



# Restoring Shingle Creek

## August 2015 Snapshots



Piece by piece, the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission (SCWMC) along with the cities of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center, are restoring Shingle Creek. The eleven-mile long Shingle Creek begins at the confluence of Eagle and Bass Creeks in Brooklyn Park, winding through a fully developed landscape in the heart of the metro before eventually discharging into the Mississippi River in Minneapolis.

In 2005 the City of Brooklyn Park started the process with help from the SCWMC. The partners completed a restoration project on 2,300 feet of Shingle Creek through a residential area in response to concerns from homeowners that erosion on the streambanks was cutting into their properties. They stabilized the banks using live stakes of willows and shrubs, removed a dam, and installed 32 rock vanes to address scouring in the channel.

Work on the Creek continued in 2011, this time with help from the Clean Water Fund (CWF). The City of Brooklyn Center, the SCWMC and Hennepin County Works used a \$105,237 CWF grant to improve another reach of the Creek with rock vanes and tree pins, which help aerate the stream. Additionally, 5,000 feet of streambank received a native buffer. Finally, to address concern about stormwater runoff impacting water quality, a pond was added to provide pretreatment before the water entered Shingle Creek.

In 2014, the SCWMC received an additional \$200,000 CWF grant to continue the restoration efforts over 1,400 feet of the Creek. Using a variety of conservation practices, this project is focused on addressing impairments for aquatic life.

In addition to the water quality improvements, the cities of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center are working on a trail project along the Creek that will connect to the regional trail system, improving conditions for pedestrians and bikers along a portion of Brooklyn Boulevard, and creating outdoor learning spaces for Park Center High School and Brooklyn Junior High students.

The restoration project is ongoing, and the SCWMC's commitment to working in partnership with other agencies in the region shows no signs of slowing. It's not just Shingle Creek's water quality that benefits – it is improving habitat both for plant and animal life as well as the people that live, work, and play around its banks.



*Top: a photo of the 2005 restoration.  
Bottom: riffle as part of the 2011 restoration.  
Photos courtesy Diane Spector.*