

NEWSPLASH

WINTER 2002

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A PUBLICATION
OF THE MINNEHAHA
CREEK WATERSHED
DISTRICT (MCWD)

The MCWD was established in 1967 by the MN State Legislature to preserve and protect water quality and to reduce flooding of 129 lakes, numerous wetlands & streams, including Minnehaha Creek, within its boundaries. Its goal is to improve recreation, communities, environment and property values for the citizens of the entire watershed.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP REQUIRES ACTION AND COLLABORATION ON MANY LEVELS

Over the past year, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) has faced many challenges and achieved many successes. More often than not, these successes are based on productive partnerships with other organizations, agencies, counties and cities. One outstanding team effort, the Chain of Lakes Clean Water Partnership with Hennepin County, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Louis Park, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency worked to clean up Minneapolis' famous Chain of Lakes. The partnership has been recognized by the 2001 Minnesota Environmental Initiative Award, the 2001 Governor's Award for Excellence in Waste and Pollution Prevention, and the Minnesota Great Award. In 2000, the project received the CF Industries National Watershed Award in Washington, D.C.

But so much for resting on our laurels. For 2002, the District has laid out an aggressive program to fulfill our mission of improving water quality and flood reduction throughout the 181-square-mile watershed. The chart below provides a comparison between our 2001 and 2002 budgets, and a brief summary of projects for next year is found on page three. It includes several innovative studies and a look at capital programs such as the Lake Nokomis Water Quality Improvement Project (in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the City of Minneapolis). The Lake Nokomis project will remove approximately 950 pounds of phosphorus annually—the equivalent of an annual removal of 238 tons of algae!

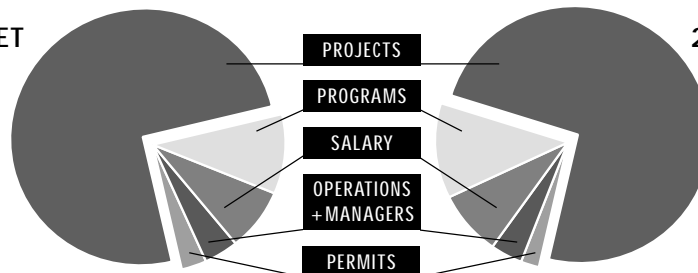
The MCWD is able to accomplish so many projects while keeping our annual budget well below our taxing limits because of a committed, hard-working staff and consistently productive community partnerships.

We feel strongly that roads can be built while natural resources are also being protected. We know that expanded recreational activities can be provided, and that development and redevelopment can occur without compromising lakes, wetlands, groundwater, and other natural resources. We are excited to begin our 2002 work plan and look forward to another productive year as environmental stewards of the largest watershed district in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Pam Blixt, President, MCWD Board of Managers

2001 MCWD BUDGET

Projects	3,819,746	(75%)
Programs	625,900	(10%)
Salary+Benefits	408,918	(8%)
Operations+	211,116	(4%)
Manager Costs		
Permits	107,000	(3%)



2002 MCWD BUDGET

Projects	4,664,917	(74%)
Programs	645,769	(12%)
Salary+Benefits	515,790	(8%)
Operations+	240,529	(4%)
Manager Costs		
Permits	195,000	(2%)

MCWD NAMES EIGHT NEW CYNTHIA KRIEG MEMORIAL WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS

Projects range from a high school wetlands restoration project in St. Louis Park to a multi-lingual watershed education protection program in South Minneapolis

The late Cynthia Krieg was a tireless supporter of environmental water quality issues as the former media consultant for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). Now, more than two years after a Memorial Stewardship grant program was established in her name by the MCWD, the Fund has provided over 40 grants to schools, neighborhood and lake associations, and other non-profits. "Response to this grant program has been tremendous. Our board feels that the Cynthia Krieg grants help schools, youth groups and citizens to contribute even more to help people understand watersheds and water quality issues," says Joan Ellis, MCWD Communications and Education Manager.

Eight new recipients in the metro area will undertake water quality improvement assignments in spring 2002 with Krieg funding. The projects range from a wetlands restoration at Benilde-St. Margaret School in St. Louis Park to two different multi-lingual educational programs about watershed protection through The Green Institute and the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, both in South Minneapolis.

Twice a year the board reviews a variety of proposals from cities, schools, neighborhood groups, lake associations and non-profit organizations. The next call for applications is set for April 15, 2002, with winners announced in early summer. To receive an application, contact the MCWD office at 952-471-0590.

The MCWD Board of Managers approved the latest water quality projects after a review of 14 applicants in its second round of grant giving in 2001. "The decision is always difficult for the Board of Managers because all the applicants make a very strong case for their projects," says Joan Ellis. "This group readily demonstrated their ability to make a measurable difference in this watershed with water quality protection."

"We're excited by the number of outstanding projects funded recently," notes Sue Cairn of Cairn & Associates, which helps administer the MCWD educational programs. "For example, The Green Institute will translate educational materials on watershed protection into languages for immigrant populations from East Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America so that these kids can do storm drain stenciling in their neighborhoods in South Minneapolis."

Other grant recipients such as the Hennepin County Conservation River Watch Program will see area students from seven schools collecting long-term water quality data to be used in resource management decisions. The Center for Neighborhoods will convene an environmental conference for neighborhood organizations about interconnected watershed issues such as transportation and

Remembering Cynthia Krieg

CYNTHIA KRIEG MEMORIAL WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS

Benilde-St. Margaret School

Hennepin Conservation District

The Green Institute

Roosevelt High School

Center for Neighborhoods

Powderhorn Park
Neighborhood Association

Cedar Manor School

Minnewashta Elementary School

Continued on NewSplash page 3

Grant Recipients, continued from NewSplash page 2

energy, eco-industrial development, solid waste reduction and others. The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association will be working with El Colegio Charter School in a collaborative project.

“These grant recipients have the potential to make a meaningful contribution to protecting the Minnehaha Creek Watershed and to watershed education,” Cairn notes. “The projects supported by the Cynthia Krieg Memorial Watershed Stewardship Fund help everyone to understand that no matter what we do anyplace in the area, whether near water or not, it affects someone else upstream or downstream.”

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR CHAIN OF LAKES' CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

Environmental strategies & community involvement help clean up Brownie, Cedar, Isles, Calhoun and Harriet in Minneapolis.

In September 2001, the Chain of Lakes Clean Water Partnership (MCWD; Mpls. Park and Recreation Board; Hennepin County; the Cities of Hopkins and Minneapolis, and MN Pollution Control Agency) received the Governor's Award. Visit www.minnehahacreek.org for more info.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2002

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS WITHIN THE DISTRICT:

- **Lake Minnetonka Shoreland Protection:** In partnership with the City of Minnetonka, the MCWD is protecting shoreland along the Hwy. 101 Causeway, the proposed Gray's Bay Marina, and the Headwaters Dam site using bioengineering. This approach uses plant materials and engineering principles to reduce bank erosion, improve water quality, and protect shoreline structures.
- **Peavy Pond; Stubbs/Maxwell Bay Assessment; Gideons Glen Wetland Restoration; Lake Minnetonka Minor Tributary Water Quality Study, Minnehaha Creek Bank Stabilization, Phase II:** Partnering with District communities to complete water quality feasibility studies and programs.
- **Pamela Lake Water Quality Improvement Project:** A partnership with the City of Edina to restore Pamela Lake and adjacent wetlands will result in an estimated annual removal of 133 pounds of phosphorous.

OTHER "WORKING MODEL" PROJECTS AND STUDIES— SOME WITH STATEWIDE POTENTIAL:

- **Wetland Functions and Values Assessment:** A new model for other watersheds, the Minnehaha Creek Routine Assessment Method (MC-RAM) was developed by MCWD in partnership with the Hennepin Conservation District (HCD) as a city and watershed tool to identify high value wetlands. This will help cities complete a required element of their Local Water Management Plans and update MN-RAM (Minnesota Routine Assessment Method).
- **Hydro Data Monitoring:** An ongoing, watershed-wide, moni-

toring program that helps track water quality trends and identify problem areas. This project is a partnership with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Hennepin County Parks, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

- **Jennings Bay Water Quality Plan:** MCWD is convening a panel of national lake management experts to develop a cost-effective plan for water quality improvement in Jennings Bay on Lake Minnetonka.
- **Wetland Preservation and Restoration Fund:** The District and Hennepin Conservation District (HCD) are developing a plan to protect high-value wetlands.
- **Hydrologic/Hydraulic Model:** This computer model will identify water quality and flooding problems related to projected land use changes and will assist in the development of performance-based rules and programs.

PUBLIC EDUCATION—YOUTH PROGRAMS, ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- **NEMO:** The MCWD is participating in NEMO (Non-point Education for Municipal Officials)—a nationwide program for elected officials and city staff. It offers proven alternatives to traditional development and redevelopment approaches. The goal is to reduce negative environmental impacts in a cost-effective and realistic manner.
- **Watershed Grants:** The MCWD provides grants to cities, communities, lake and neighborhood associations, and civic groups to implement educational activities. The District is also developing a rural grants program to help hobby farmers and landowners implement non-point pollution prevention programs.



**MCWD NAMES
ANDREA FITERMAN
COORDINATOR OF NEMO**

**New program for city
officials links land use
and water quality**

Andrea Fiterman has been contracted to work as the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's Project Coordinator for a new program called NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials). The nationally recognized, award-winning education and outreach program targets local land-use decision-makers and addresses the links between land use and water quality. This metropolitan education program is funded by the Metropolitan Council, while the MCWD will act as one of the pilot watershed districts to introduce NEMO to local communities within its watershed.

"I'm excited to be representing the NEMO Project on behalf of the MCWD. I see it as a critical step toward building a greater understanding of the role our outdoor environment has in our collective well-being," Fiterman says. "It is my goal to bring both a personal and professional commitment to environmental issues to better serve the communities of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District."

Prior to her work for the MCWD, Fiterman led a successful landscape design and consulting business working with homeowners to build their appreciation and understanding of nature in their personal outdoor environment. She is keenly interested in re-connecting nature and people.

Besides her environmental work in horticulture and landscaping, Fiterman also brings a broad background in journalism, public relations, and community outreach. With a B.S. in journalism from Boston University, the Savannah, Georgia native also obtained a degree in Landscape Technology from the University of Minnesota, Waseca. Currently active with the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association's Environmental Concerns Committee, she has advanced training in environmental awareness programs.

Fiterman is also a member of the Minnesota Design Team, which includes city planners, land use experts, and architects. In that role, she identifies and prioritizes key issues relating to the viability of Minnesota communities by helping them generate action plans.

Author of several published articles, she has led seminars and lectured for many organizations and programs. She has also worked as a crew member at the MN Landscape Arboretum, and was a Hennepin County Master Gardener. Fiterman lives in Minnetonka.

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