



BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
455 HAYWARD AVE N
OAKDALE, MN 55128

Karen Kill, Administrator, kkill@mnwcd.org
Craig Leiser, President
Sharon Schwarze, Vice President
Gerald Johnson, Treasurer
Anne Maule Miller, Secretary
Vacant, Manager

Brown's Creek Watershed District meetings are open to the public and take place the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Family Means, 1875 Northwestern Ave S., Stillwater, MN 55082
phone 651-330-8220 x26 www.bcwd.org

facebook.com/browns creek watershed district

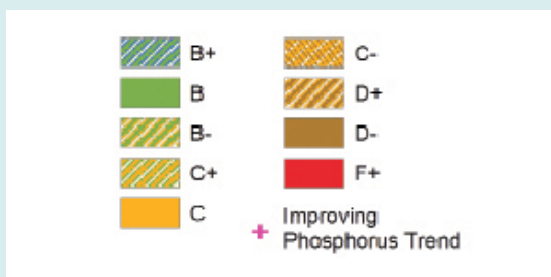
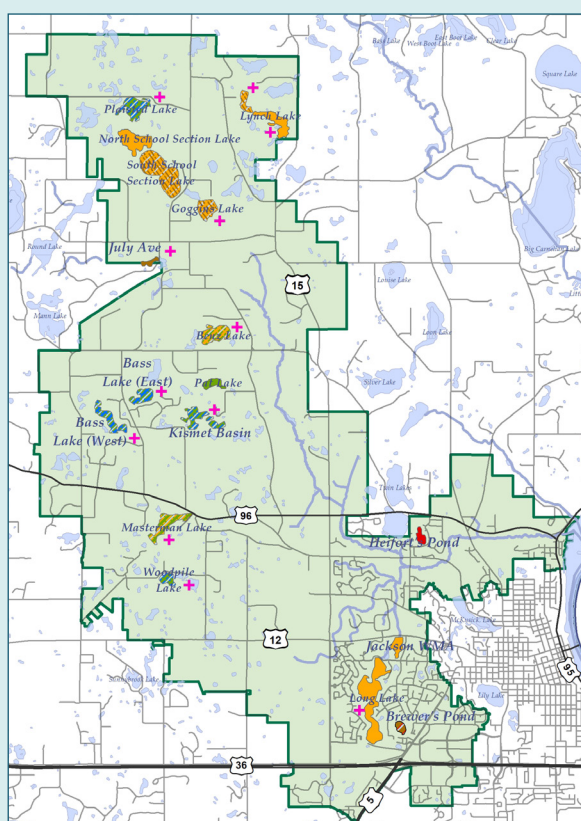
Join the Brown Creek Watershed District's Citizen Advisory Committee

If you are interested in watershed issues and want to get involved in the watershed community, share what you have to offer as a Citizen Advisory Committee Member. We have an amazing group of residents who actively participate in the watershed's activities, including hosting our "Open Yard" series in 2017 and 2018.

CAC meetings take place on the second Monday of even months 6-8pm at the Stillwater Library conference room. We would love to see you there!

WATER QUALITY REPORT CARD

The Brown's Creek Watershed District uses information gathered by the water resource scientists, who regularly test the water. Continued monitoring of the District's lakes provides us with a clearer picture of how to best restore and protect our resources for the future. Curly-leaf Pondweed control in South School Section Lake was successful, resulting in the pondweed being in a managed state. This was due to herbicide treatments conducted in 2017. The lake grades for 2017 are below:



BCWD Community Celebration



This year we are celebrating over 20 years of communities coming together to improve lakes and streams, prevent flooding, restore habitat, promote ecological health and adapt to a changing climate. We have much to celebrate together – and invite you to join us in this fun, free event for all ages. Just a few of the many activities include:

- Live music
- Raptor presentation
- Games and prizes
- Native bee themed arts and crafts
- Live fish and aquatic invertebrates from Brown's Creek
- Information about the BCWD watershed and current projects
- **FREE ICE CREAM!**
(One free ice cream per person.)



BROWN'S CREEK Community Celebration

Saturday
September 29
10a.m. – 1p.m.



Brown's Creek Park
(Neal Ave)
Stillwater, MN

BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN YOUR COMMUNITY: BECOME A MASTER WATER STEWARD!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved in your community? Want to help protect the St. Croix River and local lakes and streams?

The Brown's Creek Watershed District is looking for 2-3 area residents to become Master Water Stewards. Volunteers will join the Washington County cohort, which will include 12-14 stewards in 2018-19.

Stewards receive 50 hours of free training through a combination of on-line instruction, in-person classes, and hands-on, outdoor activities. Learn about watersheds, stormwater management, water policy, strategies for engaging your friends and neighbors, and landscaping practices to reduce runoff pollution in urban and rural settings. Grant funding is available to complete capstone projects, including raingardens, shoreline plantings, and rural lands projects. After becoming certified, Master Water Stewards provide 25 hours per year of volunteer support to their watershed organization.

Continue your education, make new friends, and make a difference in your community. Apply now to begin classes in October!

Register on-line at <https://masterwaterstewards.org>.



Questions?

Contact Angie Hong / angie.hong@mnwcd.org / 651-330-8220 x35

Interview with Brown's Creek Watershed Residents: Lee and Anne Maule Miller

Anne's bee hives have a beautiful overlook as they rest near the Long Lake shoreline in her backyard. Anne participates in the Brown Creek Watershed District's Citizen Advisory Committee, serves as a manager on the District's board and also participates in the Stillwater Bee Club. She's always learning more about how to care for her honeybees. "I love watching them, they are fascinating." Anne took courses from the University of Minnesota Bee Squad and had to get a permit from the City of Stillwater in order to have her two hives- ensuring she is responsible about testing her hives for disease. She also had to inform her neighbors.

One of her neighbors has happily noticed fruit increases in their raspberry and blueberry bushes. "Increased pollination leads to increased fruit production." More than one third of all plants or plant products consumed by humans are directly or indirectly dependent on insects for pollination. Many plants such as almond, apple, blueberry, sunflower, clover, canola etc. cannot reproduce without help from insect pollinators. There is increasing evidence that insect pollinators are disappearing at alarming rates. Loss of bees and other pollinators can be linked to loss of habitat, diseases, pests, and pesticides.

There are more than 3,600 known bee species in the United States and only 1.4% of them are bumble bees!

Anne's husband Lee has implemented many conservation practices in their yard over the 43 years he has lived there- including shoreline restoration around Long Lake, buckthorn removal, and, most recently, providing habitat for native bees! Many native bees live a more solitary existence than honeybees but still need homes. Lee's interest started by reading an article three years ago. "Native bees are far more efficient at pollinating than honeybees" Lee explains. This is

in part due to the fact that they evolved with the native Minnesota plants and have hairy bodies that collect pollen easily. Native bees nest closer to where they are pollinating- using hollow holes such as woodpecker hole or plant stems as homes and places to lay their eggs. Lee has three native bee homes placed carefully away from direct sunlight, rain, and with netting around them to protect them from woodpeckers.

The decline in pollinators affects us all. Reversing this trend is important to the ecosystem as well as human health and well-being. We can all do our part to help, including creating our own pollinator friendly plantings and native bee houses! Check out some of these resources for guidance on helping our native pollinators.

- https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pollinator_resources/index.html
- <http://www.beelab.umn.edu/sites/beelab.umn.edu>
- <http://www.pollinatemn.org/>



Buckthorn Removal Tips

- If you cut down a buckthorn plant be sure to kill the plant by treating the freshly cut stump. If you don't treat the stump it will grow back almost immediately with 3 – 8 sprouts of growth.
- To treat the stumps, make sure that the herbicide you use is at least 18% – 20% glyphosate. You can also use thick plastic or old soup cans to put over the stumps and anchor to the ground.
- Use a large pliers to pull smaller buckthorn out of the ground. (8" – 30" plants) This is easier to do when the ground is wet.
- After you remove the established growth it is important to kill any new growth on a yearly basis. Buckthorn seeds are viable in the ground for up to 5 years.



455 Hayward Avenue North / Oakdale, MN 55128

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Eco-Friendly Fall Yard Tips



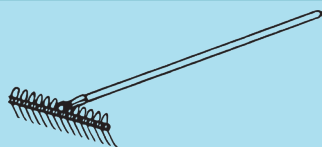
1. Keep Leaves Out of the Street and Stormsewers: this will prevent water pollution

3. Compost Your Leaves: the bonus is top-notch fertilizer to use in the spring!



2. Put Your Lawn to Bed: make your final mow of the season shorter than usual to prevent snow mold. Spread a thin layer of compost or organic, slow-release fertilizer on top or your lawn to promote healthy soil

4. Choose Hand-Powered or Electric Tools over Gas: lower your carbon footprint



5. Pre-Winter Garden Clean-Out: leave about 6 inches of scened vegetation to provide habitat and add visual interest to your yard



Extra Credit – Plant Trees: new trees have a better chance of surviving then during the hot summer months. Go native!

IMPROVING THE WATER QUALITY OF BROWN'S CREEK

Brown's Creek Watershed District and Washington County worked together to retrofit McKusick Road during the 2017 road improvement project, providing water quality treatment to this 5,900 foot section of McKusick Road that previously discharged 25.5 acres of untreated stormwater to Brown's Creek, a designated trout stream listed as impaired due to high thermal and total suspended solids loadings.

Brown's Creek was improved by reducing Total suspended solids by 3521 pounds per year (84% removal) and reducing total phosphorous by 7.77 pounds per year (51% removal).

