

## Memorandum

**To:** Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers  
**From:** Janna Kieffer  
**Subject:** Summary of May 4, 2016 Community Input Forum  
**Date:** June 14, 2016  
**Project:** Water Management Plan Update  
**c:** Bob Obermeyer, Erica Sniegowski, Kevin Bigalke and Michael Welch

On May 4, 2016 the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) hosted a community input forum to inform citizens about the NMCWD and the update of its Water Management Plan and solicit feedback regarding citizen issues and concerns. The forum was held at the Centennial Lakes Pavilion in Edina. Attendance included 18 citizens, three Nine Mile Creek staff members, two NMCWD managers, and one NMCWD consultant.

### Meeting Agenda

At the onset of the meeting, participants were greeted by NMCWD staff and asked to sign in and prepare a name tag. Participants were given a colored dot and instructed to locate their residence on a large map of the Nine Mile Creek watershed. At the sign-in table, participants were also given 3" x 5" cards with instructions to answer each of three strategic questions which were shown on a large projection screen. The questions were in relation to which NMCWD resources were used, how they were used and what people most valued about the resources within the watershed. During a welcome and overview by the District administrator, staff collected the 3" x 5" cards which were then tabulated and results were presented at the end of the meeting.

The attendees were arranged into small groups of 4-8 people per table in order to facilitate the next part of the meeting, the "brain sprinting" exercise. The "brain sprinting" exercise was a timed effort that focused on gathering responses in a rapid, repeating sequence. The first round of the exercise focused on generating the key issues/concerns in relation to the water resources within the NMCWD, such as invasive species, animal habitats, stormwater and other pollutants, water quality, aquatic vegetation, increased development/impervious surfaces and the need for education and maintenance. The second round of the "brain sprinting" exercise was then to identify potential solutions to the issues identified in the first round. The "brain sprinting" responses were tabulated on pre-printed sheets that were gathered at the end of the meeting. After the exercise, each of the small groups were given a chance to discuss some key issues and solutions from their table, selecting one issue and solution to share with the larger group.

Next, NMCWD staff led a brief question and answer session, followed by a summary of next steps in the planning process, and a quick presentation of which resources the group most used, how they used the resources, and a summary of what the group most valued about the water resources within the Nine Mile Creek watershed. The meeting was then adjourned.

### **Documenting the Results**

NMCWD staff gathered a variety of information from the community input forum, including:

- A colored dot on the District watershed map for each person that attended the meeting.
- The three 3" x 5" cards for each participant that included answers to three strategic questions.
- One sheet (two sides) for each participant that summarized the issues and solutions identified in the "brain sprinting" exercise.

At sign-in, attendees were given a colored dot and instructed to locate their residence on a large map of the Nine Mile Creek watershed. A photo of the "dot" map is included as Figure 1. The majority of attendees were from Edina and Bloomington, with one representative from both the cities of Eden Prairie and Hopkins. As seen in Figure 1, a large portion of the forum participants were from a residential neighborhood near Normandale Lake.

Staff compiled the answers to each of the three strategic questions and organized the responses into similar categories. This information was summarized based on the number of responses in each category (in a spreadsheet) and summarized in graphical format at the closing of the forum meeting (see Figures 2 through 4).

All responses collected during the "brain sprinting" exercise were compiled into a spreadsheet as a first step. The responses were then organized into gross categories and then further refined into more specific categories. The compiled results for the key issues of concern and ideas for improvement are presented in Figures 5 and 6, respectively. As noted above, a large portion of the forum participants reside in Bloomington. As such, many comments specific to Normandale Lake were shared during the brain sprinting exercise.

### **Incorporating the Results into the NMCWD Plan Update**

A summary of the May 4, 2016 Community Input Forum was provided to the NMCWD Board of Managers at their May 5, 2016 Board Workshop. This information, along with input gathered from the community input survey, was considered as the Board of Managers conducted issue identification and prioritization for the Water Management Plan update. Feedback from the community input forum is also being used as staff develop goals, policies, and implementation activities for inclusion in their updated Water Management Plan.

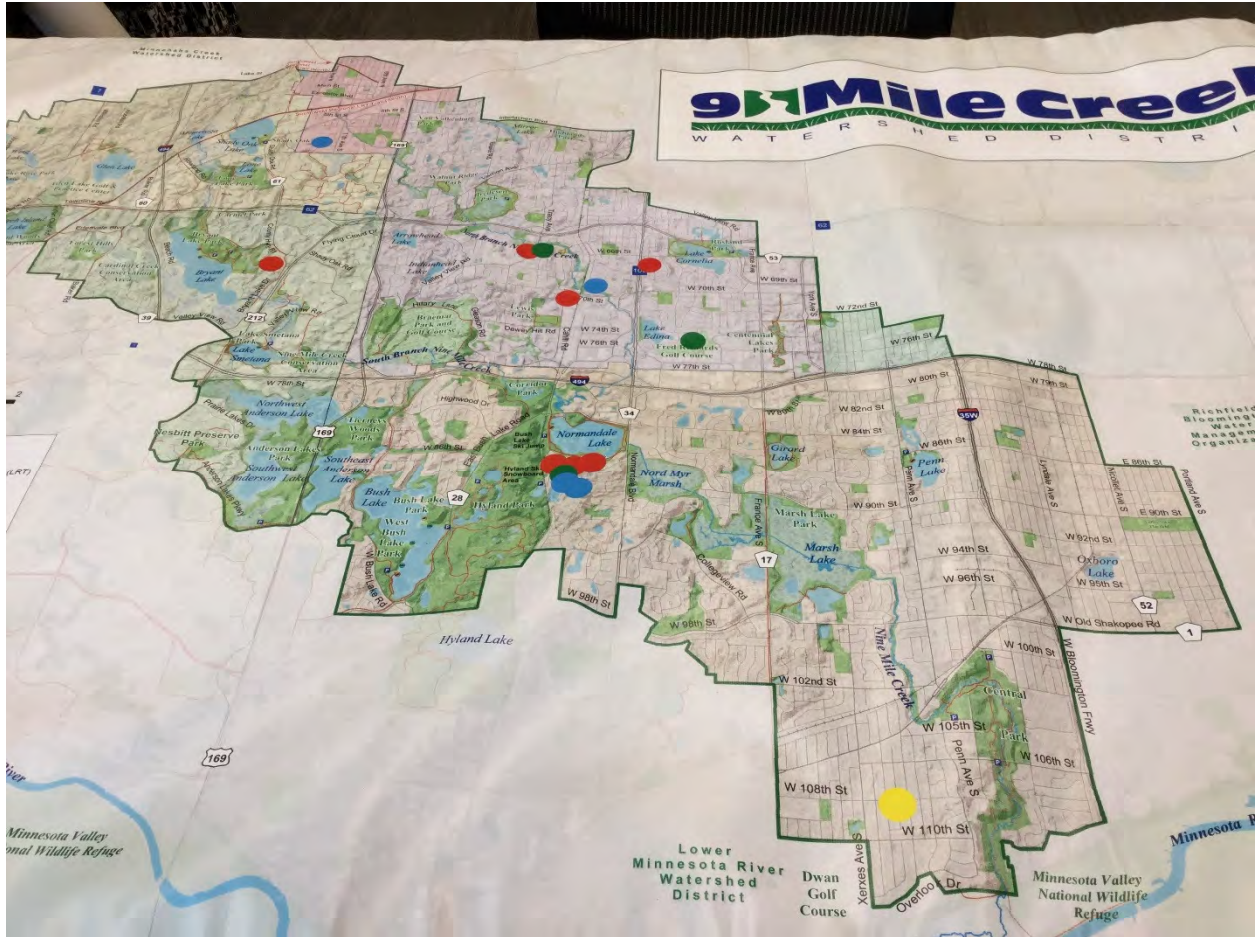


Figure 1. Watershed “dot” map, with dots representing where forum attendees live.

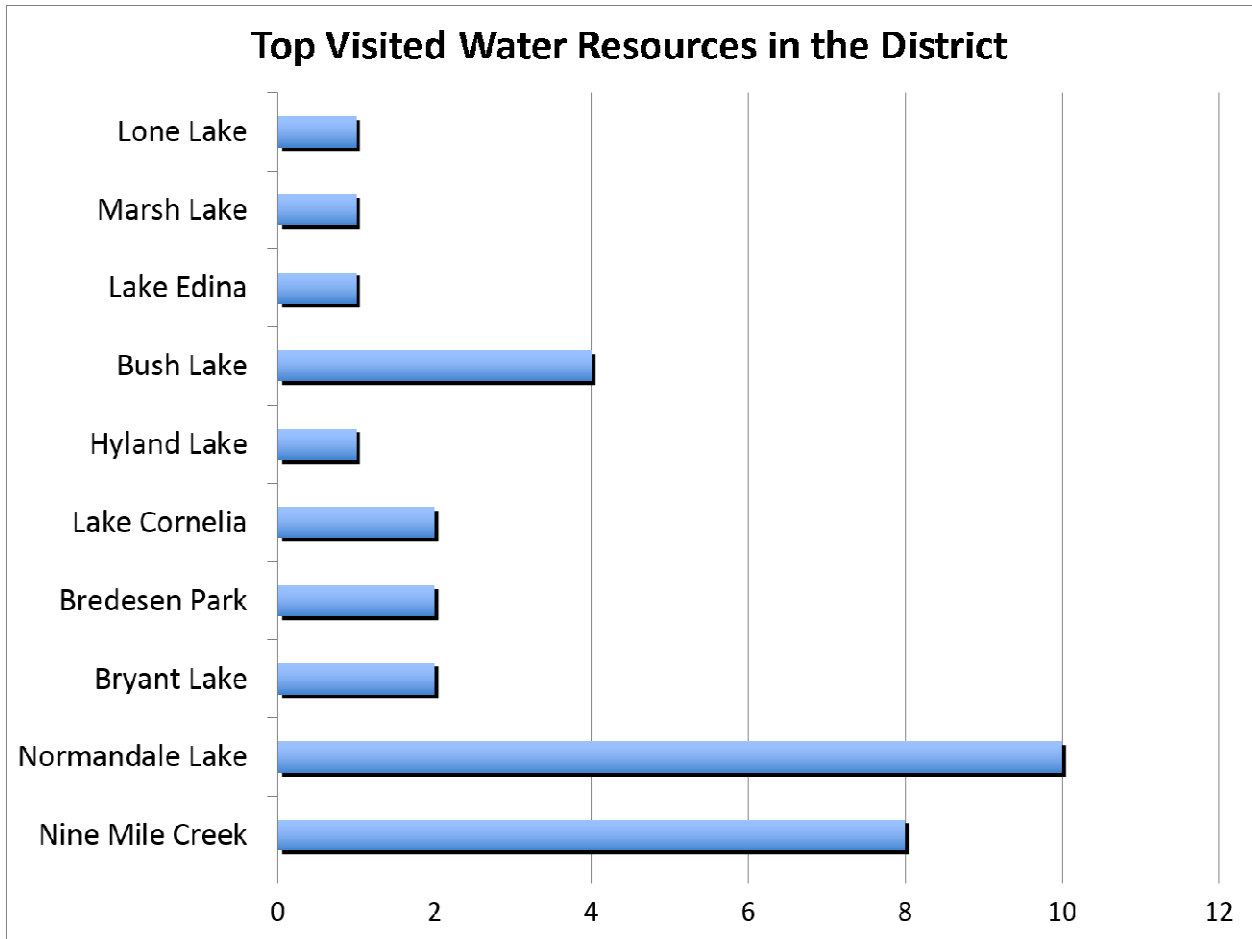


Figure 2. Summary of responses to question “What lakes, creeks, and/or wetlands do you visit in the watershed?”

### How Do You Use the Resources?

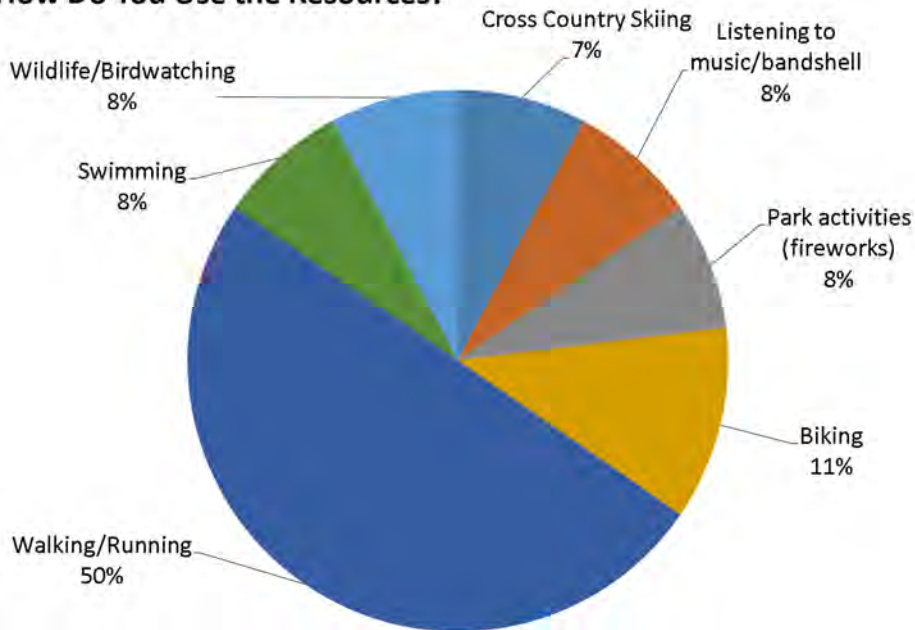


Figure 3. Summary of responses to question “How do you use the lakes, creeks, and/or wetlands in the watershed?”

### What Do You Value Most?

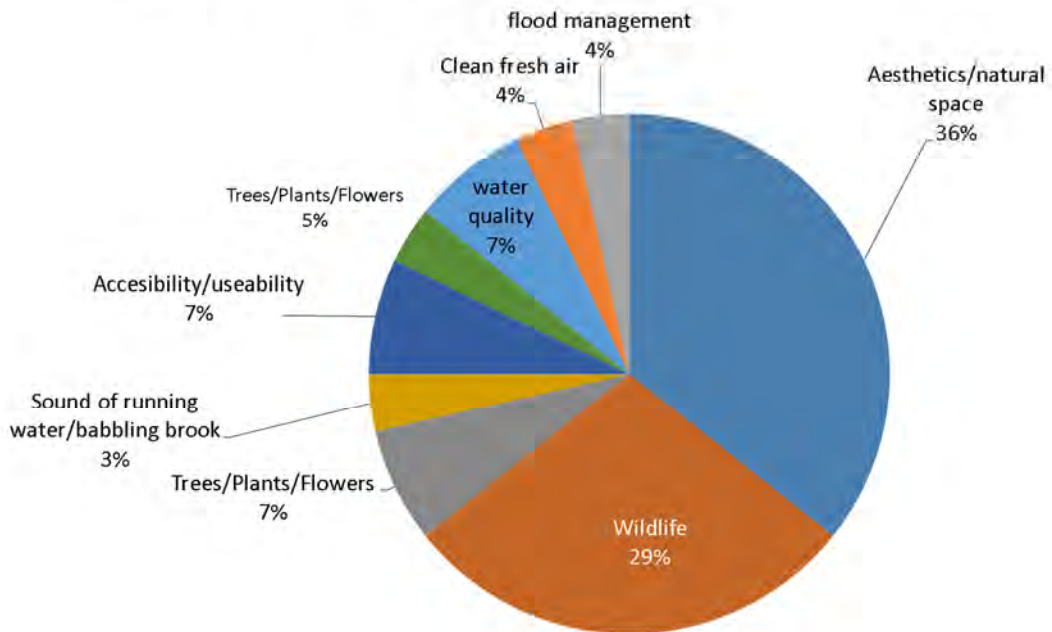


Figure 4. Summary of responses to question “What do you value most about your local lakes, creeks, and wetlands?”

Normandale Lake	Surface Water & Groundwater Quality	Ecology/AIS	Flooding	Education and Outreach	Land Use Planning & Recreational Use	Organization Management
Too Much Algae [10]	Poor Quality of Runoff [10]	Wildlife Protection [8]	Flooding [3]	More Education – Quality & Use of the Resources [4]	Insufficient Access [6]	Need Better Coordination with Cities and Other Government Entities [4]
Contaminated Influent [5]	General Poor Water Quality [5]	Invasive Species [4]	Need Increased Floodplain Management [1]	More Citizen Engagement [3]	Need More Walkway & Bikeway Installation and Upkeep [4]	Need Increased BMP & Water Quality Funding [3]
Limited Recreational Activities [5]	Impacts of Poor Water Quality on Habitat [4]	Terrestrial Invasive Species (Buckthorn) [3]	Shallow Pond Levels [1]	Develop Incentive Program [1]	Impacts Caused by Development & Redevelopment [3]	Maintain Spending Levels [1]
Inadequate Implementation of Long-term Solutions [4]	Too Much Algae [4]	Coyotes [2]		More Education – Buffer Plantings [1]	Inadequate Parking Space at Lakes [1]	Need Sustainable Management [1]
Odor [4]	Too Much Fertilizer Use [4]	Conservation of Habitat [1]		More Education – Lawn Practices [1]	Limited Recreational Activities [1]	Not Enough Communication with the Public [1]
Concern about District Approach [3]	Erosion & Stabilization [4]	Further Spread of Invasive Species [1]		More Education – Rain Gardens [1]		Poor Public Meeting Structure [1]
Nonresponsive to Public Comments [3]	Sediment Filling Ponds [4]	Overpopulation of Deer [1]				
Too Many Aquatic Plants [3]	Chlorides in Runoff [2]	Protection of Existing Wetlands [1]				
No Clear Definition of Success [2]	Dumping into Storm Sewer or Waterbodies [2]	Too Many Aquatic Plants [1]				
Conservation of Habitat [1]	Geese [2]	Too Many Mosquitoes [1]				
Ineffective Spending [1]	Pet Waste Disposal [2]	Support Aquatic Life [1]				
Insufficient Access [1]	Insufficient Buffers/BMPs [1]	Not Enough Wetlands [1]				
Not Enough Interaction with Army Corps of Engineers [1]	Low Fish Population [1]					
Visual Aesthetics [1]	Not Enough Stormwater Reuse [1]					
Wildlife Protection [1]	Pollution Management [1]					
	Impervious Surfaces [1]					
	Sedimentation [1]					

Figure 5. Brain Sprinting Exercise: Key Issues of Concern

Note: [#] indicates frequency of comment

Normandale Lake	Surface Water Quality	Ecology/AIS	Other	Education and Outreach	Land Use Planning	Organizational Management
Build Influent Treatment Plant [7]	Reduce Commercial Lawn Fertilizer & Chemical Usage [6]	Remove & Control Invasive Species [4]	Use & Promote Energy Conservation [2]	Educate Citizens (Lawn Clippings, Salt, Invasive Species, Chemical Use, Pet Waste) [8]	Promote Access (Canoe Landings, Bike Trails, Signage for Awareness) [1]	Obtain Increased Funding (Grants, Issue Bond, Donations) [7]
Cooperation between Government Entities (Cities, WDs, Army Corp of Engineers) [2]	Install Rain Gardens [3]	Promote Wildlife Habitat (Build Birdhouses) [2]	Encourage Groundwater Conservation [2]	Demonstrate Progress to Public [6]		Cooperation between Government Entities (Cities, WDs, Army Corp of Engineers) [6]
Hire Internal or External Specialists [2]	Implement Stream Stabilization and Erosion Controls [3]	Conduct Wildlife Counts and Publish Data [1]	Encourage Recycling [1]	Organize Public Cleanup (Boy Scouts, Businesses, Groups, High School Students) [4]		Listen to & Address Citizen Concerns [5]
Listen to & Address Citizen Concerns [2]	Increased Monitoring [2]	Introduce Native Plants [1]		Foster Community Involvement and Teach Children [3]		Develop a Strategy [2]
Bring Board Members to the Field [1]	Promote Buffers [2]	More Effective Mosquito Control [1]		Reduce Commercial Lawn Fertilizer & Chemical Usage [3]		Consider Changing Past Policies [1]
Change Format of Public Meetings [1]	Filter Stormwater [1]	Organize Public Cleanup (Boy Scouts, Businesses, Groups, High School Students) [1]		Exhibit Successes of Property Owners [2]		Long-term Planning [1]
Develop a Strategy [1]	Fund Installation of Rain Gardens on Private Property [1]			More Signage (Pet Waste, Stormwater Drain Dumping, Show Access Points) [2]		
Increased Funding [1]	Increased Dredging of Ponds & Creeks [1]			Offer Incentives for Improved Water Quality [2]		
Update UAA Study [1]	Install more ponds [1]			Collaborate with Lake Associations [1]		
	Introduce Bottom Feeding Fish [1]					
	Offer Incentives for Improved Water Quality [1]					
	Prioritization [1]					

Figure 6. Brain Sprinting Exercise: Ideas for Improvement

Note: [#] indicates frequency of comment