

More Than a Message

On February 12, EMWREP educators joined more than 60 other water resource professionals for a Metro WaterShed Partners workshop. Led by Eric Eckl, founder of Water Words That Work, LLC, the workshop provided insight and recommendations on selecting the best outreach techniques for different audiences and on successfully managing outreach campaigns to reach new people and keep people engaged. We'll share information from the workshop at our spring EMWREP partners meeting and will be incorporating our new knowledge into this year's work.



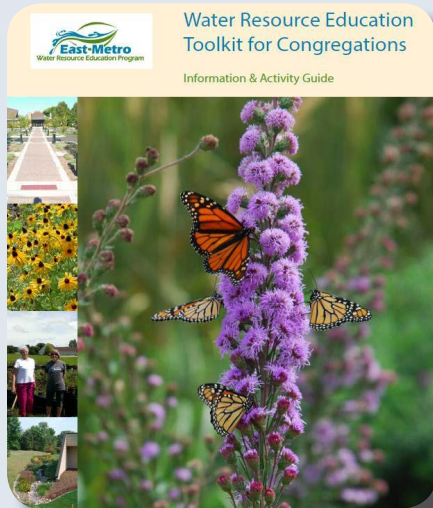
MS4 Training PowerPoints

EMWREP is creating a series of 10-minute Power Point presentations for municipalities to use in monthly staff meetings to address staff training requirements in the new MS4 permit. Topics to be included are:



- Stockpiles;
- Vehicle care;
- Waste disposal and storage;
- Vehicle fueling, washing and maintenance
- Routine street and parking lot sweeping
- Emergency response, including spill prevention plans
- Cleaning of maintenance equipment, building exteriors, dumpsters, and the disposal of associated waste and wastewater
- Use, storage, and disposal of significant materials
- Landscaping, park, and lawn maintenance
- Road maintenance, including pothole repair, road shoulder maintenance, pavement marking, sealing, and repaving
- Right-of-way maintenance, including mowing
- Application of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers
- Cold-weather operations, including plowing or other snow removal practices, sand use, and application of deicing compounds
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination.

Green Congregations Updates



EMWREP hosted a Green Congregations Focus Group in October to learn what local congregations who have completed clean water projects needed to capitalize on the educational value of their raingardens and parking lots. Participants included pastors, facilities managers and congregation members. Attendees expressed an interest in a monthly clean water e-newsletter, online resources and hosting a Church Raingarden Tour, which we will plan for late summer. Visit www.mnwcd.org/green-congregations to see the new online resource page and read archived newsletters. Email Jenn at jradtke@mnwcd.org if you or someone you know would like to receive the monthly e-newsletter.

Blue Thumb Workshops

Blue Thumb Raingarden workshops are coming up soon! We will be hosting intro/design workshops starting in March in Oakdale (March 4), Woodbury (March 11), Stillwater (April 7) and Bayport (A 3-part series on April 24, 29, and May 1).



Pine Ridge Garden Club Presentation - Cottage Grove

On a very snowy January 15th Jenn Radtke gave a Raingarden and Native Garden presentation to the Pine Ridge Garden Club to share about the benefits of such gardens and to talk about the WCD's technical assistance program and the SWWD's cost share program.

New and exciting! EMWREP's Geocaching Clean Water Trail

EMWREP has been planning a clean water Geocaching Trail to debut this summer. Geocaching is a real-life treasure hunt using GPS coordinates rather than an "X" on a map. On this trail participants will find one of the most precious treasures of all, clean water, while venturing to some of the most beautiful areas in the East Metro. Some of the spots will include the raingardens at Square Lake and Hugo City Hall, the natural shorelines of Lake Phalen, the restored prairie at Sunfish Lake Park in Lake Elmo, the Buckthorn Removal area at Carpenter Nature center, and a few more. Each stop will be a chance for families and the public to learn about these conservation projects, and participants can win prizes along the way. The first 10 people to complete the trail will be able to stop into the WCD office for a grand prize!



Coming in 2014: \$1 Million in New Funding for Water Improvements in Washington County

On January 22, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) announced recipients for 2014 Clean Water Fund grants; included on the list are ten new projects in Washington County, totaling approximately \$1 million. These new initiatives will be in addition to city, county, watershed and Conservation District projects already planned and underway. EMWREP will be providing key educational support to help these projects succeed. Here is a sneak peek at what's in store:



Clean Water Grants

•More neighborhood raingardens in Stillwater:

During Phase 3 of the Lily Lake Stormwater Retrofit Project (Phases 1 and 2 also received Clean Water Funds) the MSCWMO will continue to work with the WCD, City of Stillwater and local residents to install raingardens and other practices to keep stormwater from city streets out of Lily Lake. Grant award: \$100,000

The BCWD also received a grant to install residential raingardens in two high priority neighborhoods on the east side of Long Lake. Grant award: \$57,000

•Cooler water for Brown's Creek trout. The BCWD will develop a thermal model to determine why Brown's Creek is sometimes too warm for trout to survive and reproduce and to identify the most cost-effective projects and practices to keep the stream cool. Grant award: \$33,500

•Improved ordinances and zoning codes.

The MSCWMO will work with St. Croix River communities to update their local ordinances and zoning codes to ensure that stormwater pollution from new development and redevelopment doesn't pollute the river. Grant award: \$127,000

•Agricultural projects in targeted locations near the St. Croix River.

The Washington Conservation District will work with 8-10 rural and agricultural land owners in high priority areas to install projects that reduce runoff and erosion to the river. Grant award: \$216,130

•Clear Water for Clear Lake. The City of Forest Lake (in the RCWD) will install four biofiltration basins and a wet sedimentation pond to treat stormwater prior to discharging into Clear Lake.

•Wetland enhancements in Bixby Park, Forest Lake. The CLFLWD will work with the City of Forest Lake to modify an existing wetland complex in Bixby Park to improve water quality and reduce the amount of dissolved phosphorus heading downstream to Comfort Lake. This project is part of a larger planned effort to turn Bixby Park into a 100-acre nature park. Grant award: \$360,750

•Funding to seal abandoned wells. Washington County will work with landowners to seal wells that are no longer in use in order to prevent groundwater contamination. Grant award: \$21,350

•Clean water projects at businesses, schools and homeowner associations.

The WCD will work with homeowner associations in Washington County on projects to conserve water and reduce stormwater runoff. Grant award: \$50,000
The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District will also be working with commercial retail areas, strip malls and schools to identify retrofit projects that can reduce stormwater pollution to nearby lakes and streams. Grant awards: \$58,515 commercial / \$54,083 schools

•More bang for the buck. Conservation Districts in the 11-county metro area will continue to conduct "subwatershed" studies in order to identify the most cost-effective practices and the best locations to keep stormwater runoff out of area lakes, rivers and streams. Grant award: \$250,000

EMWREP Calendar of Events

March

- March 4
6:00-7:30pm **Blue Thumb Raingarden Workshop** - Washington Conservation District
Contact Jenn Radtke for info: jradtke@mnwcd.org
- March 11
6:00-7:30pm **Blue Thumb Raingarden Workshop** - Woodbury City Hall
Contact Angie Hong for info: angie.hong@mnwcd.org
- March 15
9:00-11:00am **Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop** Scandia Community Center
Contact Angie Hong for info: angie.hong@mnwcd.org
- March 25
6:00-8:30pm **Casey Lake Meeting** North Saint Paul
Contact Angie Hong for info: angie.hong@mnwcd.org
- March 29 **Woodbury Master Gardener Workshop**
St. Ambrose Green Fair
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April

- April 1
8:00am-4:00pm **Stormwater U: Innovation in BMPs** Maplewood Community Center
Contact Angie Hong for info: angie.hong@mnwcd.org
- April 7
5:30-8:30pm **Blue Thumb Raingarden Workshop** - Family Means, Stillwater
Contact Angie Hong for info: angie.hong@mnwcd.org
- April 8
8:30am-4:00pm **St. Croix Basin Conference** - UW River Falls
More info at www.stcroixriverassociation.org
- April 19
8:00am-4:00pm **Hastings Area Birding Day: Landscaping and Planting for Wildlife** -
Carpenter Nature Center www.carpenternaturecenter.org
- April 22
8:00-10:30am **Earth Day Event** Bailey Lake School Woodbury
- April 24, 29
& May 1
6:00-8:00pm **Blue Thumb Raingarden Design Series** - Bayport Library
Contact Angie Hong for info: angie.hong@mnwcd.org
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May

- May 6
6-7:30pm **Blue Thumb Shoreline Workshop** - Vannelli's by the Lake Forest Lake
Contact Angie Hong for info: angie.hong@mnwcd.org
- May 14
8:00-10:30am **Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop** - Cottage Grove
Contact Angie Hong for info: angie.hong@mnwcd.org

Spring Highlights



Stormwater U

Date: Tuesday, April 1 8:00am-4:00pm
Location: Maplewood Community Center
2100 White Bear Ave, Maplewood, MN 55109

Join us as we explore the ever advancing world of stormwater management. Hear from local implementers experimenting with new materials, technologies and practices in clean water projects and get advice on what works and what doesn't.

Fee: \$40 - includes coffee & light breakfast, lunch & workshop materials

Register at <http://z.umn.edu/innovation>

Erosion & Sediment Wksp

MR 4001 Regulatory Enforcement - Erosion and Sediment Control Wksp
Date: Wednesday May 14 8:00am-4:30pm
Location: Cottage Grove City Hall 12800 Ravine Pkwy, Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Fee: \$185 (\$160 Early Bird discount before April 30)*
***EMWREP Partners pay only \$110 with registration before April 30**

This one-day course is for personnel responsible for inspecting construction sites for NPDES compliance as part of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits. This class is also appropriate for consultant or contracted personnel responsible for construction site compliance inspections. This class is partly in the field and appropriate for all experience levels, as it uses an open forum approach to many topics. (5.5 PDH). This is a non-certification course.

Register at www.erosion.umn.edu

AIS Workshop

Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop
Date: Saturday March 15, 9:00-11:00am
Location: Scandia Community Center 14727 209th St. N. Scandia
Guest speaker, Steve McComas, "The Lake Detective"

Join us for a *free* workshop about curly leaf, milfoil, zebra mussels, common carp and other aquatic invaders. Can you ID invasive species? What's the status of invasives in our local lakes? How can we manage invasive species and keep them from spreading?

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/ScandiaAIS2014>

Members of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program:

Brown's Creek Watershed • Carnelian Marine - St. Croix Watershed
Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed • Cottage Grove • Dellwood
Forest Lake • Lake Elmo • Middle St. Croix Watershed
Ramsey - Washington Metro Watershed • Rice Creek Watershed • Stillwater
South Washington Watershed • Valley Branch Watershed • Willernie • Woodbury
West Lakeland • Washington Conservation District • Washington County

