

# MEADOW LAKE MATTERS



## Attend the Annual Meeting and Receive

**A \$100 value!**  
**Every MLWA household is eligible**  
**to receive five Bagit System™ Reusable**  
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Made with double-coated water resistant fabric, the Bagit System™ Reusable Yard Bag is an innovative, functional and durable solution to handling yard waste. The heavy duty, commercial quality Bagit Yard Bag stands fully open, even when it's empty. The low and wide profile easily accommodates larger mower discharge bags and makes it easy for everyone to use. Designed with input from Master Gardeners and haulers, the bag's 32-gallon capacity, with double top and bottom handles, makes servicing quick and easy. Drain holes in the bottom prevent liquid buildup, and to clean, simply hose and hang dry. For more information, visit



## Membership Invitation

The Meadow Lake Watershed Association is a nonprofit organization with membership open to all the approximately 300 homes in the watershed.

Our purpose is to preserve and improve the quality and natural beauty of Meadow Lake, its wildlife and the surrounding environment. We provide opportunities for involvement in restoration projects in Meadow Lake Park and in the watershed area. We work with the city and other agencies who share our goals and through publications and meetings provide resources that serve both on and off lake residents.

Annual on lake membership dues are \$25. Those not on the lake are asked to contribute \$10. We hope you will join and support us in our efforts. For your convenience an addressed envelope is included for your most welcomed dues payment.

# Meadow Lake Park Updates

## New Playground

Families in the Meadow Lake Park neighborhood can look forward to a new playground in the spring of 2016. The city of New Hope updates a park playground each year. This August, after heavier summer use ends, work will begin.

Last December residents were given an opportunity to respond to a survey about the new playground through a city questionnaire. Using suggestions from the responses, the city will develop plans with Landscape Structures, a playground equipment company.

Susan Rader, New Hope Parks and Recreation, will lead a committee which will include some of the survey respondents. Meetings are planned for April and May. The plan will go to our city council in June for approval.

The sand bed beneath the play structures will be replaced with an engineered wood fiber. There are several reasons for this change. The wood chips form an easier base for those in wheel chairs to maneuver, and it is less likely to be used by cats and dogs. Sand wasps, which are a problem in some parks, do not reside in the chips. Although these wasps are non-aggressive, they can be alarming to children.



The playground area will be closed off when construction begins in late August. Susan Rader said they hope to get the equipment installed before winter. The project will include the removal of the black top segment between main walkway and the Boy Scout garden. New park benches will also be installed, and possibly some new trees.

## Adopt-A-Plot Project

Meadow Lake Watershed Association and the City of New Hope are co-sponsoring an "Adopt-A-Plot" project for Meadow Lake Park. This is the next phase in MLWA's



on-going effort to improve water quality in Meadow Lake. Our objective is to progressively replace the shoreline vegetation with plants that are native to lakeshores in Hennepin County. In early 2014 the New Hope City Council approved \$5,000 for purchase of plants and supplies for the first three years of this project. Planning, planting and maintenance will all be done by volunteers.

Last summer native shrubs, sedges and bulrushes were planted between the existing Scout Garden and the lake. This year we will restore a 50 ft section along the southernmost stretch of split-rail fence. Five MLWA board members will each lead a team of volunteers. Each team will plant and maintain a 10 ft wide section. In the Fall another 50 ft section will be prepared for planting in 2016.

You are cordially invited to participate in this project. No prior experience required! New Hope staff will finish preparing the area during May. Planting will be done in early June. If you would like to join a team and share the fun and satisfaction, or if you would

## Annual Meeting Agenda

*Saturday April 18, 2015*

*9:30-11:30 a.m.*

*New Hope Golf Course Clubhouse*

- 9:30**            **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:45**            **Shingle Creek Watershed overview**  
Bill Wills, Commissioner
- 10:00**           **Minnesota's Native Plants:**  
**gardens/landscaping**  
Shirley Mah Kooyman, *Native Plant Specialist*
- 11:15**           **What are MLWA's next steps?**
- 11:30**           **Meeting adjournment**

### **Board Members**

*Richard Buller: President*

*Jodi Tait: Secretary*

*Cindy Mathison: Treasurer*

*Members: Larry Green, Marcy and Bob Grant,*

## Annual Meeting Speakers

**Bill Wills**, a Shingle Creek Watershed commissioner and local resident will speak about why he became involved in the Shingle Creek Watershed.

Bill is an example of how any one of us can become involved and help make a difference to our environment. Bill is anxious to hear about what the MLWA has been doing to improve the overall quality of Meadow Lake. He hopes that he can be an advocate for our lake association since Meadow Lake is a part of the Shingle Creek Watershed.

**Shirley Mah Kooyman** is a native plant specialist with Natural Shore Technologies. We have asked her to speak about her top recommendations for native plants in upland dry, wet/moist/transitional and shady locations.

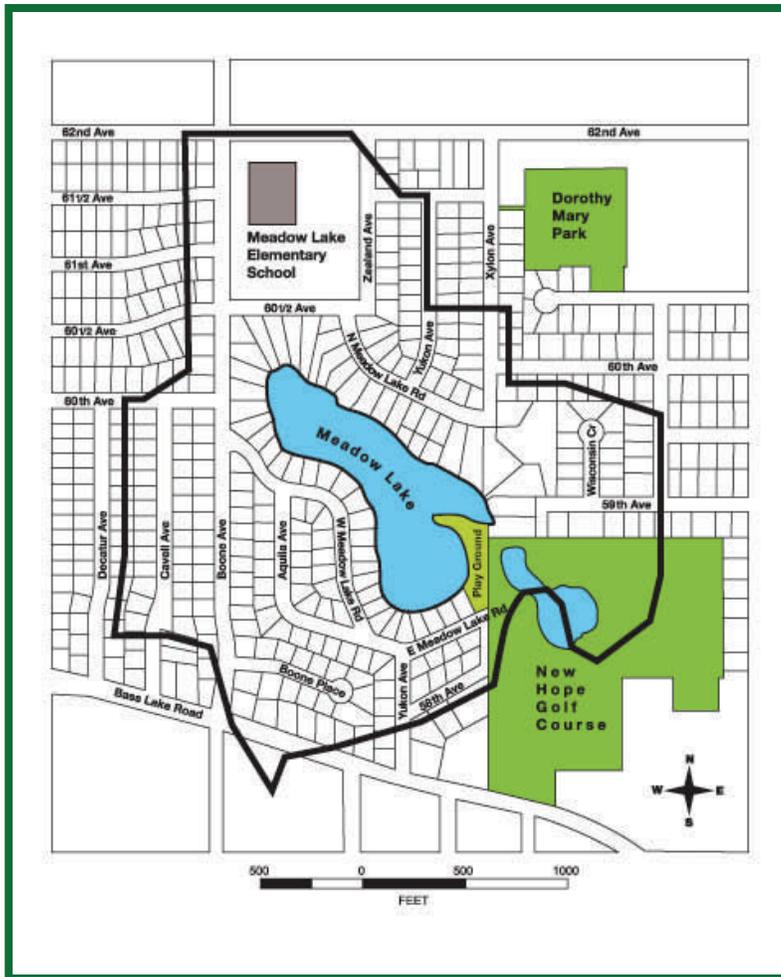
Shirley will also talk about planting natives in other parts of your yard along with varieties of native plants that are deer and rabbit resistant varieties.

"Nature" is what we see—  
The Hill, the Afternoon, Squirrel, Eclipse, the  
Bumble bee  
Nay—Nature is Heaven  
Nature is what we hear—  
The Bobolink, the Sea, Thunder, the Cricket  
Nay—Nature is Harmony  
Nature is what we know—  
Yet have no art to say—  
So impotent Our Wisdom is  
To her Simplicity.

— Emily Dickinson



## Meadow Lake Watershed



### An Earth Day Celebration

Spring Cleanup Day  
Meadow Lake Park  
Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> • 9:00 a.m.

Grab your gloves and a rake on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> for our annual cleanup day at Meadow Lake Park.

You'll enjoy interacting with your neighbors while sharing the work and satisfaction of a community project.

Staff members from New Hope public works and parks are hosting this event!



Visit Our Website at  
[www.minnesotawaters.org/meadowlake](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/meadowlake)

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8441 Meadow Lake Road North  
New Hope, MN 55428