

Water Pro

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Information for people working with water issues.

JUMP IN! MCWD CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

2007 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. To celebrate, the MCWD hosted a series of events over the summer of 2007 (see below).

The event series will culminate in a 'Blue Tie' Award Gala at the Lafayette Club on Lake Minnetonka, on October 26. We're doing Black Tie the water way—Blue! Join us to celebrate citizens

'jumping in' and getting involved in protecting and improving our precious water resources.

The Watershed Heroes Blue Tie Gala is a fundraiser for citizen engagement in watershed work. Funds raised will go towards supporting lake associations and other groups. The Gala will also honor people who have helped protect the quality of water, quality

of life in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed with Watershed Heroes Awards.

We'll have music and dancing with the pop-rock-reggae band Zydeco Blue. Don't miss this night of fun...Go Blue—Jump in and Join us!

For more information on the event series: www.minnehahacreek.org.

MCWD is celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a series of events, culminating in a Gala Awards Banquet.



Headwaters Park Grand Opening, in partnership with the City of Minnetonka.



Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha Cleanup, in partnership with REI.

Jump in and Join Us!
Watershed Heroes
Blue Tie Gala
October 26, 2007
The Lafayette Club

Tie required. Fins and goggles optional!

Pontoons and Petunias' garden tour, in partnership with SafeJourney.



State of the Waters Summit, in partnership with local leaders



MEET NEW LAND CONSERVATION STAFF

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is pleased to welcome Mark Ten Eyck and Ellen Heine to the Land Conservation Program.

New Program Manger **Mark Ten Eyck** brings 20 years of experience working on a broad range of environmental law and policy issues, with a focus on water resources.

During his 10 years at the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Ten Eyck headed up efforts to improve water quality and enhance aquatic habitat in Minnesota lakes and streams. Mark worked to improve agricultural drainage, limit phosphorus discharges from wastewater treatment plants, design flood control projects to provide natural resource benefits, implement new national stormwater regulations, and make shoreland protection a top state and local priority.

Before that, in private law practice he handled air, water and hazardous waste matters in court and administrative agency proceedings, and represented clients at the Minne-



Mark Ten Eyck

As Land Conservation Program Manager, Ten Eyck is responsible for all aspects of land and easement acquisitions and coordination of land restoration and management for acquired properties.

“MCWD’s Land Conservation Program is off to a strong start,” Ten Eyck says, “and I’m excited to take on the challenge of working with landowners to improve water quality and protect the best remaining natural resources by limiting the impacts of development. With the help of Hennepin County and its bonding capacity, the District has the resources and the leadership to accomplish its goals with this program. Our work can be a model for urban watershed district involvement with

sota legislature in passing the Groundwater Protection and Wetland Conservation Acts.

As Land Conservation Program Man-

ager, Ten Eyck is responsible for all aspects of land and easement acquisitions and coordination of land restoration and management for acquired properties.

“Mark’s extensive background will be a real plus in getting going on the opportunities that best square with the priorities identified in our newly approved watershed plan,” said District Administrator Eric Evenson. “We’re thrilled to have him on board”.

Ellen Heine is the program’s Land Conservation Specialist. This new position provides support to the Land Conservation Program manager. Heine recently earned a Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning with emphasis in environmental planning. She previously worked as an intern in the district’s permitting program. Prior to her planning degree, Heine worked at Aveda as a cosmetic chemist.



Ellen Heine

LID CORNER: Green Roofs

Welcome to LID Corner, WaterPro’s continuing focus on Low Impact Development (LID).

A green roof, or vegetated rooftop, is a roof that uses living plant material as part of a roofing system. Green roofs have multiple benefits, including reduced energy costs, increased roof membrane life, improved urban air quality, mitigating urban heat, providing urban green space, and of course, reducing stormwater runoff.

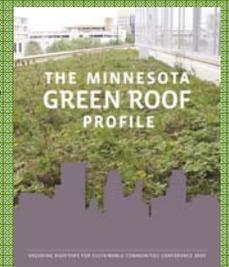
An extensive green roof with four inches of growing medium can hold a one inch rainfall event before any water runs off the roof surface, providing substantial benefits!

Locally, green roofs are gaining in popularity. The **Green Roofs for Healthy Cities** international conference was held in Minneapolis in May, with over 900 attendees. The Toronto-based organization returns to St. Paul on with an introductory course, **Green Roof Design 101** on **September 13**. For more information: <http://www.mngreenroofs.org>

RoofBloom is a new resource for homeowners interested in having a green roof on garages and small outbuildings like sheds and porches. Funded by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the program offers a new ‘Green Your Garage’ guide to do it yourself green roofs. RoofBloom also offers workshops and demonstrations. Visit roofbloom.org for more information.



Did you know there are more than 60 green roofs in Minnesota? Learn about them in the new **Minnesota Green Roof Profile**, sponsored by MCWD. The profile lists known green roofs in the state, including those that are accessible to the public. Visit one today! To download, go to www.minnehahacreek.org, or contact us to get hard copies of the profile.



40 YEARS OF WATER MANAGEMENT: A LOOK BACK

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) was established in 1967, and over the last 40 years has become a statewide and national leader in watershed management. Here's look back over the years:



One of the first meetings of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, held in a home on Minnehaha Creek.

Birth of a Watershed: Extensive flooding along Minnehaha Creek in 1965 engenders the birth of the MCWD in May 9, 1967. At that time, the control structure at Grays Bay could not be closed. In the winter, water flowing out of the lake backed up behind ice dams, causing chronic flooding.

1967-1977: The most important achievement during this time was the re-building of the dam at Grays Bay between Lake Minnetonka and the headwaters of Minnehaha Creek. The process literally took 10 years amidst opposition by property owners on the lake and others who feared the lake would be drained. The result: no major flooding along the creek in more than 15 years, safer canoeing on the creek, and no significant lake level downturns.

During this time, the District's monitoring programs began building one of the best long-term water quality and quantity data bases in the metropolitan area.

A 1975 study of a Wayzata wetland showed that it retained 77 percent of all phosphorus and 94 percent of the total suspended solids entering the site during the evaluation period. Results from the District's wetland

research were published by the U.S. EPA and became a national guidance document used in the management of urban stormwater runoff.

1977-1987: The District worked closely with local and regional governments to eliminate wastewater discharges to Lake Minnetonka from seven municipal sewage treatment plants. Municipal wastewater discharges were phased out over a 15-year period from 1971-1986 resulting a significant reduction in phosphorus loads to multiple streams, wetlands, and Lake Minnetonka. Although major challenges remain, a dramatic improvement in lake water quality was documented by the District.

Recreational and channel improvements along Minnehaha Creek between were completed by the District in 1980. This work included the construction of canoe landings and portages, parking areas, picnic and sanitary facilities, bike racks, wildlife ponds, the raising of pedestrian bridges, installation of culverts, and minor channel maintenance.

1987-1997: The District entered into The Clean Water Partnership for the Chain of Lakes, a collaboration with the cities of Minneapolis and St. Louis Park, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Hennepin County to optimize water quality improvements to stormwater runoff



The Lake Calhoun Ponds were one result of the Award winning Clean Water Partnership for the Chain of Lakes.

entering Twin Lakes and Cedar Lake by removing phosphorus, sediment, and other pollutants naturally through physical and biological proc-

esses. The partnership ultimately won local and national awards.

1997-2007: After protracted legal challenges, the MCWD helped protect Camp Coldwater Spring in 2001-2003 while allowing MNDOT to complete the building of Highway 55 by offering a liner solution that would not diminish the flow to an historical Minnesota settlement site and a natural spring held scared by Native Americans.



The District's stand on the Highway 55/62 permit resulted in protection of a culturally significant resource.

In 2004, a 50-Year Visioning Plan for Minnehaha Creek engaged 50 residents, environmental technicians from several cities, and an array of state and federal agencies to study and submit a plan for the future management of Minnehaha Creek.

The District undertook key engineering studies that ultimately provided the science behind the new 10-year plan. These included a Hydrologic and Hydrology Study, a Wetlands Functions and Values Assessment, and a Stream Assessment. The District's recent Nine Lakes TMDL is being used as an example in effective watershed management by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

MCWD begins its Land Conservation program in 2004 and established a \$20 million financing partnership with Hennepin County.

With these achievements in its past, the MCWD is optimistic about meeting future watershed management challenges with success!

Exhibit looks back at settlement era, Stewardship quality grants available

AT MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Traveling Exhibit Tells Story of Watershed Changes

In commemoration of its 40th Anniversary, the MCWD commissioned a traveling history exhibit themed *Tools for Change*.

The *Tools for Change* exhibit consists of large graphics panels using century-old photographic images of life around the District's major bodies of water, Lake



Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek, to illustrate how everyday tools for living in the mid-1800s changed the shape and nature of the lake and creek. Two clear glass display cases hold actual artifacts; tools used one hundred years ago to build, farm and create. The exhibit is designed to appeal to all age groups.

The traveling exhibit is currently at the Lowry Nature Center in the Carver Park Reserve and will remain there until October.

\$100,000 In Grant Funds Available

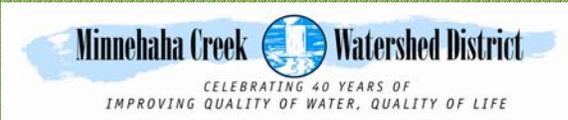
The MCWD is accepting pre-proposals for the 2007 Grant round of the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund through early October. The fund is geared towards projects that improve or protect water quality through educational projects or innovative methods. To download application materials, view previously funded projects, and read about Cynthia Krieg, visit www.minnehahacreek.org.

Rules Task Force Update

The MCWD Rulemaking Task Force has 20 members that have been meeting monthly to discuss revisions to the District's existing regulations. Rules reviewed up to this point include, Rule B: Erosion Control; Rule C: Floodplain Alteration; and Rule G: Waterbody Crossings.

Recommendations developed by this group are passed on to a Technical Advisory Committee composed primarily of City and Agency staff for further review. Following review from both groups, the District drafts revised rule language which is then circulated for additional comment. This month the Rulemaking Task Force will focus on developing recommendations for Rule F: Shoreline and Streambank Improvements. For more information, visit www.minnehahacreek.org.

SAVE THE DATE!
Watershed Heroes
'Blue Tie' Gala
OCTOBER 26, 2007
at The Lafayette Club



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