

Be the change you wish to see in your community: Become a Master Water Steward.

Apply in June to begin classes in the fall



Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved in your community? Want to help protect local lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands? The Washington Conservation District received an \$81,000 Clean Water Grant to develop a Master Water Stewards program in Washington County in partnership with the Freshwater Society. With these funds, we will be recruiting and training 20 citizen stewards to work directly with local watershed organizations on projects to protect and improve water resources in our area. The Master Water

Stewards program offers you the opportunity to learn more about local water management, make new friends, and make a difference in your community.

Master Water Stewards will receive 50 hours of training, beginning in Sept./Oct. of 2017, through a combination of on-line instruction, in-person small-group meetings, and hands-on, outdoor activities. Topics will include basic hydrology and stormwater management, water policy, strategies for engaging your friends and neighbors, and landscaping practices to reduce runoff pollution. Stewards also complete capstone projects in their communities – raingardens, shoreline plantings, and rural lands projects – with support from their watershed organizations (grant funds are available for these projects). After becoming certified, Master Water Stewards continue to provide 25 hours per year of volunteer support to their watershed organizations.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, contact Angie Hong (angie.hong@mnwcd.org or 651-330-8220 x.35). We will begin taking applications in June for our first cohort of 10 stewards.

WHY COVER CROPS?

The WCD works with landowners to protect valuable topsoil and nutrients by keeping them on the land, and protect Minnesota waterbodies from runoff that can be high in nutrients. One route of protection is through the use of cover crops, which has been shown to help improve soil health, smother weeds, control pests/diseases, and prevent soil erosion.

Tim Behrends, a third-generation farmer in Washington County, is using cover crops as a part of his nutrient management. He has used cover crops to combat nitrate leaching because cover crops can help take up leftover nitrogen after harvest and make nitrogen available for future crop.

The WCD is planning field days in 2017 related to soil health and cover crops. Landowners will have the opportunity to see established cover crops in Washington County and talk about practices with other landowners and conservation staff. Field day information will be sent out and posted to the WCD's website (www.mnwcd.org).

For more information on cover crops, visit <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Topic-Rooms/Cover-Crops>.

TREE PICK-UP INFORMATION



Keep an eye out in the mail for a postcard with tree pick-up information and your order number. **KEEP THIS POSTCARD SAFE!** You will need to bring it with you when you pick up your trees.

Washington County Fairgrounds
Lake Elmo – The Rabbit Building
12300 40th St N. Stillwater, MN 55082

Friday, April 28, 9:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 29, 9:00-1:00 p.m.



Washington Conservation District
455 Hayward Avenue North
Oakdale, MN 55128

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Calendar of Events

For more information contact Jenn Radtke: jradtke@mnwcd.org or 651-330-8220 x44

Spring Landscaping Workshops – 6:30p.m.

North Saint Paul - April 6 @ Casey Lake Park

St. Paul Park – April 11 @ City Hall

Oakdale – April 18 @ Washington Conservation District Office

Hugo – April 27 @ City Hall

Forest Lake – May 2 @ City Hall

RSVP to the workshops at: tinyurl.com/SpringDream2017



Pond Dipping Events

What lives in our lakes?

Family Friendly Lake Exploration

Forest Lake (Arts in the Park) – June 20 5-8p.m.

Edgewater Park in Woodbury – June 27 6:30p.m.

Autumn Hills Park in Oak Park Heights – July 6 6:30p.m.

Tanners Lake in Oakdale – July 12 @ 6:30p.m.

Lions Park in Saint Paul Park – July 18 @ 6:30p.m.

Pinetree Park in Cottage Grove – July 26 @ 6:30p.m.

Long Lake in Stillwater – TBD @ 6:30p.m.

Evening in the Open Yards Series 3rd Wednesdays May thru September!

Look for more details at www.bcwd.org

Rain Barrel and Compost Sale with RAM

Friday April 28th @ Hugo Public Works

Order rain barrels and compost bins at: recycleminnesota.org