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2018 ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Find out what the District accomplished in 2018 in this special edition newsletter, and get a sneak peak of what's ahead for 2019. Our 2018 Annual Communication is also available on the first page of our 2019 Photo Calendar, available for pickup at [Discovery Point](#).

MANAGING THE WATERSHED



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

Manager Maressia Twele, after serving since 2012 on the Board of Managers, did not seek reappointment. Her term expired in September 2018. We are grateful for the expertise and passion that Maressia brought to the Board. Robert Cutshall was appointed to fill the vacant position on the Board. Bob is also a Master Water Steward volunteer for the District.

Bob Cutshall, Nine Mile Creek's newest board member

LAKE AND CREEK MONITORING



During the summer of 2018, the [Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District](#) assisted the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District in conducting a fish assessment of Normandale Lake, Lake Cornelia and ponds connected to Cornelia. The fish sampled in Normandale Lake are similar to other metro lakes with bluegill being the most abundant. Bluegill may be keeping the invasive common carp population under control in Normandale. However, the large number of adult common carp captured in Normandale indicate successful carp spawning happened within the Nine Mile Creek system at some time. The District is considering carp management options in Normandale. Staff also found many goldfish in Cornelia, which are harmful to lakes and creeks. Don't release pet goldfish!

Staff electrofishing

In addition to the fish assessments, the District conducted its annual lake and creek monitoring. The lake and creek monitoring program collects water quality data from waterbodies across the watershed. In 2018, the District monitored Nine Mile Creek, Normandale, Bush, Smetana, and Southeast, Northwest & Southwest Anderson Lakes. The monitoring program provides data about past and present water quality conditions within the watershed. The data establishes a reference point for normal water quality conditions, tracks changes, and informs additional studies. It also allows the District to measure the success of past and ongoing projects that seek to improve the health of District waterbodies. Our monitoring reports are available at: ninemilecreek.org/lake-creek-monitoring. Volunteers also monitored the water quality of six lakes in the District. We thank them for their time.

DISTRICT PROJECTS

Edina Streambank Stabilization Project

The [Edina Streambank Stabilization Project](#) was largely finished in 2018. This project focused on stabilizing about 3.5 miles of the



streambanks of Nine Mile Creek through the City of Edina. The District used streambank restoration techniques including realigning the creek channel, native plantings, rock vanes, along with other methods. The project resulted in improved stream health, stabilized stream banks, improved habitat, and the protection of property from erosion.

Nine Mile Creek stabilization technique



Normandale Lake Project

To improve the health of Normandale Lake, the District and City of Bloomington are conducting a lake-level drawdown. The drawdown will control curly-leaf pondweed, an invasive aquatic plant, and improve native plant diversity in the lake. Watch drone footage of the lake taken in late December 2018.

The District will refill the lake by April. In 2019, the District will conduct an alum treatment in the lake to help manage phosphorus levels, the nutrient that feeds algae. We will also look at carp management options and plan for selective herbicide treatments. The herbicide treatments will combat any curly-leaf pondweed that remains in the lake. For the latest updates, visit: ninemilecreek.org/normandale.

Discovery Point Habitat Restoration

We continue to remove buckthorn, an invasive plant, at the District's five-acre office and educational facility in Eden Prairie. Native seeds, shrubs and trees were planted to replace the buckthorn that was removed in 2018. In 2019, we will host a



volunteer planting event to add additional native flowers and grasses to the restored area. In addition, the District will continue doing site-wide management for invasive species and will plan for the last phase of buckthorn removal and restoration on the site. Learn more at: ninemilecreek.org/discovery-point-restoration/.

2019 Projects

In 2019, the District plans to complete the Normandale Lake Drawdown Project, which includes an alum treatment once the lake refills. The District will finish Phase 2 of the Edina Streambank Project, stabilizing the creek from the 5300 block of 70th Street West in Edina to the Highway 100/Edina Industrial Boulevard interchange in Edina. As part of updating Lake Cornelia's Use Attainability Analysis, the District will also identify possible projects in and around Lake Cornelia.

GRANTS

Clean Water Fund Grant

In 2017, the District received a [Clean Water Fund grant](#) to identify and prioritize locations for stormwater best management practices (BMPs) on nonprofit sites in the watershed. Since the grant was awarded, 58 sites in the District were prioritized by staff for BMP suitability. Select organizations were contacted to determine interest in partnering with the District on a project. Ultimately, six locations were selected for BMP installation. Preliminary design plans and cost estimates for the BMPs were prepared by Barr Engineering, the District's engineering consultant, and shared with the partner organizations.



Nine Mile Creek Cost Share Grants

Twenty-one grants totaling over \$150,000 in funds were awarded through the District's cost share program in 2018. The program promotes installation of projects that improve and protect water quality, like raingardens and shoreline restorations. Grant applications for 2019 are due Friday, March 22, 2019. District staff will hold an information session about the grant program and application process on Wednesday, February 20 at 5:30 PM at the District's [office](#). For more information, visit: ninemilecreek.org/grants.

Shoreline Restoration installed with a Cost Share Grant

REGULATORY CONTROLS AND PERMITTING PROGRAM



District rules set thresholds for when a construction project must have a District permit; the permits have protection measures and standards to prevent harm to local lakes and Nine Mile Creek. The NMCWD Board of Managers adopted amended rules on April 10, 2018. The amended 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.

Protection Measure to Prevent Erosion. Photo by Barr Engineering

The District issued 143 permits in 2018. 45 of these permits triggered the District's stormwater rule requiring installation of best management practices, which resulted in the reduction of 265 pounds of phosphorous and 82,500 pounds of suspended sediment.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Watersheds in virtual reality



The watershed sandbox is a mobile, interactive education tool created in partnership with local artists and the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District. Through interactive virtual reality technology, the sandbox helps users understand watersheds and water flow. A projector shows elevations and topography lines on the sand below, in real time, as people move and shape the sand. Users can also

control virtual water that “falls” onto the sand and moves across the landscape they built. Over 600 people have interacted with the sandbox since its launch in April 2018.

If you would like the sandbox to come to your school or community event, contact Gael, Education & Outreach Coordinator, at gzembal@ninemilecreek.org.

The Watershed Sandbox in action

In addition to schools, the District appeared at community events, hosted workshops, and offered educational and art programs to the public. To learn about 2019 program offerings stay tuned to this newsletter or check out our [upcoming events](#).

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Master Water Stewards tackled oversalting



A group of Master Water Steward volunteers and concerned citizens formed the group Stop Over Salting to tackle the issue of salt pollution in our lakes and creeks. They spoke with local legislators and community groups about reducing excess winter salt use through action and legislation. Learn how you can reduce salt use at: ninemilecreek.org/salt-reduction/.

Over 170 households in Bloomington are now participating in the Adopt a Drain program. Volunteers are cleaning more than 290 adopted drains of leaves, trash and other debris, and reporting how much debris they clean up. In 2018, volunteers have kept over 5,000 pounds of debris out of their drains that would have polluted local waterbodies.



You too can be a volunteer with the District! Go to ninemilecreek.org/volunteer-opportunities.

State of the Waters Volunteer Recognition



This year's State of the Waters event was very successful and well attended. Volunteers, photographers and friends of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District snacked on appetizers from The Sioux Chef and listened to presentations on the District's recent projects.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2018 Photo Contest (most pictured here). Their pictures are featured in the 2019 Photo Calendar. There are still some copies available to pick up at [Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point](#).



Congratulations to Charlotte, the District's 2018 Volunteer of the Year. This award is given to a District volunteer that demonstrates exemplary commitment to clean water, does creative projects, and shows extraordinary dedication to the mission and goals of the District. Charlotte has demonstrated all the above qualities as a Nine Mile Creek volunteer. She has helped at numerous events and programs, educating visitors about water issues. She has also helped improve the pollinator habitat around Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point, by planting native flowers and removing buckthorn. Charlotte is also a member of the District's Citizens Advisory Committee.

We are grateful for all that Charlotte has done, not only in 2018, but throughout her time as a volunteer with the District.

Nine Mile Creek 2018 Volunteer of the Year (at right)



**Nine Mile Creek
Watershed District**

**Nine Mile Creek
Discovery Point**

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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 District office.

Managers, Staff & Consultants

Bob Cutshall, Manager / Term Ends: 2021
Erin Hunker, Manager / Term Ends: 2020
Steve Kloiber, President / Term Ends: 2019
Jodi Peterson, Vice President / Term Ends: 2020
Grace Sheely, Secretary / Term Ends: 2019
Maressia Twele, Treasurer / Term Ended: 2018
Randy Anhorn (952-835-2078) / Administrator
Erica Sniegowski (952-358-2276) / Program & Project Manager
Lauren Foley (952-204-9690) / Permit & Water Resources Coordinator
Gael Zembal (952-204-9691) / Education & Outreach Coordinator

Louis Smith (612-344-1400) / Legal Advisor
Janna Kieffer (952-832-2600) / Engineering Advisor
Bob Obermeyer (952-832-2600) / Engineering Advisor



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