District Updates

State of the Waters

You're invited to State of the Waters. Attend In-person or virtually!



Join us for our annual State of the Waters presentation on Wednesday, March 29th. Janna Kieffer, from Barr Engineering Company, will present on recent lake studies and the impact of climate change on the watershed. District staff will also be available to talk about recent projects and programs.

This year choose to attend State of Waters in-person or virtually. The in-person event will begin at 6:30 PM at our office (12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie) with light snacks and free time to mingle. The presentation will begin at 7 PM, when the the zoom link for virtual attendees will also open.

RSVP required. Parking at our office is limited, so please help us keep track of numbers by filling out the RSVP form. We may close in-person attendance early to manage parking space. If attending in person, please consider carpooling!

RSVP here

Grants

Habitat Restoration Grant deadline May 15



Applications are due on May 15th at 4 PM for the first round of habitat restoration grants. A native habitat restoration restores native plant communities to lead toward healthier ecosystems. Examples of projects include woodland restorations, turf conversion to prairie, and more.

Grants are reimbursed for up to 50% of eligible project costs.

Maximum grant awards:

- \$3,000 for residential projects
- \$5,000 for townhome, condominium, or lake associations
- \$10,000 for commercial, government, or nonprofit projects

Bee lawns and fescue lawn conversions are not eligible for habitat restoration grant funding.

Shoreline buffers, raingardens and other projects that work to prevent pollution to our lakes and creek system are funded through our <u>stewardship fund grants</u>.

Learn how to apply for restoration grants at: <u>ninemilecreek.org/restoration-applications/</u>

Project Updates

Fisheries management volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help monitor carp and goldfish in District lakes this summer. The District is working with WSB to conduct carp and goldfish research and management work in Bloomington (Normandale Lake) and Edina (Lake Cornelia). Carp and goldfish are invasive fish that cause harm to lake health. The District is working to reduce carp and goldfish populations in these lakes. Volunteers are responsible for baiting fish nets with corn. The corn is designed to aggregate carp to the nets, as other fish do not feed on the corn.



This volunteer project requires people to pick up a 50 pound bag of corn. Volunteers must also be able to walk a half mile to one mile, and work in soft lake bottom sediments while wearing chest waders. Check out this short YouTube video on baiting nets with corn: <u>youtube.com/watch?v=31UIOgeuwxY</u>

Materials will be provided by the District, including chest waders. Time commitment is approximately 1-2 hours every day for up to 4 days. We are looking for volunteers to commit to a week of baiting in the summer months. Fill out this form if you are interested in volunteering: <u>https://ninemilecreek.typeform.com/fisheries</u>. Email Alissa at <u>greencorps@ninemilecreek.org</u> with questions.

Whited Fen Community Meeting



The Whited Fen Restoration Project will protect and improve this nine-acre wetland along Whited Avenue in Minnetonka through removal of invasive plants and re-establishment of native habitat.

Whited Fen is classified as a rich fen floating mat, a rare wetland type in the watershed. The wetland has unique native plants, including uncommon species like cranberry and cotton grass. These important species are being threatened by invasive plants. If these harmful plants are not managed, there will be long term negative impacts to this unique resource.

A community meeting was held for residents living around the fen in early March. Many nearby residents attended and learned more about the restoration project the District is planning. Learn more by reading the <u>Whited Fen Restoration Fact Sheet</u>.

Upcoming Events

MPCA Turfgrass Maintenance Training Thursday, April 13, 2023: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM Live WebEx training

> Participants will learn about <u>best management practices (BMPs)</u> for lawn/turf care maintenance that can save money while protecting our valued lakes and streams.



- Audience: Private/public park, cemetery, city, school grounds maintenance professionals, property managers who write contracts for grounds maintenance, and turf care product distributors.
- 5 hour training, plus a short test for certification.
- Turf Grass Maintenance 5-year certificate awarded upon passing test at end of training.

Registration is required, please submit information for all individuals planning to attend.

Webex link will be emailed to registered participants prior to training.

This training is hosted by Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Chloride Reduction Program. Funding is provided by MPCA through the Clean Water Fund.

Register here

Creek Cleanup Saturday, May 6, 2023: 1-3 PM Hopkins Valley Park | 700 8th St S, Hopkins

Help pick up trash along Nine Mile Creek in Valley Park, Hopkins. Gloves, high visibility vests, bags and trash grabbers will be provided. Please fill out the form so we know how much of the equipment to bring.

Meet by the large playground in Valley Park.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP here



Upcoming Board Meetings

Thursday, April 6, 2023: 5:30-7 PM (Workshop) Wednesday, April 19, 2023: 7-9 PM

Upcoming board meetings and workshops will take place in person at Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie. Board meetings are open to the public.

Upcoming Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings

Wednesday, April 5, 2023: 7-8 PM CAC meetings will take place in person at Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie. CAC meetings are open to the public.

Go to ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/ for up-to-date information on Board and CAC

Snapshot



You never know who you might see on the trails, as this photo contest winner shows: taken by Charlie Anderson, Moir Park, Bloomington. In another part of Moir Park, people are still enjoying frisbee-golf even in the winter! There are lots of footprints in the snow all around it.



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The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District office (12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie, MN, 55346).

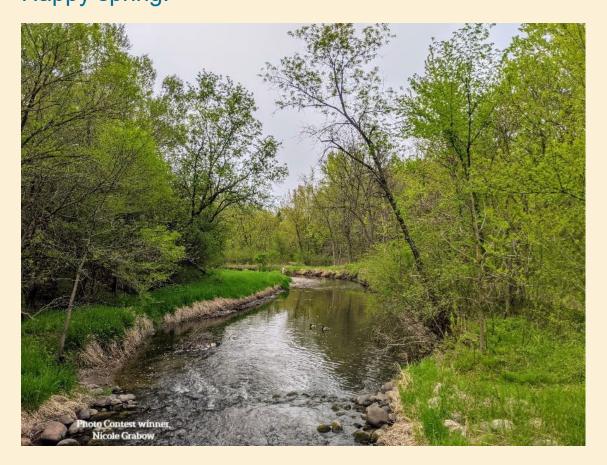
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District Updates Happy spring!



We hope you had a wonderful Earth Day! You can continue to care for the Earth all year long. Get involved locally by joining us on May 6 from 1-3 pm to clean up trash from Nine Mile Creek in Hopkins. Or, consider submitting a habitat restoration grant for an upcoming project. Read on to learn details about all the ways you can get involved with Nine Mile Creek this spring and summer.

Photo Contest winner: View from the third bridge in spring by Nicole Grabow

Grants

Habitat restoration grant deadline: May 15 and August 14.



Applications are due on May 15th at 4 PM for the first round of habitat restoration grants. A native habitat restoration restores native plant communities to lead toward healthier ecosystems. Examples of projects include woodland restorations, turf conversion to prairie, and more.

Grants are reimbursed for up to 50% of eligible project costs.

Maximum grant awards:

- \$3,000 for residential projects
- \$5,000 for townhome, condominium, or lake associations
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Bee lawns and fescue lawn conversions are not eligible for habitat restoration grant funding.

Shoreline buffers, raingardens and other projects that work to prevent pollution to our lakes and creek system are funded through our <u>stewardship fund grants</u>.

Learn how to apply for restoration grants at: ninemilecreek.org/restoration-applications/

Staff are willing to review draft applications prior to the application deadline to let you know if any pieces are missing--that way you'll have a complete application to turn in on the deadline. Please contact Erica with questions about draft review: <u>esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org</u>.

There will be a second deadline for Habitat Restoration Grants on August 14.

Cost Share Grant Project Highlight



The board of managers at Girard Park West Condominiums have put environmental stewardship at the forefront of their landscape design. They received cost share grants from the watershed district to install a shoreline buffer (pictured here) in 2019 and a native planting in 2020. Condo owners have since seen an increase in birds and butterflies visiting the plantings and are pleased with the turf conversion.

Project manager Pam Nelson says, "I am very pleased to report that I've been able to recruit many more volunteers for the Landscape Committee and that our Board is very supportive of the changes we are making. We have a maintenance plan for trees; hired an organic lawn care company; directed the lawn care company to follow best practices, and drastically reduced watering and redirected irrigation heads to minimize watering."

Inspired by Girard Park West's success? Apply for your own cost share grant: grant funds are available to residents, associations, nonprofits, schools, businesses, and cities for projects located within the boundaries of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Learn more about the types of grants available at: <u>ninemilecreek.org/grants</u>.

Project Updates

Fisheries management volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help monitor carp and goldfish in district lakes this summer. The District is working with WSB to conduct carp and goldfish research and management work in Bloomington (Normandale Lake) and Edina (Lake Cornelia). Carp and goldfish are invasive fish that cause harm to lake health. The District is working to reduce carp and goldfish populations in these lakes. Volunteers are responsible for baiting fish nets with corn. The corn is designed to aggregate carp to the nets, as other fish do not feed on the corn.



This volunteer project requires people to pick up a 50 pound bag of corn. Volunteers must also be able to walk a half mile to one mile, and work in soft lake bottom sediments while wearing chest waders. Check out this short YouTube video on baiting nets with corn: <u>youtube.com/watch?v=31UIOgeuwxY</u>

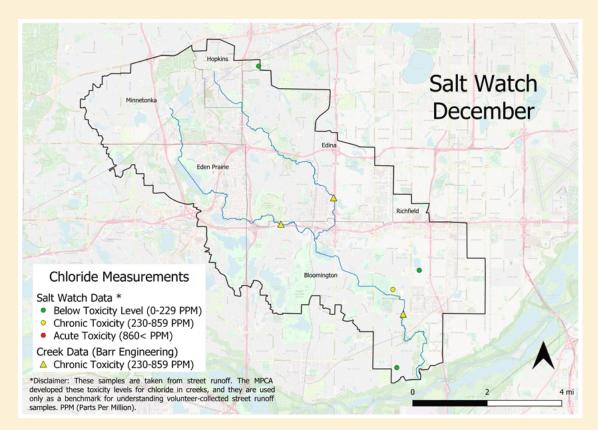
Materials will be provided by the District, including chest waders. Time commitment is approximately 1-2 hours every day for up to 4 days. We are looking for volunteers to commit to a week of baiting in the summer months. Fill out this form if you are interested in volunteering: <u>https://ninemilecreek.typeform.com/fisheries</u>. Email Alissa at <u>greencorps@ninemilecreek.org</u> with questions.

Adopt a Drain this spring



Now that the snow has melted, all the winter trash and debris on our streets is revealed. Consider adopting a drain in your neighborhood and clear out all that gunk from the top of the storm drain--this will keep all that debris out of our lakes. City street sweepers are out cleaning up, but they can't be everywhere, so you can help by keeping drains clear. You can participate no matter where you live in Minnesota, and the time commitment is very flexible to fit your schedule. Learn more and adopt a drain at: <u>https://mn.adopt-a-drain.org/</u>.

Salt Watch season recap



Salt Watch volunteers collected water samples from street runoff and tested them for salt levels this winter. Dots on the map indicate where street samples were taken this winter. Higher readings are indicated by yellow and red colors. These toxicity level numbers from the Minnesota Pollution Control

Agency are for measuring creeks chloride levels. The chloride levels seen in the street are not necessarily representative of chloride levels in the creek. Grab samples were taken in December and February from the creek itself for comparison purposes.

Thank you to all the volunteers for your help understanding chloride coming from the streets in our watershed!

This is part of the larger Salt Watch program run by the Izaak Walton League of America.

Upcoming Events

Creek Cleanup Saturday, May 6, 2023: 1-3 PM Hopkins Valley Park | 700 8th St S, Hopkins

Help pick up trash along Nine Mile Creek in Valley Park, Hopkins. Gloves, high visibility vests, bags and trash grabbers will be provided. Please fill out the form so we know how much of the equipment to bring. Snacks and beverages will be provided for volunteers!

Meet by the large playground in Valley Park.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP here



Buckthorn Restoration Workshop

Wednesday, May 24, 2023: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point: 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie (in-person)



This workshop is intended to support district cost share grant recipients. This workshop will help current and past cost share grantees create and maintain their habitat restoration projects. The workshop will include presentations, Q&A with a panel of habitat restoration professionals, a tour of Discovery Point's restorations, and a native plant giveaway.

This workshop is intended to support District Cost Share grantee recipients. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lizzy: <u>eboor@ninemilecreek.org</u>

Family Fishing

Saturday, June 3, 2023: 10 AM - 12 PM Shady Oak Lake Fishing Pier, Minnetonka

Minnesota Trout Unlimited (MNTU) is excited to partner with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to offer family fishing skills programs this summer. We invite you to to join us for a few hours of fun, learning, and meeting other anglers. This program will cover all the basics, including how to set up a rod, put on bait, tie on a fly, cast like a pro, and take fish off your hook. All equipment is is provided. No fishing license is needed to participate in this particular MNTU program.



Limit 20 participants. Register on our website, or using the button below: <u>ninemilecreek.org/family-fishing-shady-oak</u>.

Register

Upcoming Board Meetings

Thursday, May 4, 2023: 5:30-7 PM (Workshop) Wednesday, May 17, 2023: 7-9 PM

Upcoming board meetings and workshops will take place in person at Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie. Board meetings are open to the public.

Upcoming Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings

Wednesday, June 7, 2023: 7-8 PM

This CAC meeting will take place at Rosland Park, to view the District's new filtration vault. CAC meetings are open to the public.

Go to <u>ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/</u> for up-to-date information on Board and CAC meetings and hybrid join options, when available.

Snapshot



Grant recipient Lora showcased native plants and her recent raingarden project at a recent Earth Day

event--she is pictured here with the roots puller, a fun display that shows how deep plant roots grow into the ground.

Seeds are growing in our seed lab at Discovery Point--pictured here are some Butterfly Weed seedlings grown from seeds harvested around our site last fall. We will use them to fill in bare spots in our raingardens, and as prizes at events.



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District Updates

Summer happenings



Summer is a busy time around the watershed. See what we're up to in this edition of Nine Mile News.

Photo Contest winner: Paddle pals by Benjamin Landsteiner

Grants

Habitat restoration grant deadline: August 14.



There is still grant funding available for habitat restoration projects. Applications are due on August 14th at 4 PM for the second round of habitat restoration grants. This will be the final round of applications for this year.

A native habitat restoration restores native plant communities to lead toward healthier ecosystems. Examples of projects include woodland restorations, turf conversion to prairie, and more.

Grants are reimbursed for up to 50% of eligible project costs.

Maximum grant awards:

- \$3,000 for residential projects
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Learn how to apply for restoration grants at: ninemilecreek.org/restoration-applications/

Staff are willing to review draft applications prior to the application deadline to let you know if any pieces are missing--that way you'll have a complete application to turn in on the deadline. Please contact Lizzy with questions about draft review: eboor@ninemilecreek.org.

Welcome Dylan!

Dylan Monahan is joining the staff at Nine Mile Creek Watershed District as a part-time Administrative Assistant. He graduated in May



2023 with a B.A. in Political Science and Communication Studies from the University of St Thomas, where he also minored in Sustainability. He joins the staff to assist with administrative tasks, greet the public visiting Discovery Point, and provide communications and outreach support.

Alongside his work at Nine Mile, Dylan also provides administrative support to <u>Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek</u> <u>Watershed District.</u> In his free time, he loves watching new movies, going for walks and hikes, attending concerts, and keeping up with all the latest pop culture news.

Project Updates

Bristol/Mavelle retrofit project complete

Planting has been finished at the basin in Bristol/Mavelle Park in Edina. This retrofit project enlarged and deepend the basin (also known as Lynmar Basin) to help catch and soak in more stormwater. It helps reduce the flood risk for the surrounding neighborhood, and helps the area be more resilient to climate change. New plants also increase habitat for butterflies and birds, and visitors can explore the basin using the square stones.



Upcoming Events

Project Tour for Leaders and Decision Makers Monday, August 7, 2023: 5:30-8 PM Rosland Park | 4300 W 66th St, Edina

This tour is geared towards local elected officials, commission members as well as city staff partners.

The tour will visit the Rosland Park Filtration Vault in Edina, discuss goldfish management in Lake Cornelia, and end at the Bristol/Mavelle Park retrofit project in Edina.

This project tour will highlight:

- NMCWD capital improvement project process
- Innovative projects and retrofits
- Experiences from city partners
- Management of invasive species in lakes



- Climate change resiliency
- Flood risk reduction strategies

Limit 40 participants. Register here: <u>https://ninemilecreek.wufoo.com/forms/project-tour-rsvp/</u>

Building Healthy Soils Thursday, September 28, 2023: 6:30-8 PM Ridgedale Library | 12601 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka



Join entomologist and soil health evaluator, Dr. Ann Marie Journey, in the first workshop of a two part series to learn about soil ecology in the urban environment. Find out what actions you can take to build healthier soils at home, support farmers using soil health practices to grow our food, and more.

This event is offered in partnership with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District.

Register

Urban Soils: Challenges and Opportunities Walkshop Saturday, October 7, 2023: 1-3 PM Minnetonka Community Center | 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka

Soil is the key to healthy plant diversity, which in turn feeds pollinators, wildlife and people. But what exactly is soil, and how does urban development impact it? Join Dr. Ann Marie Journey for a walk around Minnetonka's Civic Center Park to see how soil varies between woodlands, wetlands and lawns. Along the way, you'll learn ways to improve the soil in your yard. *Note: This walkshop will be held outdoors, following paved trails (with some inclines) to various sites throughout the park. Please dress for the day's forecast weather.*



This event is offered in partnership with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District.

Advance registration is required at minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents or 952-988-8400

Upcoming Board Meetings Thursday, August 3, 2023: 5:30-7 PM (Workshop) Wednesday, August 16, 2023: 7-9 PM Thursday, September 7, 2023: 5:30 -7 PM (Workshop) Upcoming board meetings and workshops will take place in person at Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point,

12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie, and virtually over Zoom. Board meetings are open to the public.

Upcoming Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings

Wednesday, August 2, 2023: 7-8 PM

This CAC meeting will take place in person at Discovery Point and virtually over Zoom. CAC meetings are open to the public.

Go to <u>ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/</u> for up-to-date information on Board and CAC meetings and hybrid join options, when available.

Upcoming Public Hearing

2024 Budget Public Hearing

Thursday, September 7, 2023: 5:30 PM

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers will convene a public hearing to receive public comments on the District's proposed 2024 budget and levy.

Snapshot



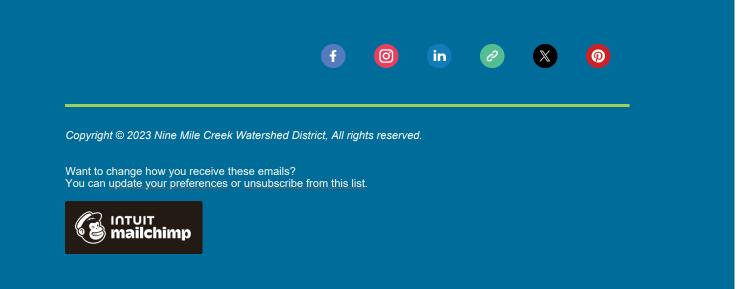
Staff helped out by weeding a raingarden for our partners at Good Samaritan UMC in Edina. Diligent weeding 2-3 times per summer can keep your raingardens working well and looking good!

MN GreenCorps Member Alissa talked with folks at the Edina Farmer's Market about the importance of checking your boats and fishing gear for aquatic invasive species.

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



ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org ninemilecreek.org office (12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie, MN, 55346).



District Updates Autumn in the watershed



Read on for upcoming soil programs and a job opening for Water Resources Project Manager.

Photo Contest winner: Autumn along Nine Mile Creek by James Diethelm

Job Opening

Now hiring for Water Resources Project Manager

Join our team! Now hiring for Water Resources Project Manager



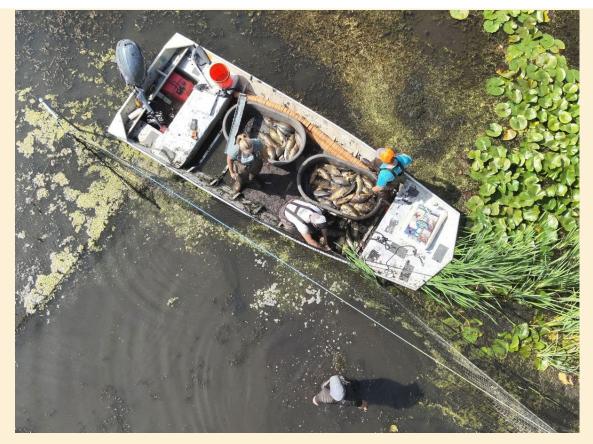
The Water Resources Project Manager is responsible for coordinating the development of water and natural resources studies and the development and implementation of watershed projects. This primarily includes implementing projects that address lake and creek health but may also include implementing flood control and natural resource restoration projects. The Water Resources Project Manager is responsible for coordinating watershed management activities with other local units of government, agencies, private and non-profit sectors in the watershed, and the public.

Read the full job description, including application details, minimum qualifications, and benefits here: <u>ninemilecreek.org/hiring-water-resources-project-manager/</u>

Application deadline: Monday, October 9, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Project Updates

Continued Carp Removal in Normandale Lake



The watershed district continues to work with WSB to manage invasive carp in Normandale Lake. Using baited box netting, we've caught around 800 carp this summer. Carp removal is one of many strategies the District is using to improve the water quality in Normandale Lake. Carp harm water quality by stirring up the lake bottom, reducing the clarity of the water, and releasing phosphorus into the water. Phosphorus is a nutrient that fuels unwanted algae growth. Learn more about our work on Normandale Lake <u>here</u>.

Upcoming Events

Building Healthy Soils Thursday, September 28, 2023: 6:30-8 PM Ridgedale Library | 12601 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka



Join entomologist and soil health evaluator, Dr. Ann Marie Journey, in the first workshop of a two part series to learn about soil ecology in the urban environment. Find out what actions you can take to build healthier soils at home, support farmers using soil health practices to grow our food, and more.

This event is offered in partnership with the City of Minnetonka and the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District. The event is full but you can join the waitlist at the library's website here: <u>https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/events/64b07f9a3206553600e5bc45</u>

Urban Soils: Challenges and Opportunities Walkshop Saturday, October 7, 2023: 1-3 PM Minnetonka Community Center | 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka Soil is the key to healthy plant diversity, which in turn feeds pollinators, wildlife and people. But what exactly is soil, and how does urban development impact it? Join Dr. Ann Marie Journey for a walk around Minnetonka's Civic Center Park to see how soil varies between woodlands, wetlands and lawns. Along the way, you'll learn ways to improve the soil in your yard. *Note: This walkshop will be held outdoors, following paved trails (with some inclines) to various sites throughout the park. Please dress for the day's forecast weather.*



This event is offered in partnership with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District.

Advance registration is required at minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents or by calling 952-988-8400.

Register

Arrowhead & Indianhead Lake Community Meeting Monday, October 9, 2023: 6:30-8 PM Edina Public Works | 7450 Metro Blvd, Edina

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is partnering with the City of Edina to host an informational meeting about water quality in Arrowhead and Indianhead lakes in Edina. The City will walk through its recent lake level study for flood risk reduction and watershed district engineers will share the next steps in improving the water quality in these shallow lakes. Learn more at: <u>ninemilecreek.org/arrowhead-and-indianhead</u>

MPCA Smart Salting for Property Managers Training Wednesday, October 11, 2023: 9 AM - 1 PM Live, interactive webinar



This training offers ways to take a broader look at your winter maintenance strategies to discover untapped improvement areas. Learn about the hidden costs of salt use on all surfaces, recognize sustainable and efficient maintenance practices utilized on your property, the permanent environmental impacts of chloride pollution, liability issues, and funding resources.

Register

MPCA Smart Salting Parking Lots and Sidewalks Training Wednesday, November 1, 2023: 8 AM - 1:30 PM

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District | 18681 Lake Drive E, Chanhassen

Learn how to integrate science with practical, more efficient winter

maintenance practices on parking lots and sidewalks – that can help save on costs and time, while minimizing environmental impacts.





Mirror Lake Community Meeting Wednesday, November 8, 2023: 4-5 PM Virtual

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is partnering with the City of Edina to host an informational meeting about the water quality in <u>Mirror Lake</u>. Watershed district engineers will share the results of our recent water quality study and share the next steps to improve water quality in Mirror Lake. Have questions? There will be time for questions and discussion with watershed district and city staff and watershed district engineers. Learn more and get the virtual meeting link at: <u>ninemilecreek.org/mirror</u>

Upcoming Board Meetings

Thursday, October 5, 2023: 5:30-7 PM (Workshop) Tuesday, October 24, 2023: 7-9 PM

Thursday, November 2, 2023: 5:30 -7 PM (Workshop)

Upcoming board meetings and workshops are in-person at Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie. Board meetings are open to the public, and the public is welcome to attend virtually or in-person.

Upcoming Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings

Wednesday, October 4, 2023: 7-8 PM This CAC meeting will take place in person at Discovery Point, with an option to join virtually. CAC meetings are open to the public.

Go to <u>ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/</u> for up-to-date information on Board and CAC meetings and links to join virtually, when available.

Snapshot





Nine Mile staff and CAC members tabled at Buzz Fest with other watershed districts in late September. The Roots Puller display was a favorite with visitors!

Edina High School students participated in Hennepin County's Riverwatch program on Nine Mile Creek. They collected aquatic macroinvertebrates and identified them to find out how healthy the creek is.



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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District Updates From the Administrator

District Administrator Randy Anhorn is retiring!



Congratulations to Randy Anhorn, District Administrator, on his upcoming retirement at the end of the year! Randy has been with the District since 2016, and he will be missed! Thank you for all your time and energy Randy, and enjoy your retirement!

From Randy--

After 30 plus enjoyable years working in the water resources management field (the vast majority in the Twin Cities Metro Area), it is with mixed emotions that I announce that I am hanging up my Secchi disc at the end of the year. The last seven plus years as the Administrator of Nine Mile Creek Watershed District have been especially rewarding. During this time, we have implemented numerous projects and expanded programs to protect and enhance our natural and water resources.

I am very pleased to announce that Erica Sniegowski, the District's Deputy Administrator, was chosen as my successor. Erica is exceptionally well qualified to take over where I leave off. I am confident that she is ready to take my place and manage the natural and water resources of the District with even greater success.

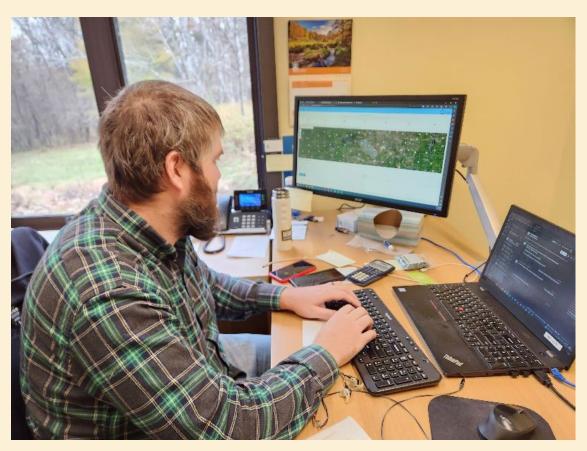
As for my retirement, I am looking forward to more time for travel, family and yet to be determined adventures and passions. I have greatly enjoyed working with the District's wonderful staff and board members, our partners and community members and my professional colleagues. Even when times were difficult, I knew I could count on your support. Please accept my heartfelt thanks. Keep up the great work!



Program Updates

New Online Cost Share Grant and Permit Applications

Our newest Board Manager, Chris-Ann Lauria (Bloomington), was sworn in at the October 5 board workshop. Manager Peggy Kvam (Eden Prairie) was also reappointed at this meeting. To learn more about our Board, and see the most up-to-date agendas for meetings, visit: <u>ninemilecreek.org/about-us/board-of-managers/</u>



To reduce staff time spent on data entry and management, the District has switched its cost share grant and permit applications to online forms which will auto-populate into District databases. This efficiency will speed up the District's application review process and provide applicants feedback quicker. Check out our new forms on our <u>grants page</u> and <u>permit page</u>.

Volunteer Opportunities

Apply to be on the Citizen Advisory Committee

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is accepting applications to fill vacant positions on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is a volunteer advisory group that supports the watershed district in its mission to manage, restore, and protect water resources. The time commitment is six, one-hour meetings a year, as well as occasional community outreach events and special projects. Learn more here: <u>ninemilecreek.org/join-our-cac/</u>



The Salt Watch Curbside season has begun! We are now accepting volunteers for the winter season (both returning and new volunteers). Kits (pictured above) will be mailed out to volunteers in mid-November. Volunteers should expect to spend a half hour once per month from December to April taking samples of meltwater from curbs, and submitting data to the Clean Water Hub. Learn more and sign up at: <u>ninemilecreek.org/salt-watch-volunteer/</u> This is a program of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Upcoming Events

Mirror Lake Community Meeting Wednesday, November 8, 2023: 4-5 PM Virtual

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is partnering with the City of Edina to host an informational meeting about the water quality in <u>Mirror Lake</u>. Watershed district engineers will share the results of our recent water quality study and share the next steps to improve water quality in Mirror Lake. Have questions? There will be time for questions and discussion with watershed district and city staff and watershed district engineers. Learn more and get the virtual meeting link at: <u>ninemilecreek.org/mirror</u>

Holiday, Wing, Rose Lakes Project Open House Wednesday, December 5, 2023: 6-8 PM Minnetanka Community Contar I 14600 Minnetanka Blud, Minnetanka

Minnetonka Community Center | 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka 55345

In recent lakes studies, the Watershed District discovered poor water quality in Lake Holiday, Wing, and Rose. The District has led feasibility studies to identify projects that can help improve the lakes' water quality. This open house will share project recommendations with the public. City and Watershed District staff will be tabling with posters on each of the lakes and their proposed restoration techniques. Come

anytime between 6 and 8pm with questions about this work. Learn more about the studies here: <u>ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/current-studies/holiday-wing-rose-</u> <u>study/</u>

Birch Island Lake Community Meeting Monday, January 8, 2024: 6:30 PM - 8 PM

Hybrid | Discovery Point 12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie and Microsoft Teams

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is partnering with the City of Eden Prairie to host an informational meeting about the water quality in <u>Birch Island Lake</u>. Watershed District engineers will share the results of our recent water quality study and share the next steps to improve water quality in Birch Island Lake. Have questions? There will be time for questions and discussion with watershed district and city staff and watershed district engineers.

Learn more about the study here: <u>ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/current-studies/birch-island-lake-study/</u>

Upcoming Board Meetings

Wednesday, November 15, 2023: 7-9 PM Thursday, December 7, 2023: 5:30 -7 PM (Workshop) Wednesday, December 20, 2023: 7-9 PM

Upcoming board meetings and workshops are in-person at Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point, 12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie. Board meetings are open to the public, and the public is welcome to attend virtually (via Microsoft Teams) or in-person.

Upcoming Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings

Wednesday, December 6, 2023: 7-8 PM

This CAC meeting will take place in person at Discovery Point, with an option to join virtually via Microsoft Teams. CAC meetings are open to the public.

Go to <u>ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/upcoming-events/</u> for up-to-date information on Board and CAC meetings and links to join virtually, when available.

Snapshot



After a heavy rain, 9 Mile Creek tends to get really high and run really fast. Many stormdrains empty into the creek, especially here in Moir Park in Bloomington; this part of the creek receives water from some major highways, including 494!

Thanks to the recycling efforts of Cheryl Larson, we now have a new recycled plastic bench at Discovery Point. She collected plastic bags and donated them to NexTrex who creates materials like this bench out of them.



Nine Mile Creek Watershed District 12800 Gerard Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55346 P. 952-835-2078 esniegowski@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 Nine Mile Creek Watershed District office (12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie, MN, 55346).

