



Media Alert

For Immediate Release

Contact:

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“2017 World Water Day”

Date: March 22, 2017

Location: The Living Room 1716 Glenwood Ave N Time: 6-8pm

<http://www.redeemercenter.org/the-living-room>

‘Metro Blooms, Harrison Neighborhood Association, and Redeemer Lutheran Church work in Near North community to improve water quality through transformative equitable development practices’

Near North Minneapolis has a history of racial, economic and environmental disparity. Come learn about the clean water initiatives taking place in North Minneapolis and how we are working together to raise awareness about the challenges facing Minnesota’s waters and ways that community members can take action to protect precious water resources!

Presentations:

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission - Role of the Watershed

Ralph Sievert, MPRB Director of Forestry, Urban Forestry & Response to EAB

Nick Cox, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa Central

Program Manager for Youth Outdoors

Metro Blooms Staff - Reflections of the Demonstration Project

Kelly Muelmann, City of Minneapolis Green Zone Coordinator - Green Zone Initiatives

The Harrison Neighborhood, which is part of the North Minneapolis HUD promise zone, is comprised primarily of people of color and many people who are living in conditions of economic poverty. The Bassett Creek Valley rests in the Harrison and Bryn Mawr neighborhoods. The threats posed by Emerald Ash Borer to the Urban Forest and TMDL studies led to this innovative partnership.

The Northside Neighborhood Engagement & Opportunities in Clean Water Initiatives

(NNEOCWI) project partners with local organizations to respond to environmental health challenges. This project is supported by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Center for Prevention Blue Cross Blue Shield, Conservation Corps MN Youth Outdoors and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The project aims to 1) educate property owners and stakeholders about stormwater best management practices (BMP’s); 2) identify opportunities for engagement in stormwater management in the public right-of-way (boulevards) - “Blooming Boulevards”; 3) improve water quality, provide native habitat for pollinators, and create pedestrian-friendly community spaces



along sidewalks; and

4) work with youth and young adults in Youth Outdoors Programs to pursue jobs in green career pathways framework.

An on-the-job Sustainable Landcare Inspections & Maintenance Field Training & Certification program is being piloted with the youth and young adults from Youth Outdoors Programs and local contractors as a component of a green career pathways initiative.

The project began during the summer of 2016. It is a 3 year project that is rooted in Harrison Neighborhood where Redeemer Lutheran Church served as the kickoff and demonstration site for the initial Blooming Boulevards installation and exhibit.



Conservation Corps and Mississippi River Green Team Youth working in the boulevards.



Conservation Corps Youth watering Blooming Boulevards at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Transformative equitable development prioritizes the wisdom and expertise that exists within low-wealth communities and communities of color. It generates new economic opportunities and promotes environmental justice while building vibrant, prosperous and resilient communities.

(Alliance for Metropolitan Stability)

The next phase of the project involves Targeted Community Engagement. Community Engagement will be best accomplished by working with current residents of the Harrison Neighborhood Association/Glenwood Revitalization Team. HNA works to create a prosperous and peaceful community that equitably benefits all of Harrison neighborhood's diverse racial, cultural, and economic groups.

For more information, contact Metro Blooms at 651.699.2426 <http://metroblooms.org/contact-us>

