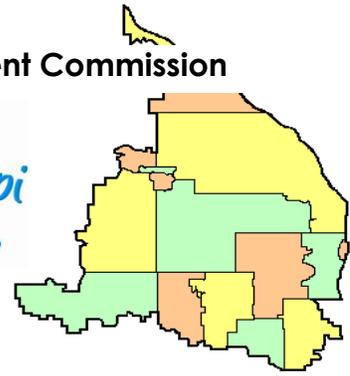


Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission



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NEWS ALERT

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Watershed Organizations Seek Public Input on Management Plan

Residents and property owners in ten cities in Hennepin County have a chance to comment on proposals to protect and improve lakes, streams, and wetlands in their communities. The Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions are updating their 10-year Management Plan for the 67 square mile joint watershed area, which stretches from Plymouth in the west to the Mississippi River to the east, Champlin to the north and Minneapolis to the south. The draft Plan is open for public comment until December 21, 2012. The proposed Plan is available for review at <http://shinglecreek.org/pages/ThirdGenerationPlan/>

There are 16 lakes in the watersheds, 26 miles of streams, and about 6,000 acres of wetlands. Many of these lakes and streams have poor water quality. The proposed Third Generation Watershed Management Plan includes an aggressive program to improve water quality through construction projects; more stringent water quality treatment requirements for new development and redevelopment; additional education and outreach; and installation of numerous small practices such as infiltration basins and rain gardens throughout the two watersheds. The Plan also includes an enhanced monitoring program to evaluate progress toward improving water quality.

The Commissions also provide cost-sharing funds to the ten cities in the watersheds to help them make water quality improvements. In the past these projects have included stream restoration projects on Shingle Creek in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center; upgrading or building new stormwater treatment ponds in Crystal and New Hope; helping Robbinsdale build a treatment system for Crystal Lake; and linear biofiltration basins in a new green corridor on 37th Avenue North in Minneapolis. The proposed Plan will continue funding projects such as additional stream restoration projects in Brooklyn Park and Minneapolis; additional pond projects in Plymouth and Maple Grove; and wetland restoration projects in Brooklyn Park and Champlin.

The two Commissions are governed by boards of citizens appointed by the City Councils in the ten cities, which include: Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Crystal, Maple Grove, Minneapolis, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale.

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