



June 30, 2020

**Three Rivers
Park District
Board of
Commissioners**

Dear Resident,

Three Rivers Park District, in coordination with Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, and the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, has begun a sub-watershed assessment to identify water quality improvements of North and South Rice Ponds in Sochacki Park.

Marge Beard
District 1

Sochacki Park is a 37-acre natural area located in Golden Valley and Robbinsdale. The two cities operate it in partnership with Three Rivers Park District. The park includes a paved trail, picnic shelter, and a dog off-leash area. North Rice and South Rice Ponds are classified as shallow wetlands by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. As part of the two cities' stormwater management systems, these ponds receive runoff from the surrounding areas before draining into Bassett Creek. Common to wetlands in urban areas, North and South Rice Ponds have high amounts of nutrients that contribute to algae growth, prompting concern from residents and park visitors.

Jennifer DeJournett
District 2

Daniel Freeman
Vice Chair
District 3

The assessment is the first step toward improving the ecological health, aesthetics, and condition of the wetlands and providing additional outdoor recreation and education opportunities. As part of the assessment, water monitoring equipment has been placed at locations in the park. A map on the back of this letter shows the monitoring locations. Please refrain from disturbing the monitoring equipment and send me any possible damage reports if you notice it during park visits.

John Gunyou
Chair
District 4

The sub-watershed assessment is expected to take two years to complete and will include community engagement opportunities. A project steering committee, including representatives from the partner agencies, the consulting engineer, and a neighborhood citizen liaison, is meeting quarterly to help guide the process.

John Gibbs
District 5

Following the assessment, a report will detail the findings and recommend potential options and costs to improve water quality and ecological health of the wetlands. Three Rivers Park District Water Resources staff will assist throughout the process and identify citizen science opportunities once the assessment is complete.

Steven Antolak
Appointed
At Large

For more information or if you have questions, please contact me at 763-694-7841 or Angie.Smith@threeriversparks.org.

Gene Kay
Appointed
At Large

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angie Smith".

Angie Smith
Director of Natural Resources

Boe Carlson
Superintendent

