

## AT MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

### **New Features at Minnehaha Creek Headwaters**

“Awesome” views, the sounds of birds and water, and the scents of nature will surround visitors when they first venture onto a new deck and boardwalk at Gray’s Bay Dam early this fall. A unique partnership between the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and the City of Minnetonka allowed the partners to reduce their costs and coordinate design, construction and schedules for the project.

The \$350,000 Gray’s Bay deck complements a \$130,000 shoreline restoration installed by MCWD in 2004 and 2005. Portions of the project reflect public input gathered by the Minnetonka Parks Commission.



visitors to capitalize on improved fishing habitat provided by the shoreline restoration project. Water quality improvements include reduced erosion and sediment, and the shoreline's restored native plant communities provide natural filtration and contaminant removal. A public dedication is planned for September.

“This is a historically significant site,” said district technician Renae Clark, “and with these projects, it can become a destination, a place where the public can access amenities that allow people to appreciate the value of protecting these critical natural resources.” She explained that, in addition to the dam, the site is home to the headwaters of Minnehaha Creek, rich wetland habitat, and a picturesque portion of Lake Minnetonka.

The city’s new boardwalk links the deck to city trails on the north side of the wetland. New fishing piers allow