

# MASTER WATER STEWARD

*Community Leadership for Clean Water*

## Master Water Stewards

The Master Water Stewards program will train, certify and support community leaders to install pollution prevention projects on residential and commercial properties that educate community members, reduce pollutants from urban runoff, and allow more water to soak into the ground before running into storm sewer systems. Modeled after successful Master Gardener programs, volunteer community leaders will participate in a 50-hour program of courses and projects. Certified Master Water Stewards will volunteer 50 hours of community service in the initial year of certification, up to 25 hours each subsequent year and ongoing continuing education in order to maintain their certification. An interactive web site will consolidate resources to support Stewards, connect Stewards to technical expertise, continuing education opportunities, and other community members.

Non-point source pollution is the single greatest threat to the health of Minnesota's waters. Everything found on city streets flows to our water- bacteria, salt, litter, sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus. Increasingly large volumes of polluted runoff reach our lakes and rivers faster, causing flooding downstream. Pollutants are not being filtered or broken down by passing through the soil, making water dirtier. The widespread nature of the problem requires local leadership, and localized solutions.

The 2014 class of Stewards in the three-year pilot phase will focus on residents in the Middle Minnehaha Creek watershed- St. Louis Park, Edina, Hopkins, Plymouth, Richfield and Minnetonka. Residents from other areas of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District are also welcome to apply. Stewards selected for the 2014 class will receive a full scholarship for the certification program.

The Master Water Stewards program creates a new program model of community engagement and leadership, and develops a new community-based education, outreach and action resource team that natural resource agencies, watershed districts and municipalities can deploy to meet water quality, education and outreach goals.



Photo credit: City of Burnsville, MN and Barr Engineering Co.

For more information, contact:

Peggy Knapp

Director of Programs at the Freshwater Society.

763-219-1252

[pknapp@freshwater.org](mailto:pknapp@freshwater.org)



MINNEHAHA CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

