Summer news

District updates

Submit photos to our Photo Contest

We are seeking pictures of Nine Mile Creek or any natural scene within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants, and outdoor recreation.

Winners of the contest will have their photos published in the 2021 Nine Mile Creek Photo Calendar. The
calendars are distributed free of charge throughout the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Judging of photographs will be completed by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and its Citizen Advisory Committee. Approximately 25 photos will be selected for the calendar. We will notify winners by mid November 2020, and credit winners in the 2021 calendar.

The deadline to submit is September 18, 2020. For rules and entry form, visit: ninemilecreek.org/photo-contest/

2015 Winner: Wing Lake by J Albers

2020 Road Salt Symposium-August 4 and 5
Live Streamed

Attend the 2020 Salt Symposium! Click here to register today!

This year’s event, the 20th of its kind, is bolder and broader than ever before to reflect the shifting perspectives on chloride use and its impacts on the environment.

Each day will begin with a keynote speaker- Brooke Asleson, who is Rolling out the Minnesota Chloride Management Plan, and Alycia Overbo, presenting her work on Minnesota’s Chloride Sources.

Day 1 will be new chloride reduction topics: water softening, fertilizers, and dust suppressants.

Day 2 delivers latest developments in winter maintenance for chloride reduction.

You can find the agenda, a hyperlinked list of sponsors and vendors, and instructions on how to become a sponsor or vendor by visiting fortinconsulting.com/salt-symposium.

Project Updates

Goldfish study in Lake Cornelia system
Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina are shallow lakes with poor water quality that are on the state’s impaired waters list for excess nutrients. The District is working on projects to control nutrient levels (phosphorous) in Lake Cornelia and Lake Edina. Because water flowing out of Lake Cornelia eventually flows into Lake Edina, reducing the amount of nutrients coming out of Lake Cornelia will improve Lake Edina and downstream water resources.

An alum treatment was conducted in late May to reduce phosphorous levels in Lake Cornelia. Unfortunately, Lake Cornelia also has an infestation of goldfish. The lake is surrounded by potential nursery lakes. Goldfish are not native to Minnesota. When released to lakes and creeks, goldfish are destructive to native species and their habitats. They stir up the bottom sediment when they eat, increasing the cloudiness of the water, releasing nutrients that fuel algae growth, and impacting aquatic plant growth. Goldfish can survive in low oxygen conditions and can tolerate larger fluctuations in water temperature than native fish. This allows them to thrive and out-compete native fish species in certain conditions, reducing the biodiversity of the water body.

With the support of a grant from Hennepin County, the District is conducting a study to track movement of the goldfish to better understand their mobility, spawning patterns and likelihood to travel/spread within a lake system. We are currently collecting a sample of goldfish to attach antennae to, before releasing them, so that we can track their movements. Finally, a goldfish removal method will be tested to determine effectiveness of stopping goldfish spread.

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**Nonprofit Stormwater BMP Project Update**
Four out of the five raingarden basins at the nonprofit sites have been planted. The fifth will be planted soon. These raingardens will help catch and slow water flowing off of hard surfaces. The water will then filter into the ground slowly, cleaning the water. To find out more, visit our projects page.

Planted raingarden at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church & Mt. Olivet Rolling Acres in Bloomington.

Upcoming Events

Writing Nature Nearby
Tuesday, July 21, 2020: 6:30-7:30 PM
Webinar

Let’s turn our attention to the flora, fauna and landscapes nearby us. To capture our impressions in writing, Amber Stoner will lead a session on how to use writing prompts to look closer, to interact with nature, and to write freely on the page. This webinar will help you deepen your sense of place and strengthen your relationship to nature nearby. No writing experience necessary.

The webinar will end around 7:15 to give you time to go outside and practice what you’ve
RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/writing-nature-nearby/

Cost Share Grant Information Session
Thursday, August 27, 2020: 6:30-8 PM
Webinar

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. A few examples include: raingardens, shoreline restoration, permeable pavers, native restoration, and more!

Do you have questions or want to learn more? Attend this online Cost Share Information Session to hear a presentation on the program and get your questions answered. The next time Cost Share Grant applications will be accepted is in March 2021.

RSVP here: ninemilecreek.org/cost-share-information-session/

Clean Water Tip

Don’t release aquarium pets!
Nearly all of our lakes and ponds are connected. What gets released into one pond can travel and spread to another. If you have an aquarium animal or plant that you no longer want, contact a retailer or vet to find out how to safely and humanely get rid of it. It is illegal to release most non-native species, including goldfish, into the wild in Minnesota.

The District has identified an infestation of goldfish in Lake Cornelia in Edina, which is surrounded by potential nursery lakes. We received a $20,000 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention grant from Hennepin County in 2020 to research goldfish in the Lake Cornelia system. Researchers will tag 500 goldfish and determine how the fish migrate and use the data to develop a management strategy. Education will also play a major role in this project.
For more information on aquarium pets, and re-homing events, visit habitattitude.net/my-interest/aquarium-fish/

Snapshot

Thanks to Master Water Steward Marcie H for capturing this shot of our intern and WSB staff on Lake Nancy! They are electrofishing: sending light shocks into the water to stun fish, which they catch with long nets. They then measure the fish and insert a tracking device in them, and release them back into the water.

The restoration at Discovery Point is blooming with a profusion of wild bergamot flowers!