Appendix D

Results of Public Involvement during Plan Development

Appendix D

2014 Plan Outreach and Public Involvement Summary

The BCWMC gathered input from the residents, elected and appointed officials, city staff, state agencies and other partners through its Watershed Assessment and Visioning Exercise (WAVE) process. The WAVE process included a professionally written press release for local news organizations, soliciting input via an online survey (which resulted in 174 responses), and hosting a series of 11 small group meetings. The small group meetings were held with city councils, city commissions, lake associations, neighborhood associations, and other resident groups at different locations within the watershed in spring 2013.

The results of the survey and workshops were presented at a "summit" meeting in June 2013, attended by the public, lake associations and representatives of the member cities. The outcome of the summit was a prioritized list of issues facing the BCWMC. BCWMC Commissioners, TAC members, partnering organizations and review agencies also prioritized the issues at a subsequent plan development workshop. All of this input was considered in the development of Plan.

Items presented in Appendix D include:

- Watershed Assessment & Visioning Exercise (WAVE) flyer
- Professionally written press release to engage, inform and solicit public input
- List of small group meetings and resulting list of issues
- Results of online survey
- Results of issues ranking through June 2013 Watershed Summit
- Results of issues ranking through Plan Development Workshop

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SPEAK FOR THE CREEK

Help set a course for cleaner waters

Make a difference in your watershed's future two ways:

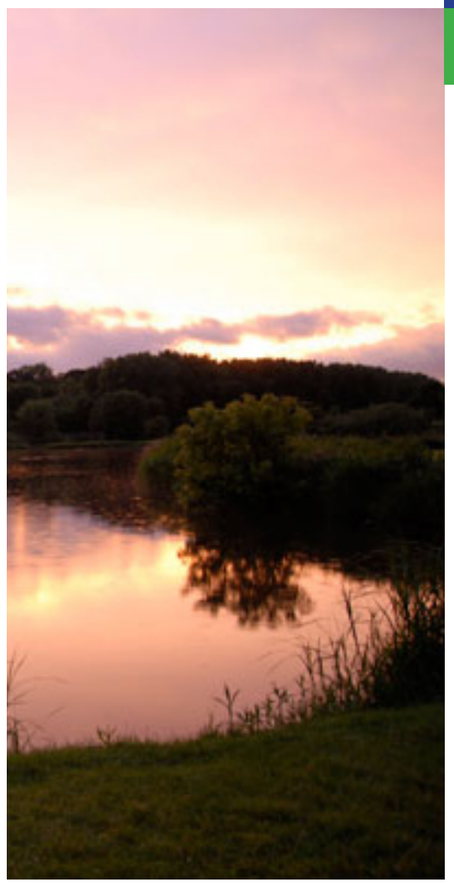


Photo credit: Dan Johnson, Crystal, MN

1. Take the survey

Ten minutes of your time will help us shape ten years of direction for the future of Bassett Creek, Medicine Lake, Parkers Lake, Sweeney/ Twin Lakes, Wirth Lake and many other waterbodies in the Bassett Creek watershed. Go to: http://www.bassett-creekwmo.org and let your voice be heard.

2. Attend the Bassett Creek Watershed Summit

Join the conversation and tell us what's important to you. Engage public officials, city planners, engineering staff, lake association members and others in a hands-on Watershed Assessment Visioning Exercise. This kind of WAVE is a public participation forum that will help us craft a watershed plan that best addresses the concerns and values of watershed stakeholders...like you.

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED SUMMIT*

Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd.

*Pre-registration is requested but not required. Email bcra@barr.com or contact Laura Jester at 952-270-1990 for more information.

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission is a local governing body tasked with managing flood control and water quality within the Bassett Creek watershed. The watershed encompasses portions of nine west metro cities including Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale and St. Louis Park. Learn more about the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commisssion at http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org .

PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release

February 18, 2013

Contact: Laura Jester 952-270-1990; laura.jester@keystonewaters.com

Wanted: Your Thoughts and Ideas for Lakes and Streams in the Bassett Creek Watershed

By Judy Arginteanu

Suffering from insomnia? Read this for a quick cure: Stormwater runoff. Infiltration. Watershed management .

Yawn, right? Feeling sleepy now?

OK, now try this: Shrinking back yards. Stinky creeks. Flooded basements.

Kind of wakes you up again, doesn't it?

That's why the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission wants to hear from you. The commission is made up of ordinary residents like you who focus on improving water quality and preventing flooding – issues that affect all of us – in the 40-square-mile Basset Creek watershed. Every 10 years the commission updates its management plan for protecting and improving the watershed, which includes Medicine, Parkers and Sweeney lakes, Wirth Park, and, of course, Bassett Creek. The commission is starting to update its plan for the next 10 years and needs input from you. Residents and businesses can air their thoughts and concerns through a quick and easy online survey at www.bassettcreekwmo.org, at meetings in their communities, or at a Bassett Creek Watershed Summit scheduled for 7 p.m., June 13, 2013, at the Plymouth City Hall.

If you think your voice won't make a difference, Terrie Christian knows otherwise. When she bought her property on Medicine Lake in the mid-'80s, she found "a very, very sick lake," filling with sediment and full of algae blooms that turned the lake into a smelly mess and drove away walleye and other game fish — not to mention swimmers.

Some 25 years later, through the commission, Christian and other lake-area residents have seen their concerns not only heard, but acted on. While the lake still faces some issues, it's in far better health. The commission needs to hear from people like Terrie on the front lines, who serve as the commission's eyes and ears, says commissioner Ginny Black. "We need people to tell us what they're seeing. We can't be everywhere, all the time." And you don't have to live on a lake, or even take regular walks by a stream, either. For example, you may find your backyard is slipping away because of erosion – caused by what's happening upstream. Or you might have a strong opinion about the importance of green corridors and

parks, says state conservationist Brad Wozney, because how land is used directly affects the quality of water resources.

Citizen input is also a good way to help direct where your tax dollars are going, he says. Plus, he notes, a well-drafted plan – which includes adequate citizen input so the commission can be as specific as possible – can help local governments get state grants for projects, which in turn help local dollars go further toward improvements.

Since the Bassett Creek watershed is mostly developed, the commission focuses on opportunities to retrofit best management practices into the landscape and restore degraded areas along streams. Improving water quality and reducing flooding are the main goals of the Commission. Additional areas of focus come through feedback from people like you.

Those goals are important to people like Deacon Warner, who says he never knew about Bassett Creek until he and his family moved to Minneapolis' Harrison neighborhood (and later to Bryn Mawr). Now he, his wife, and their two kids, 8 and 12 years old, spend much of their time near the creek – walking, kayaking, even skiing along it in winter. "Bassett Creek is like a test microcosm of how we want to treat nature. It's had an incredible history – it used to be incredibly polluted, it was treated as a sewer, it was buried. It seems so important that we don't turn our backs on nature even in our urban environment. We have choices about how we want to treat it," says Warner.

Terrie Christian would agree. The point, she says, is to speak up: "Citizen input is really important. And it can be really powerful."

The Bassett Creek watershed covers parts or all of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale and St. Louis Park. To see a map of the watershed, find out more about the watershed planning process, answer survey questions, or find out how you can get involved, visit the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's website at www.bassettcreekwmo.org, attend the Bassett Creek Watershed Summit on June 13, or contact their administrator, Laura Jester, at laura.jester@keystonewaters.com or 952-270-1990.

Invitation to the Bassett Creek Watershed Summit

Join us in a conversation about the watershed. Learn the results of the survey, visit with other residents of the watershed, and help us prioritize watershed issues!

Thursday June 13, 2013
7– 9 p.m.
Plymouth City Hall

Registration is requested but not required.
Register with bcra@barr.com

Provide Input on the Bassett Creek Watershed

Visit www.bassettcreekwmo.org to complete a survey about your thoughts on water resources in your community!

BCWMC Watershed Assessment and Visioning Exercise
Small Group Meetings with Member Cities

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

Date	City/Group	Facilitator
March 8, 2013	Minnetonka City Staff	Linda Loomis, Plan Steering Committee Chair
March 12, 2031	Golden Valley Council Manager Meeting w/ Commission Chairs invited	Linda Loomis, Plan Steering Committee Chair
March 18, 2013	New Hope Council Work Session	Linda Loomis, Plan Steering Committee Chair
March 25, 2013	Crystal Council Work Session	Dan Johnson, BCWMC Commissioner
March 30, 2013	Minneapolis Neighborhoods Public Meeting w/ MPRB	Michael Welch, BCWMC Commissioner & Lisa Goddard, BCWMC Alternate Commissioner
April 10, 2013	Plymouth Environmental Quality Commission w/ Lake Association Presidents invited	Ginny Black, Chair, BCWMC Commission
April 11, 2013	St. Louis Park Staff	Justin Riss, BCWMC Alternate Commissioner
April 18, 2013	Robbinsdale Planning Commission	Linda Loomis, Plan Steering Committee Chair
April 18, 2013	City of Medicine Lake Planning Commission	Ted Hoshal, BCWMC Commissioner
April 25, 2013	Association of Medicine Lake Area Citizens (AMLAC)	Dan Johnson, BCWMC Commissioner
June 18, 2013	Friends of Northwood Lake	Linda Loomis, Plan Steering Committee Chair

RESULTS:

Question 1: What are the indicators of healthy waterbodies?
Wildlife and Plants
1. Abundant and diverse wildlife in and around water
2. Abundant birds, wading birds and waterfowl present, including swans
3. Abundant and diverse vegetation
4. Little or no aquatic vegetation (weeds in water)
5. Healthy fishery, including minnows; that provides good fishing opportunities
6. Natural shoreline with good wildlife habitat
7. Amphibians present
8. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) present
9. No Eurasian watermilfoil or other invasive species present
10. Native species thrive

Water Quality

1. Lack of algae; not slimy
2. No odor
3. Unpolluted
4. Good water clarity
5. Good water temperatures (not too warm)
6. Nice water color
7. Non-oily or greasy
8. Fishable and swimmable (meeting standards)

Physical Aspects of Waterbodies

1. Not clogged with leaves
2. Bottom is not mucky
3. Deep
4. No trash in or along water
5. Nice aesthetics
6. Less streambank or shoreline erosion; shorelines are vegetated
7. No sedimentation
8. No direct stormwater runoff reaching waterbody
9. Not as much flooding
10. No stagnant water, streams are flowing
11. Less flashy
12. Stable water levels in lakes
13. Good oxygen levels in water

Public Enjoyment and Practices

1. Visible public use
2. People enjoying swimming; good swimming beach
3. Includes access for walking and hiking
4. Peaceful
5. Sustainably used by people
6. Residents keep yard fertilizers out of lake
7. Year-round access to lakes (due to consistent water levels)

Question 2: What concerns do you have regarding the waterbodies in your community?

Effects of Individuals

1. Too much trash
2. Too many motorboats
3. Too much pet waste
4. Runoff from yards and streets
5. Too much groundwater consumption
6. Lack of infiltration or diversion in lawns
7. Lack of sense of responsibility and respect/lack of attention from residents and businesses

Development/Infrastructure

1. Salt use
2. Lightrail – encroachment in wetlands
3. Stormwater runoff without filtration or treatment, more treatment ponds needed

4. Concentration of impervious surfaces
5. Chemical and pollutant inputs from runoff
6. Modifications to waterbodies due to development
7. Runoff from older commercial/industrial areas
8. Construction site erosion
9. Effects of housing developments
10. Leaks and spills from railroads
11. Aging infrastructure
12. Effects of dredging

Biology

1. Too many weeds
2. Non-natural shorelines
3. Aquatic invasive species, including rough fish
4. Terrestrial invasive species
5. Too much algae
6. Too many geese
7. Lack of wildlife diversity
8. Lack of buffers
9. Fish consumption advisories
10. Loss of thousands of ash trees in watershed

Physical/Chemical Aspects of Waterbodies

1. Lack of public access and well maintained access
2. Non-consistent water levels
3. Sediment build-up
4. Streambank erosion
5. Increased rainfall events
6. Too much total phosphorus, including internal loading
7. Low water clarity
8. Low water levels on Medicine Lake
9. Bassett Creek south of Glenwood is “terrible”
10. Flooding
11. Groundwater quality and quantity in wells in Medicine Lake
12. Abundance of cattails in ponds resulting in flooding problems

Funding/Governance/Societal

1. Lack of funding
2. Commitment from all 9 cities
3. Lack of education
4. Not enough benefit to not enough people (projects?)
5. Need better prioritization of projects
6. Apathy of public; need to change behavior, actions, habitats of residents
7. Not enough projects in Northwood Lake subwatershed
8. Lack of city-implemented projects like raingardens
9. Need better sources of information
10. Need more tax incentives for better projects
11. Expectations that water quality problems can be solved quickly with a silver bullet
12. Need more land acquisition for flood easements
13. Balance management of recreational lakes vs. scenic ponds
14. Pond management before lake management

15. Balancing habitat with recreation
16. Need to fully study effects of Medicine Lake's possible water level manipulation on the floodplain, water quality, water temperatures, and overall lake health

Question 3: What are the barriers to improving water quality?

Physical

1. Poorly drained soils
2. Flooding
3. Lack of space for water quality projects
4. Zebra mussels
5. Too many weeds

Government

1. Lack of funding and resources
2. Lack of education and knowledge
3. Time
4. Lower priority for decision makers
5. Science of water quality is still young
6. Lack of consensus and common ground on what it takes to improve water quality
7. Government inefficiency
8. Inability to identify the problem and install correct project in correct location
9. Push for development
10. Government agency restrictions
11. Not being willing to dredge

Public

1. Too many motorboats
2. Angry residents
3. Unwillingness to change, self interests
4. Disconnection of public from natural resources
5. Property rights
6. Stigma of environmental issues, in general
7. Public unwilling to give more funding

Question 4: How can we address the barriers to improving water quality?

Information and Education

1. More education, information, outreach to residents
2. Education of children; involve schools
3. Educational signage
4. Public service announcements
5. Neighborhood outreach
6. Sponsorship by companies that make water-related products (boats, motors, etc)
7. Newsletters
8. City celebrations
9. Citizen monitoring programs (CAMP, WHEP)
10. National Night Out as a venue for education and outreach
11. Consistent message among watershed organizations
12. Labeling stormdrains

13. Focused volunteer efforts; organize stakeholder volunteer group
14. City Park and Rec programs focused on water; summer camps
15. Coordinated clean ups among all cities
16. Use natural constituencies and existing groups
17. All 9 cities working together on education and outreach
18. Sponsor events linking water quality to water use
19. Show visual impacts
20. Install paths near projects
21. More trails along creek
22. Start Bassett Creek Farmers Market near creek
Government
1. Streamline permitting; more uniform regulations
2. Be a watershed management organization; not a watershed district
3. Transparency of actual costs
4. Look regionally vs. jurisdictionally
5. Need more scientific proof of negative impacts
6. Reward good behavior
7. Provide small grants

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who answered the survey as part of the Watershed Assessment and Visioning Exercise! These answers helped to outline important issues and activities where the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission can focus its work over the next ten years. The Commission looks forward to partnering with communities, organizations and residents in continuing to improve and protect the water resources throughout the watershed.

Although the survey is closed, please always feel free to contact the Commission with your thoughts and ideas! Thank you.

A NOTE ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS:

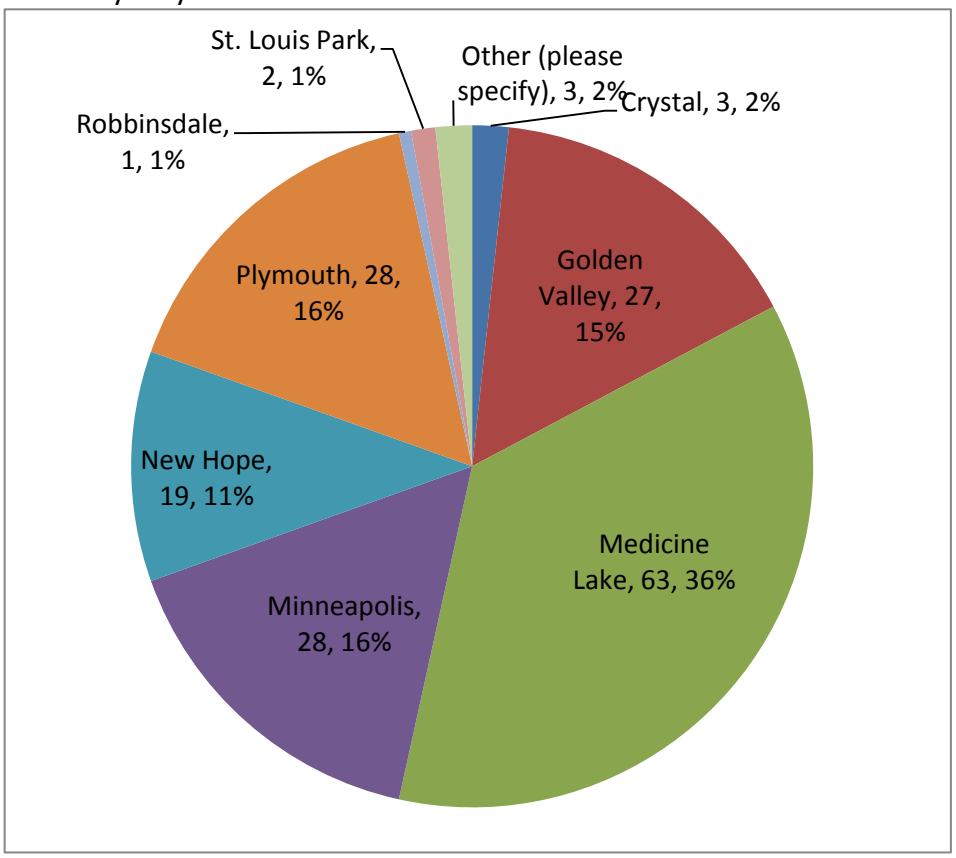
- This online survey was available through the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's website for approximately 3 ½ months from the end of February 2013 to mid-June 2013.
- 174 people completed the survey.
- The results below include answers to the open ended questions but all personal or identifying information was removed from the responses so that individuals remain anonymous.

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

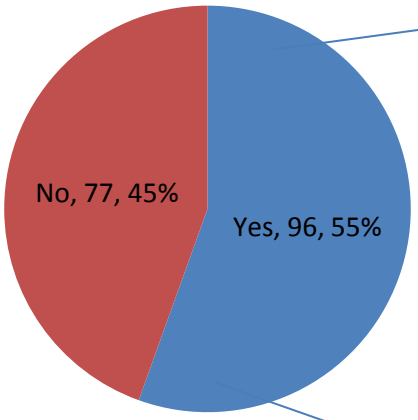
Watershed Assessment and Visioning Exercise (WAVE) Survey

FINAL RESULTS: 6/24/2013 (174 responses)

1. What city do you live in?

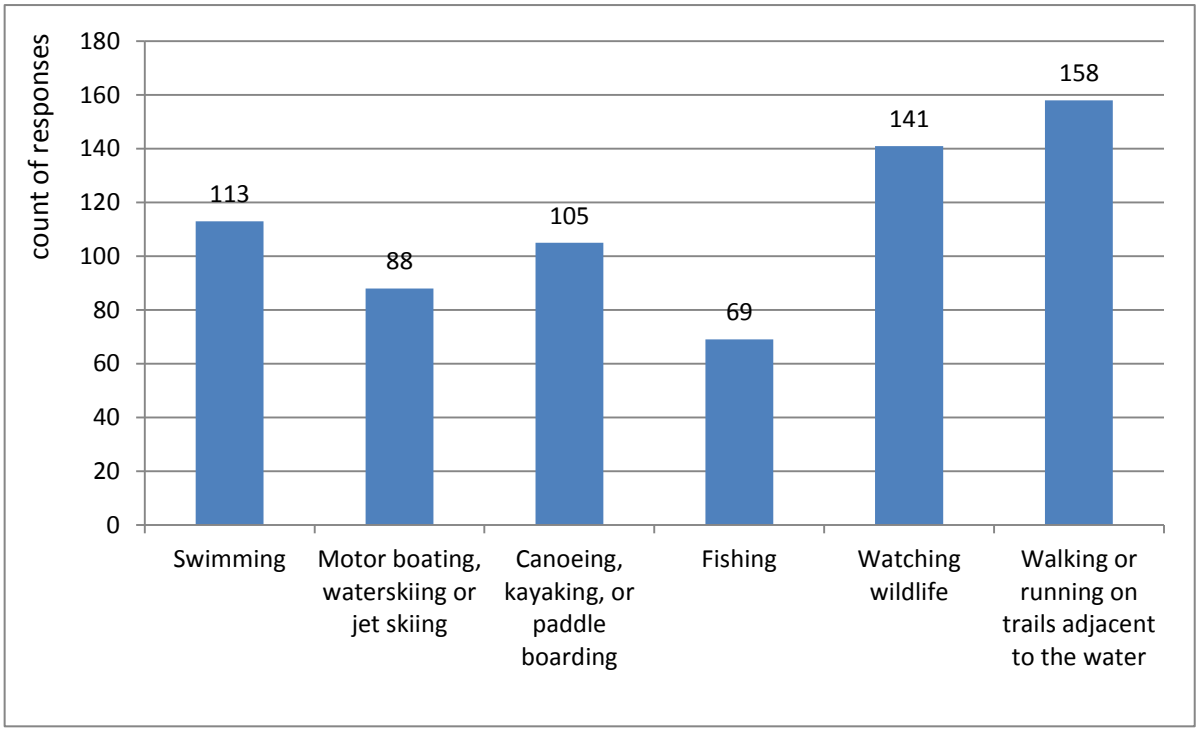


2. Do you belong to a neighborhood or lake association?



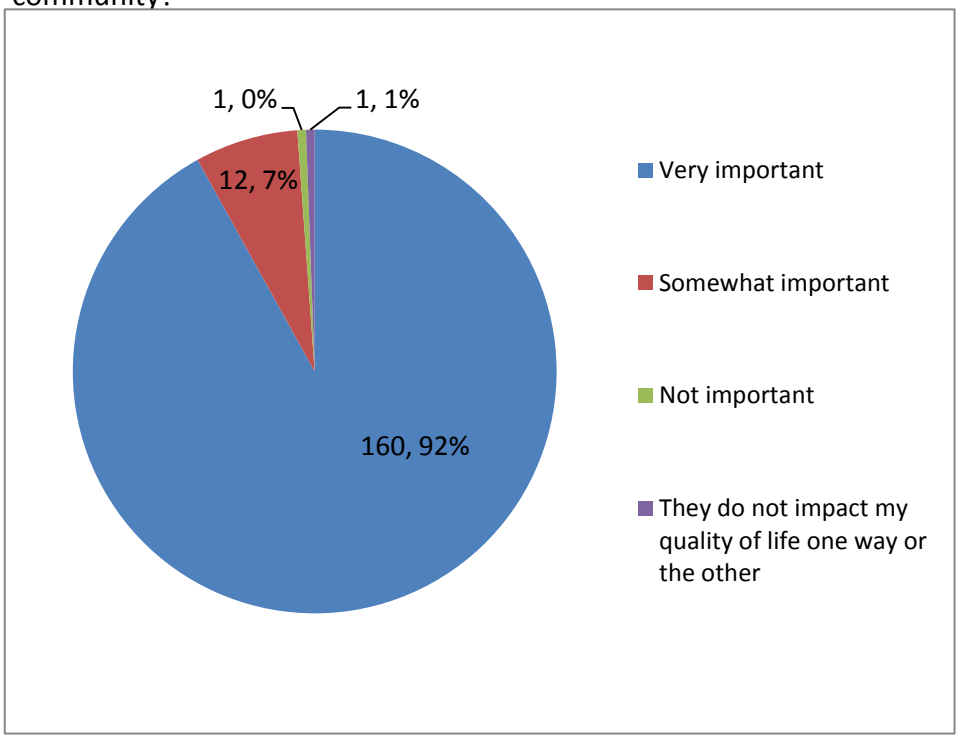
Association	members
amlac	44
Harrison Neighborhood Association	7
Northwood Lake Assoc	7
BMNA-Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association	7
Medicine Lake Assn	5
Bassett Creek Book Club B.	2
Friends of Bassett Creek	2
Sweeney Lake Association	2
Gleason Lake	1
Westhampton Homeowners Assn.	1
did not know one existed where Ilive	1
Lost lake	1
Quail Ridge Neighborhood Association	1

3. How do you use the lakes, streams, ponds and wetlands in your community or surrounding communities? (Choose all that apply)



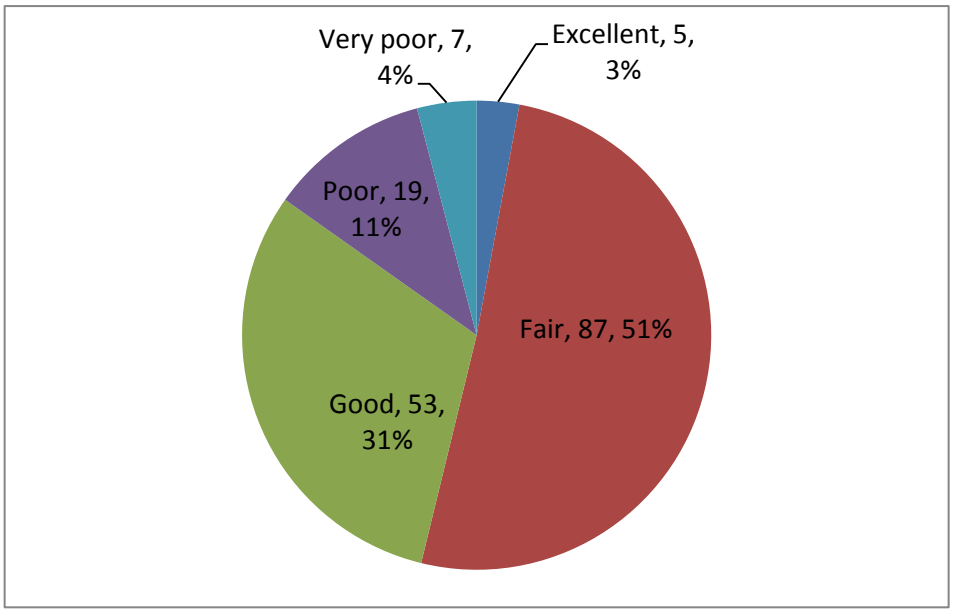
see narrative report (page 6) for "In what other ways do you use water resources in your community"

4. How important are the lakes, streams, ponds and wetlands to your quality of life in your community?



see narrative report (page 7) for "HOW do the water resources impact life in your community"

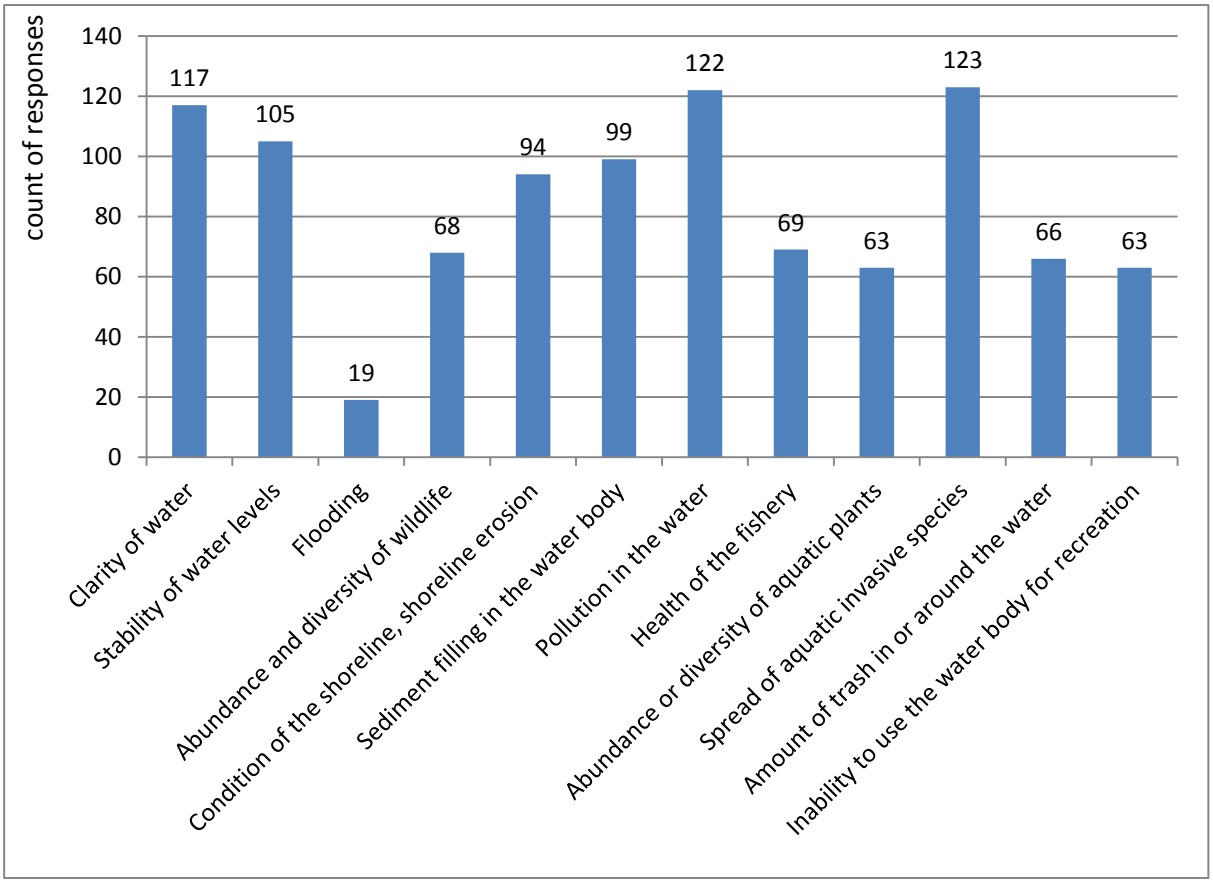
5. Please rank the overall quality of water bodies in your community.



see narrative report (page 11) for "5a. Why do you believe the water resources currently have this quality?"

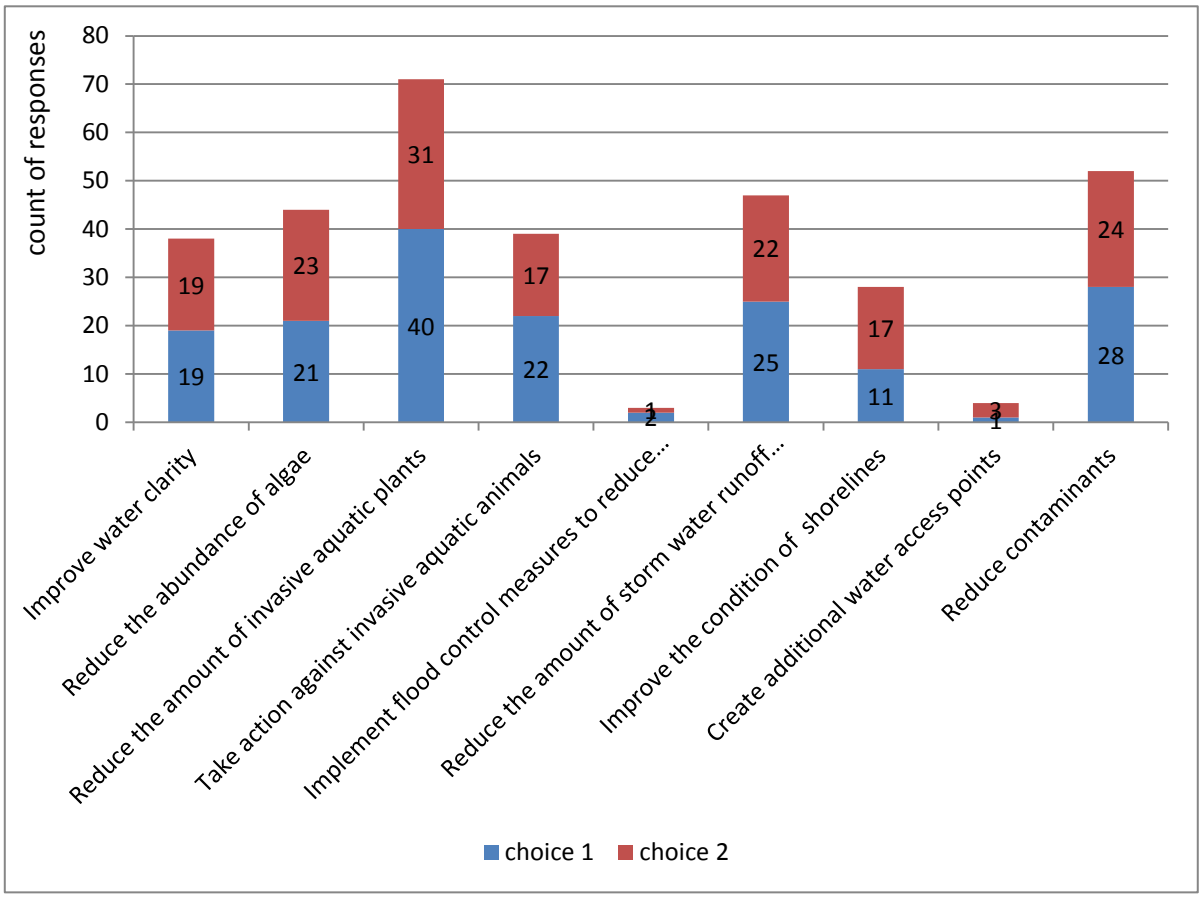
see narrative report (page 16) for "5b. Are there one or two water bodies that stand out?"

6. What concerns you about the condition of the lakes, streams, ponds and wetlands in your community? (Choose all that apply)

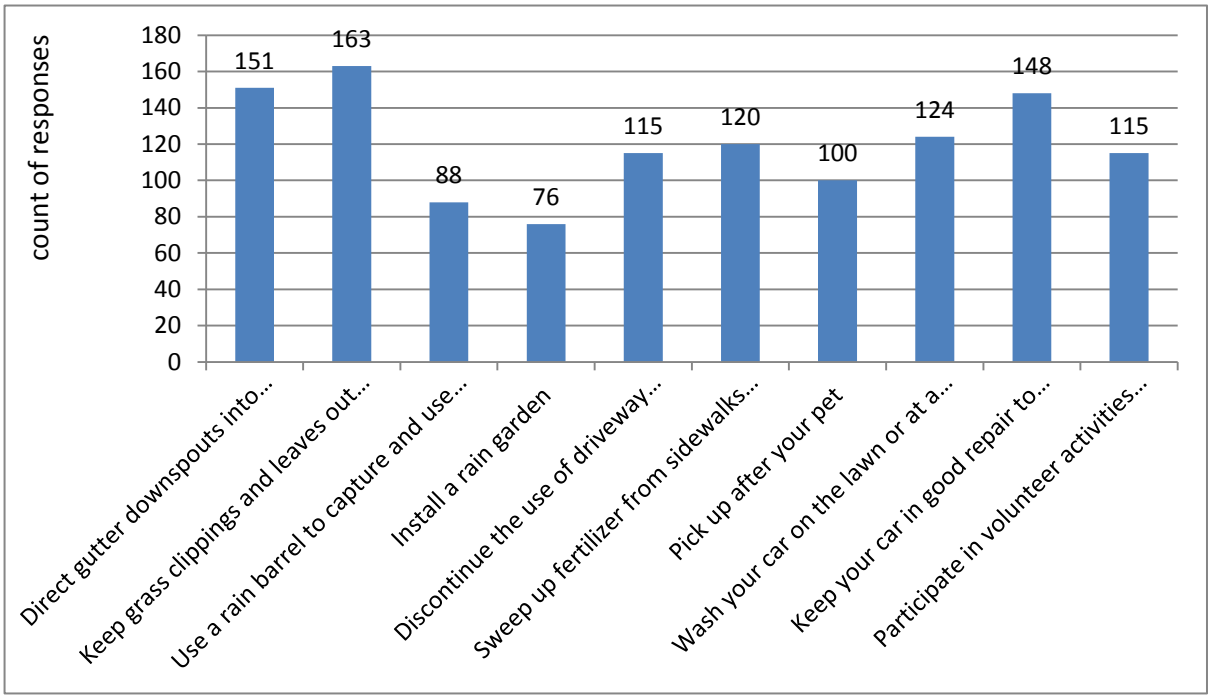


see narrative report (page 19) for additional open ended responses to this question

7. What results will make the biggest difference in the overall quality of water bodies in your community? (Choose two)



8. What actions are you willing to take around your home and yard to improve water quality? (Choose all that apply.)



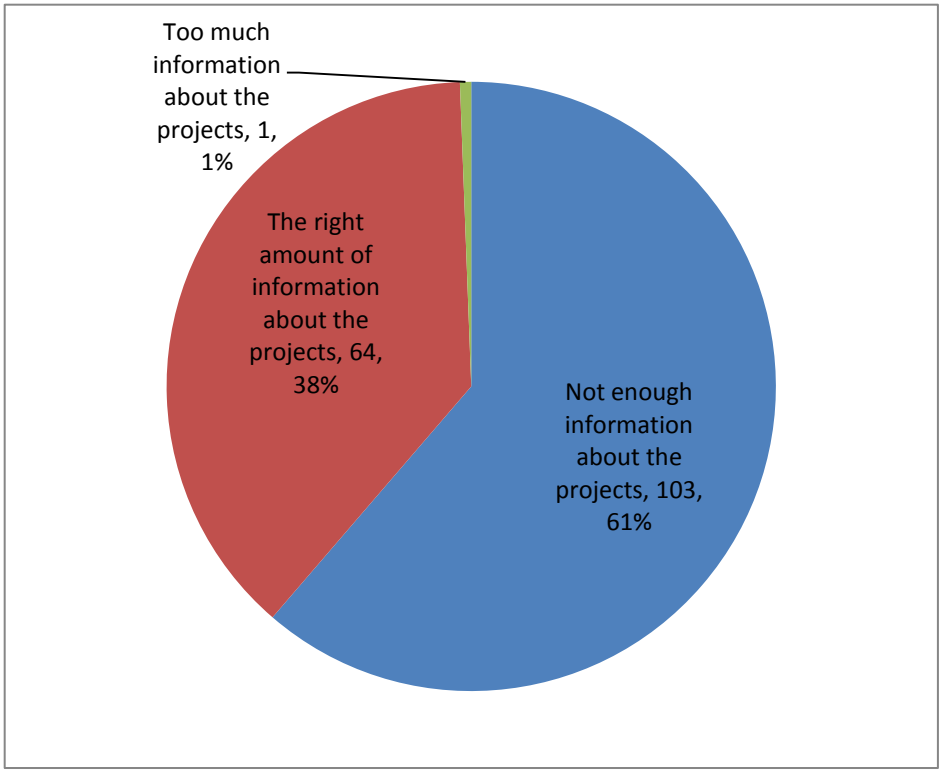
9. If you had a question or concern about the water bodies in your community, who would you contact? - Open-Ended Response

see narrative report (page 20)

10 How do you learn about water projects going on in your community? - Open-Ended Response

see narrative report (page 23)

11 Do you feel that in terms of information about water projects being done in your community you receive:



12 How would you like to receive information about water projects going on in your community? - Open-Ended Response

see narrative report (page 26)

13 Considering the water bodies in your community, what are your major concerns or issues that should be addressed? - Open-Ended Response

see narrative report (page 29)

14 What actions should be taken to address your issues and who should take those actions? - Open-Ended Response

see narrative report (page 34)

15 Other comments about water resources - Open-Ended Response

see narrative report (page 39)

3. How do you use the lakes, streams, ponds and wetlands in your community or surrounding communities? (Choose all that apply) - In what other ways do you use water resources in your community?

Narrative responses - how you use the lakes, streams, ponds and wetlands
Bassett Creek is in my back yard, it is a landscape feature and plays an important role in my everyday life. I sit by the creek all summer listening to the babbling brook and loving it.
biking
Biking around the lakes also
biking around trails adjacent
Biking on the bike trail
Cross country skiing adjacent to creeks and lakes and on frozen lakes
Cross country skiing in winter
cross-country skiing
drinking water - well
Education
Enjoyment of nature
I also introduce friends to these resources
I breath the atmosphere with water vapor in it as well as pine tree resins when those are available for breathing
I enjoy the recreational value of the ice in winter, and in general enjoy the view!
Ice skating and skiing
It just soothes the soul.
Operate the aeration system on Sweeney Lake, and live on the lake since 1965.
photography, education of youth, religious experiences
playing at shore
private wells
Runs through our property
sailing
Sailing at French Lake Park
Sailing, picnics
serenity and peacefulness of the natural resource of the water itself
snorkeling,
snowmobiling
Snowshoeing in winter
the creek and pond are important to me as a chance to connect with the beauty of nature.
the view
We live on the Peninsula and it is harder each year to boat and enjoy the lake (even the view) with the amount of lake weed and low levels of the lake
Well- Drinking water
Winter xc skiing, snow shoeing and dog walks
Xc skiing and ice skating
(blank)
water lawn
Biking on those same trails, too.
I live on the lake with 170 feet of lakeshore
sailing (small 16 ft) sailboat
Biking, Rollerblading, Ice skating, sailing

4. How important are the lakes, streams, ponds and wetlands to your quality of life in your community? - If you chose "Very Important" or "Somewhat Important", describe HOW do the water resources impact life in your community?

Narrative responses - HOW water resources impact life in your community
a significant criteria to our livability and property values
Access to minimally impaired lakes, rivers,and creeks sets my community apart form others and is a fundamental component of out high quality of life.
Adds to the beauty of the area
As a lake-shore owner, I am always concerned about the health of the lake. It is a constant point of neighborhood gatherings year round.
As a property owner on Medicine Lake of 28 years I have a knowledge, experience and vested interest in the Bassett Creek Watershed.
attract wildlife
Bassett Creek is very important to my quality of life in my community because it adds beauty, draws wildlife, and provides nourishment for the trees and plants. It adds to the value of our property. It is so important for all animals -- including humans -- to have fresh, flowing water nearby as it nourishes all of us..
Bassett Creek runs right along the edge of my yard, with the wetlands behind it. We are VERY, VERY concerned about the impact of the light rail line (D1 locally preferred alternative) on the wetlands and water quality of the creek. This line will run RIGHT THRU the wetlands adjacent to the existing Northern rail line which will be moved 25 feet closer to our property. This MAJOR construction project can only do harm to our existing watershed. Numerous neighbors will support your efforts, so please keep us in mind. Nothing good can come of this for the wetlands area in GV. Please keep me posted: . Thanks.
Beauty, part of my identity, interest, naturalize the urban landscape
Bodies of water are vibrant eco systems that support wildlife and promote safe clean living. Water resources make me aware of how precious and fragile our eco systems are in supporting our lifestyles that rely on constant access to water supplies and sewer/waste disposal providing healty living.
Clean water resources make my community a much more desirable place to live because of the their natural beauty, the wildlife they attract, and recreational opportunities.
critical
Drinking water, Wildlife, outdoor recreation, home value improvement, quality of life.
Effects our quality of life.
Environmentally and economically important for both our and future generations.
From when I rise in the AM to when I go to sleep it is a part of my life. The watershed plays a huge part in my mental and physical well being. The sites, sounds, and wildlife help to form my life.
Having the ability to go out back door and enjoy such a wonderful natural resource is a wonderful privledge. We have definitely noticed a difference in the lake since moving here 16 years ago. Low lake levels and increasing weeds are the two biggest concerns.
I live next to one of Golden Valley's ponds, and it provides a natural area adjacent to my home.
I live on Medicine lake and am inpacted daily by use and the views. I want the lake to be usable for many years for the next generations
I live on the creek. I love the wildlife, the moving water and the feel of being in a park preserve while being 15 minutes from downtown.
I love to be in nature. Woods, water, and wildlife are essential to my wellbeing. I don't belong to a gym (and I don't enjoy that environment). I prefer to walk on wooded trails and kayak on lakes, streams, and rivers.
I swim every morning before work in Medicine Lake. I canoe or kayak on the lake. I love to canoe down Basset creek.
impacts our decisions on recreation
In all seasons the lake dominates our view, and activities. If the levels are low, that impacts. If the level is high it impacts. Ice allows a whole different set of activities.
it allows education to youth, quality of life and relaxing to take away stress of daily life.
It brings neighbors together. In Medicine Lake we have a strong sense of community that would not exist without the lake.

Narrative responses - HOW water resources impact life in your community
It's sad to see all the algea and to talk with my kids about how the poor choices are negatively impacting the local wildlife
lakefront beauty recreational opportunities
Living near a watershed is extremely important to me. Living in MN means almost certainly being near a body of water of some kind, so living near a well managed watershed is extremely gratifying. Being a responsible steward of the environment is a value I have, and to be rewarded by living in a neighborhood dense with wildlife is an immediate reward and inspiration to continue to have those values.
Look at it all day and every day. I started the aeration by neighbors in 1973 and still do it with 10 air comopressors around the lake shore.
Maintenance of a good water level in Medicine Lake is most important to me. I do not want to see our lake start to dry out like other lakes in the Metro area. Greater study of the impact of the silt ponds and the height of the dam needs to be accomplished. Furthermore, the boat launch at French regional park needs to be improved - it is almost too shallow to use during the later summer months.
Markedly improve the quality of my life in physical fitness and happiness. We moved to MN to enjoy these resources.
Medicine Lake is integral to the city I live in (Medicine Lake) and the surrounding areas, it is one of the things that ties our community together, it is critical for recreation, relaxation, bonding with family and friends, and the trails around the lake are great for biking, walking and running. The lake is the main reason we live here.
Medicine Lake unites residents of the surrounding communities for recreation and a healthy lifestyle. It is a refuge for an enormous amount of wildlife, both year round and migratory.
My children and their friends played in Bassett Creek all summer long. Our neighborhood has group picnics on the banks, the creek plays a major role as a beautiful gathering place for all. Both Rice Lake and Bassett Creek are hubs for wildlife that enrich our lives. We have huge snapping turtles, crayfish, and otters, deer and fox come to drink and great birds such as woodpeckers, owls and eagles abound. The local wildlife in and around the creek & lakes taught my children not only the names of the birds and animals but also to love and respect nature.
My family and friends love boating, water skiing, and just playing in the water. These activities greatly contribute to our quality of life.
natural amenity
oasis from the daily drive, rush and tasks. oasis from development, from concrete, from road vehicles, from people in a nervous, dangerous hurry.
Open space
Our family enjoys spending time in the water or near the water. I don't want to live in a place where there are not outdoor spots like lakes, streams, and wetlands because I enjoy accessing this places regularly.
Our recreation centers around the lake. We ice skate and cross country ski on it in the winter. In the summer we boat on it and use the bike trails to travel around it. It is enjoyable in all seasons and for many reasons.
people swim in Wirth Lake and fish pretty much wherever they can. we walk along the creek and lake
Property value!!!!!!
Property values and quality of life
Provide respite from urbanization, important for the wildlife and fish, silent sports
Recreation, relaxation, sense of peace when viewing
Sailing and motorboating are important hobbies for our family. And closer to home, lakes, streams and trails are central to our enjoyment of the outdoors, especially the amenities around Wirth Lake.
The bodies of water make my community unique in beauty and restorative qulities for a happy life, thus I am more productive and useful to the community.
The City of Medicine Lake exists as a lake community. Nearly every resident lives on the lake and uses the lake in both summer and winter. The lake is a major reason most residents moved to this city.
The recreational use of Medicine lake greatly enhances my family life but allowing us great opportunities to spend time as a family and with friends. It also gives us the opportunity to teach our children water safety and respect for the environment.
The secretary for Basset Creek is proposing to get or already is getting $50.000.00 for this work and I think that while green jobs are a good thing this is excessive financial gain without true return. I look at the trees that were cut down around Theo Wirth as an example of this unchecked activity that has its costs and is unaccounted for in your reports and "visioning processes".
The streams and lakes add value to my life as a nearby retreat or piece of beauty
The wildlife that I have seen along Bassett creek. The wild plants along the creek and pond. Taking my grandkids for nature walks. They have seen big turtles in the creek and egrets nesting near by. SThe quiet beauty.

Narrative responses - HOW water resources impact life in your community
They are a HUGE reason we live here. Mental, physical, and spiritual health are all easier to maintain when we're kayaking, swimming, or walking/hiking/running along a body of water. And the wetlands provide habitat for wildlife that we also really appreciate.
They provide beautiful views, appealing walks, and cover for local wildlife.
This clean water resource keeps some wildlife close to us even in the inner city making waking along the creek relaxing, interesting and even educational.
Usable Water resources are the reason we were drawn to the community.
Water features are beautiful and make people happy!
Water is my backyard....we do not go away on vacations....this IS our vacation.
Water quality, invasive plant species, or excessively low water level can make it difficult to get out on to the lake from shore. Excessively high water level can damage our lakeshore, especially when combined with the wave action from boats.
Way to enjoy being outdoors; exercising.
We bought our home on the basis of it being near the Medicine Lake and love "lake life"
We live on bassett creek drive and having the creek enriches our lives everyday.
We live on Basset Creek and enjoy the wildlife it brings. Periodically the creek floods and we are concerned about the water quality.
We live on Med Lake and love all the opportunities it provides.
we live on the lake so the water resources impact us daily
We moved here in 1968. I rent out boats plus provide space for people to keep their own boats at the lake through a conditional use permit with the City of Plymouth.
We purchased our home with Bassett Creek running through our back yard specifically because of tranquility it offered us. My husband has had many surgeries over the last 3 years. With our home bordering on the park wetlands and having the creek view has been very therapeutic for his slow and difficult recovery,
We use them almost daily, esp. in the Spring and Summer.
(blank)
Everything is about the water
Water clarity and qiality
It encourages people to be more active and spend time near the water. It creates nice places to run or walk. Having nature makes a place seem better.
They provide breaks in the patterned residential areas, calming traffic. They help control flooding. They support wildlife. They protect from loss, and give purpose to, walking/biking trails.
having recreational water near by our home is important.
wildlife habitat redwing blackbirds,frogs,turtles swifts,herons major flood control
We pay high taxes to live on the lake. It provides 365 days a year of joy of some kind whether it be using the lake, looking at the lake, watching the wildlife in and around the lake. It makes paying high taxes worth it. We're financially invested! Watching the lake level drop every summer certainly puts stress on the lakeshore owners who only get 4 solid months per year to enjoy using their boats and lake toys of all kinds.
We have lived on Medicine Lake for over 20 years. The lake is a Major asset to our family, the City of Plymouth and the nearby communities. The water level has struggled to maintain an adequate level the past few years which has caused the lake to be much less usable for the tax payers that take advantage of it.
I believe there are only two in New Hope and I do not live within walking distance of either.
since I live on Medicine Lake, my family,friends, children, neighbors,all use the lake daily year around. It is a resource we use year around.
Personally, they are very important, as we live on the lake. And as a community the are even more important. We have wonderful public access to Medicine Lake and I think it's important that it stays this way. However, I often see boaters who aren't familiar with our shallow lake speed through our bay (which can fall to 2-3 ft depth) and either hit their props at full speed, or be surprised when they wipe out skiing and realize they are in hip-deep water.
Quality of life; utilize the lake 100%; water level is an issue and need to raise level of the dam
They provide and important environmental service, as well as aesthetics and recreation to enjoy.
To play in for me, my family and my golden retrievers
I have lived or have friends who live on various points of the Bassett Creek Watershed -- Westwood Lake, Plymouth, Bryn Mawr. The access to the natural beauty, flora and fauna was a major reason in choosing to live where I do -- I walk by the Creek or lake daily.
I live on Medicine Lake and am fortunate to see the lake every day, in every season. We must take very good care of our resources; they are greatly impacted by our actions.

Narrative responses - HOW water resources impact life in your community
The aesthetic and environmental qualities of waters profoundly affect property owners' quality of life. Clean water provides wildlife, recreation opportunities and an environment generally that improves property values and makes living in a particular community more fun.
Green living things are healthy to humans. Studies have shown benefits include healing cancer, healing mental health. Suicide prevention. Okay ... strange studies I have read, but they are just healthy to our well-being. (partly why businesses rent plants.)
property taxes are higher on a lake, that helps everyone but the value is not there. Now to answer your question it the best thing God and Man has done your the betterment of person health,life, for all ages.
The resources provide entertainment, relaxation, and pure enjoyment of our surroundings
Northwood Lake in New Hope is a hidden gem. When I moved here 41 years ago, every house on the lake owned and used a canoe. But in the years since, thanks to community growth to the west of us, it has become dirty, silted, weedy and smelly and shallow. I still love to sit and enjoy the solitude and privacy it affords. I watch blue herons, egrets, Canadian geese, all kinds of other waterfowl, muskrats, turtles, American bald eagles, and birds too numerous to mention. This lake had added value to my neighborhood and I would love to see it improved to its former condition.
Life style
For gathering and creating a family atmosphere around the lake.
The lake, trails and water-adjacent parks provide a sense of community and also lead to healthier lifestyles.
Attraction to liveing near water has been characteristic of my family for many years. Water is a visibly active part of the environment which I find attractive. As well as an integral part of natural cycles.
We are on or by the water every day. We would never have moved here if it weren't for the lakes and adjacent trails and amenities.
They help to keep the civil in civilization. The water is there for all people, animals and plants to enjoy and use. I find the water to be a calming influence. It is, however, disturbing to see the water covered with a green algae film.
Provide areas for wildlife, increase aesthetics, recreation
It's a critical natural resource, not only for us (humans) to enjoy, but that wildlife depends on too. We need to do a better job protecting it.
We use the local lakes such as Medicine lake as backgroud scenery for our walks
I do a lot of kayaking in the local lakes and streams- including Bassett Creek. I also do a lot of swimming in the lakes. And, I really like to swim in and kayak on clean, clear,non-polluted and natural water with a good natural habitat of native plants, fish, and other stream and lake denizens.
habitat for wildlife, recreation, beauty

5a. Why do you believe the water resources currently have this quality? - Open-Ended Response

Narrative Response - WHY this water quality
accumulated run off from yards as the creek flows into and through the lake. invasive species are a growing factor. low water levels
Attention is paid to water quality. More restoration is required for wildlife, water quality.
Bassett Creek (and Bassett Creek Park) has not been maintained. Renovation is needed.
Bassett creek is clear but some lakes on route are impaired. Eloise Butler has been 'de-watered' by 394 construction.
Bassett creek seems to be neglected when compared with other creeks like minnehaha.
BCWC does not have a good handle on pollution and water level control on Medicine Lake at all.
Boaters bring in invasive species from other lakes. Medicine Lake is also optimized for boating, not fish and wildlife.
Check our property taxes.
Clarity of water and stability of water levels would be top two concerns.
Commercial and housing construction has bee allowed to continue without proper consideration for wetlands. Developers have been allowed to skirt laws by trading wetlands leading to concentrations of building without proper drainage. Antiquated highway drainage contues to flow dierctly into our waterways.
Community members try to care for the water resources. A few years ago a group was formed to monitor Rice Lakes and we put out news letters and raised money to have Alum (sp?) treatments to reduce algae. The city of Golden Valley newsletter also has helpful hints to help keep our water safe & healthy.
Control of lawn fertilizers with phosphorus, shore-landscaping with more native lake plants, neighbors not dumping caustic materials in storm drains, better watershed management
Curly pond weed
Development has greatly degraded water over the years
don't know what the water quality is.
Effort and attention on the part of the community
Friends of Bassett Creek have had a significant influence in obtaining resources and volunteers to keep the creek alive and well.
From 1950 to today, the water quality has improved for numerous reasons, however the largest was due to the discontinued usage of sewer systems and septic systems drainage into the lake. Improvement in out/in board motors. Community awareness. Retention ponds etc.
Government agencies have NOT coordinated betwwen themselves to control Medicine Lake water quality.
Heavily used and inundated by runoff from roads that have been heavily salted in winter and yards that are over fertilized in summer. Additionally a lack of commitment and leadership from most politicians to ask for money to maintain quality resources.
Human Impact, and mainly our collective ignorance on the environment and how our behaviors drive this.
I assume it is lack of resources to care for the creek and ponds.
I believe that water quality is the result of a complex mix of nature (climate cycles, plant and animal fluctuations) and human interaction (treatment programs, water level mgmt, runoff filtration, recreational use, etc.), and it's all continuously evolving.
I did not select an option- (please a "do not know" to the survey, or change the question to be "what do you perceive the water quality to be?" I am not sure of the quality of Bassett Creek and the lake, so I left it blank.
I have a concern about the spread of invasive weeds in Medicine Lake. It is to the point that we worry about our grand children accidentally falling in the lake off our dock and getting so tangled in the weeds that they drown.
I have been swiming in the lake since 1965, and never had a swimer's skiin problems of any kind.
I have seen a lot of cutting down of beautiful pine trees that were not destroyed by the tornado. While this had some indirect results, the clearing will have more ongoing effects. There is a cement flow control device that would be interesting to review the dynamics of in relation to rainfall.
I smell after swimming in the lakes.
I think people are paying more attention. Concern about property values.
I think the planners did a fair job in providing places for runnoff to accumulate from the roads and buildings. The artificial ponds keep salt, grime, and silt out of the natural streams and lakes wher I live. I do think people in general respect the bodies of water as they use or visit them. I also beleive there are groups who care enough to spend time and treasure to preserve them.
in the summer we see the lake daily and "use" the lake many times each week

Narrative Response - WHY this water quality
It seems to me there has been a lot of progress. But I'd like people to be confident eating fish caught in urban lakes, & would really like to see Basset Creek opened up. Farther out of town, Lake Minnetonka is under fire from pollution and invasive species.
Lakeshore and stream-side residents have been especially resistant to naturalizing shore line. We have done this for half of our shoreline. The difference between the side that we naturalized and that which we didn't is remarkable. The shore and lake directly adjacent to it are much firmer and stable. The un-naturalized portion continues to erode and the shore line is still mucky. Having clear criteria for naturalizing the remaining shore would be very helpful. We had the other portion naturalized through a Plymouth program 6+ years ago.
Low lake levels and weed growth
Low water levels due to damn that feeds basset creek. Mil foil and algae growth have drastically increased in the last few years.
Low water levels I believe is due to the Basset Creek dam having been lowered years ago.
Low water levels, weedy, murky water
Measures taken to prevent or address pollution sources.
Medicine Lake is what it is, as the Indians refereed to the lake as Lake of Medicine
Medicine Lake level is low!! Difficult for me to access the lake without a 200ft dock!!!!
Medicine Lake water quality is improving. Winter activities and runnoff are the biggest problem I see holding back the lake. Salt runoff going into the lake and Basset creek is likely a major issue. Storm sewer exits to the lake have salt water influxes onto the lake throughout winter.
more cam be - and should have been done to protect Medicine Lake
Most of our waters have fair to poor water quality but are improving
N/A
Not always the best looking. If we develop right up to the edge some landscaping is going to be in order. Some tree triming to make them last longer. Some brush clearing maximizing for wildlife habitat.
Not sure if I've ever seen fish in the part of the creek I live near. Should there be more birds and other critters along the creek? Parts of the creek are contained in walls. But I think the Glenwood spring probably supplies some nice clean water and keeps the creek from getting too bad. Wirth Lake - have you seen the goose poop on the boardwalk?? That can't be good for swimming.
Observation of water areas, and knowledge of local efforts to keep the water clean etc.
pollution and runoff, inability to keep the level high as the dam lets so much water out after rains.
Pollution.
Pollution/runoff causes bacteria in our lakes/streams
polution
Proper management. Rice Lake, however, has been greatly affected by the phosphorous run off and natural high levels in the soil.
Reasonable clarity and (most of the time) modest traffic
recent work around Medicine Lake to create basins to catch ruboff and polutants
road run off and no erosion control
Run off
Run off from yards, highways, etc
Runnoff, Lack of Shoreline Buffers and other strategies to filter the water prior to entering the waterbodies. Overall Develpment
Runoff
Runoff continues to be an issue. Invasive species are a constant threat. As a completely developed lake in a city, it is ultimately going to suffer, but it could be cleaner and clearer.
Runoff from streets and property
Runoff from streets and yards affects water. Trash accumulates, especially in public areas. Some residents maintain grass at the creek's edge instead of providing a margin of water filtering vegetation.
Run-off.
Sometimes they are green and don't look so nice
still recovering from years of abuse. Poor bottom quality. Heavy phosphorus levels
Studies have been done in the lake and have been successful....but due to funding and grant monies we end up with more vegetation and more issues.....like zebra mussels issue
Sweeny, Wirth, Bassett Creek and Medicine lake are all impaired. Sweene is list on the DNR lakefinder as Non-Supported for recreational (swimming) use
the dead fish we see, the amount of algea

Narrative Response - WHY this water quality
the holding pond area that feeds sweeney lake (schaper park) is full of debris and garbage, generally all spring/summer/fall. the filtering cattails that die are never harvested. on the other side of that creek entry to sweeney lake (north of the rr tracks) debris enters and washes up on shorelines. that area really should be dredged.
The holding ponds have been great but like with anything they take years to make changes. However I have seen several, Cleaner water and not fast water level changes after a rains storm.
The life cycle of Medicine Lake and the Bassett Creek dam water level management that reduces the water level on Medicine Lake and stops water movement on Bassett Creek from August through the spring. Bassett Creek typically only has water movement for 4 months of the year from April through July.
The weeds and water clarity issues need more effort.
They are not horribly polluted, and there are many areas near our home where we can go swimming, hiking, and so forth. However, many of the ponds and lakes near my home do not have many native plant species and are clogged with cattails. I have purchased the "Lake Phalen Shoreland Restoration: Walking Tour and Plant Guide, 2nd Edition" by Haley Elvecrog and Bill Bartodziej, 2008. (Ramsey-Washington Metro District; www.rwmwd.org). I wish that more ponds and lakes in our area could have shorelines and prairies restored with native plant life. This would be good for the water quality and for the native animal species (butterflies, birds, etc.) that depend on native plants.
They have been monitored in recent years and improved in some ways but we are still concerned about some weed growth and the need to keep out zebra muscles and milfoil.
They seem faily clean for being in the city, but can always be improved upon. Also, too many people litter, which really ruins them.
They're fair up from very poor because of the work of AMLAC and the City of Plymouth but there is a long way to go. Prevention of AIS, especially zebra mussels and worse, is of the highest priority. The sand bars that have resulted from runoff from 169 should be dredged out. The water level seems to have dropped and so the height of the dam on Bassett Creek must be raised.
This summer while walking along Bassett Creek, I have seen fish, frogs, turtles, clams, and snails in abundance. Animals like this are sensitive to poor water quality (low oxygen, pollution) and could only flourish in a healthy creek.
Too many non residence launching boats with little care for spreading invasive species
Too many water born plants.
too many weeds sediment/muck in bay areas making them too shallow water level drops too low - need to reinvent the dam on Medicine Lake to keep water in the lake
Too many WEEDS and low water levels
Too much algae growth in summer.
Too much fertilizer use, run-off directly into streams, wetland areas surrounding bodies of water have been drained . . .
Too much run off from development in Plymouth.
Too much runoff over the years. Everybody needs the perfect lawn.
Total guess. I'd like more info on what the quality is.... That is, should I be swimming in Wirth Lake?
Toxic runoff from pollutants as rain water falls and runs into the creek, bringing pollutants with it.
Trash in the creek
unfiltered run-off, excess fertility, hardscapes, not spring or groundwater fed
Up until about the last 5-10 yrs, there has been little concern about stormwater runoff.
usable and enjoyable, safe to be in and around
water management activities (e.g. control of point and non-point contaminant sources and reconstruction of key areas along the water bodies)
Water skiing disrupting shoreline, birds, turtles.... All of the wildlife!!!!
We are very concerned about the potential impact of basett creek as the met council wants to put light rail through the near by wet lands. Of course we dont want the lrt in the nature area since it affects the frequescy of the life
We do not (yet) have zebra mussels and the water clarity has been improving.
We estimate that at least 1/4 of Medicine Lake is now useless to recreationists because of massive weed issues or low levels.
We have been trying to educate about the importance of clean water in our lakes
We live in a big city with lots of pollutants.

Narrative Response - WHY this water quality
We love the lake, but there is critical work that needs to be done. The water level in Medicine Lake is too low, especially late in the summer and early Fall, and it seems like this is true every year since the new dam was built at the outlet to Bassett Creek. Something is faulty with the design of the dam and it lets out water too quickly and to too low a level. Perhaps a "V" shape in the dam would be better so as the lake level decreases the flow is reduced to let water levels decline gradually after rains. The low level makes boating more dangerous and makes it very difficult to take my boat out at the end of the season as sometimes the water level is so low it is almost impossible to reach the ramps. The second big issue is aquatic invasive species. When they are treated it is great, but the treatment seems inconsistent from year to year. It would also be nice to see the water quality and clarity improve, and sediment be removed from the lake. I really appreciate all the efforts to improve the lake through the building of detention ponds.
We use Medicine Lake primarily. We thoroughly enjoy it but it could be improved by raising/maintaining the water level and better addressing weed infestations.
Weeds and danger of invasive species
Weeds and lack of consistent funding for treatment plus very low water levels in the summer.
Weeds and low water levels
Weeds in the lake(Medicine), are becoming a significant problem/concern.
(blank)
Too many weeds
Fertilizer run off.
Poor clarity and milfoil so thick it mills yje jet skis
The quality is definitely better than some places, but it could still be improved.
The various waters in Basset Creek Park are full of garbage and just generally dirty and gross. The goose feces all over the park does not help.
In the Spring and early Summer, I would choose 'Excellent.' But by early Summer, algae has taken over many bodies of water, lowering their quality and their scenic value.
Run-off and poor water filtration and water-edge planting design.
Medicine Lake is amazing. The lake is under huge pressure though. The lake levels are consistently lower the past few years, the lake needs to be dredged in key areas that are filling in with soot, and the weeds are getting worse every year.
Occasionally you hear of a beach being closed due health issues.
need more buffering capacity and settlement ponding
Medicine Lake is getting cleaner year by year as retention ponds start to work and communities are educated on lawn care and proper disposal of toxic and harmful items. However there are the concerns of invasive species that could seriously impact lake quality on multiple levels.
we have used them for storm water ponds for 60+ years, so all of the pollutant from streets and lawns have gone into the water bodies untreated. Before development agricultural chemicals went into those same waterbodies.
Pollution from run-off, lake is very weedy, water quality is good in spring but progressively gets worse. Something needs to be done about the weeds and low lake level in nearly anytime except spring.
In regards to Medicine Lake the water clarity has improved over the years much to the credit of the holding ponds that have been constructed in the area.
Medicine lake gets very weedy and green by late summer due to phosphourous run-off and low water level.
• shallow depth • invasive weeds • citizen and public run-off (sediment, fertilizers, etc) • low water level creates stagnant water for last couple months of the summer
Good today due to the water level in Medicine Lake; need to raise height of the dam to maintain
I believe that Minneapolis and its watersheds are making several great efforts to maintain water quality and clean and keep them from pollution, but I do think that a: efforts have been inequitably dispersed (Calhoun vs. Bassett vs. Powderhorn), b: there are a lot of stormwater runoff problems, and c: cities are willing to make certain sacrifices regarding pollutants in the name of industry, or if not cities, the agricultural communities surrounding them.
Clean, but if less weeds it would be excellent.
We live on the creek. When we first moved in: fish splashed upstream in spring; dogs could play w/out stinking; water did not get yellow foam; no muck to disturb when you waded in. I think the quality is poor but have been told it is better then it was?????
Weedy/algae chemical buildup
Not enough education to all of us about the watershed and our ability to influence the water quality. I only knew about the watershed by googling Bassett Creek.
A lot of money is being spent for some large bodies of water like Medicine Lake but lakes like Northwood Lake in New Hope gets very little attention.

Narrative Response - WHY this water quality
too much fertilizer flowing into lakes, poor maintenance of Bassett Creek's banks between Fruen Mill and where it has been taken underground.
Ongoing education of lakeshore owners has improved water quality by limiting fertilizers and septic systems. More must be done to delay invasive species.
Minnesota has a strong conservation ethic that has been supported by local government (through regulation and water-improvement work) and citizens' efforts to ensure protection of water resources. That said, water quality could be better.
Murky water, algae growth, 'stinky' at times
no throughflow
City of New Hope is not wheeling to set-up and clean up the lakes, they wait for an commutiy to do something and than attach their problems to the total watershed issues.
Because they have been protected and monitored
Lack of funding, infrequent effort
Lack of oversight by community leaders, etc.as communities developed nearby, sending runoff containing salt, trash, sand etc. into our lake.
Clear, non smell
Lots of runoff in Medicine Lake plus lack of weed control creates a dirty and congested lake.
Through lots if hard work, lobbying and collaboration to make improvements.
Proximity to large population that acts in ways deletrious to waters.
Because of the efforts of the DNR, Lake associations and cities to improve and maintain water standards through education, water and runoff management.
cloudy, silt, weedy, dead fish
Too much sediment from storm sewers; too many chemicals from human actions.
Generally feel there is a commitment to maintaining water quality in this area.
Water clarity is poor, and I am VERY concerned about the invasive species threats, and increasing milfoil. I'm very worried it will destroy Medicine Lake. I'm also VERY worried about the low water levels the past several years. It's not natural (water is being taken from the lake) and it's hurting the ecosystem.
They seem poor and also Medicine lake in particular seems to dry up late in summer and becomes asethically unpleasing[unsightly and less than pleasing aromas] seems like the water disappears in the late summer the swimmimg beaches look suspect although I don't swim.
I think we could do more to create and maintain a more natural habitat for native plants, fish and other creatures.
runoff from the inlet into Gleason Lake - the inlet stream flows through back yards which are heavily fertilized in Plymouth

5b. Are there one or two water bodies that stand out as having very good or very poor water quality? If so, which ones? - Open-Ended Response

Narrative responses - 1 or 2 water bodies that stand out
Again, I don't know.
Basset Creek see 5a
basset creek as low water quality.
Basset Creek is treated much like a natural storm sewer. Spring time and during rain events it is full and fall and dry times it is dry. Unfortunately it fills up with trash and is not a priority for cleanup. Canoeing down the creek can be very enjoyable, but the amount of trash in the creek is discouraging
Basset Creek very poor
Bassett Creek has very poor water quality in the Theodore Wirth Park area. Extremely reactive body of water . . .
Bassett Creek I think still has relatively poor water quality near where I live. I would very much like to see it improve!
Bassett Creek runs through Golden Valley and is poorly protected
Bassett Creek, Wirth Lake (the water is extremely clean, and cleanest in the chain of lakes)
Bassett Creek: Poor; Medicine Lake: Poor: Lake Minnetonka: Poor to good depending on location.
Bassetts Creek seems like there's trash in it.
Cedar Lake -- Good
Cedar Lake is pretty clean, and we usually have no problems swimming there. On the other hand, Bassett's Creek seems quite polluted, and some of the surrounding lowland areas (e.g. in Wirth Park) are just full of trash. Lake of the Isles seems pretty scummy a lot of the time as well.
Christmas Lake good
Hidden Lake is very good. Sweeney is poor.
hidden valley pond, medicine lake
I am extremely concerned about the condition of Medicine Lake. It has been a recreational lake for my family going back generations, but the weed condition is getting so bad I can see a future where we do not use it except for boating and winter activities. No water skiing or tubing with the children and grandchildren because of the poor water clarity and over abundance of nasty weeds.
I am only intimately familair with Medicine Lake and Basset Creek. Both these waterways have been used as unlimited storm run off depositories allowing silt to build up. The water levels of both bodies of water are under constant pressure and need to be managed more efficiently. The Basset Creek Dam should be augmented with an adjustable spillway to allow for the retention of water during the rainy season and allow for Basset Creek to be metered out so the waterway does not dry up.
I am really only familiar with the water quality of Medicine Lake. Since it is the largest lake in the watershed with by far the most recreational use it seems that it should be a very high priority.
I cannot rate any.
I only use Medicine Lake
Lake Minnetonka has pockets of horrible algae blooms and now, invasive species.
Lake Minnetonka is choked in some areas with invasive species. Medicine Lake is threatened
Lake Minnetonka=very good Lake Magda = poor
Medicine is getting worse, water disappearing faster than it is being replenished. Is it the next White Bear lake?
Medicine Lake and surrounding wetlands, bassett creek in and out of the lake.
Medicine Lake can be very good to very poor with respect to levels in the summer and weed growth.
Medicine Lake- fair Basset Creek- Good
Medicine Lake has "Fair" water quality when there is water movement through Bassett Creek which is April through July.. Bassett Creek has "Very poor" water quality by having no water movement from August until April most years.
Medicine Lake has at best fair water quality.
Medicine lake has definitely lost the clarity of the water that we had w hen we moved here 40 years ago. We have interesting photos of our children swimming in the 60's and 70's, big difference!
Medicine Lake is poor.
Medicine Lake is the 2nd largest lake in Hennepin County, however, all attention and monies for R&D are spent on Minnetonka
Medicine Lake is where we live and the basis for these comments.

Narrative responses - 1 or 2 water bodies that stand out
Medicine lake should be looked at alot closer. The spraying of invasives has killed almost all native species of weeds and does not control millfoil at all. You are failing at helping the resisdents that live around the lake. You won't even look at the water level problems and/or haven't even noticed the problems in this body of water that have been going on over the last 10 years.
Medicine Lake. Water level fluctuation
Mid-summer, the water level is to low...!
my focus is Medicine lake as a lifetime resident
NA
NO
No, I have not seen any that hit the extremes on either side, though I do have some concern that the loss of artificial reserviors to catch run off will allow pollutants and salts from our roadways get into the larger bodies and ruin them. These artificial reserviors seem to be filling in with plant material and sand/silt. I do noth believe they can accomodate surging storm water of the spring thaw runoff as they once could. I also believe that newer homes built in the lower areas will be xposed to flooding as a secondary result of the loss of resevior capacity.
None good by the standards I was used to in Michigan. Medicine Lake is particularly disappointing for such a large body of water used by so many people
Northwood Lake in New Hope has very poor water quality
Not in the Bassett Creek Watershed. But Lake Charolotte, near Hanover, stands out has having very clear water.
Not one in particular stands out. We spend most of our time on Medicine Lake and sometime on Minnetonka
Of course medicine lake!
Poor- Medicine Lake
Poor Wirth Lake Poor Basset Creek near Wirth Golf Coarse Medicine Lake Good Exept invasive plants
really only familiar with the water quality of Medicine Lake which is where we live.
Rice Lake in the Mary Hill park is getting worse.
Sweeney would be better is it did not have to treat so much storm water
The creek back waters north of Hwy 55 get stagnant and fill with algae.
the nature area on Bassett creek Drive near Dresden. It is so clogged with plant life and dirty.
The pond at Bassett Creek Park in Crystal collects a lot of trash.
The twin to Sweeney
Theodore Wirth is disgusting, so is Lake Calhoun.
Wirth Lake looks pretty clean, but I wouldn't say 'very good' just ok. Bassett Creek I haven't used, but would like to know that it is safe to swim or tube on. Would be a fun adventure.
(blank)
Medicine lake is very bad
Very poor-Medicine Lake
None of them are good. We'll see how things look after the work on the creek is completed.
I haven't spent time on lakes outside of Medicine Lake to be able to comment.
White bear lake has very good water quality. Medicine Lake, the lake I live on, has very poor water quality.
Medicine lake is probably on the poor side, as Parker lake is a little better.
Christmas Lake Not sure of others in our area
Medicine Lake is extremely poor when the water levels are down; need to increase height of the dam to maintain water level
Basset pond and Basset creek from Duluth St. to Hwy 100 are all I know.
Wirth Lake gets weed filled (milfoil and algae) as the summer progresses; it is very heavily used by residents in this region of Minneapolis.
Basset is near me, so I'm most familiar with it, and it seems to be holding steady, though is sometimes full of visible pollution (trash, grass clippings, etc.) after big rains. Wirth Lake is pretty good
Medicine lake? Not sure
Norhtwood Lake
Medicine Lake seems to have good water qualities with the exception of the weeds
Northwood Lake, very poor
Twin Lake in Golden Valley is quite clean I understand. I dont feel qualified to jusdge hence next 2 questions skipped.
Medicine, Sweeney
Right now with all the rain, Northwood lake looks good- but I know the water testing rates it very poor.
Not sure if it is an issue of water quality, but Medicine Lake often smells badly in high heat.
Medicine Lake, see above comment.

Narrative responses - 1 or 2 water bodies that stand out
Medicine is the most noticeable
I like swimming in Twin Lake because it is so clean. I like kayaking on Bassett Creek but I do not think it is in very good natural condition for native habitat.
poor - Gleason Lake, especially north pond
Grand Total

6. What concerns you about the condition of the lakes, streams, ponds and wetlands in your community? (Choose all that apply) - Other (please specify)

Narrative responses - concerns about conditions
Abundance or diversity of shoreline plants.
AIS is very worrisome, esp. Zebra mussels closing in .
Because of the Dam level, there are a number of times when using a boat is impractical or impossible
Clarity of water and stability of water levels are a priority. The effective use of retention ponds has reduced the water levels from spiking. Prior to retention ponds, the lake spiked two inches for every inch of rain. Currently, the spike is one inch for every inch of rain.
Development plans related to the Bottinea Transitway are my greatest concern.
heavy runoff - sediments, salt, fertilizer, etc
Hopefully they can handle rain run off and hold their levels.
I am very concerned about Asian Carp and their potential impact on water skiing and tubing.
I am very concerned with the LRT impacts to Bassett Creek
I note that you do not list stability of water levels in number 7 below - I think that would get the most hits.
I think it is being handled with the gradual improvements as funds are available to BCWMC
I would like to see the dam level raised about 2 inches.
invasive Buckthorn growth
Lake level is to low Mid-Summer, late Fall
Lake Level on Medicine Lake is about 6" to 12" below where it should be.
loss of some good planning and spending when these parks and reources were constructed = waste
low water level of medicine lake durning late summer months!
my primary desire is to see the wildlife and green areas flourish.
Preventing the water level on Medicine Lake from declining to too low a level
runoff mitigation
The forestation around the water.
water lever too low at time to even get our boat in or keep it at our dock.
Zebra Mussel infestation should be a priority. The DNR has come late to the game and more stringent measures should be adopted to stop the spread of this invasive species.
(blank)
when too many weeds are present- the lake is too dangerous to swim. low water levels in summer inhibit boats from safe boating.
Medicine Lake water level is a concern that can be addressed easier than many of the issues, which require ongoing and widespread effort.
Water levels; need to raise the dam
The old Glenwood plant is an eyesore at the most beautiful point of Bassett Creek, next to the little falls/rapids. The stream bank has eroded here. Why can't this abandoned property be converted to some extraordinary use on this idyllic site?
Inability to swim in the lake due to weeds.
Bassett creek is a wonderful resource that is completely under-used as it goes through MPLS
Odor of the water
Geese Droppings
Weeds are increasing in severity, and water levels are so low that we often can't even use the lake in late summer!
I have heard that the water levels impact boat usage but dont know if this is true
Please do all you can to reduce runoff into the streams and lakes. This will help control flooding and help to keep the water bodies clean.

9. If you had a question or concern about the water bodies in your community, who would you contact? - Open-Ended Response

Narrative responses - who would you contact
?
??
AMLAC
amlac officials, city officials
AMLAC or Basset Creek Watershed committee
AMLAC or DNR
amlac or the City Council
amlac or the parks director
AMLAC representative
Basset Creek Watershed
BCWMC
BCWMC website first
Bruce Larson
City
City Council
City Council member, public works department, BCWMC rep
City Hall or internet
city of crystal
City of Golden Valley
city of Golden Valley or associated watershed group
City of Golden Valley Public Works Dept.
city of medicien lake and AMLAC
City of Medicine Lake or AMLAC
City of Plymouth
city of plymouth, BCWMC, hennipen county
City official
city staff
City staff like Jeff Oliver and Jeannine Clancy
contact our mayor to find out who to call
Current Dam Structure Lowers Lake Level
Derek Asche - City of Plymouth
Derek Ashe
DNR
don't know
Don't know. That is the problem!
Gary holster
GV city council.
Hennepin County Board member
Hennipen Co or DNR
I do not know.. one thing to contact another is to get results
I don't know.
I would search on line "water quality, Bassett Creek" and go from there.
I'm not sure--probably the watershed district or I would search the Plymouth Gov website.
I'm on the AMLAC board,sol'd bring up my concerns to them.
Linda Loomis
LMCD, the City?
Local officials and BCWMC
Mayor
Mayor of New Hope
medicine lake assn
Medicine Lake City Council
Medicine Lake City Council and AMLAC
medicine Lake mayor
Medicine Lake's BCWMC rep

Narrative responses - who would you contact
minneapolis park board
Minneapolis Parks and Recreation
Minneapolis Water Resources
Mpls park board
My Neighbor, who is on the BC watershed committee
My neighborhood association
my public works director and Bassett Creek WMD representatives
neighborhood association
Not really sure. Google.com I suppose.
Not sure
Our Bassett Creek representative (Ted Hoshal)
Our BCWMC rep, Hoshal
Our Major
Our Mayor or Amlac representative
our mayor, city concil members or basset creek rep.
Public Works
Someone on the city council
Start with AMLAC or Ted Hoshal
Ted Hoschal - Basset Creek Watershed Commisioner
Ted Hoschel
Ted Hoshal
Ted Hoshal-
The City or the watershed.
The conditions at Bassett Creek Park have been discussed recently, and we weren't sure who to contact.
The local municipality (who BTW are ignorant of which watershed their constituents belong to...)
The Mayor of Medicine Lake or one of the fine City Council members..!
the town of Plymouth
watershed district
Why bother BCWC does not care about the low lake level - so start to care
(blank)
ted hosel
city of medicine lake
you or Lake Minnetonka watershed
I would look on the city website and find someone in charge of natural resources
I'd have to know more about the specific problem to answer.
City Engineer
park or street department
member of bassett Cr watershed commission
Gary Hoelter
Local government or DNR
I wouldn't know. I would guess the City of Plymouth?
City of New Hope
usually the city council gets the first call
AMLAC; maintaining water levels is not an option on # 7; clearly an indication no one is listening to concerns!
Watershed district?
unknown
I have called the Watershed Mgmnt
Don't know.
Jenny black
The city officials
Michael Welch for Bassett Creek, MPLS parks otherwise
City of Plymouth, AMLAC, DNR
Watershed, MPRB, city.
start with a call to the city
Medicine Lake council and Bassett Creek Watershed
I'd probably search internet (for answer/contact)
Algae--algae---algae---algae--algae

Narrative responses - who would you contact
Bassett Creek or Medicine Lake Association (they would direct me to Bassett Creek)
bob white
Friends of Northwood, Mayor Hemken, Council member Elder and Guy Johnson
depends on issue. Often a friend who is more knowledgable.
Lake association
AMLAC, BCWSD
this comission, New Hope city manager, John Elder,
I have no idea
Good question - who should I contact?

10. How do you learn about water projects going on in your community? - Open-Ended Response

Narrative responses - how do you learn
?
active look-up on websites
AMLAC
AMLAC and city of medicine lake
AMLAC and Medicine Laker
amlac and plymouth mailer
AMLAC and the cities of Medicine Lake and Plymouth
AMLAC newsletter
AMLAC newsletter and Medicine Lake newspaper
AMLAC Newsletter and Web site
BCWMC
Bryn Mawr Bugle and Southwest Journal
city
City Council
City Council Meetings
City news
City News Letter
City News letter, AMLAC
City newsletter
City newsletter and AMLAC newsletter
city newsletter and public papers
City newsletter.
City of Golden Valley newsletter
city of golden valley, sweeney lake association
city of plymouth, BCWMC, hennipen county newsletters
City Representative
City web site
City, AMLAC
Communication from AMLAC and City of Medicine Lake
Community leaders, local newsletter
community news letter
DNR
don't recall
email / newsletters, council meetings
EPC
Former BCWC commissioner
From active citizens more informed than me
from Derek (I am a Plymouth EQC member) and from the city of Plymouth newsletter
from my mom reading the sun post online. i would gladly subscribe to an e-newsletter
Golden Valley Parks & Rec, our sailing club, minneapolis brochures.
GV city council minutes sent to me via e-mail sign-up
GV Community newsletter
Harrison Neighborhood Assoc, Mpls Park and Rec
Harrison Neighborhood meetings.
HNA
i don't - i have to seek them out - i don't think there are any
I don't - there's not much gong on in this area. I participated in some open houses relating to a study for daylighting the creek east of Cedar Lake Rd, but there hasn't been much else.
I don't ;)
I rarely know about them.
In the Pipeline of the Sun Post Newspaper this website
internet
Internet and mailings
Local newspapers and newsletters
Medicine Lake "The Laker" and "City News" emails sent out by mayor

Narrative responses - how do you learn
medicine lake assn or city of Plymouth
Medicine Lake City Council
Medicine Lake City Newsletter
Medicine lake news, amalac
Medicine Lake newsletter
Medicine Lake village notices, and other notices by mail regarding the water bodies in my area
Medicine Laker
Medicine laker and amlac newsletters and meetings
My neighborhood association
Neighbor
Neighborhood Assoc.
neighborhood monthly newsletter:The Medicine Laker and the Sun Sailor
neighborhood newsletter or online research prior to swimming
Neighborhood newspaper - Bryn Mawr Bugle
news
News letter
No
not sure how to learn about water projects, could be different sources, city websites and watershed
Not sure, can I be put on an emailing list?
Our City keeps us informed
Paper and online
park board
Planning Commission
Plymouth newspaper and Ted
Plymouth Sun and Medicine laker
postcard in the mail
Southwest Journal, BMNA Newsletter The Bugle, news reports.
talk to Nathan Campeau at Barr
Ted hosahl
The City of Medicine has a monthly news letter and E-News
The City of Medicine Lake has 2 forms; 1 the Laker, 2 City News "e-mailed" as needed
the laker
There aren't many so primarioly town newspaper.
Thinking of joining our local, Medicine Lake Association
through AMLAC (since most water projects are through City of Plymouth)
usually see them when on my bike or walking
Usually through communication from GV city hall, or Post newspaper
Via Medicine Laker and our city officials.
web
what water projects?
word of mouth If I'm lucky.
word of mouth.
(blank)
Aflac / newspaper
newspaper
Golden Valley newsletter
Crystal Newsletter
"The Crystal Connection" publication
Local newsletter.
don't know
monthly newsletter
City of Med Lk Monthly Newsletter
News paper
Through the AMFLAC newsletter, neighbors, and meetings over the years
City of New Hope
City website

Narrative responses - how do you learn
Haven't much. Do read Bryn Mawr Bugle; SW Journal, Strib. Feel like Minnehaha and other watersheds get more coverage.
Plymouth city newsletter
Not much information is available to the public about water projects.
Next door Bryn Mawr/ Bryn Mawr Bugle
email
thru the lake association emails
City of Medicine Lake
I'd probably search internet (for answer/contact) or ask Bob White who to contact
Northwood Lake Assoication
unsure
Email from Northwood Lake Assoc generally
Through our Friends of Northwood Lake association.
friends of northwood lake
not sure, erratic
Lake Association and City of Plymouth
Our Friends of Northwood Association and the city Pipeline Newsletter
Activities such as the walkabout
I heard about this website as I was hiking near Medicine lake and AMLAC was having an event
Mas
From Joe Harty for Medicine Lake or from City of Bloomington
Usually just by word of mouth.

12. How would you like to receive information about water projects going on in your community? - Open-Ended Response

Narrative responses - how you would like to receive information
AMLAC and Medicine Laker
AMLAC Newsletter
Both email and printed literature.
by mail
By regulare mail.
City News Letter
City newsletter and emails from BCWMD
City newsletter or emails
Could Golden Valley include this information with the water/sewer bills? Since they are mailed and many people prefer printed material, it could be included with no additional mailing costs or impact.
Direction to this website or by emails. New Hope's website
e mail
E mail alerts
e mails
electronic newsletter
emai or link to
Email
E-mail
e-mail City E-News
email i would like to host something for our neighborhood
email and local paper. we have a golden valley news.
Email and the "Medicene Laker", our city's newsletter
email and/or online news
e-mail blast
Email or electronic newsletters such as the Golden Valley Common Place and community newsletters (print).
Email or newletters.
email or newsletter
Email or on line
E-mail or print media
Email would be great!
email, social media
Email.
E-mail.
emails
emails and through direct mail.
emails or website
Emails would be welcome!
Emails, articles in the local paper, or easier access on the website.
How about forgetting about flood plain stuff and take careful wildlife habitats??????
I like E-newletters or home mailings.
I would like to have more connectivity and more specific GIS, or addressing to various concentrations of hot spots, or sources from commercial business of the state county and city. The smart spreading concepts need to be explained better.
I'd like toknow what's going on in Plymouth and in Bassett Creek via email
It's probably easy to get information but sometimes hard to get simple, usable info that we can act on without making a huge commitment. I'm not sure what the remedy is for that--there's a watershed learning curve that's hard to deny.....
mail or email
Medicine Laker
More in the paper
mostly online. postcard is nice on occasion
neighborhood association newsletters, email
Neighborhood newapaper
neighborhood newsletter

Narrative responses - how you would like to receive information
Newsletter
newsletter or email
Newsletters or mailings
on line
One or two simple fliers that clearly tell me how to get online information or updates specifically targeted to my concerns.
our city newspaper, emails
Plymouth newspaer
Post plans in plain English, publish where plans can be found on-line.
postal mailings or email
Postings to the neighborhood list-serve, facebook page, and HNA home page.
regular mail
see #10
Some Email and the well done and informative Golden Valley city newsletteer
Summarized.
The newsletter is excellent; a specific web page on the city web site would be good.
through city council and bassett creek water shed reps
through HNA
Through neighborhood newspapers or neighborhood emails.
U. S. Mail
via the Laker
Website
What water projects are going on?
yes
Yes. Especially how the water level at Bassett Creek Dam can be managed to maintain flow for Bassett Creek and to keep water movement and the lake level up in Medicine Lake.
(blank)
In medicine laker
City
newspaper
Printed info, suggestions of ways to get involved, additional information available online
Newsletter.
Continue publishing in "The Crystal Connection" and on the city web pages. News items in the Sun-Post newspaper.
Create an email list and send our updates to that list
golden valley city website
City newsletter
Vis standard mail or email would be fine
I would like to continue to receive information about water projects through the "In the Pipeline" City of New Hope community newsletter.
e-mails and articles in the Plyouth paper would be sufficient.
email or mail
Medicine Laker is sufficient for me.
as done now...newsletter
Bryn Mawr Bugle. Email
Plymouth city newsletter
emails, local news papers
same way but more info
Plymouth newsletter should have more information on improving water quality and reducing invasive species/prevention.
Email; self-initiated web research
Word of mouth from lake assocation or e-mail.
E-mail is find , what ever is least cost savings to spend on improvements
Through association meetings or direct mailings.
City Web page
Via web sites and email directing me to them.

Narrative responses - how you would like to receive information
Some good handouts for our Association members. More continuing information in city publishing venues.
In city brochure/newsletters or by email
Please take REAL MEASURES to stop syphoning water out of Medicine Lake! We also need to be more vigilant about milfoil and other invasive species. The future of our lake is at stake.
Bohannon neighborhood news
In City monthly bulletin (with water bill) and city newsletter (quarterly?)
email ---
Maybe by being on an email updating list.

13. Considering the water bodies in your community, what are your major concerns or issues that should be addressed? - Open-Ended Response

Narrative responses - major concerns or issues to be addressed
1. shoreline and trail repair on the west side of Bassett Creek between Glenwood and Penn 2.buckthorn removal in the woods, west side of Bassett Creek between Glenwood and Chestnut
1. Weed control 2. Water clarity
Access to Bassett Creek south of Glenwood though the park.
AIS is my major concern--both plants and animals. Medicine Lake is a very vulnerable lake. It took just two years for Eurasian water milfoil to make its way into Medicine Lake after it was found in Lake Minnetonka. Zebra mussels are now in Lake Minnetonka. We need aggressive action by the cities of Plymouth and Medicine Lake and BCWC and the state to keep zebra mussels from contaminating this lake. I also see what has happened at White Bear Lake could happen in medicine Lake. Lake level must be addressed.
algae
Algae in Medicine Lake Garbage in and on the banks of the Mississippi River
Aquatic weeds
As specified above: 1. Prevent the water level on Medicine Lake from declining too low--figure out a way to modify the dam at the outlet to Bassett Creek using a "V" shape or some other method to variably control how fast water levels decline. 2. Reduce the aquatic invasive species, and do more to prevent and invasion of zebra mussels or other invasive species. 3. Continue to improve water quality through detention ponds and evaluating dredging out some of the silt that has built up around inlets.
Basset Creek- shoreline and water level
Bassett Creek (and Bassett Creek Park) is behind the houses across the street from me (on Vincent Av, south of Glenwood Av). We all love the trails along the shore and through the woods. But the woods are currently overgrown with buckthorn, and the shoreline has eroded (especially across the creek from the old grain mill). These conditions make walking on the trails hazardous. We would love to have this remedied.
Clarity and flooding
clarity, weed control
Concern for the light rail being planned for construction through the wetlands off Bassett Creek and Sochacki Park / Mary Hills.
Consistiant lake water levels in Medicine lake. The number of boat allowed on Medicine lake through French Park. The aggrement with Hennipen Parks is a joke... They keep expanding the boat access program.
Contamination Rice Lake Algae
contamination and erosion of bassett creek
control invasive plants improve water levels improve water clarity
covered already - protect Medicine lake water quality and importantly water levels!
Current prevention and interception methods for AIS are not working well enough. I am also concerned about the potentially deadly amoeba, Naegleria fowleri.
Currently the bridge is too low and by the end of July, beginning of August we cannot enjoy the water or boats. The water level gets so low that the boats hit the bottom and make it hard to even get out and enjoy the lake that we pay a small fortune to live at. The fishing has really gone down hill also. Seems as though the fish size and quanity have decreased. Something is very wrong.
Density of homes and streets will continue to add problems. We need to keep watch. City streets are very well engineered so they craack little and stand up well. Thanks to Jeff Oliver's good designs
dredge the artificial reserviors to capture runoff from roads.... they are key as buffers to the greater natural bodies
erosion control and road runoff
fixing the dam! We need to address the ability to regulate the water level. Medicine Lake is the second largest body of water in Hennepin County but we do not get any attention as such. The boat traffic has increased over the years and is almost to a stand still later in the summer because the water level drops. Lake residents cannot even get their boats off the lake at times!
garbage, pollution, continued attentive care of the water bodies.
I am concerned that the urban wetland areas in the vicinity of Bassett Creek will be developed for a light rail project.
I am concerned with the changes to the wetlands and impacts to Bassett Creek from the proposed Bottineau Light Rail line.
I do not have enough information to select the major concerns. E.g. previous question asked, What do I think would make the most impact. I was unable to select two top items.
I guess maintaining current water quality or improving it if there are issues.

Narrative responses - major concerns or issues to be addressed
I know street run off is being addressed. I would like to see more public education and recommendations for landowners on/near the water.
I would like to see the lake level stabilized at a higher leve. I would like to see a clearer lake
Increasing / maintaining the water level of Medicine Lake and potentially reducing invasive plant infestations.
ineffective and inequitable programs despite multiple agencies and high taxation
Install a rough fish barrier on the Bassett Crteek dam. Control the cintaminants entering medicine Lake.
Invasive algaes and clarity of water
Invasive plant life
invasive species
Invasive water plants
Keep out invasive species, limit boat traffic on busy days, keep water clean enough for swimming without getting rashes, lifeguards on public beaches
keeping lake free of contaminants and invasive weeds
Lake levels to low and lack of concern by city political leaders of Plymouth and Medicine Lake. As long as it is wet they are happy.
Level and clarity of Medicine Lake needs to be addressed
Look at ways to treat storm water run off before it enters the waterbodies. Not as concerned about the volume of water as long as it is treated to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the waterbodies.
Low water levels on Medicine Lake must be addressed. Invasive weeds hinder lake use.
Low water levels, invasive plants.
Maintain or increase water levels
Major concerns at present include low water level and invasive species.
Major emphasis must be directed towards the Light Rail D1 line running thru GV and Theo Wirth Prk. This is not a benefit to GV and will have a major impact on the environment, mainly the wetlands and Bassett Creek.
Managing the water level at Bassett Creek Dam and protecting against Zebra Muscles.
Medicine Lake gets too low every year. We should damn the flow out so the water stays. I would love to see the whole lake increase at least a foot if we can do it with no damage to homes.
Medicine Lake gets too low for reasonable usage in the summer. we need to raise the dam and preserve the water at a higher level. it affects homeowners and anyone who wants to launch a boat on the lake
Medicine lake low water level
Medicine Lake needs an adjustable dam on the outflow that passes under the bridge on South Shore Drive. We need to be able to maintain a consistent lake level during dry and wet years.
Medicine Lake water level consistency. Keeping Zebra mussels out of the lake. Minimizing sediment entry and stabilizing lakeshore.
Medicine Lake water quality, invasives like Zebra Mussels, water level.
Need filtering ponds for run-off, buffer zones,
Pesticide runoffs from lawns into our local watersheds.
Plants in Medicine Lake - invasive species eliminate usefulness of a large portion of the lake.
Pollution and litter.
pollution and runoff.
Pollution/runoff/contaminants entering the water
Preventing invasive species and maintaining good water quality
preventing zebra mussels. Raising the dam on the south side of the lake to maintain water levels slightly higher.
Raise the level of the Bassett creek damn so the water level remains higher in the fall and late summer.
Raise water level of Medicine Lake - reinvent the dam to keep more water in the lake Low water level limits lake use - can't get boats in or out Harvest/Spray milfoil Bay areas too shallow due to sediment/muck
removal of bordering buckthorn and pet waste
run off into storm drains - people don't realize they need to even get leaves out of gutters
Runoff from yards and streets and contaniments it contains.
Sedimentation and overgrowth of aquatic plants
See answers provided previously - Too many people seem to plant grass right up to the edge of water bodies.
Shoreline restoration, water cleanliness and safety at swimming beaches (no sickness for swimmers), keeping contaminants out of the water, and careful plans for run-off, flooding, and managing waste water.
stop erosion of creek. look at ponds to see if they can be helped. I see where water area in theodore wirth park has islands that were not there 15 years ago. It must get the soil erosion from bassett creek upstream.
The control of water levels and weed prevention and clean up
The Current dam structure does not allow control of lake level during low lake cycles.

Narrative responses - major concerns or issues to be addressed
The environmental impact of the Theo Wirth Light Rail D1 project that I do not want in the wet lands and near bassett creek.
The lake level. The level is dangerously low in mid to late summer. Should a major emergency event occur on the lake, with low water levels, Plymouth & Medicine Lake Fire along with Hennepin County Water Patrol would and do have major time consuming issues launching. Many lake residents have major issues launching from lifts in low water.
The proposed Bottineau Transitway light rail poses a tremendous threat to beautiful Bassett Creek & Rice Lake. The addition of 2 rail lines into a wildlife area will have consequences that will reduce wildlife, effect the wetlands and detract from the community. I am most concerned about the run off issues of debris during the construction phase and then the likely water runoff from such a large surface area once the tracks are built. The pristine nature ares of Mary Hills and Sochacki Parks with Bassett Creek as its center piece will no longer provide our community with a valuable natural environment.
The spread of invasive species and the reduced water levels.
Those identified in this survey.
Trash in the creek
Water Clarity and Invasive Species. So many issues on the previous list must be addressed to improve water clarity, it will be an effect of addressing other issues.
Water level stability in Medicine Lake
Water level, and invasive species.
Water Quality
Water quality and lake level in Medicine Lake.
Water quality of Medicine Lake, including clarity, invasive species, and consistent water levels
Water quality, building water cells and ponds to allow filtering of the runoff before it enters lakes.
Water quality, lake level of Medicne Lake/Bassett Creek dam
WEEDS in the lake!
Wildlife and natural areas are my primary concerns, as well as the beauty of the lake and surrounding wetlands, creeks etc.Too often attempts to make the human population comfortable are detrimental to the wildlife and their habitat.
Wildlife habitats
Winter runoff and recreation. We need to significantly reduce the use of salt on the roads/sidewalks in winter. We need to cleanup recreation on the lake through education and potential additional regulation. For example not allowing cars to drive on the lake. Cars allow too easy of access to the lake which results in more trash being brought out and left on the lake and salt dropping from cars directly onto the lake. Regulations need to be made with education to go along with it. One small example: Medicine Lake considered using less salt on the roads in 2013 but then decided to go back to using more salt because "someone complained." The risk of not using salt on a 20mph roadway is not great at all. The cost of using salt so near the lake is great.
With all the use the lakes get can we keep them clean and flowing?
You always have plans up you sleeve as to where you want to be and I do not like the financial budget proposed. Too much of this spreading and visioning is not healthy. We need to preserve trees, but somehow this did not happen on the corner of Theo Wirth and Glenwood.
Zebra Mussels
Zebra mussels prevention. Do everything that is possible to keep them out of Medicine and other lakes.
(blank)
Too many weeds. And water clarity. And keep lake lever a bit higher.
Lake needs to be dredged.
Clarity Invsive plants. Water levels
Pollution, in the form of run off and trash near the water. I believe that promoting plant, fish, and animal life is also important but it makes more sense to make sure the water is clean first.
Poor citizen behavior
Pollution runoff. Water capture and retention in private and public landscaping design.
Medicine Lake is too shallow. The lake level doesn't stay at a "healthy" level long enough. I am concerned we are not keeping the depth managed properly and it impacts the usability of the lake. This is further enhanced by a concern that sediment is filling in and we should dredge the lake.
I live across from Lion's Park and watch the baseball field dirt run off into the storm sewer.
increase holding capacity of pond bordering Canadian Pacific RR tracks and 36 th ave no runoff from RR tracks enters pond with considerable sediment
Limit the amount of water being let out of Medicine Lake. In other words, rise the outlet dam.

Narrative responses - major concerns or issues to be addressed
Stormwater runoff
Water quality in Medicine lake. it is the largest lake in the 494/694 loop and used by hundreds of people each day. the water quality is poor. The level of the lake is also kept low, especially in August, which leads to the clarity and temp issues affecting the algae blooms.
My biggest concern with Medicine Lake would be the water level. It is often low to very low.
Lead levels in drinking water
I think protecting the lakes from invasive plants and animals(mussels) along with increasing the water levels in the lakes through the summer months to reduce danger for swimming and boating.
• Zebra Mussel invasion • Water level on Medicine Lake is too low during most of the summer. Once the water stops running the lake drops quickly • There's a bridge right by the dam on Medicine Lake, along South Shore Drive... just to the south of the bridge, there was a pile of rocks dumped over some insulation panels (I believe to help protect some underground piping) This has created a pond area under the bridge and up to the dam. Once the water stops running over the dam, hundreds of fish are trapped and die in this area. Last year it was the most awful smell – someone did come clean it up, but I'm assuming the problem will reoccur. Also, some of the insulation panels are uncovered now.
Maintaining water levels by raising the dam!
Water quality and Prevention of Ice fishermen leaving garbage on the lake.
Reduce the runoff from the Highway department on Duluth St. Discuss the clearing of trees and brush from the watershed area with homeowners
Pollution control access and shoreline retention
Improved water quality in order to improve fishery --- big outlet for low income families here. Reimagine old Glenwood plant site.
water quality and garbage in our lakes when we get major rain.
Zebra mussels are not yet in Medicine Lake. However, Plymouth has left the West Medicine Lake Park gate open for uncontrolled/monitored access for more than 4 weeks, 24/7. This is totally unnecessary and poses a severe risk of introducing zebra mussels into the lake. The French Park boat ramp is monitored by the DNR; the WML access is not monitored at all, and fishing boats have been using that ramp for over a month without inspection. Also, boat trailers are parked in the lot day & night.
Mitigation of the impacts of various land use, especially runoff from hard surface, and aquatic invasive species.
storm drain run-off from yards and driveways
Absolutely need to keep more water in Medicine Lake especially in the fall to ensure a longer season of enjoying water activities and prevent damage to watercraft being put away for the winter. Last year was HORRIBLE
Alage. - Property Values - Note the bigger the value the more taxes to pay to help the community.
On our lake, Medicine Lake, the water levels seem to get too low too soon resulting in difficulty for everyone. I would like to see the "Dam", or lack thereof, addressed
Water clarity, odor, amount of aquatic plants
If the current condition of the lake continues, we will be able to walk across it. The lake should be dredged again, as it was many years ago. In the alternative, the lake should be temporarily drained so that the invasive weeds and algae die.
Geese, polution
Water level of Medicine Lake.
Water levels in Medicine Lake. Keeping Zebra Mussels out of all lakes they haven't already infected.
It would be benificial to the Medicine Lake community to have and controlled outlet weir to keep more water in medicine lake late in the season and during dryer times.
elevate dam on Medicine lake to elevate water level to increase use of shallow areas
The amount of pollutants coming from Plymouth into Northwood Lake. Water quality. The amount of sand coming from new Hope city streets. Northwood is a shallow lake as it was a man-made widening of Bassett's Creek- so the sand build-up makes using a canoe very difficult.
Water stability levels apparently need addressing to prevent low levels during high heat or at the end of summer.
1. be more aggressive about getting on top of the milfoil (and other invasive weeds) problem. I think we have been too complacent. 2. STOP the syphoning off of water from Medicine Lake. There is NO good reason this is being done, and it's hurting the lake ecosystem, and rendering the lake unusable when levels get too low.
LOW Water level of Medicine Lake
Businesses need to consider and implement better alternatives to lawn, especially those areas adjacent to drainage sites/ponds. I see a large amounts of lawn that have no use around businesses. I see parking lot drainage sites/ponds, some with VERY steep banks, being mowed to the water's edge (SE corner of Winnetka & 36th).

Narrative responses - major concerns or issues to be addressed
Water level of Medicine Lake
I am concerned mainly about the water quality and maintaining a good natural habitat for native aquatic biota.

14. What actions should be taken to address your issues and who should take those actions? - Open-Ended Response

Narrative response - what actions should be take and who
A dam at the place where the creek exits the lake that can be adjusted to manage lake levels Heightened efforts to educate shoreline owners
Adjacent landowners should know what to do, and the city should use practices (like salt alternatives) that will improve water quality.
All efforts should be put in place to stop the construction of the Bottineau Light railway through wetlands and park land. Community members have voiced concerns at public meetings. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management commission should step in and protect our water. Our community needs your help to stop consideration of the D1 line. Please help us - we need larger, bigger voices to protect nature areas.
all who want to protect the beauty of Bassett creek .
Although the residents have long lobbied for further consideration of increasing the water level (modification of the damn structure), this repeatedly seems to fall on deaf ears. This really should be remedied.
Amend the dam structure to allow for water retention during low rain fall.
at least acknowledgement that increased work is needed.
Bassett Creek should partner with the other governing bodies to do an actual study of the dam height and whether putting in either an adjustable dam or an higher dam cut out would cause any increase in the flood plain. The important recreational value of Medicine Lake is not being properly served because of the absolute lack of real knolwedge on this subject.
BCWMC for water level consistency. Three Rivers for Zebra mussel monitoring at boat landing and heavy education component on part of cities. Cities should continue to work on sediment infiltration. Incentives to naturalize shoreline and add rain gardens along roadways might really help.
BCWMC needs to have representation at the upcoming charette being held jointly by the Mpls Park Board and the County to make sure that their interests are considered with station area planning.
BCWMC should take the proactive lead in resolving the dam elevation. Agency stakeholders must cooperate in resolving weed related management.
Better legislation and enforcement of AIS laws is needed. Also, more research is needed for detection, control, and eradication of AIS and Naegleria fowleri. All agencies currently involved should take more action (MN DNR, lawmakers, CDC, etc.).
Buckthorn removal and shoreline repair. Ideally, this would be done by professionals.
cities should take initiative
City of Plymouth and Medicine Lake. They have the most to lose. Plymouth now allows a sail club a French Park eventhough when this agreement was proposed "no boat docks power or sailing was to exist...
City, via public information, should encourge and teach homeowners how to install and maintain rain gardens. The city, itself, should construct rain garrdens on city property where applicable. An organization, such as Metro Blooms, should be brought in to help lead the program. Homeowners should receive credits or sometype of financial incentive to construct rain gardens such as , I believe, Lake Minnetonka Watershed District. .
Collaboration - lake association, watershed, cities, three rivers parks, county, state A natural resource is for everyone - everyone must work together to protect it.
Community/city should work together
consider changing the Basset Creek Dam level to retain more water in lake
Consider options for managing the water level at the Bassett Creek Dam the same as they do with on Lake Minnetonka with Minnehaha Creek. Consider options for inspecting incoming boats at French Park.
Control at access points.
control the loss of water through the dam on Medicine lake
coordinated invasive plant control- chemical or machine. It is so bad our jet ski stalls because the intake gets clogged. Water levels get so so I can not even get my boat off the lift- raise the dam height
Do not know.
Don't know enough
don't know who should take the actions?????
Dredging and contol of weed frowth
Dredging and plant control (whatever the most effective research-based methods currently are) including weed harvesting. Joint cost sharing with government and householders to accomplish this.
Encourage plantings other than grass along shorelines. The City or watershed district should try to educate adjacent land owners and/or try to provide incentives.

Narrative response - what actions should be take and who
French Park should monitor the boats going on as it is the only public launch and the source by which Medicine Lake is being infected.
Have a representative attend meting on LRT with informationon how it will impact the wetlands and Bassett Creek.
Have one (1) government agency be the lead agency for lake issues.
Hennin Co. Park board, City of Plymouth park and Rec, Henn Co sheriff water patrol
I believe the Bassett Creek watershed commission should address the water level, and the other issues should be addressed jointly by the commission in conjunction with the cities of Plymouth and Medicine Lake, with the guidance of AMLAC as I think that organization has a very good understanding of Medicine Lake.
I don't know,
i don't know. education, volunteer efforts, rezoning all come to mind.
I envision that there will be large nordic skiing events around the area, and there will be not enough parking of having tents up for prolonged periods,etc. and other structures and such conditions that go with density fluctuations in events. You need to plan to use the premanent structures and be forward looking with insider info about big events so that everybody can help adapt the landscape better. You need to build a ski/pedestrian bridge around the par 3 golf coarse like the one near the clubhouse. I used to ski when it was free, so I think that the park board should make an exception to poor people without the disposable income.
I have been a vocal opponent of the proposed route of the Bottineau Transitway and encourage all organizations with an interest in protecting the watershed to be vocal as well.
I think the BCWMC is doing good work.
I will leave that decision to the professionals.
I would like to see a comprehensive weed control plan in place not just for Medicine Lake but for all the recreational lakes in the metropolitan area. I would like educational programs to explain to people the importance of rain gardens, rough strips of lawn between the fertilized yard and the lake shore and picking up dog feces around their yards and streets. All of those can impact lake quality. I would like our elected officials to show they care about preserving this wonderful water heritage we have in Minnesota for our children and grandchildren.
Keep the information at the fore front. If everybody knows they can help in their own small ways.
lawn fertilizer restrictions on lake shore and remove the invasive weeds and/or species
local Cities that border the water bodies, County and State
Make it illegal to use certain chemicals on lawns. If you can't eat it, it shouldn't go on the lawn. Have checks to see if people have dog poop bags - many people don't and shouldn't be allowed to use shared spaces if they won't keep it clean for all.
monitors at boat launch. Raise dam level
More and better organized funding to cover treatment for curly leaf and milfoil. Full time monitors for French Park Launch and supervised special needs launching at West Beach in the spring and fall. Install a water flow system at Bassett Creek outlet.
more education - in neighborhoods and communities - at the city level -i can't even get a curb cut easily for a rain garden. i want more promotion of rain gardens - would love to put one in - can't afford it
More education. Not sure how to get residents' attention. ' Since the watershed spans many communities, it makes sense to have a unifying body, but info from a watershed district is not exactly on the best seller's list. We don't have a terribly active neighborhood association, but we like each other. Maybe if a few neighbors hosted a picnic with a guest who could give short talk on what I do individual homeowners could do and what group projects might be undertaken to help our neighborhood and other popular locations - like neighboring parks. What about National Night Out? We have good turnout for this event.
More projects to capture and treat runoff--
Need to establish a group who is passionate about making a change to drive the tactics through.
Needs to happen at a local level with education on a one to one basis...
Not sure how to address this issue?
Permiting process, awards highlighting actions, create volunteer opportunities.
Prevention of AIS is key. The state, the commissions, and the cities MUST work together to put forward a comprehensive plan for taking care of the lakes and rivers in our state.

Narrative response - what actions should be take and who
Put in a controlable dam at the out flow of medicine lake. Have a 6" gate that closes when the water level is 2" from the bottom of the outflow mouth of the dam. If it crests the 6" level open the dam up totally. Keep the control gate open from Nov 1. to May 1 to prevent any flooding. The outflow was planked up to the top of the dam when plymouth/MET council did the sewer work under the creek and it DID NOT FLOOD ANYONE. I went and looked for flooding in the city of medicine lake and low area on the street by the north arm (mushroom house) and the water wasn't on the street! By mid summer we can't use our boatlifts because the water is too shallow, in times of drought why are we letting water out? I have lived on the lake for 40 plus years. Holding ponds are great and I understand why they were put in and they do help water quality but when they dry out it takes a lot of water to fill them and then flow into medicine lake. Since they have been installed the water level has been slowly dropping every year. Since the new dam was put in the lake level has not been the same. SEE WHAT IS GOING ON IN FRONT OF YOU. You want me to help with water quality issues, I do. I have volinteered my time cleaning up medicine lake long before any of you had anything to do with your organization. You are suppose to lead to change that helps our body of water so do that, put in an adjustable dam on medicine lake, it is an easy fix, other metro lakes with holding pond/water problems are doing the same. Thank you.
raise dam to keep more water in lake during late summer
Raise the dam or have a system that can be raised or lowered at different times of water depths as other lakes have,especially of our size.
raise the dam, or at least notch it to hold more water in the lake longer. City of Plymouth, DNR, Army Corp. of Engrs. Bassett Creek Watershed
Raise the outlet- like Lake Minnetonka
Raising the Basset Creek Dam that runs off of Medicine Lake. Not sure what the options are for invasive plants, harvesting possibly.
reduce amount of fertilizer and other contaminants entering the lake - homeowners control invasive species - ???
Regulation and education
Remove the trash - unknown - perhaps a public cleanup day
Requiemetns for boat inspections should be upgraded with significant fines for spreading invasive species or for attemptin to thwart boat inspections. The timeframes for launching boats should be compressed so that inspections for invasive species can be performed. Upgrade the Basset Creek dam to allow for controlled water runoff.
Restrict outflow of water via outlet dam. BCWMC seems to be the body charged with lake usability issues
Same answer as 13.
SIMPLE..... Change from fixed dam height to "Adjustable" adding one foot.
Someone must take this important issue to the Met Council, GV city council, parks and /rec, State and Federal agencies, such as the FTA, senators and congress people. Let's not pave paradise and invite more commercialization to this wonderful natural area.
Someone should take action! All the rules and sciene are obviously not working. Last year and the year before we were trying to save all the fish that got caught in a death trap at the bridge!! It was not only painful to watch them all die, but the smell was awful!
start a dredging program around important bodies 1 every year... residents could help to fund this if made to care
State and local agencies that have the knowledge to know what is effective. Communicate to home owners and businesses a set of recommendations regarding what they can do individually.
state legislation that would eliminate all current governance and establish a modern unified regulatory system with high accountability, minimal administrative expenditures, and optimal delivery of needed water quality improvement programs.
Stop the flood control and look at the wildlife!,,,,,,,,,,,
storm water management reduce road salt poisoning of water bodies
The appropriate taxpayer funded organization should reduce the amount of water released from the lake, especially early in the season, to maintain higher water levels through the summer.
the City drains road runoff into the creek it should all go into detention ponds
The dam should be constructed and paid for by some mix of Plymouth, Medicine Lake, Hennepin County, and the state of Minnesota.
the dam should be raised by a reasonable amount. even 6 inches would make a major difference whoever has authority, probably the DNR or state of Mn
The light rail should be directed through areas which would be best served and where the population is high. The Broadway route was much better suited and would have less environmental and waterway impact.

Narrative response - what actions should be take and who
There should be a bigger push to get neighborhoods (as groups) to invest in shoreline and prairie restoration closer to their homes. The state government and local watersheds/cities should create strong laws and ordinances to protect our natural resources from harmful run-off and pollution.
Those on the list in this survey.
Treatment prior to discharge. Should be a colaborative effort between the City and the Watershed District because both agencies collect funds for this work.
Use of porous pavements. Regulated by the city
we all need to participate through tax dollars to fix these issues
We must all work to guard against invasive species. It only takes 1 careless person. Water clarity must be a community wide effort, I would like to see more regulation of fertilizers and runoff from lawns and farms.
Whoever controls the damn on Basset Creek at the lake outlet needs to consider raising the level so as to level off the fluctuations in lake levels...
Wildlife and natural areas should be a top priority of local gov'ts. I do not approve of slaughtering geese, killing or trapping, or laws restricting the feeding of wildlife. Dead trees should be kept as long as possible to provide cavity nesting areas.
(blank)
Raise dam by 2 or 3 inches.
People need to take more responsibility. I'm not sure how to do that. Maybe a campaign that shows people how much of an effect their actions have?
Apply for public/private funds for a free rain barrel program and rain garden education.
I think we are letting too much water out of the lake at the dam. I also feel that we need to start a multi-year process of dredging the lake to stay ahead of this issue.
there should be some retaining ponds built by the ball fields.
install rip-rap from tracks to pond pond has not been dredged in 40 years build up of sediment has reduced ability of pond to act as a settling basin and flood control function watershed commission should look into this
Use bmp's to reduce/treat runoff
Raise the level of the lake to its spring levels all year.
I believe the dam at basset creek could/should be built up a bit to keep the water level in the lake higher for longer periods of time.
Continue to publish water safety results and how to mitigate excess lead levels. I appreciate the water maintenance organization publications that go out to New Hope residents.
I personally think the dam on Medicine Lake should be higher to let less water flow out of the lake during the summer. There have been deaths due to swimmers getting caught in weeds and numerous boat motors hitting rocks due to the low water levels.
• increase the height of the Medicine Lake Dam a few inches, or install a way to adjust the level of the dam. In my opinion it could be a few inches higher all the time, with the exception of a flood environment where it could be lowered to increase the release of water. In six years, I haven't seen the water ever be too high, but I'm sure it can happen. Unfortunately we seem to be maintaining a low level every year.
Raise the dam
Unknown, actually.
Send out a flyer to homwowners on the creek regarding how they should manage their watershed property. Ask the Highway Dept to put in a drainage pond of some sort.
Shoreline buildup algae removal pollution prevention
Watershed should work w/cities and local community newspapers to create a "from Plymouth to Minneapolis" awareness. Make the website and the focus of the Watershed district about what we love-- the great variety of birds found along the streams and lakes, the wildlife reliant on the watershed, a focus on increasing the fisheries.
Educate the residents of our community regarding water quality and the causes of poor water quality.
Close the gate for all boat launching; French Park can easily accommodate all boats. Use the gate only during ice fishing season.
BCWMC should adopt and implement a more robust set of regulatory controls, in conjunction with the cities in the watershed. The legislature should provide the Department of Natural Resources with the necessary funding to work with local governmental units to implement rigorous inspection and decontamination programs to prevent and manage the spread of invasive species.
freq public service articles addressing each household's responsibility
Have a controlled outlet weir

Narrative response - what actions should be take and who
Get staredt NOW do not wait for Federal monies The cities are always looking 5-10-20 years down the road. I say stop kicking these improvements into the future. We want better stuff than find a way to take this issue go away now by taxing everyone thats just not lake property owner thru property taxes.. Everyone enjoys the waterways,wetlands,parks and everyone contriubtes to the problems so look at the rainey day funds or general funds a than take action. Do wait, you can not please everyone ,but everyone enjoys the water bodies so make them pay for quailty. .
I would like to see a moveable "Weir" or gate where the present fixed level dam is so that the water could be kept in the lake for wildlife, recreation, etc... It gets very difficult to use the lake the way it was meant to be when the lake levels get too low and I beleive much of that water could be kept in the body of water once a moveable gate or weir is installed
Not a water body specialist, I have no idea. Licensed personnel who understand what they're doing and why, and how it impacts the rest of the community.
See above.
Cleanouts. Treatment. City or watershed
Water level should be raised a few inches to account for the lack of rain which we've had the past few summers. Without rain the lake becomes unusable.
Review on the dam weir. I'm not sure who's responsible - Army Corp of Engineers? DNR?
Put a adjustable weir on the medicine lake outflows
raise dam, BCWMC
I know money is always an issue- but keep working. (Especially for Watershed NB07.) We appreciate the commissions work.
Designate resources to organizations that can take on this work. I'm not sure which organizations would do this.
1. be more aggressive about getting on top of the milfoil (and other invasive weeds) problem. I think we have been too complacent. 2. STOP the syphoning off of water from Medicine Lake. There is NO good reason this is being done, and it's hurting the lake ecosystem, and rendering the lake unusable when levels get too low.
I think maybe BCWMC is the organization that should take action. I dont know how they would address the issues, Maybe they have engineers that could work on the issue?
Cities or whatever appropriate body needs to educate businesses on being good environmental citizens. Landscape/lawn care companies need to be part of the solution.
Dam inlet to raise the water level of the lake.
I am thinking a lot of rain gardens should be installed all over the watershed to help reduce runoff pollution and siltation of the creeks and lakes. Strong enforcement of permanent runoff control issues with new construction. And strong enforcement and monitoring of temporary runoff issues during construction projects
~ encourage lawn removal, which involves installing native plants ~ discourage use of lawn fertilizers while educating home owners on alternatives

15. Other comments about water resources - Open-Ended Response

Narrative responses - Other comments
.....
BCWMC has been unresponsive to constituent pressure to resolve the low water elevation issue resulting from an inappropriate dam design. It is embarassing when public agencies funded by taxes conduct public outreach in a manner such as Bassett Creek does business.
Clearing and building always go with development, but the kinds of development that are the worst are the hidden kind that suprises without warning and proper vetting. I missed the visioning exercise, and would like to read the minutes of what was indeed envisioned. The overflow parking and the archery area will not be preserved when the development demands start, and we need to understand the long range plan whether it is olympics or whatever sports commercial interests are at stake. Rebuilding a course for kyacks out of the creek is something that may be possible. All serious future plans need to be public.
Do something.
Educate, EDUCATE,! educate all
Elected/appointed officials that do not live on the water ways making decisions that effect owner of water ways and not them. I've lived on Medicine Lake since 1950's. Much has happen to the lake that should not have happened..! To many directives brought on by non lake residents have grossly affect the impact on/in in the lake. (Hwy 169 run off / French Park / Ryerson Steel and the industrial hard surface run off, Ice fishing and the trash they forget to take with them and so on)
Establish rules/guidelines about removing water from the lake - irrigation systems.
Has the BCWMC been involved in the plans to construct an LRT line through Wirth Park, immediately adjacent to Bassett Creek?
Here today.....hopefully..... not gone tomorrow.
I am against lake residents removing water from the lake to water their lawns. Water like the rest of the residents on odd even days. Ratchet down on irresponsible lawn mowing, intentionally sending their grass out into the street and then right into the storm sewer and then right into the lake.
I don't know if this directly affects us, but the car wash on Hwy 55 and West Medicine Lake Road uses artificial coloring in their wash and it can't be necessary. Also, maybe we could pressure them to be better stewards of water-using less and using non-toxic chemicals. I know there are other car washes that do it.
I have a wet basement, as do many of my neighbors, so every year, I worry about flooding.
I have been interested in diversifying the plant life along the shoreline of Rice Lake near my home. If the BCWMC were interested in such a project, I would happily donate or volunteer.
I know my comments are pretty specific to where I live, and less about water quality (which I know little about) than about enhancing enjoyment of using the trails and space alongside Bassett Creek. I apologize if this is not the right forum for these comments, but I think they are a piece of the overall picture. Thanks for considering,
I support the widest possible public recreational use of Medicine Lake. Given the shape and size of the lake, what are the practical limits to the number of canoes, kayaks,wind surfers, speed (tow) boats, fishing boats, sail boats, pontoons, that can enjoy the lake at any given time? Could the use load be better modulated?
I would like to help.
I would love to attend a rainbarrel workshop or a raingarden workshop.
In addition to MaryHills & Sochacki parks - the construction and disruption to Theodore Wirth Park also needs to be considered as a detriment to our nature areas. Bassett Creek will suffer greatly.
it is unfortunate that the Basset Creek Commission is not responsive to constituent input as a public authority.
Keep the control of BCWMC in local hands and don't merge it into a regional group
Love the new holding ponds at east and west beaches. Need further inforcement on Phospherous and lawn chemicals.
Love'm!
Maintain lake level higher, if possible and feasible.
MN Highway Department (DOT) should be involved, if they are not currently, to discuss the damage that highway 169 runoff does to lakes like Medicine Lake.
Much opportunity to utilize rainwater storage for residential watering.
People don't realize how important they are to our lives, but only when they are not safe or they can't use them do they. I'm not sure how to educate people.
Provide more access points along the creek for recreation.....Clear to allow navigation.
rain barrel education and promotion
Scary how much we "invest" in our lawns, only to have it run-off into our creeks and lakes.
Take a lesson from Lake Minnetonka!

Narrative responses - Other comments
thank you!
The water is getting so bad the kids do not even want to swim in the lake.
There wasn't any option on the question about results tht would be most beneficial on managing the level of the lake differently or I would have chosen it.
thhnaks for asking
Too many people move into watery areas and then try to destroy species they don't like, and make the land and water conform to their uses .People should be encouraged to adjust their properties , kids, pets, garbage disposal etc to the local land and wildlife, or move to more human-populated areas..
Water is what makes Minnesota a special place to live.
Water resources are one of the things that make our community and Minnesota special, and they are worth investing in, improving and protecting!
We have so very few water resources that they should be protected with vigilance. As a society we tend to treat our water resources as a never ending supply which I fear will end during our lifetime.
Would like to have bassett creek for recreational paddling. At the moment, I have never thought to try. Water seems too low.
(blank)
I understand concerns about flooding and down-stream impacts of different lake levels. No amount of research will properly validate things on either side. I suggest we make a temporary & cost-contained change to the dam for 2 years and then observe any impacts. We need to do something.
Raise the dam and control aquatic growth
Water level of Medicine Lake concerns me also.
I want to thank you for promoting this survey
Water has a mesmerizing quality about it. Everyone is drawn to it. Minnesota is known for its lakes and rivers and should be in the best condition possible for our use and enjoyment. Everyone should be able to canoe safely without getting caught in weeds or subjected to a foul smell.
Less sand down the drains.
Water ressources are important to our city and state lets take care of them to the best of our ability. Maybe if we took better care of our local lakes people wouldnt pollute the air so much driving to cleaner waters uo North.
I do not think we should consider dredging in-stream ponds in the creeks. Let the creek maintain a stable natural habitat for native plants, fish and other critters. Do much to keep silt out of the stream in the first place.

Bassett Creek Watershed Summit

June 13, 2013

Results of Prioritization Exercise

(+ Northwoods Lake Small Group Meeting Ranking June 18, 2013)

Rank (Tally of points)	Broader Topics Ranked	Examples of specific issues identified through public input process related to the topic X – indicates specific issue marked as high priority by Summit participant
#2 (42 pts)	Degraded Habitats & Lack of Biodiversity	Too many weeds
		Non-natural shorelines
		XX Aquatic invasive species
		Terrestrial invasive species
		Too many geese
		Lack of wildlife diversity
		Lack of buffers
		Fish consumption advisories
		Loss of thousands of ash trees in watershed
		X Sediment build-up
		XXX Streambank erosion
		Light rail impacts to Bassett Creek, wetlands and natural areas
		Abundance of cattails in ponds resulting in flooding problems
#6 (12 pts)	Lack of Education & Information	Lack of education and knowledge among residents about condition of water and how to improve water quality
		X Need better sources of information
		Disconnection of public from natural resources
		X Lack of volunteer opportunities
#5 (18 pts)	Recreation Needs	X Lack of public access
		Unmaintained public access sites
		No obstructions for kayaking/canoeing
		Too many weeds can be dangerous for swimming and boating
		Need to balance recreation with habitat
#4 (19 pts)	Degraded Water Quality	X Chemical pollutants in water
		Too much algae
		Too much phosphorus
		X Low water clarity
#3 (31 pts)	Effects of Stormwater Runoff and Development	Runoff from yards, streets, highways
		Lack of infiltration or diversion in lawns
		Salt use
		Runoff without filtration or treatment, more treatment needed
		X Concentrated areas of impervious surfaces
		X Chemicals and pollutants in runoff
		Runoff from older commercial/industrial areas
		Construction site erosion
		Effects of developments on waterbodies, wetlands, and water quality
		Leaks and spills from railroads
		Aging infrastructure
		Effects of dredging
		Stormwater ponds filling in, not enough storage to be effective

#7 (8 pts)	**Water Quantity, Water Levels, Flooding (aside from Medicine Lake)**	XXX Fluctuating water levels
		X Flooding
		Need more land acquisition for flood easements
#1 (87 pts)	**Medicine Lake Water Levels**	XXXXXX Low water levels on Medicine Lake
		Need to study effects of Medicine Lake's possible water level manipulation on floodplain, water quality, water temperatures, overall lake health
#9 (4 pts)	**Actions by Individuals**	Too much trash
		Too many motorboats, water skiing, jet skiing
		Too much pet waste
		Too much lawn irrigation using lake water
		Mowing to edge of water, not leaving buffer
		Lack of sense of responsibility
		X Need behavior change, change of habits by individuals and businesses
		Expectations that problems can be solved quickly with silver bullet
#8 (5 pts)	**Governance, Management & Funding**	Lack of funding
		Requires commitment of all 9 member cities in watershed
		Projects don't benefit enough of the population
		Lack of commitment and leadership from politicians to seek more funding to improve natural resources
		Better prioritization of projects
		Lack of city-implemented projects
		Need more tax incentive for better projects
		Need to balance management of recreational lakes vs. scenic ponds
		Pond management before lake management
		Cities make sacrifices for industry
		X Need incentives or grants for homeowners to install raingardens and restore shorelines
#10 (3 pts)	**Groundwater**	Groundwater quality and quantity in wells in Medicine Lake
		Lack of structure and collaboration among agencies with groundwater management responsibilities
		Need better data on impacts of groundwater usage on surface water
		Lead levels in drinking water
		Too much groundwater consumption

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission Workshop

Results of Prioritization Exercise with Commissioners, Alternates, TAC and Technical Partners (TRPD, BWSR, Met Council) ~ June 24, 2013

Rank (Tally of points)	Broader Topics to be Ranked	Examples of specific issues identified through small group meetings, online survey, Gaps Analysis (GA), and self-assessment
#5 (25)	Degraded Streams and Shorelines	Non-natural shorelines
		Lack of buffers
		Sediment build-up
		Streambank erosion
		Address roles, responsibilities, funding for removing sediment deltas GA9
		Reassess factors for prioritization of stream restoration projects GA10
		Encourage or set standards for natural shoreline restoration methods GA11
		Consider watershed-wide buffer policy for wetlands, lakes, creek GA12
#8 (13)	Lack of Biodiversity	Too many weeds
		Aquatic invasive species – need to define BCWMC role in issue GA11
		Terrestrial invasive species
		Too many geese
		Lack of wildlife diversity
		Loss of thousands of ash trees in watershed
		Define policies aimed at protection of rare and endangered species GA11
		Identify opportunities to maximize cooperative resource protection with agencies GA20
#9 (5)	Wetlands	Light rail impacts to Bassett Creek, wetlands and natural areas
		Abundance of cattails in ponds resulting in flooding problems
		Consider watershed-wide buffer policy for wetlands, lakes, creek GA12
		Evaluate BCWMC role in wetland issues GA12
#6 (21)	Lack of Education & Information; Need for Behavior Change (Actions by Individuals)	Lack of education and knowledge among residents about condition of water and how to improve water quality
		Need better sources of information
		Disconnection of public from natural resources
		Lack of volunteer opportunities
		Too much trash
		Too many motorboats, water skiing, jet skiing
		Too much pet waste
		Too much lawn irrigation using lake water
		Mowing to edge of water, not leaving buffer
		Expectations that problems can be solved quickly with silver bullet
		Implement city staff training programs GA15
		Develop ways to demonstrate BCWMC success (evaluation metrics) GA15
		Develop new ways (using technology) to interact with public GA15
		Take advantage of education opportunities associated w/ projects GA16
		Assess and redefine roles and partnerships in educational efforts GA16
		Identify topics not adequately addressed in current education program GA16

#9 (5)	**Recreation Needs**	Lack of public access
		Unmaintained public access sites
		No obstructions for kayaking/canoeing
		Too many weeds can be dangerous for swimming and boating
		Need to balance recreation with habitat
#3 (35)	**Water Quality**	Chemical pollutants in water
		Too much algae; too much phosphorus
		Low water clarity
		Fish consumption advisories
		Need to establish quantifiable water quality standards (Level I standards) GA3
		Expand/revisit list of approved BMPs GA4
		Consider infiltration requirements GA4
		Find ways to take advantage of redevelopment GA5
		Clarify roles in TMDLs GA5
		Address maintenance responsibilities for WQ management facilities GA6
		Revisit water quality monitoring programs and partnerships GA6
		Address impaired waters with CIP projects and other programs – Self Assessment (some projects not implemented)
#1 (42)	**Effects of Stormwater Runoff and Development**	Runoff from yards, streets, highways
		Lack of infiltration or diversion in lawns
		Salt use
		Runoff without filtration or treatment, more treatment needed
		Concentrated areas of impervious surfaces
		Chemicals and pollutants in runoff
		Runoff from older commercial/industrial areas
		Construction site erosion
		Effects of developments on waterbodies, wetlands, and water quality
		Leaks and spills from railroads
		Aging infrastructure
		Effects of dredging
		Stormwater ponds filling in, not enough storage to be effective
		Revise Plan language to require compliance with NPDES GA9
		Consider revising erosion and sediment control triggers GA9
		Evaluate existing project review triggers GA20
		Review purpose and responsibilities for erosion control inspections GA10
#2 (37)	**Water Quantity, Water Levels, Flooding (including Medicine Lake)**	Fluctuating water levels
		Flooding
		Need more land acquisition for flood easements
		Low water levels on Medicine Lake
		Need to study effects of Medicine Lake's possible water level manipulation on floodplain, water quality, water temperatures, overall lake health
		Address possible rate control requirements GA8
		Consider flood control objectives in all projects GA8
		Consider policies to handle conflicts betw FEMA & BCWMC flood levels GA8
#8 (13)	**Flood Control Project GA18**	Flood control project inspection/maintenance – streamline inspections, clarify responsibilities GA18
		Flood control project replacement – consider finances for maintenance and replacement GA18

#7 (18)	**Governance, Management & Funding**	Lack of funding
		Requires commitment of all 9 member cities in watershed
		Projects don't benefit enough of the population
		Lack of commitment and leadership from politicians to seek more funding to improve natural resources
		Better prioritization of projects
		Lack of city-implemented projects
		Need more tax incentive for better projects
		Need to balance management of recreational lakes vs. scenic ponds
		Pond management before lake management
		Cities make sacrifices for industry
		Need incentives or grants for homeowners to install raingardens and restore shorelines
		Develop process to evaluate cities for compliance and implementation of local water management plans GA19
		Determine if BCWMC is best entity to resolve inter-governmental issues GA19
		Refine procedures for choosing and implementing CIP projects GA20
#4 (32)	**Groundwater**	Groundwater quality and quantity in wells in Medicine Lake
		Lack of structure and collaboration among agencies with groundwater management responsibilities
		Need better data on impacts of groundwater usage on surface water
		Lead levels in drinking water
		Too much groundwater consumption
		Assess and define a BCWMC role in groundwater management GA13
		Incorporate MIDS site considerations and tools for GW protection GA13
		Evaluate/incorporate Dept. of Health guidance for GW protection GA14