



2017 Annual Report



Above: (Clockwise from upper left) St. Croix Boom Site Clean-up participants; Campfire program at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park; Master Water Stewards' learn about Brown's Creek improvement projects; New yard signs.

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
 Grant • Hugo • Lake Elmo • Middle St. Croix Watershed • Newport • Oak Park Heights • Oakdale
 Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed • Rice Creek Watershed • South Washington Watershed
 Stillwater • St. Paul Park • Valley Branch Watershed • Willernie • West Lakeland
 Woodbury • Washington Conservation District • Washington County

**East Metro Water Resource Education Program
2017 Annual Report**

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About the East Metro Water Resource Education Program

Background: The East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) is a partnership formed in 2006 to implement a comprehensive water education and outreach program for the east metro area of St. Paul, MN. Current EMWREP partners include:

- Washington Conservation District (host)
- Washington County
- Watershed management organizations: Brown's Creek, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix, Comfort-Lake Forest Lake, Rice Creek, Ramsey-Washington Metro, South Washington, and Valley Branch Watershed Districts, and the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
- Cities and townships: Cottage Grove, Dellwood, Forest Lake, Grant, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Newport, Oakdale, Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, St. Paul Park, Willernie, and Woodbury, West Lakeland Township

Purpose: The purpose of the shared education program is to educate community residents, businesses, staff and decision-makers about issues affecting local lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater resources and to engage people in projects that will help to protect and improve the health of these water resources.

Partnership Structure: EMWREP is guided by a steering committee comprised of representatives from each of the 24 partner organizations. The committee generally meets twice a year to provide recommendations on the program budget and activities. The EMWREP coordinator communicates regularly with partner staff, council members and board members; prepares an annual report on program activities; provides outreach data and statistics for partners' MS4 Permit reports; and communicates one-on-one with individual partners on projects throughout the year. All EMWREP reports, plans, and education updates are available on-line at www.mnwcd.org/emwrep.

Staff: Angie Hong is the EMWREP program coordinator. Additional education support in 2017 was provided by Jenn Radtke and Lauren Haydon.

Coordination with Other Regional Education Efforts: The EMWREP partnership helps to strengthen relationships between Washington Conservation District, Washington County and the eight watershed management organizations and 14 cities that constitute the partnership. This translates into better coordination and less overlap in the management of local water resources.

EMWREP staff provide leadership for Watershed Partners (a collaborative of more than 60 non-profit and public entities in the Twin Cities metro area), work actively with organizations in the St. Croix Basin, and participate in the Blue Thumb partnership and Master Water Stewards program.

Accolades: EMWREP was the 2012 MAWD Watershed Program of the Year.

2017 Executive Summary

Public Education and Engagement: EMWREP continues to lead water education efforts in the East Metro area through outreach, community engagement, public education, and media communications. Highlights from 2017 include:

1. **Public education:** Eight (8) landscaping workshops; four (4) backyard tours; ten (10) family nature events; and 15+ community events.
 - **Highlights:**
 - i. Landscaping workshops in North St. Paul, St. Paul Park, Oakdale, Hugo, Forest Lake and Woodbury
 - ii. Raingarden maintenance workshops in Stillwater and Forest Lake
 - iii. AIS Identification workshops in Forest Lake, Big Marine and Lake Elmo
 - iv. Clean the Croix – river clean up and buckthorn pull with 60 participants
 - v. BCWD 20th Anniversary & WCD 75th Anniversary events
2. **Volunteer engagement:**
 - **Master Water Stewards:** With state funding, EMWREP recruited eight citizens to become Master Water Stewards and will be recruiting 12 additional stewards in 2018. Stewards complete 50-hours of training and a capstone project to become certified and volunteer 25-50 hours per year to support local watershed work.
 - **AIS Detectors:** We used county funds to train nine local residents as aquatic invasive species “AIS Detectors”, through a partnership with University of MN.
 - EMWREP continues to work in partnership with Washington County Master Gardeners and to provide support for education initiatives led by St. Croix Watershed Stewards.
3. **Youth education:** Staff taught lessons about groundwater and watersheds to more than a dozen 4th and 5th grade classes; led activities at Cottage Grove and Woodbury Safety Camps; and provided support to Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District to engage 500 students in planting a raingarden at Woodbury Elementary.
4. **Media and communications:** Angie Hong continued to write weekly articles about water and conservation for local newspapers (www.eastmetrowater.areavoices.com). Through Watershed Partners, we created a new blog-style website (www.cleanwatermn.org) with monthly articles about local water heroes.

Outreach Support for Project Implementation: EMWREP staff provide support for Clean Water grants and other partner projects, in addition to promoting cost-share incentive programs. Examples from 2017 include:

- **Green Communities:** Completing a three-year grant project to conduct audience research and install stormwater reduction practices at five Homeowners’ Associations (HOAs) in Washington County
- Helping Brown’s Creek WD to plan and promote its 20th anniversary event
- Organizing a neighborhood gathering at Hay Lake in Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD
- Conducting a raingarden maintenance training for cost-share recipients in Comfort Lake – Forest Lake WD and Rice Creek WD
- Helping Middle St. Croix WMO to develop a community engagement plan for Lily Lake
- Helping Ramsey-Washington WD staff to plant a raingarden at Woodbury Elementary

- Meeting with landscape architects to develop a vision for new park space and an interpretive center at South Washington WD's Glacial Valley Park in Woodbury.
- Working with Valley Branch WD and City of Maplewood to design and install four interpretive signs at Joy Park on Silver Lake
- Providing education support for Washington CD outreach to farmers
- Helping Washington County to develop education activities for its Groundwater Plan

In addition, outreach and education helped to support:

- 257 landowner site visits with Conservation District staff
- 57 new projects installed with watershed cost-share grants
- 79.18 pounds of phosphorus (P) kept out of surface waters (all projects combined)

Professional Trainings for Business and Local Government: EMWREP provides professional training for businesses and local government through Stormwater U, NEMO, and other partnerships. Training partners include Minnesota Extension, the University of Minnesota Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification Program, the Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA), Fortin Consulting, St. Croix River Association, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Professional trainings in 2017 included:

- Turfgrass management & Winter maintenance workshops
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) workshop and presentations
- Stormwater volume control & bioretention design workshop
- Shoreline workshops for realtors
- Business BBQ
- Watershed Partners monthly meetings
- St. Croix River Workshop on the Water

New Materials and Resources: During 2017, EMWREP created [new materials and resources](#) to support water education. Highlights include:

1. **Neighborhood Clean-up Engagement Kit:** This kit, developed in partnership with Metro Watershed Partners includes doorhangers, sign-up forms, step-by-step instructions and other materials to help local residents and community groups organize neighborhood "storm drain" clean-up events.
2. **Yard Signs:** "This yard is part of the solution" - These signs come in four different colors and designs and are sold for \$3 each or two for \$5.
3. **NEW High quality photos:** Through the Watershed Partners new media campaign we now have a collection of more than 100 new high quality photos to help illustrate common water education topics (ie. lawn care, winter salting, native plants, raking leaves out of the street, pet poop, etc.). The collection also includes in-action and people photos.
4. **Table-top banners:** EMWREP has four new table-top pop-up banners available for partners to borrow: AIS, Pollinators, Lawn Care, and Ag Practices for Soil Health. The banners are light-weight and retract to fit in small carrying bags.
5. **Interactive groundwater displays:** Two new groundwater displays developed in 2016 got lots of use in 2017. One features information about groundwater resources in Washington County, while the other focuses on water conservation. Both are hands-on and fold-up into wooden suitcases with wheels and handle for easy transport.
6. **Green Communities Guidebook:** This short [guidebook](#) summarizes feedback from focus groups conducted with homeowner association (HOA) residents, property management companies, and lawn care professionals and provides advice for engaging HOAs in clean water projects.

Public Education and Engagement

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Audience: General Public, Urban and Rural Landowners, Youth

Program Goals:

1. Educate the public about nonpoint source water pollution, groundwater conservation, and basic watershed ecology and management.
2. Build partnerships with state and local government, non-profit organizations, and community groups.
3. Engage citizen volunteers to help conduct education and outreach.
4. Motivate urban and rural landowners to practice behaviors that protect water resources.
5. Train and assist urban and rural residents to complete projects on their land that reduce runoff pollution, conserve groundwater, and increase infiltration.

Educational Objectives:

Citizens will learn:

1. That nonpoint source water pollution comes from a variety of land uses - residential, commercial, and agricultural.
2. That common pollutants impacting surface and groundwater resources in the east metro area include phosphorus, sediment, nitrates, *E. coli*, chloride, and mercury.
3. That a watershed includes all of the land draining to a lake, stream or river, and that Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations are special-purpose local units of government charged with managing the resources of a given watershed to prevent flooding and protect water quality.
4. That surface and groundwater resources interact.
5. That area residents can help to prevent nonpoint source water pollution through a variety of behaviors, including raking leaves and grass clippings out of the street, using less fertilizers and chemicals on lawns and gardens, covering bare soil during landscaping and construction, picking up pet poop, replacing failing septic systems, using less salt for winter maintenance and water softening, disposing of household waste properly, and using less electricity.
6. That landowners can help to reduce runoff pollution, conserve groundwater, and increase infiltration by installing best management practices such as habitat plantings, raingardens, and shoreline plantings; repairing erosion; and managing drainage around homes, farms, and commercial buildings.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN 2017

1) Public Education

Tree Workshop – taught in partnership with Minnesota DNR and US Forest Service.

- Oakdale – Feb. 23 (53 attendees)

Spring Landscaping Workshops – taught in partnership with Master Gardeners. Participants learned about lawn care and lawn alternatives, composting, and “Blue Thumb” projects – native gardens, raingardens and shoreline plantings.

- North St. Paul – April 6 (29 attendees)
- St. Paul Park – April 11 (20)
- Oakdale – April 18 (31)
- Hugo – April 27 (15)
- Forest Lake – May 2 (18)

Raingarden Maintenance Workshops

- Stillwater – July 20 (6 attendees)
- Forest Lake – Aug. 23 (33)

Buckthorn Workshop

- Woodbury – Sept. 19 (25 attendees)

Brown’s Creek Open Yards Series –hosted by members of the Brown’s Creek Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee.

- May 24 - large lots: buckthorn, woodland wildflowers, native shrubs
- June 21 - large lots: septic systems, infiltration, weed management
- Aug. 23 - large lots: prairies
- Sept. 20 - urban/suburban lots: raingardens, weeds vs native plants

Family nature events: hands-on, outdoor events to teach children and adults about aquatic invertebrates and lake and river health

- Forest Lake - June 20 (Arts in the Park)
- St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park – June 24 (campfire program)
- Woodbury, Colby Lake - June 27
- Oak Park Heights, Autumn Hills Park - July 6
- North St. Paul, Silver Lake – July 8 (Silver Lake SPLASH)
- Oakdale, Tanners Lake - July 12
- Lake Elmo Park Reserve – July 15 (campfire program)
- St. Paul Park, Lions Park on the Mississippi River - July 18
- Stillwater, Long Lake - July 24
- Cottage Grove, Pinetree Pond - July 26

Sales (trees, plants, rain barrels, compost bins): EMWREP partnered with other organizations to promote sales and provide educational materials at these events.

- Rain barrel and compost bin sale – April 28, Hugo
- Tree sale – April 28-29, Lake Elmo
- Master Gardener plant sale - May 21, Lake Elmo
- Landscape Revival native plant expo and market - June 3, Roseville

Aquatic Invasive Species identification workshops: hands-on workshops taught in partnership with Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District staff using special funding from Washington County.

- Forest Lake – June 19 (18 participants)
- Big Marine Lake – June 29 (5 participants)
- Tri-Lakes in Lake Elmo – Aug. 15 (15 participants)

Community events: EMWREP partnered with other organizations to plan, promote, provide educational materials, and conduct educational programming at these events.

- Feb. 8 – Mahtomedi Garden Club spring event
- Feb. 11 – Phalen Freeze Fest (St. Paul)
- March 9 – Pollinator Forum (West St. Paul)
- April 22 – Grant Community Clean-up
- April 29 – Mahtomedi RITE of Spring
- May 20 – Belwin Bison Release (Afton)
- May 21 – Mill Stream Day (Marine on St. Croix)
- June 3 – WaterFest (Lake Phalen – St. Paul)
- June 22 – Oakdale Summerfest Parade
- July 8 – Boomsite Cleanup (Stillwater Twp.)
- Aug. 2-6 – Washington County Fair (Lake Elmo)
- Aug. 13 – Newport Pioneer Day
- Aug 24 – Sept. 4 – Minnesota State Fair
- Sept. 6 – Stillwater Community Water Meeting
- Sept. 10 – PolliNATION (Stillwater Twp.)
- Sept. 16 – Brown’s Creek 20th Anniversary Event (Stillwater)
- Sept. 17 – Washington Conservation District 75th Anniversary Event (Lake Elmo)
- Sept. 21 – Cottage Grove Public Works Open House
- Oct. 5 – Governor’s Water Town Hall (Stillwater)

Presentations: presentations given by EMWREP staff at community meetings and events

- Feb. 7 - Daylily and Trillium Garden Clubs Meeting (Stillwater)
- Feb. 16 - Great Rivers Confluence Symposium (Afton-Hastings-Prescott-River Falls)
- Feb. 27 – Tri-Lakes annual meeting (Lake Elmo-Oakdale)
- Sept. 27 – Marine on St. Croix Community Water Meeting

2) Volunteer engagement:

Master Water Stewards: In 2017, EMWREP received a Clean Water Fund grant to recruit and train two cohorts of Master Water Stewards in our area (20 volunteers total) in partnership with Freshwater Society. Stewards go through 50-hours of training and complete a capstone project to become certified. After that, they volunteer 50-hours the first year and 25 hours per year thereafter to remain certified. During the first year of the grant project we:

- Developed recruitment materials, held two information sessions, and offered invitations to participate to 13 applicants. Of those, ten people elected to join the program and eight are still participating as of February 2018.
- Secured a GreenCorps member to help develop the program.

- Worked with Freshwater Society to develop new curriculum to teach stewards about rural watershed issues and best management practices such as habitat restoration, invasive species management, and shoreline restoration.
- Current program participants include:
 - 1) Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD - John Goodfellow (Marine)
 - 2) Comfort Lake – Forest Lake WD - Tom Furey (Scandia)
 - 3) Middle St. Croix WMO - Sally Arneson (Stillwater and Lakeland) and Drew Chirpich (GreenCorps)
 - 4) South Washington WD – Cole Williams (Newport); Joan Nichols, Nathan Zerbe and Susan Goebel (Woodbury)
- Classes taught to stewards in 2017 included:
 - 1) Info sessions in August and September
 - 2) Introductory meeting - Oct. 10
 - 3) On-line capstone primer
 - 4) County watershed tour - Oct. 14
 - 5) Basic hydrology - Oct. 24
 - 6) Stormwater basics - Nov. 14
 - 7) Water policy - Nov. 28
- In 2018, the current stewards will take classes in environmental decision making, community engagement, rainscaping, residential stormwater management, and BMP evaluation and maintenance. They will also complete their capstone projects by November 2018. EMWREP will recruiting 12 new stewards for the 2018-19 cohort this summer and fall.

AIS Detectors: Last year, we used Washington County aquatic invasive species (AIS) funds to train nine local residents at AIS Detectors, through a partnership with the University of Minnesota. The program offers 6-8 hours of on-line training and one full-day, in-person training to help citizens learn how to identify invasive aquatic plants including Eurasian watermilfoil, hydrilla and starry stonewort; invasive invertebrates including spiny waterflea, rusty crayfish, zebra mussels, and quagga mussels; and invasive fish including bighead carp, silver carp, round goby, and ruffe. Volunteers received a certificate upon completion of training and will now be asked to provide 25 hours per year of volunteer work to help address local AIS issues.

AIS Detectors in Washington County include:

- 1) John Bower - Big Carnelian (CMSCWD)
- 2) Jeff Dahlberg - Big Marine (CMSCWD)
- 3) Tony Vavoulis - Big Marine (CMSCWD)
- 4) Sam Hathaway – Bone (CLFLWD)
- 5) Gary Lee – Clear (RCWD)
- 6) Link Lavey - Demontreville/Olson (VBWD)
- 7) Dale Dorschner – Elmo (VBWD)
- 8) Del Peterson – Lily (MSCMWO)
- 9) Mike Ziegelski – Sand (CMSCWD)

Engaging existing volunteer networks: EMWREP continues to work in partnership with Washington County Master Gardeners and to provide support for education initiatives led by St. Croix Watershed Stewards. During 2017, EMWREP:

- Co-taught spring landscaping workshops with Master Gardeners and helped to promote the Master Gardener plant sale.
- Provided flyers and storm drain stenciling materials for St. Croix Watershed Steward Jack MacKenzie, and also helped to promote MacKenzie's spring lawn care workshops.

3) **Youth education:**

Groundwater education: With special funding from Washington County, EMWREP staff provided groundwater education for more than a dozen school and youth groups in 2017:

- Staff taught lessons using the groundwater model and K-12 Watershed Game to 13 4th and 5th grade classes at the following schools:
 - Oakdale Elementary
 - Castle Elementary (Oakdale)
 - Eagle Point Elementary (Oakdale)
 - Crestview Elementary (Cottage Grove)
- EMWREP also led groundwater education activities for Washington County 4H Project Discovery (March 11), Trout in the Classroom Summit (March 17), Maplewood Middle School Field Day (May 26) and Children's Water Festival (Sept. 27).

Stormwater and watershed education:

- Woodbury Elementary field trip to Battle Creek Lake – March 1
- Woodbury Elementary raingarden field day - May 4
- Storm drain stenciling with Natural Sciences Academy in St. Paul Park - May 31
- Camp Clue stormwater pollution prevention activity at Cottage Grove and Woodbury Safety Camps – June 21 and July 19
- Woodbury Elementary raingarden planting with 500+ students – Oct. 4, 5, 10

4) **Media and communications:**

Newspaper articles: Angie Hong continues to write articles about water and conservation for local newspapers. Read them on-line at www.eastmetrowater.areavoices.com. For a list of articles sent to each paper in 2017, see Appendix B.

*There have been significant changes at most of the local newspaper companies over the past 12 years, including frequent staff turnover, elimination of local offices, and reduction in the frequency of printing. This has made it difficult to publish regular content in many EMWREP partner communities.

- **Chisago Press** (Circulation - 3963) – 4 articles
- **Forest Lake Lowdown** (Circulation – 13,997) – 2 articles
 - Staff writer Jackie Bussjaeger also attended and wrote articles about several watershed events.
- **Forest Lake Times** (Circulation - 13,029) – 21 articles
 - In September of 2017, Forest Lake Times changed its format to incorporate a new, ad-free editorial page with a slate of rotating columnists. From now on, they will be publishing our articles in this section once a month.
- **Hugo Citizen** (Circulation – 14,500) – 4 articles
- **Oakdale-Lake Elmo Review** (Circulation – 11,066) – 17 articles
 - There have been significant staff changes at the Review papers.
- **Ramsey Review** (Circulation – 24,326) – 4 articles
- **Scandia Country Messenger** (Circulation - 1075) – 14 articles
- **South Washington County Bulletin** (Circulation - 8616) – 10 articles
 - There have been significant staff changes at the Bulletins and there is no longer a local editor for either.
- **St. Croix 360** (On-line: 25,647 followers) – 1 article
- **St. Croix Lowdown** (Circulation – 5000) – 3 articles
 - This paper also runs articles from the Forest Lake Lowdown and Scandia Country Messenger on occasion.
- **Valley Life edition of Stillwater Gazette** (Circulation - 17,479) – 47 articles
- **White Bear Press** (Circulation – 19,331) – 3 articles
- **Woodbury Bulletin** (Circulation - 7811) – 13 articles

Newsletters: EMWREP also provides content for city, watershed and WCD newsletters.

- Afton (pop. 2800) - [newsletters](#)
 - Jan – tree workshop
 - Feb – tree workshop
 - March – spring dreaming
 - May – Protect clean water/adopt a drain (?)
 - Sep – Master Water Stewards
 - Oct – MSCWMO cost share promotion
 - Nov – CWMA Grant
- Bayport (pop. 3200)
 - Spring – Clean Water Funds (MSCWMO) and Help Stop Invasive Species
 - Summer – Smart Outdoor Water Use and MSCWMO Cost Share Promotion
- Birchwood (pop. 875) - [newsletter](#)
 - Summer – Illicit Discharge
- Browns Creek Watershed District – content for annual newsletter
- Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District – content for annual newsletter
- Cottage Grove (pop. 34,000) - [newsletter](#)
 - Jan – tree workshop
 - April – Arbor Day event and Hyvee/SWWD stormwater award
 - Dellwood
 - Dec – Stormwater pollution prevention program
- Lakeland (pop. 1830) - [newsletter](#)
 - Feb – Tree workshop
 - March – Spring Dreaming Workshop
 - April – Spring Dreaming Workshop

- November – MSCWMO Cost Share
- Mahtomedi (pop. 8000) - [newsletter](#)
 - Spring (Green Talk) – Spring dreaming workshop
- Oakdale (pop. 27,726) – [newsletter](#)
 - Spring – Water Saving Tips, Waterfest 2017, Zero Waste Tips, Clean Spring Runoff
 - Summer – Tanner’s Lake Pond Dipping
- Oak Park Heights (pop. 4724) - [newsletter](#)
 - March – Spring Dreaming workshop
 - Sep – MSCWMO cost share promotion
 - Stillwater (pop. 18,000) - [newsletter](#)
- Oct – Clean Streets for Clean Water
 - Stillwater Twp. (pop. 3000) - [newsletter](#)
 - Spring Dreaming Workshop
- St. Paul Park
 - Spring- Family Pond dipping
- Washington Conservation District – content for bi-annual newsletters
- White Bear Lake (pop. 24,555) - [newsletter](#)
 - Spring – Cost Share Grants (Advertised for all four WD/WMO)
- Woodbury
 - Sep – cost share promotion for irrigation heads

Minnesota Water – Let’s Keep it Clean: This campaign is a project of Watershed Partners, which is a partnership of more than 60 non-profit and public entities in the Twin Cities metro area that work together to provide education about stormwater pollution. The new blog-style website (www.cleanwatermn.org) features monthly articles about local water heroes and partners are provided with customized links to post and track the readership of these articles through their own social media networks.

EMWREP and its partners provide funding support for the Minnesota Water – Let’s Keep it Clean campaign and Angie Hong serves as a steering committee member and the large group meeting facilitator.

Articles for 2017 included:

- Jan. – [The Iceman Cometh: Sidewalk salt pollutes our lakes and streams](#)
- Feb. – [Recent immigrants become water stewards](#)
- March – [Tree-huggers unite: Protecting urban tree canopies](#)
- April – [Planting native seeds with a new generation](#)
- May – [Rain barrels herald spring](#)
- June – [Organic lawn care and maintenance yields field of dreams](#)
- July – [What’s in a ribbet? Frogtown frogs signal environmental health](#)
- Aug. – [Going native with shoreline restoration](#)
- Sept. – [Urban agriculture spawns North Side enterprise](#)
- Oct. – [Improving health and the planet with organic lawn care](#)
- Nov. – [Becoming a Mississippi River water quality action hero](#)
- Dec. – [Friends turn stormwater problem into a cistern solution](#)

Websites and Social Media:



- **East Metro Water**
 - Blog website: www.eastmetrowater.areavoices.com
 - 11,378 visits in 2017
 - Twitter followers
 - @angiehongwater – 360
 - @EMWREP - 261
- **Washington Conservation District**
 - Website: www.mnwcd.org
 - 18,500 visits from 15,700 unique visitors
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/mnwcd
 - 476 page likes
 - Ads purchased in 2017:
 - Rain barrel and compost bin sale (795 people reached)
 - St. Paul Park and Oakdale workshops (2589 people reached)
 - AIS Fishing opener (4039 people reached)
 - Fall hunting AIS prevention (16,178 people reached)
 - Instagram: wcd_mn
 - 101 followers
- **Blue Thumb**
 - Website: www.bluthumb.org
 - EMWREP provides financial support for the Blue Thumb program partnership, website, events, and outreach materials.
 - Web resources for the public include a plant selector tool, map of landscape designers and native plant nurseries, calendar of events, raingarden and shoreline how-tos, and grant info.
 - During 2017, Blue Thumb also produced three blog/print articles about landscaping for clean water:
 - [Backyard conservation](#)
 - [How cities can manage climate change](#)
 - [Plant a tree: Invest in the urban environment](#)
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/BlueThumbMN
 - 1328 page likes
- EMWREP has also helped BCWD, CMSCWD, and SWWD to create and manage Facebook accounts

Local television programming: A videographer from South Washington Telecommunications Commission (SWCTC) attended the Pond Dipping event in St. Paul Park and produced a short program for local television.

- **Pond Dipping Event Lion's Levee Park** - <https://youtu.be/Xv0jt3-pHIY>



Outreach Support for Project Implementation

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Program Goals:

1. Publicize EMWREP partner programs and projects.
2. Promote BMP (Best Management Practices) and cost-share incentive programs.
3. Engage community members and other stakeholders to help meet water quality goals identified through local water plans, TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) studies, WRAP (Water Restoration and Protection) strategies, and other regulatory programs.
4. Engage public and private land owners to complete activities funded through state and federal grants.

Educational Objectives:

1. Citizens will be aware of water-quality improvement projects and programs happening in their communities and understand the benefits of these activities.
2. Citizens will be aware of and utilize BMP and cost-share incentive programs to complete water protection projects on their land.
3. EMWREP will help partners to identify, reach out to, and engage public and private landowners and managers in targeted locations in order to complete water resource improvement and protection projects.

OUTREACH AND PROJECT SUPPORT IN 2017

1) Promotion of watershed BMP and cost-share incentive programs

EMWREP continues to integrate public education and outreach with partner BMP programs, using workshops, neighborhood gatherings and community events to promote cost-share programs and recommended practices. In 2017, outreach and education helped to support:

- 257 landowner site visits with Conservation District staff
- 57 new projects installed with watershed cost-share grants
- 79.18 pounds of phosphorus kept out of surface waters (all projects combined)

A map of BMP projects and workshop participants in Washington County can be found at www.mapfeeder.net/wcdbmp.

2) Special grants

Green Communities: In 2014, the Washington Conservation District was awarded a \$50,000 Clean Water Fund Grant from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources to conduct audience research and develop clean water projects with Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) in Washington County. The grant included funding to conduct focus groups with HOA board members, property managers, and lawn care companies, and to complete stormwater reduction projects with five HOA properties in Washington County.

EMWREP staff managed this grant, led education and outreach efforts, and prepared the [Green Communities Guidebook](#). Work was completed in 2017. Projects installed included:

- **Evergreen Country Homes in Woodbury** (RWMWD) - 2 vegetated swales; 2935sq ft; 0.34 lb/yr of phosphorus
- **Lakeridge Townhomes in Woodbury** (RWMWD) - Raingarden & bioinfiltration; 350 sq ft; 0.11lb/yr of phosphorus
 - Neighborhood celebration held on May 31, 2017
- **Powers Lake Townhomes in Woodbury** (SWWD) - vegetated swale; 600sq ft; 0.14lb/yr of phosphorus
- **Tanners Lake Townhomes in Oakdale** (RWMWD) - shoreline buffer; 3,094 sq ft; 0.27lb/yr of phosphorus
- **Heritage Glen in Woodbury** (SWWD) - plant buffer/vegetated swale; 5200 sq ft; 1.2 lb/yr of phosphorus

3) Education and outreach support for partner projects and programs

Brown's Creek Watershed District

- Helped to plan and promote the 110th St. public open house on April 18.
- Helped to plan, promote, and conduct activities for the BCWD 20th anniversary event on Sept. 15.
- Collaborated with citizen advisory committee to plan and promote Open Yards series.

Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

- Organized a neighborhood gathering with Hay Lake residents to talk about lake water quality and promote cost-share projects.
- Created a watershed survey for people attending the Mill Stream Festival.

Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District

- Attended the watershed district open house on Feb. 21.
- Helped to plan and publicize the watershed tour on May 6.
- Conducted a raingarden maintenance training for cost-share recipients on Aug. 23.
- Helped WCD staff to conduct outreach to landowners surrounding Bone Lake

Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization

- Helped to develop a community engagement plan for the Lily Lake Final 45 grant project and held an open house on July 11.
- Engaged local citizen groups to begin developing an Adopt-a-Raingarden program for Stillwater.

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District

- Provided support to prepare and lead 500+ students in planting a new raingarden at Woodbury Elementary.

Rice Creek Watershed District

- Conducted a raingarden maintenance training for cost-share recipients on Aug. 23.

South Washington Watershed District

- Met with landscape architects to develop a vision for new park space and an interpretive center at Glacial Valley Park in Woodbury.

Valley Branch Watershed District

- Worked with staff from the City of Maplewood to design and install four interpretive signs at Joy Park on Silver Lake.
- Developed content for interpretive panels at the new Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center in Lake Elmo.

Washington Conservation District

- Helped to recruit five local farmers to become certified through the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program
- Provided education match for the cooperative weed management program

Washington County

- Provided education support to help the county implement its Groundwater Plan by teaching lessons at local schools and conducting a groundwater education needs assessment.

Professional Trainings for Business and Local Government

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Audience: Water resource professionals, municipal staff, consultants and contractors, local elected and appointed officials, business owners, realtors, lawn care providers, winter maintenance providers

Program Goals:

1. Provide technical training to help EMWREP partners meet MS4 Permit requirements and reduce stormwater pollution.
2. Work in partnership with University of Minnesota to provide high-quality professional education at a local level.
3. Provide local decision makers (city councils, planning commissions, watershed boards, county commissioners, etc.) with information and training needed to implement policies, programs, and practices that protect and restore water resources.
4. Offer professional trainings for area business owners, realtors, lawn care providers, and winter maintenance contractors to share information about local water issues and encourage business practices that protect surface and groundwater resources.

Educational Objectives:

1. Municipal employees will understand that stormwater runoff, erosion, and illicit discharge contaminate surface and groundwater resources and, also, that there are best management practices to reduce these causes of water pollution.
2. Local decision makers will understand that land use impacts water quality and that there are a variety of policies, programs and practices cities, counties, and watershed management organizations can implement to protect their water resources.
3. Area business owners, realtors, lawn care providers, and winter maintenance contractors will learn how to conserve groundwater resources and reduce surface and groundwater pollution through a variety of practices, including:
 - a. Completing water efficiency audits;
 - b. Talking with home buyers and sellers about shoreline landscaping, remodeling, and septic system maintenance;
 - c. Mowing higher and using fewer lawn chemicals; and
 - d. Reducing road salt application by using new technology, calibrating equipment, and adjusting anti-icing and deicing methods based on weather forecasts.

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS FOR BUSINESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN 2017

1) Training for local government staff and consultants

Turfgrass management

- April 5 workshop in Cottage Grove

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

- May 11 workshop in Oakdale (WCD) – taught in partnership with University of Minnesota Erosion and Sediment Control Program
- Oct 18 staff training for Oakdale Public Works
- Oct 18 training for wastewater installers and operators in Stillwater

Winter Maintenance

- April 26 – Smart Salting Level 2 training in Shoreview (RWMWD)
- Nov. 2 – Smart Salting Level 1 training (parking lots and sidewalks) in Oakdale (WCD) – 32 attendees
- Certified contractors listed at: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/salt-application-training

Stormwater Volume Control & Bioretention Design

- April 25 workshop in Oakdale (WCD)
- Topics: new technology, lessons learned, soil amendments, and best practices for installation and maintenance

2) Training for local decision makers

St. Croix River Workshop on the Water

- Sept. 14, Stillwater – 70 participants
- Topics:
 - Strategies on how to protect and prioritize water quality during development and landscaping projects
 - New trails and parks designed for the Lower Riverway:
 - Stillwater's Aiple Park
 - Hudson's plans for riverfront revitalization
 - Loop Trail
- Workshop partners: MN and WI DNRs, National Park Service, St. Croix River Association, University of Minnesota Extension

3) Training and outreach to local businesses

Shoreline realtor workshops – taught in partnership with St. Croix River Association and Minnesota DNR. Realtors received CEUs for attending.

- March 9 workshop in Stillwater – 45 attendees
- Nov. 16 workshop in Stillwater – 40 attendees

Business BBQ – May 23 at WCD office in Oakdale

- Approximately 100 people from local businesses attended.
- EMWREP staff visited local businesses in person to deliver invitations.
- During the BBQ attendees toured the building, viewed new clean water landscaping projects, and received information about cost-share grants.

4) Professional partnerships, meetings, and conferences

Watershed Partners – EMWREP and its partners contribute financial and staff support to Metro Watershed Partners, a partnership of 60+ public and non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities area. In addition to the public education campaign, Watershed Partners provides learning opportunities for water resource professionals through its monthly meetings.

Presentation topics in 2017 included:

- Jan – Environmental justice
- Feb. – Communicating on issues of equity and diversity (special workshop)
- March – Twitter for communicators
- April – Community clean-ups for water quality & Adopt-a-Drain
- May – Volunteer management
- June – Metro surface water management act & Future of the Minnesota River (workshop on the Mississippi River)
- Aug. - North Minneapolis canoe-share program (experiential paddle and bike event)
- Sept – 25 x 25 community water meeting
- Oct. – Social media
- Nov. – Communicating about water resources and climate change (panel and roundtable)
- Dec. – Restoring the Mississippi River Gorge

Water Consortium – EMWREP staff help to plan topics and presenters for Washington County water consortium meetings.

St. Croix Summit – EMWREP staff helped to plan the annual conference in River Falls on April 21.

Community resiliency planning – EMWREP staff attended and helped to promote this two-part workshop on Sept. 26 and 28, which was led by South Washington and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed Districts, Freshwater Society, and Barr Engineering.

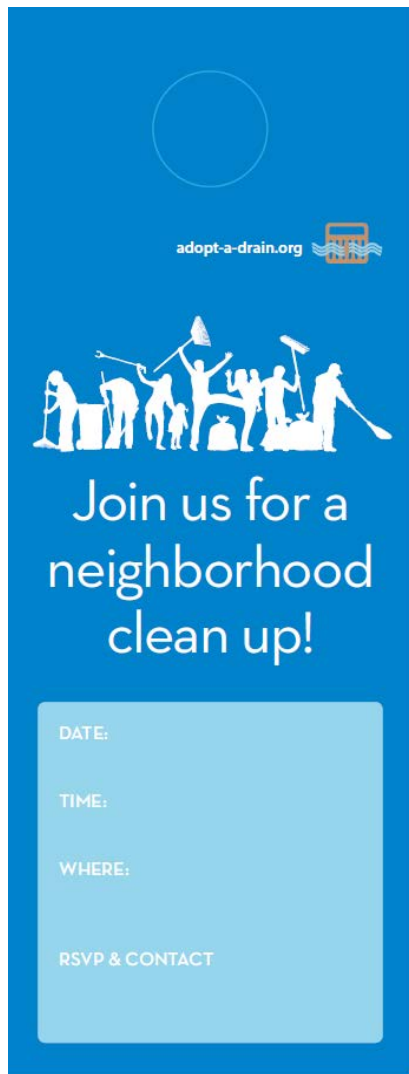
Water Conservation Education Task-Force – EMWREP staff attend meetings led by MN DNR to share ideas and resources about water conservation education.

NEW MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR 2017

1. Neighborhood Clean-up Engagement Kit

This kit, developed in partnership with Metro Watershed Partners includes doorhangers, sign-up forms, step-by-step instructions and other materials to help local residents and community groups organize neighborhood “storm drain” clean-up events.

EMWREP and other partners plan to pilot the kit in spring of 2018. We have also adapted the materials for our pilot Adopt-a-Raingarden program in Stillwater.



Hey neighbors!

Join us for this event to clean up our streets and sidewalks. Its a great way to get to know your neighbors, keep things looking nice, and protect our local lakes and rivers by sweeping up trash, leaves, and dirt so it doesn't wash down the storm drains.

What to bring (if you have it):

- Gloves
- Water bottle
- Rake/broom/snow shovel
- Trash picker-upper
- Dust pan

RSVP if you think you can make it (contact info on the other side).

See you there!



2. Yard Signs

“This yard is part of the solution” - These signs come in four different colors and designs and are sold for \$3 each or two for \$5. We worked with local artist Vera Wong to create the artwork and hope to install a metal sculpture with the same design along Lake McKusick in Stillwater.



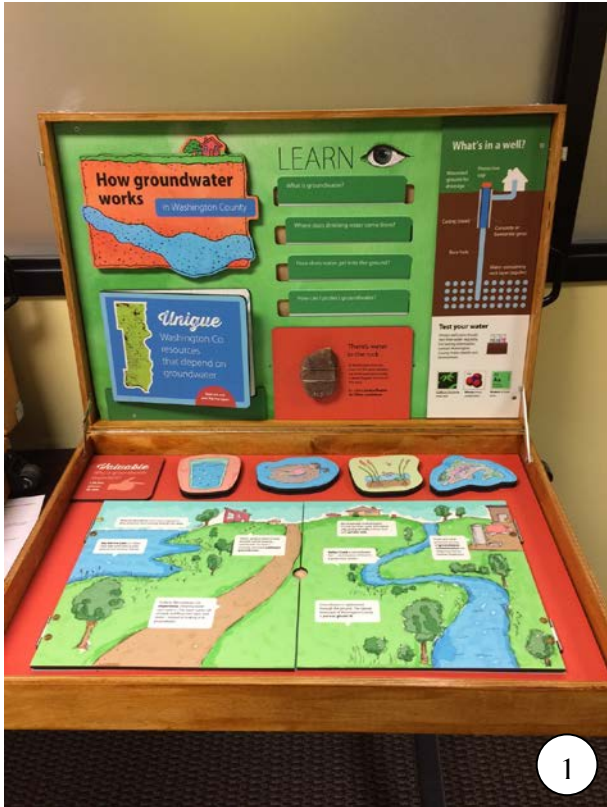
3. NEW High quality photos

Through the Watershed Partners new media campaign we now have a collection of more than 100 new high quality photos to help illustrate common water education topics (ie. lawn care, winter salting, native plants, raking leaves out of the street, pet poop, etc.). The collection also includes in-action and people photos.

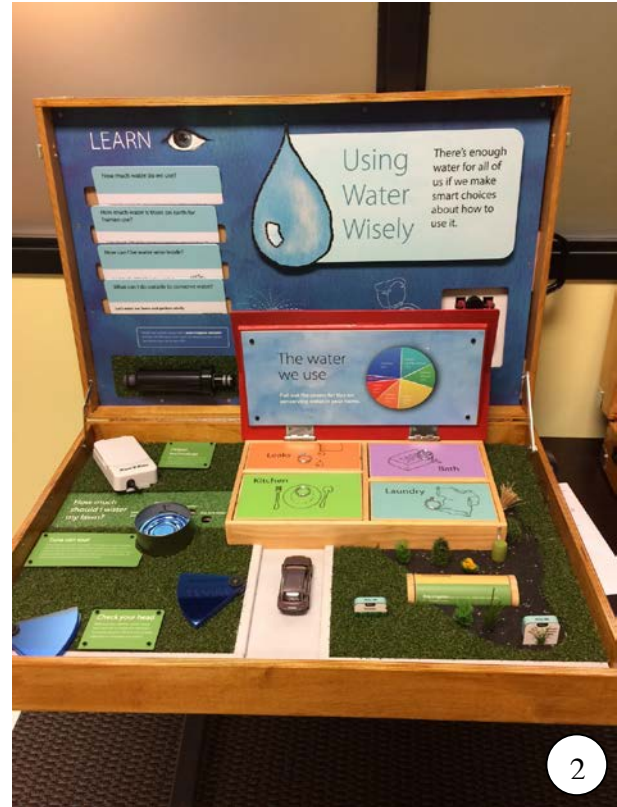
EMWREP partners can find and download photos at:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MAF97aqdkfv_U773WoXsAR9wpbKGI1Hf

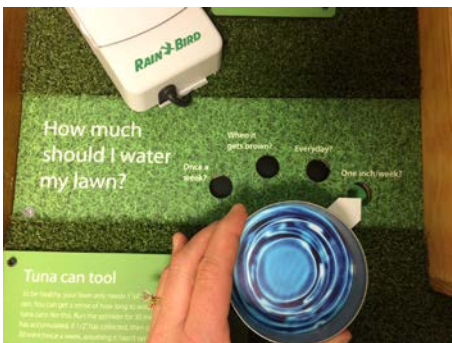
5. **Interactive groundwater displays:** Two new groundwater displays developed in 2016 got lots of use in 2017. One features information about groundwater resources in Washington County, while the other focuses on water conservation. Both are hands-on and fold-up into wooden suitcases with wheels and handle for easy transport.



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6. **Green Communities Guidebook:** This short [guidebook](#) summarizes feedback from focus groups conducted with homeowner association (HOA) residents, property management companies, and lawn care professionals and provides advice for engaging HOAs in clean water projects.

APPENDIX A: EDUCATION PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2016-2018

Staff Support and Overhead Expenses (1.5 FTE)	Materials	Total
\$136,800	\$10,000	\$146,800

MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE AND FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS*

* PARTNER contributions will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis, as needed and in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

PARTNER	Annual Contribution
SWWD	\$24,000
VBWD	\$18,500
BCWD	\$18,500
CLFLWD	\$18,500
CMSCWD	\$12,250
RWMWD	\$12,250
RCWD	\$2,500
Washington County	\$12,250
MSCWMO	\$6,000
Cottage Grove	\$2,500
Forest Lake	\$2,500
Lake Elmo	\$2,500
Hugo	\$2,500
Oakdale	\$2,500
Stillwater	\$2,500
Woodbury	\$2,500
Dellwood	\$650
Grant	\$650
Newport	\$650
Oak Park Heights	\$650
St. Paul Park	\$650
West Lakeland	\$650
Willernie	\$650
TOTAL	\$146,800

Appendix B: NEWSPAPER ARTICLES SUBMITTED IN 2017

Date	Article Title	Chisago Press	Forest Lake Lowdown	Forest Lake Times	Hugo Citizen	Oakdale-Lake Elmo Review	Ramsey County Review	Scandia Country Messenger	South Washington County Bulletin	St. Croix 360	St. Croix Lowdown	Stillwater Gazette	Valley Life	White Bear Press	Woodbury Bulletin
10-Jul	All that glitters and is gold			x		x		x	x				x	x	x
11-Apr	Rethinking the traditional lawn	x		x		x	x	x	x				x		x
3-Jan	2017 brings more than \$2 million in Clean Water Funds to Washington County			x		x		x	x				x		x
2-Nov	Elected board at Washington Conservation District provides leadership behind the scenes					x		x	x				x		x
7-Feb	Whisper of spring			x		x	x		x				x		x
17-Jan	The changing face of outdoor recreation and environmental protection					x	x		x				x		x
14-Feb	Measuring stream health				x	x			x				x		x
9-Oct	Adapting to a changing climate					x			x				x		x
28-Feb	State of the Mississippi River			x					x				x		x
14-Nov	Cole Williams becomes a river steward								x				x		x
14-Mar	Water conservation												x		x
17-Apr	Rain barrels herald spring												x		x
13-Apr	MASWCD Day at the Capitol					x						x			x
5-Sep	Brown's Creek Watershed District 20 th Anniversary Celebration & Fall Open Yards Event				x						x	x	x	x	
25-Apr	Earth Day clean-up event in Grant												x	x	
9-May	MN Water - Let's keep it clean	x		x		x	x	x					x		
12-Sep	Community water meetings			x		x		x					x		

20-Mar	Turning trash into treasure			x	x			x						x		
25-Jul	Creating a legacy of landscape restoration in Washington County			x	x			x						x		
24-Jan	Moody Lake wetland rehabilitation	x		x				x						x		
7-Mar	Community supported agriculture			x				x						x		
28-Mar	Spring landscaping workshops			x				x						x		
28-Nov	Water Quality Certification Program helps to nudge Minnesota farmers in a new direction			x				x						x		
8-Aug	Tracing lazy circles in the sand							x						x		
17-Oct	Nature based education							x						x		
1-May	Turf and lakes in Forest Lake	x		x		x								x		
15-May	Watch for AIS during 2017 fishing season			x		x								x		
27-Jun	Using geology to read the past			x		x								x		
1-Aug	Reflecting on 75 years of Conservation in Washington County			x		x								x		
18-Oct	Lake Elmo area flood prevention project					x								x		
18-Dec	Aquatic Invasives – The Battle Continues					x								x		
31-Jan	Swimming to Antarctica			x										x		
17-Aug	After the storm			x										x		
28-Sep	Street sweeping for cleaner lakes			x										x		
26-Oct	Caring for wetlands and lakes			x										x		
21-Feb	Change underway at Cottage Grove Ravine Park													x		
4-Apr	Migrating birds and habitat													x		
23-May	celebrate summer with upcoming events													x		

