

January News

District Updates



Edina Streambank Restoration

The Edina Streambank Project involves the stabilization of the streambank at 15 different areas along roughly 3.5 miles of Nine Mile Creek as it flows through the City of Edina. Because of the size of the project, it was divided into two phases. Work on the first 11 of sections of the creek (totaling roughly 2.2 miles) is currently underway, and the work on the remaining four sections will happen mid-summer 2018 through spring 2019. The project will improve stream health, improve habitat, and protect property from erosion.

As of late January 2017, 8 of 11 sections of the first phase of the project are complete, with work wrapping up on another in early February. Work on the remaining two sections will not be completed until June of 2018. Part of this work included digging a more natural, winding channel, which helps slow down the water and protect the banks from erosion. The old, straight channels will be filled in, stabilized and replanted. In addition, beginning in the spring of 2018 we will replant shrubs and trees in the areas that needed to be cleared for access to the work sites.

For more information on the project, go to the <u>Current Projects</u> page of our website

Reach 11 of Nine Mile Creek, after restoration

Remembering Barbara

Over the past year, we have installed new features around Discovery Point to honor Barbara Kaerwer, who generously donated her house and land that is now our headquarters and education facility. In the backyard, the outdoor seating area and native garden features a sign dedicating the area to Barbara, with a memorial stone set into the patio. Inside, we have put up a sign with pictures and information about her. We are happy to continue to care for Barbara's legacy, and to teach in this beautiful space she donated to us.



Outdoor Seating Area and Interpretive Sign for Barbara Kaerwer

Cost Share Grants

Winter months dragging on? Start planning a summer habitat restoration or raingarden and apply for a Cost Share Grant from the District. Grant money is available to residents, associations, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within District boundaries. Many types of projects are eligible for grant money, including raingardens, permeable pavers, shoreline restorations, and more!

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Attend the Information Session on February 21 to find out more. Application deadline is **March 30, 2018**.

Floating Island Installed with a Cost Share Grant

Upcoming Events

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Writing Nature Nearby

Sunday, January 28, 2018: 1-4 PM

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)



Author Amber Stoner will guide you through creating your own nature journal using a piece of handmade paper for the cover and simple stitching for the binding. Weather-permitting, we'll take a walk outside, interact with nature, and begin writing. No writing experience necessary.

Amber is a writer and book artist living in Minnesota. She is a member of The Loft Literary Center, and was a writer in residence at Write On, Door County in January 2017. **Registration is closed. Email Gael at** <u>gzembal@ninemilecreek.org</u> to be put on the waitlist.

Cost Share Grant Information Session

Wednesday, February 21, 2018: 5:30-7 PM

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)

Grant funds are available to residents, associations, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within District boundaries. Many types of projects are eligible for grant money, including raingardens, native plant restoration, and more! Attend this Information Session to hear a presentation on the program and get your questions answered.



Cost Share Grant applications are due Friday, March 30

Photo Contest



Calling all photographers! The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is seeking pictures of Nine Mile Creek or anything within the District, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants, and outdoor recreation.

Winning photos will be published in the 2019 Nine Mile Creek Photo Calendar. Calendars are distributed for free throughout the watershed.

For official rules and entry forms, go to ninemilecreek.org/photo-

contest

Submission deadline: September 21, 2018. Photo by R Gottsleben

Around the District

Road Salt: Less is More

Well-intentioned people think that if a little salt helps, more is better. "It's just a habit," says Sue Nissen, member of the group, Stop Over Salting (SOS). "We think we're doing the right thing."

Motivated by their awareness that Minnesota's waterways and wells are rapidly becoming permanently and irreversibly polluted, SOS is supporting limited liability legislation that will reduce oversalting. The hope is that the bill will be passed in the next legislative session beginning in February.



Read the full article at Clean Water MN.

Stop Over Salting, a group of dedicated Master Water Stewards

Snapshot



Northern Cardinals provide a spot of color in the monochrome winter landscape.



Smart Salting workshop attendees learn how to effectively apply salt to protect people and the environment.

Cardinal Photo by E. Daughton

Nine Mile Creek News and Events



Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point 12800 Gerard Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55346 P. 952-835-2078 ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org ninemilecreek.org

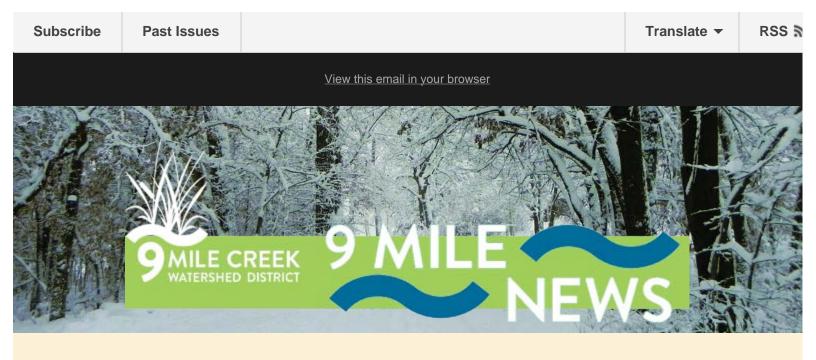
The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the District office.



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February News

Cost Share Grants

Winter months dragging on? Start planning a summer habitat restoration or raingarden, and apply for a <u>Cost Share Grant</u> from the District. Grant money is available to residents, associations, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within <u>District boundaries</u>. Many types of projects are eligible for cost share funds, including raingardens, permeable pavers, shoreline restorations, and more!



Attend an <u>Information Session</u> on February 21 at 5:30 PM to find out more. Application deadline is **March 30, 2018**.

Floating Island Installed with a Cost Share Grant

Upcoming Events

Smart Salting Level 1: Parking Lots and Sidewalks Thursday, February 22, 2018: 9 AM - 2 PM

Edina Public Works (7450 Metro Blvd., Edina)



This free training offers information about best practices for managing snow and ice on parking lots and sidewalks. These practices will help you save money, time, and the environment. An optional test is offered at the workshop to earn Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Level 1 Certification in Snow & Ice Control Best Practices. Certified individuals are listed on the MPCA website.

Who should attend?

Contractors, staff and volunteers who maintain parking lots and sidewalks.

Training presented by Fortin Consulting. Workshop funding is provided by MPCA through a grant from US EPA, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Fund with local match.

Register at: ninemilecreek.org

Smart Salting Level 2: For Supervisors

Thursday, March 1, 2018: 8 AM - 12:30 PM

Chaska Community Center (1661 Park Ridge Drive, Chaska)

This free training will teach attendees how to use a web-based assessment tool (WMAt) and how your organization can become Level 2 MPCA certified. The WMAt allows organizations to review their past, present and future winter maintenance practices. **Please bring a laptop.**



Training presented by Fortin Consulting, Inc. Workshop funding provided by MPCA through a grant from US EPA, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Fund with local match.

Register at: ninemilecreek.org

Photo Contest



Calling all photographers! The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is seeking pictures of Nine Mile Creek or anything within the District, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants, and outdoor recreation.

Winning photos will be published in the 2019 Nine Mile Creek Photo Calendar. Calendars are distributed throughout the watershed.

For rules and entry forms, go to ninemilecreek.org/photo-contest

Submission deadline: September 21, 2018

Around the District

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) is in support of legislation that would provide limited liability protection to commercial salt applicators that are certified through the <u>Smart Salting</u> training program. *Smalt Salting* is a training and certification program for public and private salt applicators offered through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The <u>Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts</u> (MAWD) approved a resolution supporting the legislation, as recommended by the NMCWD.

The *Smart Salting* trainings teach best management practices in salt application. This includes how to determine proper application rates for given weather conditions and how to maintain safe surfaces without applying too much salt. Commercial applicators certified through the *Smart Salting* training would be able to apply for liability protection.

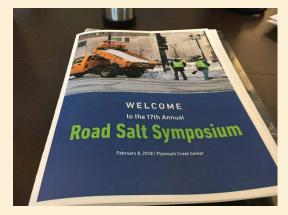
Last week, the Edina City Council unanimously approved a resolution of support for state law that provides limited liability to commercial salt applicators certified through the Smart Salting program and using best practices. We are happy to see support for this legislation growing.

Thanks to the members of the <u>Stop Over Salting</u> group, a coalition of citizen volunteers who advocate for strategies to reduce over salting and maintain safe winter roads, parking lots and sidewalks.

Snapshot



Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Little Seed Library: Take some seeds, leave some seeds.



Staff learned about innovative smart salting practices at the 2018 Road Salt Symposium.



Nine Mile Creek Watershed District 12800 Gerard Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55346 P. 952-835-2078 ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org ninemilecreek.org

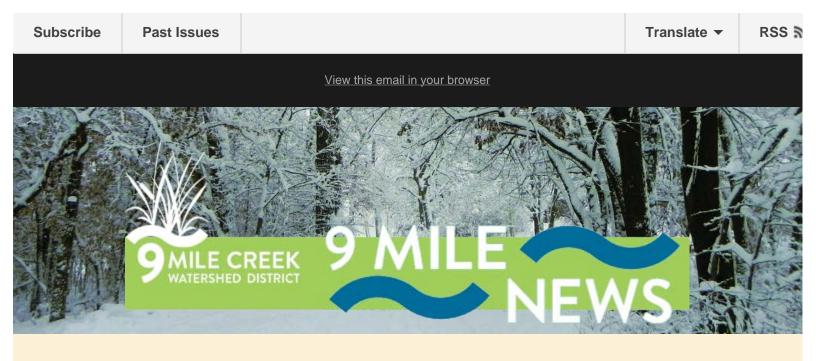
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March News

District Updates



District Hiring a Summer Intern

Join our team! We are hiring a summer intern to provide support to education & outreach activities and other program areas.

The intern will assist with education and outreach activities, supporting the District's regulatory program, and more.

Go to <u>ninemilecreek.org/summer-employment/</u> for qualifications, responsibilities, and application instructions.

Applications due by 5 PM Friday, March 23, 2018.

2017 Summer Intern helping at an eduction event

Cost Share Grants

There is still time to <u>submit your application</u> for a Cost Share Grant. Planning your raingarden or habitat restoration will help defeat the end of winter blues. Grant money is available to residents, associations, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within District boundaries. Many types of projects are eligible for grant money, including raingardens, permeable pavers, shoreline restorations, and more!



Application deadline is March 30, 2018.

Raingarden installed with a Cost Share Grant

Upcoming Events

Eden Prairie Home and Garden Expo

Saturday, March 17, 2018: 9 AM-3 PM

Grace Church (9301 Eden Prairie Rd, Eden Prairie)

Stop by the watershed districts' booth to learn how to keep lakes and creeks clean in your community. We'll be upstairs by the kids area.

Valley Park Volunteer Trash Cleanup

Sunday May 6, 2018: 1:00-3:30 PM

Valley Park (700 8th St. S., Hopkins)



Come help clean trash out of Valley Park and Nine Mile Creek. We will provide gloves, trash bags, grabbers, and snacks. Please wear long pants and closed toe shoes or rubber boots. Everyone is welcome to attend. **Participants can enter a raffle drawing to win a free rain barre!**

RSVP at ninemilecreek.org

Photo Contest

Calling all photographers! We are seeking pictures of Nine Mile Creek or anything within the District, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants, and outdoor recreation. We especially need winter photos.

Winning photos will be published in the 2019 Nine Mile Creek Photo Calendar. Calendars are distributed free throughout the watershed.



For rules and entry forms, visit ninemilecreek.org/photo-contest

Submission deadline: September 21, 2018.

Partner Updates



Chloride reduction legislation updates

<u>HF 3577</u>, legislation that would limit liability for commercial applicators who are trained in best practices for salt application, passed the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee Tuesday morning (3/13). It will move on to the House Civil Law Committee next week. In the Senate, <u>SF 3199</u> was introduced Monday (3/12) and has been referred to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

The Richfield City Council and the City of Minneapolis have both expressed support for this legislation, in addition to previous support from the City of Edina. The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District supports this legislation as part of an ongoing effort to reduce salt in Nine Mile Creek. Thank you to the citizen coalition, <u>Stop Over Salting</u>, for this update.

Monarch Mile: Planting Seeds of Change

A coalition of Master Water Steward volunteers and homeowners installed a Monarch Mile in their neighborhood to benefit Monarch butterflies and other pollinators.



Find out more in the full article at Clean Water MN.

Master Water Stewards check on the plants in their portion of the Monarch Mile

Snapshot



Staff discovered this little garter snake sunning itself in the greenhouse. It was brought to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Roseville and will be released in the spring. Staff enjoyed snowshoeing on Bryant Lake after the last snowfall.



Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point 12800 Gerard Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55346 P. 952-835-2078 ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org ninemilecreek.org The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the District office.

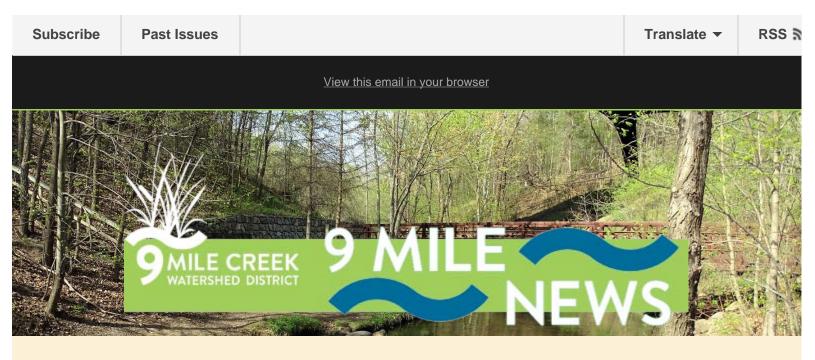
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Spring 2018

District Updates

Normandale Lake Improvement Project.



The District and the City of Bloomington are partnering on a project to improve the health of Normandale Lake. The project will include a lake-level drawdown tentatively scheduled to begin mid-August 2018, followed by a selective herbicide treatment and alum treatment in 2019.

The District has released an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project for review and comment. Find the EAW at <u>ninemilecreek.org/normandale-eaw</u>.

Learn more about the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project at an upcoming meeting:

Open House

Tuesday, May 15, 2018: 4:30-6:00 PM

Location: Poor Richards Commonhouse, Club Room (<u>8301 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington</u>) About: Drop in anytime to talk to staff about the Normandale Lake project and see project posters, while enjoying free appetizers! Alcohol available for purchase during this happy hour event.

Project Presentation

Thursday, May 24, 2018: 6:30-7:30 PM

Location: Hyland Hills Ski Chalet, Ridgeview Room (<u>8800 Chalet Rd, Bloomington</u>) About: Listen to a presentation on the Normandale Lake project, and get your questions answered.

Public Hearing

Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 6:30 PM

Location: Bloomington Civic Plaza, Room TBD (<u>1800 W Old Shakopee Rd. Bloomington</u>) About: The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers will receive comments on the project from the public.

Normandale Lake, D Bergstrom

Amendments to District Rules

The Board of Managers of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) adopted amendments to the NMCWD Rules on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. The amended NMCWD Rules are effective for all applications completed on or after May 21, 2018.

The amended NMCWD Rules regulate floodplain management and surface drainage alterations, wetlands management, stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, waterbody crossings, shoreline and streambank improvements on public waters, sediment removal from public waters and appropriations from public surface waters.



Learn about the amendments at ninemilecreek.org/permits

Watershed Sandbox Exhibit Debut



Dig a lake! Build a dam! Move a mountain! The new Watershed Sandbox recently debuted at Clear Springs Elementary and Eden Prairie Green Fair. Kids and adults alike had a blast making their own virtual reality landscape. The sandbox is an interactive display that teaches about watersheds through shaping landscapes and seeing how water flows. Virtual reality technology maps elevations and water movement in real time as people sculpt the sand.

Look for the sandbox at schools and community events around the southwest metro this summer! Contact Gael at gzembal@ninemilecreek.org for more information.

The Watershed Sandbox is a partnership between the Nine Mile Creek and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed Districts. Thanks to the artists at <u>Three Seven</u> for designing and fabricating the sandbox.

3rd graders play and learn at the Watershed Sandbox

Upcoming Events

Valley Park Volunteer Trash Cleanup

Sunday May 6, 2018: 1:00-3:30 PM

Valley Park (700 8th St. S., Hopkins)



Help clean up trash from Valley Park and Nine Mile Creek. We will provide gloves, trash bags, grabbers, and snacks. Please wear long pants and closed toe shoes or rubber boots. Everyone is welcome to attend. **Participants can enter a raffle drawing to win a free rain barrel!**

RSVP at ninemilecreek.org

Volunteer Planting

Saturday, June 9, 2018: 10 AM-12 PM

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)

Help plant 1,000 native plant plugs in the restoration area at Discovery Point. Learn about habitat restoration and native plants, while helping to restore what was once a buckthorn infested area of the property. We'll provide tools, snacks, and lunch! Free.

RSVP at ninemilecreek.org



Sustainable and No-mow lawns: A Practical Guide

Two Sessions:

Monday, June 25, 2018: 6:30-8 PM Chanhassen Library (7711 Kerber Blvd., Chanhassen) Wednesday, June 27, 2018: 6:30-8 PM Southdale Library (7001 York Ave S., Edina)



In this practical workshop you'll learn everything from how to assess your current lawn, to selecting the right seed and planting and maintaining a no-mow lawn. Come with your curiosity and leave ready to take on a project in your own yard! Both workshops presented by Jon Trappe, with the Department of Horticultural Science at the UMN. Free.

RSVP at ninemilecreek.org

Bring Nature Home Tuesday, June 26, 2018: 7-8:30 PM Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (<u>12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie</u>)

Paul Erdmann will present on ways you can provide habitat for pollinators, song birds, and other wildlife right in your own yard or

neighborhood park. He will also discuss ways to practice environmentally friendly gardening and landscaping. Bring a notebook and a map of your yard and bring back great ideas! Free.



RSVP at ninemilecreek.org

Art in Nature: Ojibwe Clans

Saturday, June 30, 2018: 1-3:30 PM

Lone Lake Park, Lakeside Pavilion (5624 Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka)



Come create an Ojibwa Woodland Art Style block print with Ojibwa artist Gordon Coons. Prints will be created from Gordon Coons linoleum blocks used for printing. All materials will be provided to create a print to take home. All are welcome to come make an Ojibwa Woodland Art Style print. Free.

RSVP at ninemilecreek.org

Partner Updates

Middle School Students Solve for Runoff

During a stormwater engineering unit at Maplewood Middle School, science teachers encouraged their students to think of real world solutions to the runoff generated by lawns and parking lots at their school. After weighing the options, students suggested planting a raingarden.

Read the full article at Clean Water MN.



Students at Maplewood Middle School investigate runoff solutions

Snapshot



Staff presented at the State of Water Conference on reducing chloride and building a strong volunteer program. A coyote wanders the grounds at Discovery Point.



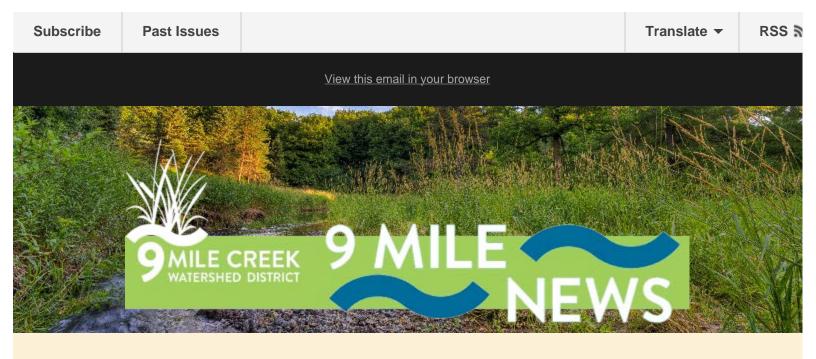
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Summer with 9 Mile Creek

District Updates

Summer is here!

Summer is here and we are excited to explore the watershed with you! There are many free events for adults and families coming up this summer. Learn how to convert your yard to no-mow grass, make Ojibwa block prints, or take your family fishing. Find all our upcoming events at <u>ninemilecreek.org/upcoming-events</u>.

At Discovery Point, the landscape restoration is taking shape: volunteers recently planted 1,000 native plants in an area once dominated by buckthorn, an invasive tree. You are welcome to visit the grounds any time dawn to dusk, and you can stop in the building during business hours if you have questions.

We are also working on projects to improve the health of Nine Mile Creek. The Edina Streambank Restoration Project will continue through 2018 and will be completed by summer of 2019. This project will result in stabilized stream banks, improved



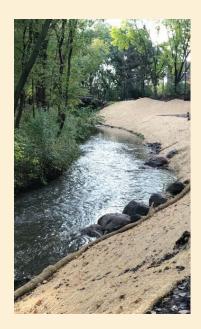
habitat, and the protection of property from erosion. The Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project seeks to improve water quality in the lake using a lake-level drawdown, selective herbicide treatment, and alum treatment. Learn more at <u>ninemilecreek.org/current-projects/</u>

Edina Streambank Restoration

The first phase of this project involved 11 sections, called reaches, of Nine Mile Creek through Edina. Beginning soon after June 15, 2018, crews will finish up by planting native plants along the banks. They will also re-route the flow from old channels to the new channels, and stabilize and put plants in the old channels on reaches 2 and 11. Work will be completed by June 30, 2018.

Phase 2 will complete the last 4 reaches of the creek. The District will solicit contractors to do the work starting in June, and begin restoration work in August. Restoration work will continue through the winter, and final revegetation should be complete by early summer 2019.

For more information, visit our current projects page at: <u>ninemilecreek.org/edina-streambank/</u>



Straw blanket preventing erosion on newly completed restoration

Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project



Attend the <u>Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project</u> Public Hearing to learn about the project and share your opinions.

Public Hearing

Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 6:30 PM

Location: Bloomington Civic Plaza, Council Chambers (<u>1800 W</u> <u>Old Shakopee Rd</u>) The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers will

take comments on the project and the <u>Environmental Assessment</u> <u>Worksheet</u> from the public.

Normandale Lake

District hires new intern!

Nick Atherton joins the District after having served as a two-time Americorps member, a US Forest Service intern, and a natural resource inspector with the City of Minnetonka. A Vermonter by heritage, he hopes to apply his interests in land use history, forest ecology, and sustainable resource management to his role as 2018's summer intern. When not working to protect and promote water resources, Nick can be found around the Twin Cities on his bike, fishing from his canoe, or concocting novel spice blends in his kitchen. Following this summer's internship, Nick plans to attend the University of Minnesota's Master of Public Policy degree program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, where he intends to study environmental policy and nonprofit management.



2018 Intern, Nick Atherton

Creek Valley students protect Nine Mile Creek



Creek Valley kindergartners planted native plants in the prairie behind their school in order to help pollinators and protect Nine Mile Creek. Despite the heat, the students had fun making seed balls, learning about water bugs, and playing educational games.

Creek Valley Kindergartners plant for clean water

Upcoming Events

Sustainable and No-mow lawns: A Practical Guide

Two Sessions:

Monday, June 25, 2018: 6:30-8 PM Chanhassen Library (7711 Kerber Blvd., Chanhassen) Wednesday, June 27, 2018: 6:30-8 PM Southdale Library (7001 York Ave S., Edina)



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RSVP at <u>ninemilecreek.org</u>. A waitlist will open once registration is full.

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Paul Erdmann will present on ways you can provide habitat for pollinators, song birds, and other wildlife right in your own yard or neighborhood park. He will also discuss ways to practice environmentally friendly gardening and landscaping. Bring a notebook and a map of your yard and bring back great ideas! Free.



RSVP at ninemilecreek.org

Smart Salting: Level 2 Thursday, June 28, 2018: 8 AM - 12:30 PM Bloomington Public Works (<u>1700 W 98th St. Bloomington</u>)



This 4½ hour training will teach attendees how to use the Winter Maintenance Assessment Tool (WMAt). The training also explains the steps required for your organization to become Level 2 MPCA certified. The class gives maintenance leaders time away from their busy schedule in order to better understand how to use the WMAt. Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided. **Please bring a laptop to work on during class.**

RSVP at ninemilecreek.org

Art in Nature: Ojibwa Clans Saturday, June 30, 2018: 1-3:30 PM

Lone Lake Park, Lakeside Pavilion (5624 Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka)

Come create an Ojibwa Woodland Art Style block print with Ojibwa artist Gordon Coons. Prints will be created from Gordon Coons linoleum blocks used for printing. All materials will be provided to create a print to take home. All are welcome to come make an Ojibwa Woodland Art Style print. Free.

RSVP at ninemilecreek.org



Creek Stories

Riverwatch: Students Monitoring Water Quality

Students with the Richfield College Experience Program and Edina High School once again participated in Riverwatch at Nine Mile Creek this spring. Riverwatch is a program where high school students collect macroinvertebrates (or water bugs) from the creek. The students then identify the creatures back in the lab, and draw conclusions about the health of the creek based on the number and variety of creatures they found.



To learn more about Riverwatch, go to www.hennepin.us/riverwatch

High school students collect water bugs

Snapshot





Fourth grade students at Cornelia Elementary applied markers to stormdrains around their school. Creek Valley Elementary students tested the water quality of Nine Mile Creek. Kids and adults cleaned up 25 bags of trash at the Hopkins' Valley Park cleanup event.



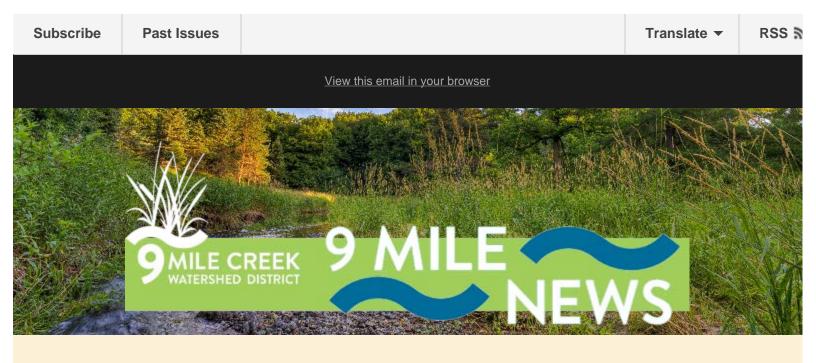
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Summer with 9 Mile Creek

District Updates



Butterfly milkweed is blooming at <u>Discovery Point</u>, as well as coneflowers and rattlesnake master. We have recently seen monarchs and bees enjoying the flower bounty. Take a walk around the grounds to see what other flowers you can find in the raingardens, prairie, and habitat restoration.

Read on to learn about updates on District projects and upcoming events. We will also be hosting a Cost Share Grant Information Session in August, so start thinking about a project you could do on your property that protects water.

Discovery Point Habitat Restoration



Volunteers recently planted 1,000 native flowers in the Phase 1 restoration area at Discovery Point, Nine Mile Creek's office and educational facility. The flowers will add diversity, attract pollinators, and help fill in sparse areas of the restoration.

Due to the late spring, native seeding and planting in the Phase 2 restoration area (southwest part of the property) has been delayed until September to reduce heat stress on the new plants and seeds and reduce watering demands. If you visit our office this summer, you will notice that the Phase 2 area looks very brown. This is because it is being prepared for planting this fall. Buckthorn re-sprouts and other invasive weeds were sprayed with herbicide to prevent them from spreading, and to clear the space for native seed.

A professional restoration contractor, Minnesota Native Landscapes, will install 105 shrubs and 35 trees as part of this phase. The plants were selected by Landscape Architects from the District's engineering firm, Barr Engineering, in consultation with District staff and approval from the City of Eden Prairie and the Minnesota Land Trust. The selection was based on historic and present site conditions, screening ability, and resistance to climate change. Learn more about the restoration on our <u>website</u>.

Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project

The Nine Mile Creek's Board of Managers ordered the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project at their June 20 board meeting. The project will go out to bid this summer, with work beginning on the lake drawdown in mid to late-August. Turtle protection fencing will be installed before the start of the drawdown. During the lake drawdown, water levels dropping in Normandale Lake will cue turtles to find new overwintering habitat



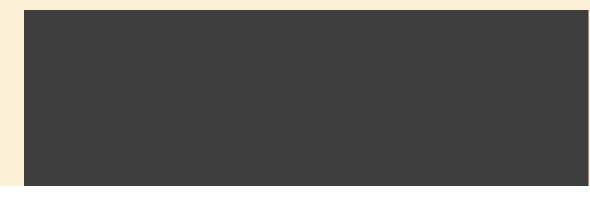
before they need to hibernate for the winter. The turtle protection fencing will surround the lake and direct turtles safely upstream or downstream for the winter and keep them off roads. The District will also conduct a fish survey in July and August on the lake before the start of the project.

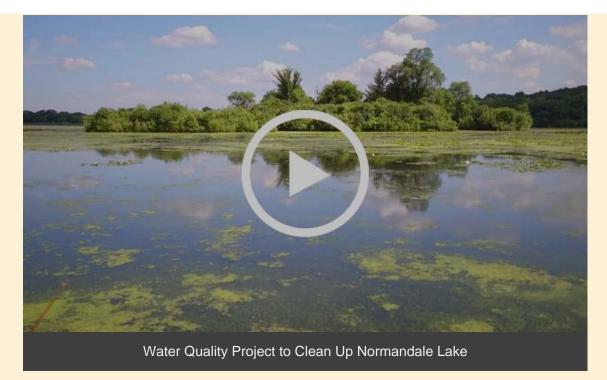
Stay up to date on this project by visiting our website.

Example of a Lake Drawdown

Learn more about the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project through two videos produced with the City of Bloomington.







Attend a Cost Share Grant Info Session

Now is the perfect time to start planning your grant application for 2019. Before there is snow on the ground (shudder), learn more about cost share grants, eligible projects, and how to apply. Ask questions about your project idea, and understand the planning process that leads up to a grant application. Pick one of two information sessions to attend. Staff will present the same information at both sessions.

Cost Share Information Session

or

Wednesday, August 8, 2018, 6:30-8 PM

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (<u>12800 Gerard Drive, Eden</u> <u>Prairie</u>)

Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 5:30-7 PM Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (<u>12800 Gerard Drive, Eden</u> <u>Prairie</u>)



Raingarden installed with a 2017 Cost Share Grant

Upcoming Events

Pollinator Field Day

Wednesday, July 11, 2018: 4-6 PM

Lone Lake Park (5624 Shady Oak Rd, Minnetonka)



Come to this fun-filled, family friendly event to celebrate pollinators. Stop in at anytime to participate in activities, and learn more about pollinators! Nine Mile Creek and the City of Minnetonka are partnering to host this event.

See a list of activities at eminnetonka.com.

Let's Go Fishing Saturday, July 28, 2018: 10 AM - 12 PM Bryant Lake Park (<u>6800 Rowland Rd, Eden Prairie</u>)

Join the Eden Prairie Chapter of <u>Let's Go Fishing</u> in their pontoon boat on Bryant Lake. You'll learn fishing basics, how to read a lake map, and catch a fish or two! Children under 16 will receive a free rod and tackle box, donated by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

Adults that fish need a MN fishing license. No license needed for children under 16. Registration limited to 24 people: RSVP at <u>ninemilecreek.org</u>



Master Water Stewards Info Session Tuesday, July 31, 2018: 5:30-6:30 PM Unmapped Brewery (<u>14625 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka</u>)



Learn how you can make a positive impact in your neighborhood as a Master Water Steward. Freshwater Society staff will share information on the classes, volunteer requirements, and how to apply.

For all info session dates, and to apply, visit masterwaterstewards.org/info-sessions/

Discovering Dragonflies

Saturday, August 4, 2018: 1-3 PM Wood Lake Nature Center (<u>6710 Lake Shore Dr. S. Richfield</u>) Explore the wonderful world of dragonflies with your whole family. Master Naturalist John will show you how to identify both dragonflies and damselflies, and teach about their habitat. Bring a camera to learn some tips for photographing these beautiful insects.

Everyone welcome! RSVP at ninemilecreek.org



Cost Share Grant Info Session

Wednesday, August 8, 2018: 6:30-8 PM

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)



Grant funds are available for projects located within District boundaries. Do you have questions or want to learn more? Attend this Cost Share Information Session to hear a presentation on the program and get your questions answered. Grant applications are due March 22, 2019.

Tiny Boatmaking Saturday, August 18, 2018: 2-4 PM Valley Park (700 8th St S, Hopkins)

Using material gathered at the creek shoreline, we'll build tiny boats, learn water stories, and make artful memories. Gloves provided. Dress for the weather. RSVP at <u>ninemilecreek.org</u>

Master Water Stewards sought

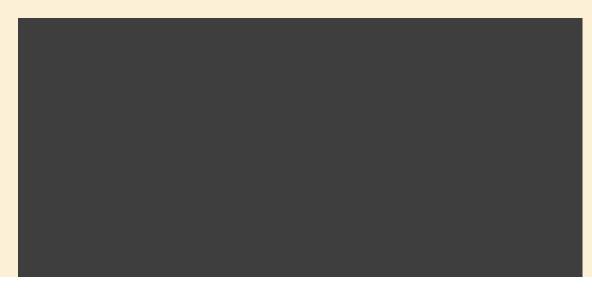


Do you want to protect clean water in a lake or stream you care about? Become a Master Water Steward! This program provides training on how to protect local lakes and creeks from pollution. Following the training, Stewards put their knowledge into action in their own communities. For more information and to apply go to: <u>masterwaterstewards.org/overview/</u>

Information Sessions

Tuesday, July 31, 2018, 5:30-6:30 PM Unmapped Brewing Co., Minnetonka or Tuesday, August 7, 2018, 6:30-7:30 PM REI, Bloomington

Snapshot





A girl waits anxiously as Native Artist <u>Gordon Coons</u> unveils the Ojibwa Block Print she painted. Attendees could choose to make a print of a bear, fish, human, or turtle.



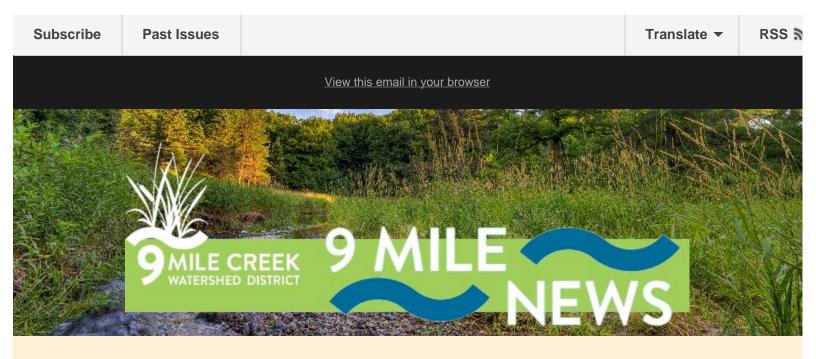
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point 12800 Gerard Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55346 P. 952-835-2078 ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org ninemilecreek.org The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the District office.



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Summer with 9 Mile Creek

District Updates

Normandale Lake Project starting in August



The District's Board of Managers recently awarded a contract to pump to draw water levels down in Normandale Lake. The contractor will also construct a new, permanent outlet pipe in the lake to continue the lake drawdown. The lake drawdown is anticipated to begin no later than August 23rd. Once the the drawdown begins, you will see water levels slowly begin to drop in the lake. During this time, you may notice bad smells from decaying plants and the exposed lake bottom. The lake will be substantially empty by mid-September, depending on rainfall during that time. A pool of water will remain on the west side of the lake.

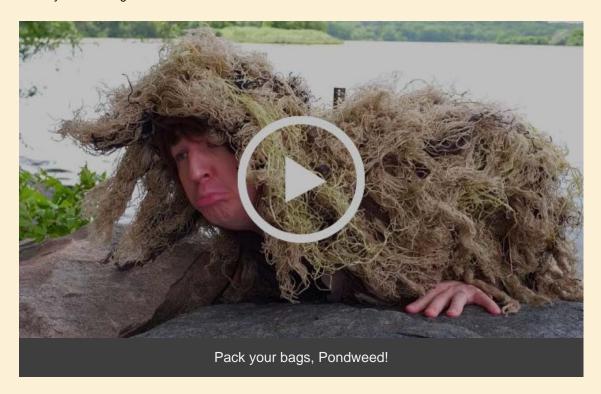
Although Normandale Lake will largely be empty by mid-September, the lake will experience fluctuations in water level after rain or snowmelt events because Nine Mile Creek flows through the lake. The lake will sit nearly empty over the winter to freeze the sediment and kill curlyleaf pondweed turions, an invasive plant species in lakes. The District will close the bypass pipe in early March to allow the lake to refill by April.



In addition, a temporary water control structure (weir) will be installed in the Nine Mile Creek channel just upstream of Normandale Lake to maintain normal water levels in the wetland area north of West 84th Street during the lake drawdown. The District will also install turtle fencing around the perimeter of the lake, allowing turtles to safely find new winter homes.

Stay up to date on this project by taking a brochure at one of the newly installed project signs at Normandale Lake. You can also visit our website.

Learn more about the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project through a video produced by the City of Bloomington.



Summer fun!



People around the District are getting outside and enjoying the sunshine! This little girl and her family had fun fishing at Bryant Lake with Let's Go Fishing Eden Prairie.

In Bloomington and Hopkins, staff visited farmer's markets to with people about water quality and invasive species.

Last Saturday, folks learned how to identify dragonflies with Master Water Steward/Master Naturalist John.

We have a few more programs left this summer including our Art in Nature Series: Tiny Boatmaking with artist Brenda Bell Brown. Go to <u>ninemilecreek.org</u> to find out more.

Fish surveys around the watershed



Nine Mile staff joined forces with neighboring Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) to conduct fish surveys in the Nine Mile Creek watershed. Our staff have been out helping to electrofish and set fish nets on Lake Cornelia and Normandale to test the waters for invasive carp and other fish species. Staff record the number, species and lengths of the fish captured in the nets, then return them to the lake. This information provides a deeper look into the health of the lakes and will help us plan for future management.



Among other species, staff found 52 goldfish in Lake Cornelia. Like their invasive carp relatives, goldfish can harm local lakes and creeks because they dig in the lake bottom to feed, stirring up sediment and uprooting plants. A word to the wise—don't release your pet goldfish into the wild! They can quickly establish a breeding population, such as the one found in Lake Cornelia. The same surveys on Lake Cornelia also resulted in 27 snapping turtles caught in the fish nets. They know that it is a good place to catch a fish dinner! The snapping turtles were released back into the lake. Thank you to RPBCWD for their expertise and leadership in conducting the fish surveys for the District.

Pictures and text adapted with permission from Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District.

Larger Cost Share Grants Available

Nine Mile Creek has recently increased the maximum awards for its cost share grants. Starting in 2019, the District will award up to 75% of a project's cost to a maximum award of:

- \$5,000 for single-family residential
- \$20,000 for townhome, condominium, or lake associations
- \$50,000 for commercial, government, or nonprofit organizations

The District has decreased to 50% the amount it will share costs for the removal of woody invasive species, such as buckthorn. However, for native restoration projects a two-year time frame will be allowed for completion. For more information of these, and other changes, visit: <u>ninemilecreek.org/get-involved/grants/</u>

Attend a Cost Share Grant Info Session

Plan your project for a spring 2019 installation. Before you apply, attend an information session to learn more about the <u>cost share</u> <u>grants</u>, eligible projects, and application criteria. Ask questions about your idea and understand the planning process that leads up to an application. Applications are due March 22, 2019.



Cost Share Information Session

Wednesday, August 8, 2018, 6:30-8 PM

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)

or

Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 5:30-7 PM

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)

Upcoming Events

Master Water Stewards Info Session Tuesday, August 7, 2018: 5:30-6:30 PM Smith Coffee (<u>8107 Eden Prairie Rd., Eden Prairie</u>) OR Tuesday, August 7, 2018: 6:30-7:30 PM

REI (750 American Blvd. W, Bloomington)

Learn how you can make a positive impact in your neighborhood as a Master Water Steward. Freshwater Society staff will share information on the classes, volunteer requirements, and how to apply.

For all info session dates, and to apply, visit <u>masterwaterstewards.org/info-sessions/</u>



Cost Share Grant Info Session

Wednesday, August 8, 2018: 6:30-8 PM

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie)



Grant funds are available for projects such as raingardens, permeable pavers, and native restoration that are located within <u>District boundaries</u>. Do you have questions about eligible projects or want to learn how to apply? Attend this Cost Share Information Session to hear a presentation on the program and get your questions answered. Staff will also share information about recent changes to the grant program.

Grant applications are due March 22, 2019. Learn More>

Tiny Boatmaking Saturday, August 18, 2018: 2-4 PM Valley Park (700 8th St S, Hopkins)

Using material gathered at the creek shoreline, we'll build tiny boats, learn water stories, and make artful memories. Gloves provided. Dress for the weather. RSVP at <u>ninemilecreek.org</u>

Smart Salting Training: Parking Lots and Sidewalks

Wednesday, September 12, 2018: 9AM - 2 PM

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie)

This training offers information about best practices for managing snow and ice on parking lots and sidewalks. Training is **free** and includes lunch. Geared towards contractors, staff and volunteers who maintain parking lots and sidewalks in the winter. RSVP required: <u>ninemilecreek.org</u>



Become a clean water hero!



Do you want to protect clean water in a lake or stream you care about? Become a Master Water Steward! This program provides training on how to protect local lakes and creeks from pollution. Following the training, Stewards put their knowledge into action in their own communities. For more information and to apply go to: <u>masterwaterstewards.org/overview/</u>

Master Water Steward Information Sessions Tuesday, August 7, 2018, 6:30-7:30 PM REI, Bloomington or Tuesday, August 7, 2018, 5:30-6:30 PM Smith Coffee, Eden Prairie

Snapshot



A monarch butterfly enjoys nectar from a Blazingstar flower (purple), with Rattlesnake Master and Blackeyed Susan flowers in the background. Staff measure the length of a Pumpkinseed fish on Normandale Lake.



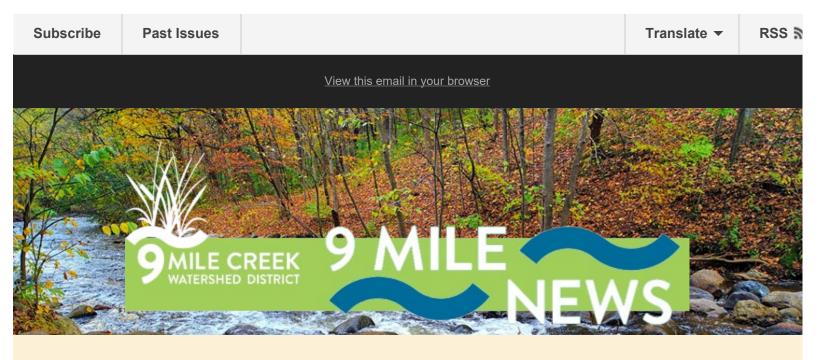
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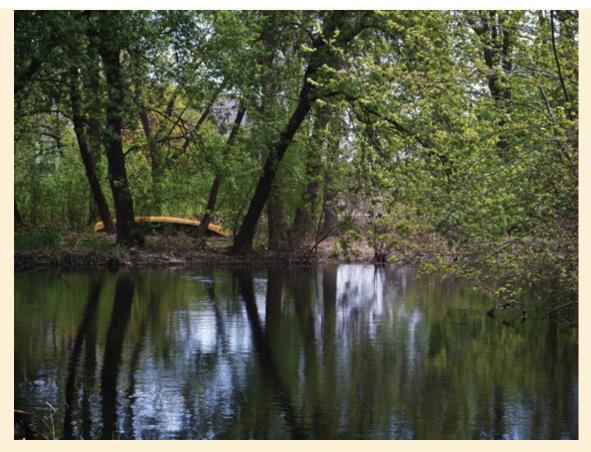




Fall with 9 Mile Creek

District Updates

Submit photos to the Photo Contest



The deadline for our Photo Contest is coming up! Submit your pictures of lakes, wildlife, plants or Nine Mile Creek by September 21. Your picture could be chosen for the 2019 Photo Calendar.

Pictures must be in a horizontal format and be taken within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

For complete rules and submission forms, go to ninemilecreek.org/photo-contest/

Photo Credit: Elizabeth D, Canoe in Nine Mile Village, 2017 calendar cover

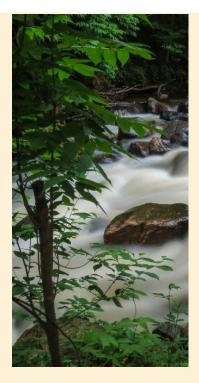
District hiring Permitting and Water Resources Coordinator

The District is hiring a Permitting and Water Resources Coordinator.

Visit our website for the complete position description.

Applications Due: Friday, September 28, 2018, 4:30 PM Position Status: Permanent, Full Time Reports To: District Administrator/Program Manager Salary: \$45,600 – \$68,400

Purpose: The Permit and Water Resources Coordinator is responsible for the permitting program and providing assistance for the implementation of various District water resource



management programs and projects. The individual will work with the permitting team in reviewing and managing the permitting program for the District. The individual will also work in partnership with staff, the District Engineer, agency and city counterparts, community members and private contractors to support implementation of the District's water resource management programs and projects.

Normandale Lake Drawdown Project Update





Nine Mile Creek flows through Normandale Lake. As expected, as the District and City of Bloomington work to drawdown the lake in an effort to combat curly-leaf pondweed, an invasive aquatic plant, rainfall has brought more water into Normandale. From September 2-5, 1.47 inches of rain was recorded at the airport. This made water levels in Normandale Lake rise by 0.8 feet. Three pumps, temporarily installed at the lake for the project, are discharging water at a minimum of 4,600 gallons per minute. In addition, an 18" pipe installed when the lake was constructed in the late 1970s is open and letting water out of the lake. The lake is down about 2 feet overall. The pumps will be replaced with a 36" outlet pipe in the coming weeks, which will help drain any additional rainfall and snowmelt throughout the fall and winter.

With the lake levels dropping, fish-eating birds like great egrets, osprey, and bald eagles have been enjoying easy meals at Normandale. If you enjoy bird watching, it is an exciting time to visit the lake. Just do not be tempted to cross the construction fence and walk on the exposed lake bottom. It is not safe at any time to do so.

For more details on the project, visit ninemilecreek.org/normandale.

Get additional updates on the project by subscribing to the Normandale Lake Project newsletter.

Subscribe

Upcoming Events

Photo Contest Deadline

Friday, September 21, 2018



Submit your pictures by September 21 to our Photo Contest, and they could be chosen to be featured in the 2019 Photo Calendar. We are looking for pictures from all seasons, of wildlife, plants, recreation, lakes, and the creek.

For complete rules and to submit photos, go to ninemilecreek.org/photo-contest

Smart Salting Training: Roads

Friday, September 28, 2018: 9 AM - 2 PM

Bloomington Public Works (1700 W 98th St. Bloomington)

This training offers information about best practices for managing snow and ice on roads. Training is **free** and includes lunch. Geared towards contractors, staff and volunteers who maintain streets in the winter. RSVP required: <u>ninemilecreek.org</u>



Smart Salting Training: Parking Lots and Sidewalks

Thursday, November 8, 2018: 9 AM - 2 PM

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie)

(Backup day Thursday, November 15)



This training offers information about best practices for managing snow and ice on parking lots and sidewalks. Training is **free** and includes lunch. Geared towards contractors, staff and volunteers who maintain parking lots and sidewalks in the winter. RSVP required: <u>ninemilecreek.org</u>

State of the Waters & Photo Calendar Release event Wednesday, December 12, 2018: 6:30-8 PM Location TBA

Come learn about the condition of Nine Mile Creek Watershed District's water resources, and celebrate the release of the Nine Mile Creek 2019 Photo Calendar. We will also celebrate the accomplishments of our wonderful volunteers! For advance registration, email Gael at <u>gzembal@ninemilecreek.org</u>



Become a clean water hero!



Do you want to protect clean water in a lake or stream you care about? Become a Master Water Steward! This program provides training on how to protect local lakes and creeks from pollution. Following the training, Stewards put their knowledge into action in their own communities.

Classes start October 8. Apply now. To apply, visit masterwaterstewards.org/application-page/

Snapshot





A monarch butterfly chrysalis formed in our office prairie at the top of a swamp milkweed plant. We found 26 caterpillars in one day around our building last month. Participants of the Tiny Boatmaking class enjoyed making and testing their boats with artist Brenda Bell Brown.



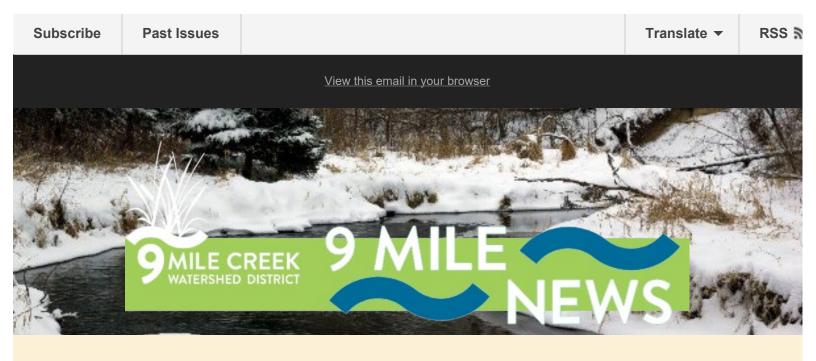
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point 12800 Gerard Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55346 P. 952-835-2078 ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org ninemilecreek.org The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the District office.



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Winter with 9 Mile Creek

District Updates

Welcome to new Board Manager, Bob Cutshall



In November, Bob Cutshall was sworn in as the newest Board Manager for the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Manager Cutshall lives in Eden Prairie and is a Master Water Steward volunteer with the District. He was previously on the District's Citizen Advisory Committee, and in 2018 was awarded District "Volunteer of the Year". We are happy to welcome Manager Cutshall to our Board.

Come to the State of the Waters event



Join us on Wednesday, December 12 for the District's annual State of the Waters event, and learn about the Normandale Lake drawdown and Edina streambank restoration project. Attendees will receive an advance copy of the 2019 Photo Calendar. Light appetizers will be catered by <u>The Sioux Chef</u>.

RSVP before December 4th ninemilecreek.org/state-of-waters/

If you can't make the event, pick up your calendar at City Halls and Libraries around the District (in Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins Minnetonka, and Richfield).

2017 Photo Calendar Release

Join the Citizens Advisory Committee



Are you interested in a making a difference in your community? Do you wonder how you might help protect lakes and creeks? Become a volunteer on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and make a difference through sharing your community insights and ideas. Two positions on our CAC are currently available.

For more information visit<u>ninemilecreek.org/citizen-advisory-committee/</u>. To apply, contact Gael, the Education and Outreach Coordinator at <u>gzembal@ninemilecreek.org</u> or 952-204-9691.

Normandale Lake Drawdown Project Update





https://mailchi.mp/67fc86500cfa/nine-mile-creek-news-and-events-1587349?e=[UNIQID][1/17/2019 8:20:37 AM]

The drawdown of Normandale Lake seeks to reduce the amount of an invasive aquatic plant, Curly-leaf Pondweed, that is growing in the lake. To keep the plant from growing, its seed-like reproductive structures must be frozen. This occurs when the lake is empty overwinter. The District will allow the lake to refill starting in March, and the lake should be full by the beginning of April.

A 36" pipe was installed to maintain the drawdown without needing to pump water out of the lake; this pipe could also be used again should the District decide to undertake future drawdowns of the lake.

You can take a live look at Normandale Lake and the drawdown from the <u>Normandale Lake Cam</u>. For more details on the project visit <u>ninemilecreek.org/normandale</u> or subscribe to the Normandale Lake Project newsletter.



Upcoming Events

State of the Waters & Photo Calendar Release Wednesday, December 12, 2018: 7-8:30 PM Location: <u>Hopkins Center for the Arts</u>, Jaycee Studio

Learn about the Normandale Lake drawdown and Edina Streambank project, and celebrate the release of the Nine Mile Creek 2019 Photo Calendar. We will also celebrate the accomplishments of our wonderful volunteers!

<u>The Sioux Chef</u> will cater light appetizers. Find parking information and RSVP at: <u>ninemilecreek.org/state-of-waters/.</u>



Salt Solutions Workshop

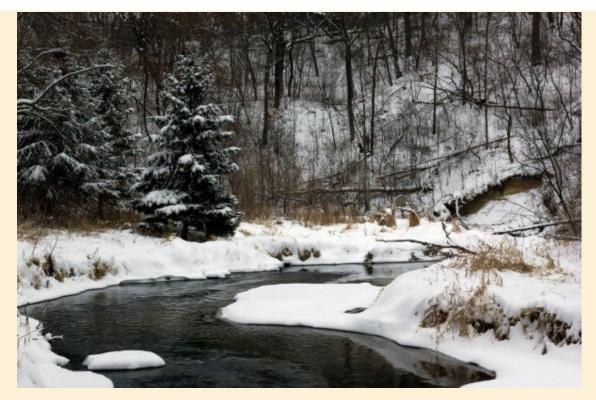
Tuesday, January 8, 2019: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (<u>12800 Gerard Dr. Eden Prairie</u>)



Maintenance staff and leadership at places of worship and nonprofit organizations will learn ways to use deicing salt more efficiently at this free workshop. Useful tools and handouts are given to each organization who completes the workshop.

RSVP at: ninemilecreek.org/salt-solutions-2/

2018 in review



Be on the lookout for our 2018 Annual Communication in your inbox soon. This special edition of our enewsletter will recap all the important events that happened in the past year.

Snapshot



A new Master Water Steward studies the raingarden sign at a stop on the watershed tour. Staff and volunteers enjoyed talking with folks about aquatic invasive species at our Popup Cart at the Hyland Hills Chairlift Rides in October. Thanks to the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District for partnering with us on the tour, and allowing us to use the AIS Jr. Inspector game.

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the District Nine Mile Creek News and Events



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