWD operates three of the stations and partners with the Metropolitan Council to operate the fourth. The stations are strategically placed to capture the conditions of the creek throughout the watershed. The automated monitoring stations collect continuous data, such as stream flow, and water quality samples after precipitation events, with the intent for data to be collected during the rise and fall of the creek following a storm. In addition to the automated monitoring stations, biological/ecological health monitoring of 11 locations on the creek is conducted, as well. This includes monitoring of the fish community, macroinvertebrate monitoring, annual habitat monitoring, and monthly measurements of specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, turbidity, and flow.

Three to five lakes in the District are intensely monitored each year. This allows the NMCWD to monitor 20 selected lakes once every three to four years. Each lake is typically monitored on six occasions for selected parameters including: phosphorous, nitrogen, pH, chlorophyll a, chloride, dissolved oxygen, temperature and turbidity, among others. Phytoplankton and zooplankton samples are also collected and analyzed and aquatic plant surveys are performed in the summer.

The data collected provides robust information with which to make sound management decisions for both Nine Mile Creek and District lakes. For more information, contact Kevin Bigalke at 952-835-2078.



Great Egret Takes Flight
Paul Erdmann

2014 Photo Contest Submission Honorable Mention

Lynch & Peterson Reappointed to Board

Corrine Lynch and Jodi Peterson were reappointed to the NMCWD Board of Managers by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners in September. This is Lynch's sixth term on the Board and Peterson's second. As Lynch begins her sixth term, she looks forward to "the District's move into our new office in Eden Prairie, which presents the District with many new opportunities and challenges. I am excited to be a part of this expansion in community involvement and preserving and protecting our water resources." Through her work on the Board, Peterson has been "inspired by the collaborative storm water management projects that the District and its cities have begun that allow for more effective and proactive storm water management. I am eager to see more of these kinds of projects developed and feel privileged to be part of the NMCWD where we have the planning, engineering and legal expertise to make such projects a reality."

The public is welcome to attend the NMCWD Board meetings, which occur on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM at the District office.

Normandale Lake

Eric Schenk

2014 Photo Contest
Submission Honorable
Mention



District Seeks New CAC Members

The District is seeking four new members for the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), which is made up of volunteers who advise the Board of Managers in water-related community concerns and issues. The CAC, which meets quarterly, also assists in coordinating education and outreach opportunities, helps select pictures for the District's photo calendar, and reviews residential Cost Share Grant applications. The time commitment is approximately 12-15 hours per year. Contact Erica at 952-358-2276, if you are interested in the CAC.

20 Cost Share Grants Awarded

The District awarded 20 Cost Share Grants totaling nearly \$150,000 in 2014. Residents, associations, nonprofits, businesses and cities are eligible to apply for grants. Projects included raingardens, shoreline buffers and native habitat restoration, among others. Many of the projects will not only help protect water quality in District water bodies, but will also provide important habitat for butterflies and bees. Are you interested in installing a project that will help protect water quality or improve or restore habitat? Learn more on the Cost Share page at: www.ninemilecreek.org.

Exciting Opportunities as District Moves to New Office

The District moved into its new office and educational facility in late October. The facility, which sits on over five acres of land in Eden Prairie, provides a venue for daily management operations, district meetings, and workshops, trainings and other educational activities. The site also provides open spaces, woodland areas, and natural beauty that the public can enjoy. It is common to see deer and a variety



Nine Mile Creek Watershed District's Office

of birds and other wildlife on the property. Additionally, as is fitting for the District's mission of protecting and preserving local water resources, 100% of the stormwater runoff from the building, parking lot and driveway is captured onsite through a variety of best management practices, such as raingardens, pervious pavers and a cistern. The District will host a grand opening celebration this spring at the facility. Until then, feel free to stop by. We are open for business!

Managing the Watershed

Five managers, each 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.

Managers, Staff & Consultants

Corrine Lynch, Eden Prairie, President, Term Expires: September 2017
Steve Kloiber, Edina, Vice-President, Term Expires: September 2016
Maressia Twele, Minnetonka, Treasurer, Term Expires: September 2015
Jodi Peterson, Bloomington, Secretary, Term Expires: September 2017
Louise Segreto, Edina, Manager, Term Expires: September 2016

Kevin Bigalke, Administrator, (952) 835-2078
Erica Sniogowski, Education & Outreach Coordinator, (952) 358-2276
Louis Smith, Legal Advisor, (612) 344-1400
Bob Obermeyer, Engineering Advisor, (952) 832-2600

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

Monarchs Visit a Raingarden / Reet Kang
2014 Photo Contest Submission Honorable Mention



Shallow Lakes Forum a Success

The NMCWD, in conjunction with several local partners, hosted a Shallow Lakes Forum in April at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The half-day event was attended by over 90 participants. The forum included information on shallow lake ecology, rules and regulations, monitoring, and lake management strategies. A 2015 Shallow Lakes Forum will be held on April 25 at the Arboretum.



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Electronic Newsletter Readership Grows

Nine Mile News, the District's electronic newsletter, is emailed quarterly to over 280 people. In 2014, the second year that the newsletter has been produced, readership grew by over 30%. The newsletter includes district updates, event information, and natural resource articles. Sign up for the newsletter at: www.ninemilecreek.org.