

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District



Prepared March 2022

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

NINE MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

NINE MILE CREEK DISCOVERY POINT

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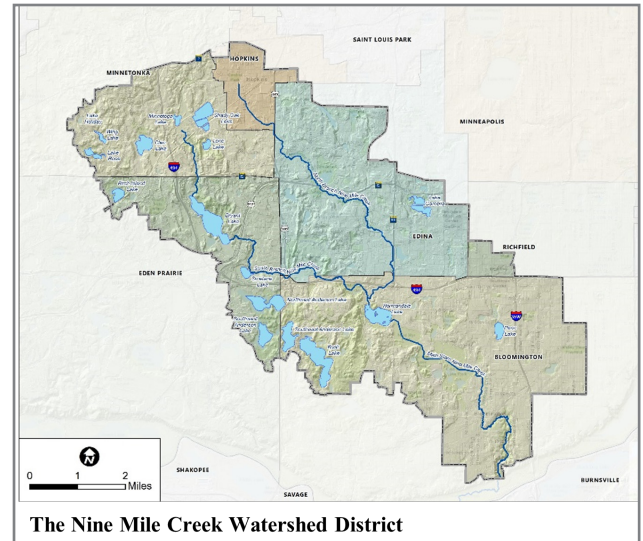
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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Established in 1959, the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District was the state's second urban watershed district. Despite its name, Nine Mile Creek's main branch travels 15.5 miles from its headwaters to its confluence with the Minnesota River. The creek's name comes from the fact that it is nine miles from Fort Snelling following an early cart path that is now Old Shakopee Road. The creek winds through the southwestern suburbs of the Twin Cities, with a 50-square mile watershed consisting of a largely developed urban landscape, and encompasses portions of Bloomington, Edina, Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, and Richfield. Appointed by the Hennepin County Commissioners, the District has five Managers each serving three-year terms.



Consistent with its statutory and regulatory obligations under Minn. Stat. § 103D.351 and Minnesota Rules § 8410.0150, the Board of Managers has prepared this Annual Report of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District's financial status, its yearly activities and projects, its 2021 permitting and enforcement program, and its 2021 goals and objectives. The Managers invite comments and suggestions concerning this report.

The 2021 Annual Report is available on the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District website: [ninemilecreek.org](https://www.ninemilecreek.org). Copies are also available by contacting Randy Anhorn, District Administrator, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55346, (952) 835-2078.

HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2021

2021 Plan Implementation/Action Item Tracking is found in [Appendix 2](#).

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the District accomplished many projects and programs in 2021. The District continued to follow state and federal guidance to protect the health and safety of its staff, partners and the community. Staff have adjusted schedules to accommodate work from home for part of the week.

This year's milestones include:

Education and Outreach Program

36 education programs were offered by staff this year including MPCA Smart Salting classes, water cycle presentations, and a seed propagation class. We began offering hybrid classes in 2021 and broadened access to our education programs through a YouTube channel. In 2021, we uploaded 36 different videos on a variety of topics. Many of these programs and videos were spearheaded by the Minnesota GreenCorps member serving at the District. Some specific initiatives are highlighted below:

Adopt a Drain

There were 399 participants from our watershed in the Adopt-a-Drain program, 70 of which were new this year. 120 drains were adopted in 2021, bringing the total for our District to 705 drains across the watershed. Thanks to the volunteers who cleaned their drains, 5,760 pounds of debris were kept out of our lakes and creek this year in the watershed.

Social Media

We have 1,582 followers across our social media platforms. We are on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. We also have 1,440 subscribers to our e-newsletter, Nine Mile News.

Monitoring Program

District Engineers monitored eight district lakes this year—Northwest Anderson, Southeast Anderson, Southwest Anderson, North Cornelia, South Cornelia, Edina, Mirror, and Normandale, along with Nine Mile Creek. Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program volunteers assisted with sampling three additional lakes—Penn, Bush, and Minnetoga.

Cost Share Grant Program

21 cost share grants were awarded in 2021 (project types included: habitat restorations, raingardens, shoreline buffers, water conservation, pervious paver, and a cistern). Five grants were awarded to our cities, two to businesses, and 14 to residents.

Regulatory Program

The District processed 176 permits to guide local construction, a record number. Our permit regulations ensure new construction and reconstruction includes best practices to prevent erosion and pollution of local waterbodies.

Projects

Three projects progressed this year at Normandale Lake, Lake Cornelia, and Discovery Point. We continued carp management at Normandale Lake and conducted an herbicide treatment for the continued control of curly-leaf pondweed. As a result of the carp management work at Normandale Lake, nearly 1,500 carp were removed in 2021. At Lake Cornelia, a technique commonly used to remove carp was tested to determine the efficacy for goldfish removal. In testing the technique, approximately 3,250 goldfish were eventually removed. The District began construction of the filtration vault at Rosland Park as well. This vault will help filter approximately 22 pounds of phosphorous out of the water entering Lake Cornelia, annually. We also finished the last phase of habitat restoration at our office, Discovery Point and continued site-wide maintenance of the previous phases of restoration. This 5.3-acre site has undergone a significant transformation over the past few years. We have restored acres of land that were once overgrown with invasive species like buckthorn and garlic mustard, to now having upwards of 200 native species, a much more diverse and climate resilient tree canopy, and high-quality pollinator habitat.

Planning

Not only did the District hire a Natural Resources Project and Planning Manager, but several major plans and assessment projects moved forward, as well. In 2021, the District issued a report on high-quality wetland restoration and protection opportunities in the watershed. We also moved into phase 2 of the Atlas-14 Flood Risk and Resiliency Assessment Project. We developed an Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan. Finally, the District began multiple lake studies to inform future management of Arrowhead Lake, Indianhead Lake, Lake Holiday, Wing Lake, and Lake Rose. We held multiple community meetings to kick-off these studies and gather input. Finally, we began planning for the Lynmar Basin stormwater BMP project at Bristol/Mavelle Park in Edina.

Incoming Grants

The District received two grants for goldfish work in Lake Cornelia: a Hennepin County AIS Prevention Grant and a BWSR Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grant. The Lynmar Basin project also received a BWSR Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grant. Finally, we received a grant from the MN River Valley Audubon Chapter for installing native plantings in a raingarden at Normandale Hills Elementary School in Bloomington.

Other highlights for 2021 include:

- Participated in the county-wide and Lower Minnesota River subgroup on watershed-based funding grant projects
- Participated in the Hennepin County Chloride Reduction working group
- Continued working with our municipalities to address impacts of redevelopment on local and regional flood problem areas
- Continued to look for ways to make the District's regulatory program more efficient for permit applicants and reduce staff time and streamline Board meetings
- Continued to increase permit coordination efficiency with upgrades to guidance documents for permittees

2021 BOARD OF MANAGERS



PRESIDENT

Robert Cutshall
7130 Gerard Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Appointing County: Hennepin
Term Expires: 9/29/2024
Resident of Eden Prairie



VICE PRESIDENT

Grace Butler
PO Box 1337
Minnetonka, MN 55345
Appointing County: Hennepin
Term Expires: 9/29/2022
Resident of Minnetonka



TREASURER

Larry Olson
6808 Cornelia Drive
Edina, MN 55435
Appointing County: Hennepin
Term Expires: 9/29/2022
Resident of Edina



SECRETARY

Erin Hunker
306 Dearborn Court
Edina, MN 55343
Appointing County: Hennepin
Term Expires: 9/29/2023
Resident of Edina



MANAGER

Peggy Kvam
Board liaison to the CAC
6334 Coteau Trail
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Appointing County: Hennepin
Term Expires: 9/29/2023
Resident of Eden Prairie

EMPLOYEES AND CONSULTANTS

EMPLOYEES

The District employs five full time staff at its headquarters, Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55346), with the fifth staff member hired in late 2021. In 2021, the District also was a host site for a MN GreenCorps member, who was hired as an intern after her service term ended. District staff in 2021 included:

Staff	Position	Phone	Email
Randy Anhorn	Administrator	952-835-2078	ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org
Brett Eidem	Natural Resources Project & Planning Manager	952-356-1999	beidem@ninemilecreek.org
Lauren Foley	Permitting & Water Resources Coordinator	952-204-9690	lfoley@ninemilecreek.org
Erica Sniegowski	Program & Project Manager	952-358-2276	esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org
Gael Zembal	Education & Outreach Coordinator	952-204-9691	gzembal@ninemilecreek.org
Elizabeth Boor	Permitting & Communications Intern		eboor@ninemilecreek.org

CONSULTANTS

In addition, the District retains the services of an engineering consultant, a legal advisor, and an accountant to assist with District activities. The District contracts with a separate accounting firm to perform its annual financial audit. The primary consultants in 2021 included:

Consultant	Services	Address	Phone	Email
Bob Obermeyer Barr Engineering	Engineer	4300 MarketPointe Dr., Ste 200 Minneapolis, MN 55435	952.832.2857	bobermeyer@barr.org
Janna Kieffer Barr Engineering	Engineer	4300 MarketPointe Dr., Ste 200 Minneapolis, MN 55435	952.832.2785	jkieffer@barr.org
Louise Heffernan Barr Engineering	Engineer	4300 MarketPointe Dr., Ste 200 Minneapolis, MN 55435	952.832.2850	lheffernan@barr.com
Michael Welch Smith Partners, PLLP	Attorney	250 Marquette Ave., Ste 250 Minneapolis, MN 55401	612.344.1400	welch@smithpartners.com
Dan Cavanaugh JMSC Futurity	Accountant	5353 Wayzata Blvd., Ste 205 St. Louis Park, MN 55401	952.697.4522	dan@jmscfuturity.com
Andy Hering Redpath & Co	Auditor	4810 White Bear Lake Pkwy., White Bear Lake, MN 55110	651.255.9339	ahering@redpathcpas.com
Krissi Tronnes North Risk Partners	Insurance	2010 Centre Pointe Blvd. Mendota Heights, MN 55120	651.379.7876	ktronnes@northriskpartners.com

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

The Citizen Advisory Committee is a volunteer advisory committee of community members that is annually appointed by the board of managers. The CAC provides recommendations to the board to aid in decision making, communicate concerns from the public and help educate the community. The 2021 CAC members were:

Name	Address
John Arthur	102 8th Ave. N. Hopkins, MN 55343
Roger Bildsten	6813 Brook Dr. Edina, MN 55439
Emily Dalager	5135 Baker Rd. Minnetonka, MN 55343
Ember Kapitan	12838 Gerard Dr. Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Rich Koechlein	6412 Glacier Pl. Edina, MN 55436
Charlotte Lefebvre-- Chair	6412 Aspen Rd. Edina, MN 55436
Joshua Lynn	8710 Logan Ave S. Bloomington, MN 55431
Beth Miller-- Secretary	4408 Crawford Rd. Minnetonka, MN 55343
Bob Prince	13190 Beehive Ct. Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Shelby Roberts	10010 Morgan Ave. S, Apt 3 Bloomington, MN 55431
Tim Ronhovde	7287 Gerard Dr. Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Jonathan Scoll	6920 Valley View Rd. Edina, MN 55439



CAC members help at community events, plant native flowers, and educate school children (clockwise from top)

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Representatives from each of the District's cities, Hennepin County, Metropolitan Council and state agencies make up the District's Technical Advisory Committee. The TAC aids with the development of the District's watershed management and capital improvement plans, rules, and specific projects. Members of the TAC in 2021 included:

Name	Position	Organization
Kristen Asher	Public Works Director	City of Richfield
Ross Bintner	Water Resources Engineer	City of Edina
Steve Christopher	Board Conservationist	Board of Water & Soil Resources
Jack Distel	Water Resources Specialist	City of Bloomington
Jordan Donatell	Watershed Project Manager	MN Pollution Control Agency
Kristopher Guentzel	Senior Water Resources Specialist	Hennepin County
Bryan Gruidl	Water Resources Engineer	City of Bloomington
Eric Klingbeil	Assistant City Engineer	City of Hopkins
Joe Mulchay	Environmental Analyst	Metropolitan Council
Drew McGovern	Water Resources Engineer	Hennepin County
Phil Olson	City Engineer	City of Minnetonka
Wes Saunders-Pearce/ Lucas Youngsma	Area Hydrologists	MNDNR
Sarah Schweiger	Water Resources Engineer	City of Minnetonka
Patrick Sejkora	Water Resources Engineer	City of Eden Prairie
Leslie Stovring	Environmental Coordinator	City of Eden Prairie
Nick Tiedeken	Water Resources Engineer	MNDOT
Jessica Vanderwerff Wilson	Water Resources Manager	City of Edina
Jordan Vennes	Water Resources Engineer	City of Richfield
Brian Vlach	Senior Water Resources Manager	Three Rivers Park District
Leslie Yetka	Natural Resources Manager	City of Minnetonka



Fall Colors,
Photo by Katy Jacobson, 2021 Photo
Contest winner

ASSESSMENT OF THE 2021 WORK PLAN

A detailed 2021 Plan Implementation/Action Item Tracking sheet can be found in [Appendix 2](#). Broad goals and objectives that the District identified for 2021 are listed in the 2021 Workplan below:

Administration	
Accounting and Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate annual audit. • Continue to work with Treasurer and accountant to maximize fund investments. • Develop 2022 budget and fulfill required public participation process for levy/ taxation submittal.
Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and hold Board Retreat (team building, vision, prioritization). • Hold workshops on policy and educational topics.
Internal Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Governance manual. • Continually review bylaws and internal manuals as necessary. • Maintain Personnel Committee.
Advisory Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage TAC on high water, AIS, water conservation and emerging topics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Start to identify projects, program opportunities; engage planning offices at cities in the analysis and problem solving. • Engage CAC on cost-share grants, photo calendar, education and events and volunteer management. • Facilitate recruitment of CAC members.
Discovery Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raingarden construction and landscape as part of building addition. • On-going building maintenance. • Create long-term maintenance fund. • Phase 3 of Discovery Point landscape restoration. • Ongoing landscape maintenance of previous Discovery Point restoration.
Professional Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider engineering pool firms for various District needs.
Programs	
Data Collection, Assessment & Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue current data collection program at permanent sites. • Investigate strategically expanding (& repairing) the number of groundwater observation well sites. • Undertake strategic monitoring at sites to assess future projects and issues. • Continue to assess data sharing opportunities (web-based). • Submit collected monitoring data to MPCA and others (data clearinghouse). • Develop and distribute annual monitoring report.
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement environmental education & outreach plan and review at year end. • Manage partnership activities with other organizations and stakeholders. • Coordinate public engagement for District projects.

District Hydrologic & Hydraulic (H&H) Model & Atlas-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate maintenance of the District's H&H model. • Continue to coordinate model update with cities and other partners if additional information is collected or becomes available. • Partner with cities on regional flooding issues. • Phase 2 of Atlas-14 update, (flood risk vulnerability assessment) and continue working with cities on highwater outlet and modeling.
Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review program and recommend modifications where necessary. • Review cost-share grant applications and recommend funding implementation. • Track and inspect current and past grant projects.
Regulatory Controls and Permitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement regulatory program. • Continued review of regulatory program to maximize efficiencies. • Evaluate added options of recently implemented permit and cost-share grant inspection and tracking software. • Review delegated permit approval authority of administrator. • Continually review and amend District rules as necessary.
Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to cities and residents to promote the incorporation on water and natural resources benefits into their projects.
Water Management Plan Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually review and identify needs for amendments to the Plan. • Conduct walk through of South Branch of Nine Mile Creek to identify areas for restoration and stabilization to be undertaken in 2022-2024. • Annual maintenance plan review walk through of North Branch and Lower Valley portions of Nine Mile Creek. • Undertake water quality study for Arrowhead and Indianhead lakes. • Undertake water quality study for Holiday, Rose and Wing lakes. • Promote water conservation initiatives—including working with cities in their water efficiency rebate programs, education and identify highest commercial/ industrial/public users and conduct audits and identify, promote and incentivize the implementation of conservation measures. • Develop a District climate change strategy to identify natural resource vulnerabilities to climate change and potential adaptation strategies.
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with the MPCA on the Lower MN River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and TMDL.
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the District's AIS Strategy (in collaboration with partners). • In collaboration with partners, develop an AIS rapid response plan for Priority Creeks, and Priority 1 lakes.
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a wetland restoration plan as a result of 2020 wetland inventory identifying the District's highest quality wetlands. • Continually identify potential restoration and protection sites and look to establish a District wetland bank. • Continue to administer the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) requirements where we are the WCA LGU and participate on Technical Evaluation Panels where we are not.

Capital Projects	
Edina Streambank Stabilization/ Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct spring survey of vegetation and repair needs to determine areas that need to be replanted under warranty. • Undertake needed repair maintenance.
Normandale Lake Water Quality Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement projects identified in the Normandale Lake water quality feasibility study including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Herbicide treatment for curly-leaf pondweed management. ○ Carp management. • Continue lake water quality monitoring to evaluate effectiveness of projects per adaptive management approach.
Lake Cornelia & Edina Water Quality Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement projects identified in the Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina water quality feasibility study including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Herbicide treatment for curly-leaf pondweed management. ○ Rosland Park stormwater filtration BMP. ○ Identified fisheries management practices (aka carp/goldfish control). ○ Lynmar Park infiltration retrofit project. • Continue lake water quality monitoring to evaluate effectiveness of projects per adaptive management approach.
SE Anderson Lake Water Quality Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake pre-herbicide treatment needs to obtain DNR permit for curly-leaf pondweed herbicide treatment in 2022.
Stormwater Facilities Fund (SFF) Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find opportunities to use SFF dollars to replace lost stormwater management requirements (volume retention and water quality) from applicants not fully meeting District stormwater requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete the Braemar Stormwater Retention Project in partnership with City of Edina
Regional Flood Study Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with cities (and other partners) to identify and study regional stormwater management needs/issues and implement solutions.
Repair and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with partner cities, undertake inspections of past projects to determine needs for any repair and maintenance of project areas. • In partnership with partners cities, implement repair and maintenance needs.
Non-Profit Stormwater BMP Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct first of two years of required maintenance on non-profit stormwater BMP projects. • Complete and begin implementation of property inspection and maintenance plan.



Inside the stormwater filtration vault at Rosland Park; part of the Lake Cornelia & Edina Water Quality Projects

PROJECTED 2022 WORK PLAN

Administration	
Accounting and Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate annual audit. • Continue to work with Treasurer and accountant to maximize fund investments. • Develop 2023 budget and fulfill required public participation process for levy/taxation submittal.
Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate potential to go back to in-person meetings. • Plan and hold Board Retreat (team building, vision, prioritization). • Hold workshops on policy and educational topics.
Internal Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually review bylaws and internal manuals as necessary. • Maintain Personnel Committee. • Track Covid trends and associated Governor Orders as to returning to in-person meetings. • Initiate an organizational salary survey.
Advisory Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage TAC on high water, AIS, water conservation and emerging topics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Start to identify projects, program opportunities; engage planning offices at cities in the analysis and problem solving. • Engage CAC on cost-share grants, photo calendar, education and events and volunteer management. • Facilitate recruitment of CAC members.
Discovery Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going building maintenance. • Create long-term maintenance fund. • Ongoing landscape maintenance of previous Discovery Point restoration and stormwater BMPs.
Professional Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennial solicitation for professional services including the determination of continuing to have an official pool for engineering services.
Programs	
Data Collection, Assessment & Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue current data collection program at permanent sites. • Investigate strategically expanding (& repairing) the number of groundwater observation well sites. • Undertake strategic monitoring at sites to assess future projects, programs, and issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Penn Lake (in partnership with Bloomington), in preparation of upcoming water quality study update. • Submit collected monitoring data to MPCA and Met Council data clearinghouses for public access. • Develop and distribute annual monitoring report. • Continue to monitor and investigate potential nitrogen loading along the south fork of Nine Mile Creek (e.g., Braemar Golf Course).

Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement environmental education & outreach plan and review at year end. • Manage partnership activities with other organizations and stakeholders. • Coordinate public engagement and outreach for District projects and studies. • Initiate 2023 Calendar (including photo contest).
District Hydrologic & Hydraulic (H&H) Model & Atlas -14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate maintenance of the District's H&H model. • Continue to coordinate model update with cities and other partners if additional information is collected or becomes available. • Undertake Phase 3 of flood risk vulnerability assessment (identifying and prioritizing flood reduction projects). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apply for FEMA and/or MPCA climate resiliency grants. • Partner with cities on regional flooding issues.
Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement grant program. • Work with cities on groundwater conservation cost-share grants. • Track and inspect current and past grant projects. • Review program and recommend modifications where necessary.
Regulatory Controls and Permitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement regulatory program. • Continued review of regulatory program to maximize efficiencies. • Evaluate added options of recently implemented permit and cost-share grant inspection and tracking software. • Continually review and amend District rules as necessary.
Technical/Planning Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to cities and residents to promote the incorporation on water and natural resources benefits into their projects. • Increase participation in partner short-term and long-term strategic planning in natural and water resources. • Increase interaction/presence with partner community development, transportation and planning groups.
Water Management Plan Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually review and identify needs for amendments to the Plan. • Annual maintenance plan review walk-through of North Branch and Lower Valley portions of Nine Mile Creek. • Complete water quality study for Arrowhead and Indianhead lakes. • Complete water quality study for Holiday, Rose and Wing lakes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including community stakeholder meetings. • Initiate water quality study for Mirror Lake. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including community stakeholder meetings. • Initiate water quality study for Birch Island Lake. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including community stakeholder meetings. • Continue to promote water conservation initiatives—including working with cities in their water efficiency rebate programs, education and identify highest commercial/ industrial/public users and conduct audits and identify, promote and incentivize the implementation of conservative measures. • Investigate primary causes of low dissolved oxygen throughout Nine Mile Creek and develop potential remedial measures.

TMDL Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with the MPCA on the Lower MN River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and TMDL.
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the District's AIS Strategy (in collaboration with partners).
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop wetland prioritization/scoping methodology for the District's identified highest quality wetlands and start the process of initiating restoration/protection projects. Continually identify potential restoration and protection sites and look to establish a District wetland bank. Continue to administer the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) requirements where we are the WCA LGU and participate on Technical Evaluation Panels where we are not.
Capital Projects	
Normandale Lake Water Quality Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement projects identified in the Normandale Lake water quality feasibility study including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicide treatment for curly-leaf pondweed management. Carp management. Continue lake water quality monitoring to evaluate effectiveness of projects per adaptive management approach.
Lake Cornelia & Edina Water Quality Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement projects identified in the Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina water quality feasibility study including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicide treatment for curly-leaf pondweed management. Complete the Rosland Park stormwater filtration BMP and put the system online. Performed fisheries management practices (aka carp/goldfish control). Complete the Lynmar Basin feasibility study for the Lynmar Basin stormwater infiltration retrofit project and consider ordering the project. Continue lake water quality monitoring to evaluate effectiveness of projects per adaptive management approach.
SE Anderson Lake Water Quality Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the results of the 2021 monitoring season and pre-herbicide treatment needs to obtain DNR permit for curly-leaf pondweed herbicide treatment in 2022/2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on a cooperative agreement with project partner: Bloomington. Start the public outreach process.
Stormwater Facilities Fund (SFF) Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find opportunities to use SFF dollars to replace lost stormwater management requirements (volume retention and water quality) from applicants not fully meeting District stormwater requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue conversations with Kraus-Anderson on the Southtown redevelopment area.
South Fork of Nine Mile Creek Stabilization/ Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop feasibility study/engineering report to undertake stabilization/restoration projects on identified reaches of the south fork of Nine Mile Creek - to be undertaken in 2022-2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on a cooperative agreement with project partners and reach out to those needing maintenance easements.

Regional Flood Study Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with cities (and other partners) to identify and study regional stormwater management needs/issues and implement solutions.
Repair and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In coordination with partner cities, undertake inspections of past projects to determine needs for any repair and maintenance of project areas.
Non-Profit Stormwater BMP Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct the last of the required two years of maintenance on non-profit stormwater BMP projects. Develop maintenance plans and begin implementation of BMP inspection and maintenance plan.

2021 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION/ACTION ITEM TRACKING —

In an effort to track the District's annual accomplishments against the program and project implementation action items shown in Table 6-1 and 6-2 of the District's 10-year Water Resources Management Plan (Plan), identified action items for that year are tracked as to whether they are completed, ongoing, or have not had much progress made on them.

The table shown in [Appendix 2](#) highlights Plan activities for 2021 (as well as activities that are to be undertaken in 2022), where the District is at in completing that Plan activity, and measurable outcomes for each.

The green cells indicate that the action item was completed in 2021. The yellow cells indicate those action items that were partially completed or are still in progress, and red cells indicate that little or no progress was made on that activity.

The tracked results for activities/implementation items identified in the 10-year Plan for 2021 are 52 green cells and 7 yellow cells for the 59 activities/implementation items.

2021 WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM SUMMARY —

The District continued to implement its routine water quality monitoring program in 2021. As part of the program, the District continued monitoring stream water quality and ecological uses at historically established monitoring stations along the south fork, north fork and main stem of Nine Mile Creek (similar to past years) and eight lakes (Northwest Anderson, Southeast Anderson, Southwest Anderson, Cornelia (North and South), Edina, Mirror and Normandale). The lakes within the District are monitored on a rotating basis. A summary of the 2021 water quality monitoring can be found in Appendix 1 and on the District's website at: ninemilecreek.org/lake-creek-monitoring

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION —

As required by Minn. R. 8410.0100, subp.4, the District prepared and disseminated its annual communication to watershed residents. This annual communication identified the Board members, contact information, and public meeting information and provided a general overview of the watershed and its programs. It was made available at public libraries and open city halls, and emailed out via our electronic newsletter. A copy of the 2021 Annual Communication is included in [Appendix 5](#) and on the District's website at: ninemilecreek.org/2021-annual-communication

ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT AND AUDIT REPORT

The District's audited annual financial report was prepared by Redpath and Company, Ltd., a certified public accounting firm. As required by Minn. R. 8410.0150, subp. 2, the Audited Financial Report includes classification and reporting of revenues and expenditures, a balance sheet, an analysis of changes in final balances, and all additional statements necessary for full financial disclosure. The 2021 Audited Financial Report can be found in [Appendix 3](#) and on the District's website at: ninemilecreek.org/reports.

2022 ANNUAL BUDGET

The District adopted its 2022 Annual Budget in late-August 2021. The total levy for 2022 will be \$2.6 million, which is the same amount levied in 2021. The 2022 budget is \$4.11 million, up slightly from the initial 2021 budget of \$3.95 million (which was amended in October 2021 to \$4.22 million). The 2022 Budget can be found in [Appendix 4](#) and on the District's website at: ninemilecreek.org/reports.

PERMITTING ACTIVITY

SUMMARY OF PERMITS ISSUED

In 2021, the NMCWD continued to review projects and permit applications under the rules adopted in 2008 and amended in 2015, 2018 and 2021. Of the 176 permits issued in 2021 (the District's busiest permit year to date), 54 triggered the District's stormwater rule and as a result, required stormwater management best management practices (BMPs). As of the end of 2021, 41 of these 54 applications that triggered stormwater management have been approved and are projected to reduce stormwater runoff volume by 160,331 cubic feet per year and reduce phosphorus and suspended solid loading by 93 and 16,473 pounds per year respectively. Of the 176 permits issued, four were variances (three to the District's wetland buffer rule and one each for floodplain freeboard for an on-grade parking lot).

In 2017, the District initiated a new permit tracking program that has since been extended to include all permits issued from 2014 through 2021. During this time period, the District has issued 1,126 permits of which 338 triggered the District's stormwater rule and as a result, required stormwater management BMPs. Through this extended analysis, these BMPs (from 2014-2021) were projected to reduce stormwater runoff volume by 1,479,060 cubic feet per year and reduce phosphorus and suspended solid loading by 1,007 and 251,731 pounds per year respectively.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

The District's Permit Coordinator regularly inspects permitted work to ensure compliance with permit conditions. If violations are found, the Permit Coordinator will typically notify permittees and seek voluntary abatement or correction before resorting to formal legal action. In 2021, no enforcement actions were necessary.



Adequate stormwater management best practices on a recent permit inspection

STATUS OF LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

The District monitors the plans of watershed districts and water management organizations that affect the District's cities and that have been approved by the Board of Soil and Water Resources. The District also reviews and approves the Comprehensive Surface Water Management Plans of each of the cities in the District. Currently, the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Richfield have approved local water plans.

BIENNIAL SOLICITATION OF INTEREST PROPOSALS

Under M.S.A. 103B.227, subd. 5, the District must issue a biennial solicitation for legal, technical, and other professional services. The District issued a formal solicitation for accounting, engineering, and legal services in early 2020. The District selected Cavanaugh and Associates as its accountant, Barr Engineering Co. as its engineer and Smith Partners, PLLP as its legal counsel at its May 2020 regular board meeting. The District selected Redpath and Company Ltd., to conduct the District's annual financial audit.

In addition, the District sought qualifications from engineering firms interested in being a part of the District's engineering pool to provide engineering and project-design services for specific types of projects. As a result, the District selected Asakura Robinson, Barr Engineering Co., Houston Engineering Inc., ISG Engineering, SRF Consulting Group, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., Wenck Associates, Inc., as part of its engineering pool.

We will solicit new proposals for engineering, legal, and other professional services in 2022.

FUND BALANCES

The District's fund balances and financial status are included in the District's 2021 annual audit. A copy of the 2021 annual audit is included in [Appendix 3](#) and on the District's website at: ninemilecreek.org/reports.

STATUS OF WETLAND BANKING PROGRAMS

Because of the inherent limitations of a fully urbanized watershed, the District has not developed a wetland banking program. Instead, to date, it uses the state wetland bank administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. The District is, however, participating in the wetland restoration/bank creation process with Hennepin County Environment and Energy on a large wetland complex at the County Home School site in Minnetonka.

LIKE, FOLLOW, & SUBSCRIBE

If you would like to volunteer with us, sign up for our volunteer e-newsletter at ninemilecreek.org.

Follow us on social media to see what we're up to! Join 1,582 people who follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and now also on Twitter!



APPENDICES

1. [Summary of 2021 Monitoring Programs and Appendices](#)
2. [2021 Plan Implementation/Action Item Tracking](#)
3. [2021 Annual Financial Audit](#)
4. [2022 Approved Annual Budget](#)
5. [2021 Annual Communication](#)

