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## Volunteer Newsletter

Get outside this spring!

### Adopt a Drain



Volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers, and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris. This keeps your neighborhoods looking tidy and reduces water pollution.

Find a drain near you and sign up to keep it clean at: [adopt-a-drain.org/](https://adopt-a-drain.org/)

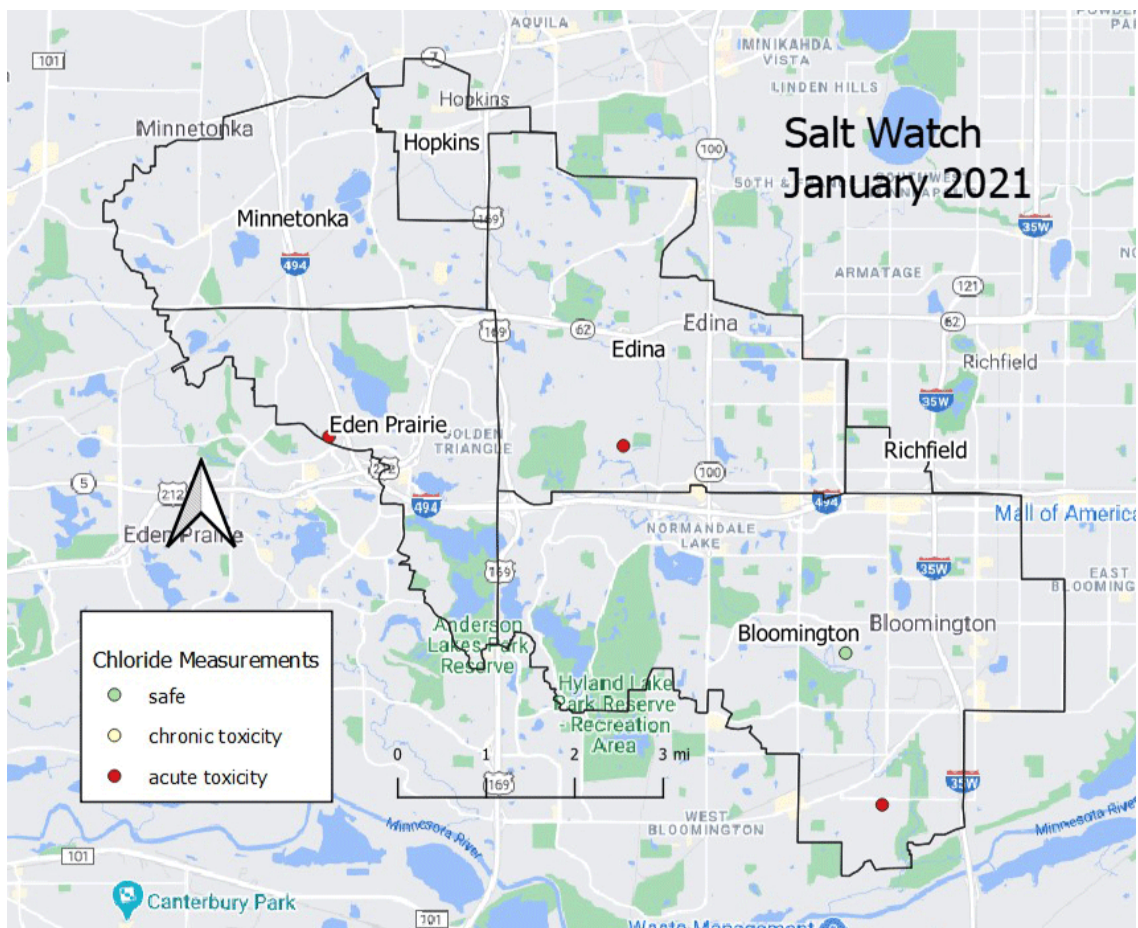
### Cleanup kits available to borrow

Adopt-a-Drain clean up kits are available to borrow at Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie). Kits are available to borrow for 3 days at a time. Kits include: Broom and dustpan, rake, gloves, trash bags, and a safety vest.

Contact Gael to reserve a kit: 952-658-9104 or [gzembal@ninemilecreek.org](mailto:gzembal@ninemilecreek.org)

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**Thank you Salt Watch volunteers!**



Thank you to those who volunteered for our pilot Salt Watch program! We partnered with the Izaak Walton League of America, who oversees the program as a whole. Our volunteers measured winter street runoff during melt, where volunteers in the main salt watch program measure chloride in waterbodies. The District conducts extensive chloride monitoring in our lakes and creek. However, we have no quantification of the main pollutant and source—road salt application. This program aimed to fill in that gap.

The GIF above shows chloride levels measured by our volunteers during melt events in the months of January, February, and March. We hope to continue to grow this program next year to gather additional data.

The next steps are to increase education in the areas around those chloride hot spots, and encourage winter maintenance applicators operating in those areas to attend the MPCA Smart Salt trainings. We have a few of these scheduled yet this spring--more details here: [ninemilecreek.org/upcoming-events/](https://ninemilecreek.org/upcoming-events/)

## More ways to help, more than just for Earth Day!

### Garlic Mustard Pull

**Meet at Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Dr, Eden Prairie)**

**Saturday, April 24, 2021: 1:30–3:30 PM**

RSVP required to properly manage social distancing--[Register here](#)

**Limited spots available.** No experience needed! Come help remove garlic mustard, and clear an area of the Cardinal Creek Trail that was previously infested with buckthorn. We'll teach you how to identify garlic mustard and other common invasive plant species. The back up day in case of bad weather is Saturday, May 1.

This event will be in-person, and masks will be required. Please provide your own gloves. Social distancing will be in effect, and attendance is limited to 10 families. If there is high interest, we will open up additional shifts, or add another day.

RSVP here: [ninemilecreek.org/garlic-mustard-bust/](https://ninemilecreek.org/garlic-mustard-bust/)



*Garlic mustard plant and flowers*

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## Spotlight

Volunteers and members of the Bush Lake Chapter Izaak Walton League installed 18 Wood Duck nest boxes on Normandale Lake at the beginning of March. The City of Bloomington partnered closely with them on this project. Check out the Bush Lake Chapter's Facebook page for a [5 minute video](#) of the installation day, and learn a bit about the history of the lake, and the history of wood ducks.



What a great local organization, working with local volunteers to make the world a better place for wood ducks and people!



### Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

12800 Gerard Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346  
P. 952-835-2078

[ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org](mailto:ranhorn@ninemilecreek.org)  
[ninemilecreek.org](https://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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## Volunteer Newsletter

### Goldfish go away!

#### Help needed in a goldfish management study



Goldfish have been making quite a stir recently, and not just in the news. This invasive species, alongside the related carp, stir up the bottom of lakes with their feeding habits. This creates cloudy water, and releases nutrients that can cause algae blooms. Because of these issues, lake management organizations are asking people not to release their pet fish or aquarium plants into the wild. Surrender them at a re-home event instead.

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is also undertaking fish studies in lakes in Edina and Bloomington to understand their populations better. In this Minnesota Bound episode (filmed in 2020) you can see the research team in action starting at around 1:20, as they collect information on goldfish in the Lake Cornelia system in Edina.





Minnesota Bound Episode: Goldfish Go Away!

### How can you help?

The District needs volunteer help! Volunteers would bait fish nets with corn. The corn is designed to aggregate carp and goldfish to the nets, as other fish do not feed on the corn. Once the fish are trained to aggregate in the area, WSB will net and remove the carp or goldfish from the lake. Minimum of one week (Monday–Friday) and approximately 5–10 hours per week. Training and materials will be provided. Contact Erica if you are interested in volunteering for a week this summer.



Finally, if you have unwanted aquarium fish or plants, never dump them in a lake, creek or pond. Always surrender them at a re-home event.

## Wood duck boxes

### Winter monitoring of wood duck boxes

In collaboration with the City of Bloomington, the Izaak Walton League Bush Lake Chapter installed 15 wood duck houses on Normandale Lake earlier this year. Wood ducks nest in holes in trees and in human-made houses. Chapter Member and former Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board member, Louise Segreto noticed the lack of this important habitat on the lake, and did something about it. Learn all about the project and wood ducks in this cool video! <https://youtu.be/jXyUbqX3zvg>



The Izaak Walton League is looking for volunteers to help clean out and maintain these wood duck houses each winter when the ice is on the lake and safe. The time commitment is approximately 4–6 hours each winter. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Paul Erdmann, Izaak Walton League Conservation Director at [pwerdmann@yahoo.com](mailto:pwerdmann@yahoo.com)

*Bush Lake Izaak Walton members install the final wood duck nest box*

## Adopt a Drain



Storm drains flow directly to lakes, rivers and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and debris to reduce water pollution.

Adopt a drain near you at: [mn.adopt-a-drain.org/](http://mn.adopt-a-drain.org/). Volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month cleaning out your drain. Report your work so we can track the results, like the Jones family pictured here.

(Photo by City of Fridley)

### Cleanup kits available to borrow

Adopt-a-Drain clean up kits are available to borrow at Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Drive, Eden Prairie). Kits are available to borrow for 3 days at a time. Kits include: Broom and dustpan, rake, gloves, trash bags, and a safety vest.

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# Volunteer Newsletter

## District volunteer opportunities

### CAC application period open



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.

#### Your role

As a member of the CAC, your role will be to advise the Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers and staff as a representative of citizen interests. This includes informing the board about issues of concern from the public, learning about water resource issues and management in the district, and providing assistance for volunteer activities.

The CAC meets every other month. The first few meetings will be virtual, and subsequent meetings will be held based on comfort level of members, to be discussed at that time.

**Application are due by 4 PM on Sunday November 21, 2021.** Applicants must live within the district. The Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers will make 2022 CAC appointments at the January regular Board meeting.

**Fill out the application [here](#) and email it to Gael at [gzembal@ninemilecreek.org](mailto:gzembal@ninemilecreek.org).**

More information at: [ninemilecreek.org/join-cac/](https://ninemilecreek.org/join-cac/)

*Image of 2019 CAC members*



## Salt Watch

Help test for chloride in the Nine Mile Creek Watershed. Volunteer to collect street meltwater chloride readings during snow melts this winter. Collect this data to help the District locate chloride hotspots to target outreach about the impacts of salt on our waterbodies in these areas. This data will be uploaded into a database to track hot spots. Complete instructions are included with the kit.



We are glad to partner with the Izaak Walton League of America as part of their larger Salt Watch program. Learn more and order a test kit below. [ninemilecreek.org/saltwatch/](https://ninemilecreek.org/saltwatch/)

Order a kit

## Thank you!

### Carp and Goldfish Management

Thank you to those who helped bait nets this summer for goldfish and carp removal. We are very grateful for your efforts in helping us understand and manage the populations of these invasive fish in Normandale Lake and Lake Cornelia.

We are excited to share the results of these studies with you later this winter. We will send out the reports once they're finished. You can also check our project pages for more info: [ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/current-projects/](https://ninemilecreek.org/whats-happening/current-projects/)



## Other opportunities

### Adopt a Drain



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Check your address here to see if there's a stormdrain available near you!

[mn.adopt-a-drain.org/](https://mn.adopt-a-drain.org/)

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## Update your email preferences

We have upgraded our newsletter delivery system, which should allow you to update your preferences. Now you can choose between many different newsletters, including Nine Mile News, our main e-newsletter. In Nine Mile News, we share things like grant application deadlines, education programs, and project updates. You can update your preferences by clicking the link at the bottom of this email.

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