BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

WATERSHED NEWS

NEWS / IDEAS / UPDATES

SPRING 2019

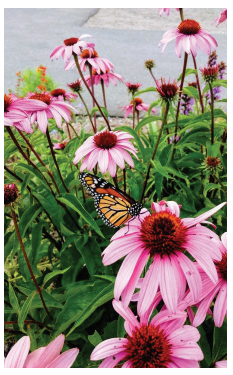
BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
455 HAYWARD AVE N
OAKDALE, MN 55128

Karen Kill, Administrator, kkill@mnwcd.org
phone 651-330-8220 x26

Board of Managers
Craig Leiser, President
Sharon Schwarze, Vice President
Gerald Johnson, Treasurer
Anne Maule Miller, Secretary
Klay Eckles, 2nd Vice President

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
www.bcwd.org

facebook.com/brownscreekwatersheddistrict



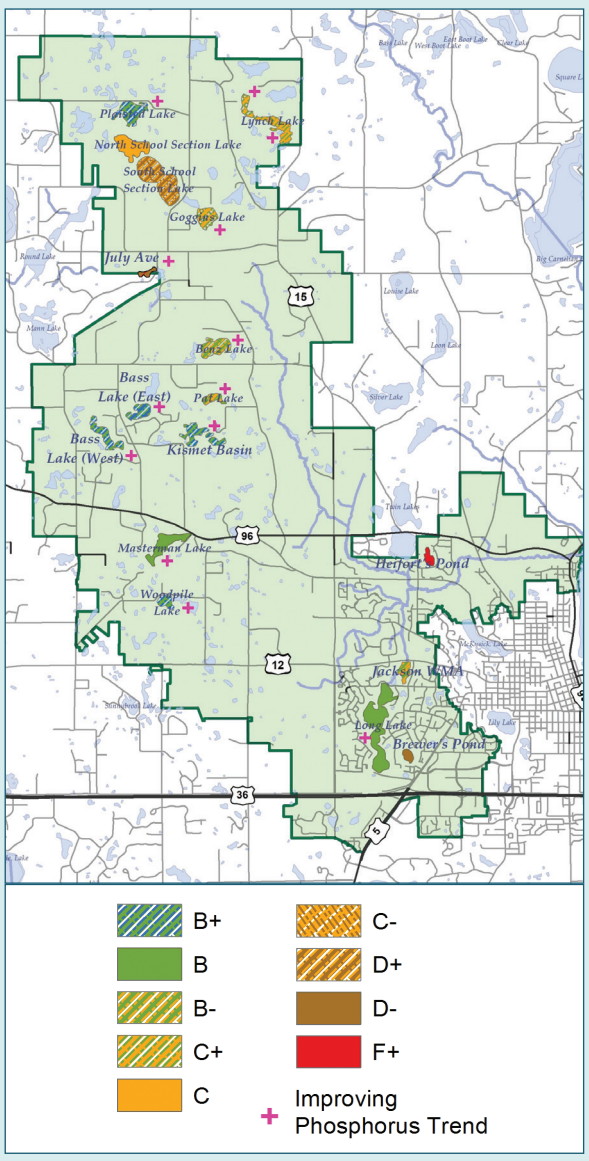
Have a hard time keeping up with garden maintenance? Sign up for a calendar that will send you monthly reminders to keep your raingarden or native planting in the best shape possible!

Check out the website link below for directions on how to download this helpful resource:

www.mnwcd.org/maintenance-guide

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 2018 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
- Face Painting
- 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 14

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

EVENTS CALENDAR
Open Yards and Education Events

May 18: Birding Tour at Brown's Creek Conservation Area
7-9 a.m., Meet guide on south side of road between 11485 and 11383 110th St N, Grant, MN

June 19: Prairie Outing
6-8 p.m., 12999 Keller Ave N, Hugo

July 10: Water Critters: Long Lake
6-7 p.m., The Lakes of Stillwater: 107 Bridgewater Way, Stillwater, MN

August 17: Stormwater Features Neighborhood Walk
10-12 p.m., Brown's Creek Park, Neal Ave, Stillwater, MN

September TBD: Buckthorn Removal on Long Lake's Western Shore
The Lakes of Stillwater: 107 Bridgewater Way, Stillwater, MN

More events are added to our Facebook page and website so check those out to find out other exciting things we are doing this year!

Questions?
Contact Cameron Blake / cblake@mnwcd.org / 651-330-8220 x34

Interview with Brown's Creek Watershed Resident: Klay Eckles

Klay Eckles can see Brown's Creek from his back porch. He and his wife, Joanna, have lived on Brown's Creek for more than a decade, and he is the newest manager on the District's board. They have several conservation practices in their yard: raingardens, native plantings, no mow lawns, and a native prairie along the Brown's Creek buffer. During the years Klay and Joanna have lived along Brown's Creek, they successfully organized 17 of their 23 neighbors to adopt conservation practices in their yards as well, using a grant from the DNR.

Part of Klay's interest in these practices was to experiment and learn if they were something he should encourage as an engineer for the City of Stillwater, and then Woodbury. The learning curve for these alternative yard practices is not difficult to overcome – but can be a dissuading factor for their adoption. Once established, and with a little knowledge, these conservation practices can be very easy to maintain!

Joanna is passionate about birding, and they participate in citizen science by keeping track of the songbirds that visit their many bird feeders at the edge of their prairie. There are many things an individual can do to benefit the environment. Klay and Joanna are a great example of the kind of change we can all participate in to make our environment and community a better place to live.

"Low Mow" or "No Mow" lawns are comprised of native fine fescue grasses. These lawns require less watering and fertilizing as well as far less mowing!

Raingarden in BCWD

Klay's "Low Mow" Lawn

Adopt a storm drain on your street to help protect Brown's Creek, lakes and wetlands

This March, a new Adopt-a-Drain program debuted across the Twin Cities metro area, with a goal of engaging local residents to help prevent water pollution. Storm drains in the Brown's Creek Watershed help to protect neighborhoods against flooding, but they also flow to wetlands, lakes and Brown's Creek, carrying debris off our streets and into the water.

You can make a difference by volunteering just 15-minutes, twice a month, to keep your nearest storm drain clear of litter, leaves, grass clippings and dirt. Go to Adopt-a-Drain.org and use the map to find your neighborhood storm drains – then click and sign-up to adopt. Spend a few minutes each month picking up the garbage and debris near your drain and then go online to report your work so that we can measure our collective impact.

To dispose of the waste you collect, separate it into three categories and place it in the appropriate receptacle: trash, recyclables (glass and plastic bottles, cans) and compostables (leaves and grass clippings). Sediment collected in the spring contains winter road salt and should be put in the trash.

Adopt a storm drain today to help protect our water and keep our neighborhoods clean: www.Adopt-a-Drain.org.

BROWN'S CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

455 Hayward Avenue North / Oakdale, MN 55128

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Join the Brown's 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.

This is a unique opportunity to volunteer and learn more about what water and land issues are happening in your community!

We have an amazing group of residents who actively participate in the watershed's activities, including hosting our "Open Yard" series since 2017, and our annual community event in the fall! We would love to see you there!

Contact Karen Kill, District Administrator, if interested. 651-330-8220 x26

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 10

August 12

October 14

December 9

Location
Stillwater Library
Conference room or
Margaret Rivers A room

Time
6-8 p.m.

BROWN'S CREEK SHADING FEASIBILITY STUDY

Brown's Creek Watershed District received a 2017 Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation grant in the amount of $51,525 to target the type and location of restoration needed to shade three miles of Brown's Creek, impaired for thermal and sediment loading, to reduce stream temperatures. The field work was completed in 2017 and the report was completed in 2018. The study has accelerated the implementation of buffer improvement projects identified in the 2017-2026 Watershed management plan by targeting where shade mitigation is needed most and identifying the best-suited vegetation for shading at each site. Four priority sites were identified for riparian shading restoration. This study was the basis of an additional $78,600 CWF grant with work to begin on two of the sites (2,400 linear feet of Brown's Creek) in partnership with the Millbrook HOA in 2019.

NEW! Master Water Stewards Mini-Training Fall 2019

Learn about water, science, and policy and then get engaged with volunteer projects to protect water in your community.

Register today for a special Master Water Stewards "mini-training" this fall. Get certified through online coursework + two in-person classes:

- Monday, September 16, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

(Classes will be held at Washington Conservation District in Oakdale.)

You can support the work of Brown's Creek Watershed District & help to protect our water!

Learn more at masterwaterstewards.org.