

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission



Watershed Summit

June 13, 2013
Plymouth City Hall

Bassett Creek WMC



Watershed Summit

To prioritize the issues gathered through public input process

- Introductions
- Overview of Bassett Creek WMC
- Results of survey and small group meetings
- Prioritization of issues by residents
- Next steps

Bassett Creek WMC

Regional government organization formed in 1969 to focus on flood control along Bassett Creek.

Now also focused on improving and protecting water quality of Bassett Creek and the lakes and streams in the tributary area. Includes parts of 9 cities:

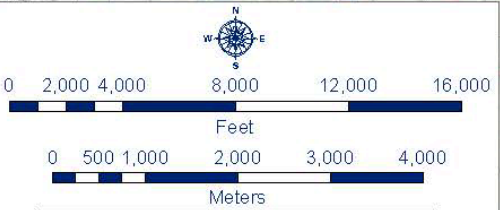
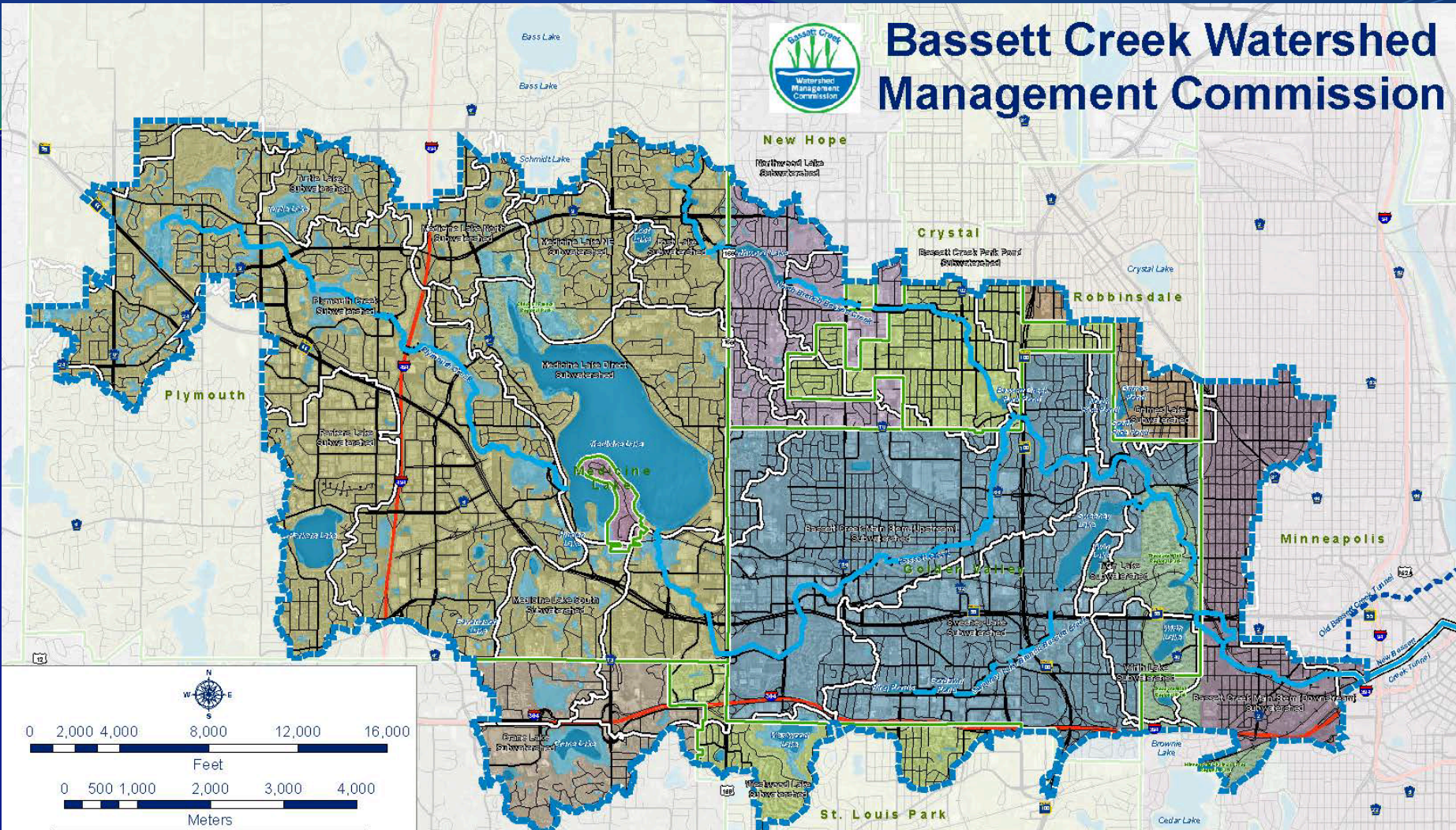
- Minneapolis
- Golden Valley
- Plymouth
- Crystal
- New Hope
- Robbinsdale
- St. Louis Park
- Minnetonka
- Medicine Lake



Photo: Dan Johnson



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission



	Bassett Creek Watershed		Old Trench
	Major Subwatersheds		Open Channel
	City Boundaries		Culvert
	Regional Parks		Tunnel

- Greater than 40 mi²; Tributary to Mississippi River
- 4 major subwatersheds: Mainstem, Medicine Lake Branch (Plymouth Creek), North Branch, Sweeney Lake Branch
- Multiple lakes: Medicine, Westwood, Wirth, Twin, Sweeney, Lost, Northwood, Parkers, Turtle, Crane, others

Bassett Creek WMC

Photo: Dan Johnson

Vision Statement:

Stewardship of water resources to protect and enhance our communities



Commission Funding:

- Contributions from 9 member cities (2013: \$515,045)
- Hennepin County tax levy for major projects (2013: \$1,000,000)
- Grant funds and permit fees (2013: \$53,000)

Commission Activities:

- Implement projects that improve and protect Bassett Creek and lakes, streams, ponds, and wetlands throughout watershed
- Monitor water quality, perform studies, map resources
- Provide water resource education to residents, businesses, local officials, and city staff
- Provide watershed-wide coordination of activities and watershed “point of contact” for all stakeholders

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Examples of Projects:

- Raingarden and Infiltration Projects
- Water Quality Ponds
- Wirth Lake Outlet Upgrade
- Streambank Restoration Projects
- Flood Control Projects



Sweeney Branch Restoration Project: Before and After

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Watershed Management Plan

Guides Commission over next ten years

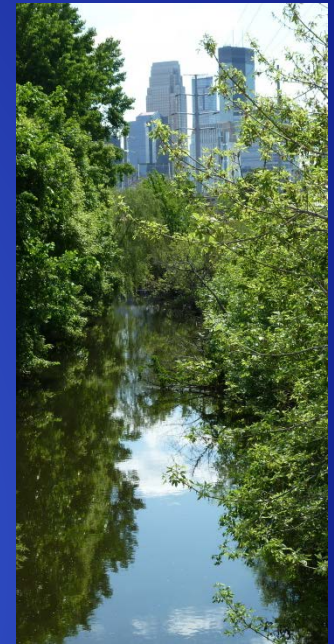
- ✓ Updated every 10 years
- ✓ Sets goals and policies
- ✓ Prioritizes areas of focus
- ✓ Lists projects and programs



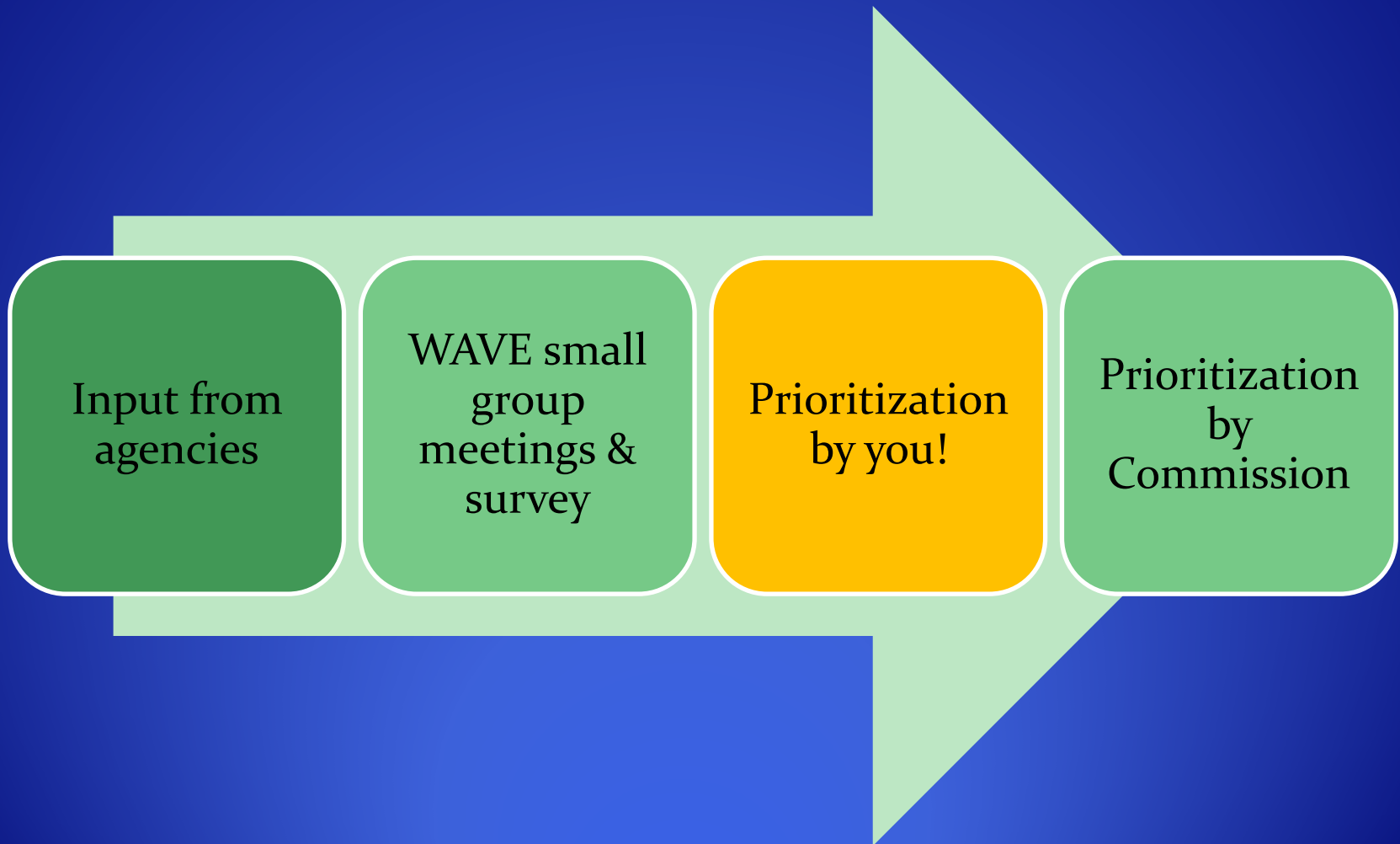
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Watershed Management Plan

- 1982: Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act to manage creeks on watershed boundaries
- Oversight and technical assistance provided by: MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Partner with multiple agencies and stakeholders (cities, residents, BWSR, MPCA, DNR, Met Council, Park Boards/District, lake associations)
- 2004: Last Watershed Management Plan developed
- 2013-2014: Updating Watershed Management Plan



Bassett Creek WMC Watershed Management Plan



Bassett Creek WMC Watershed Management Plan

Develop goals,
strategies &
policies

Gather
comments
through public
and
stakeholder
review

Hold public
hearing

Respond to
comments &
submit draft
Plan to BWSR

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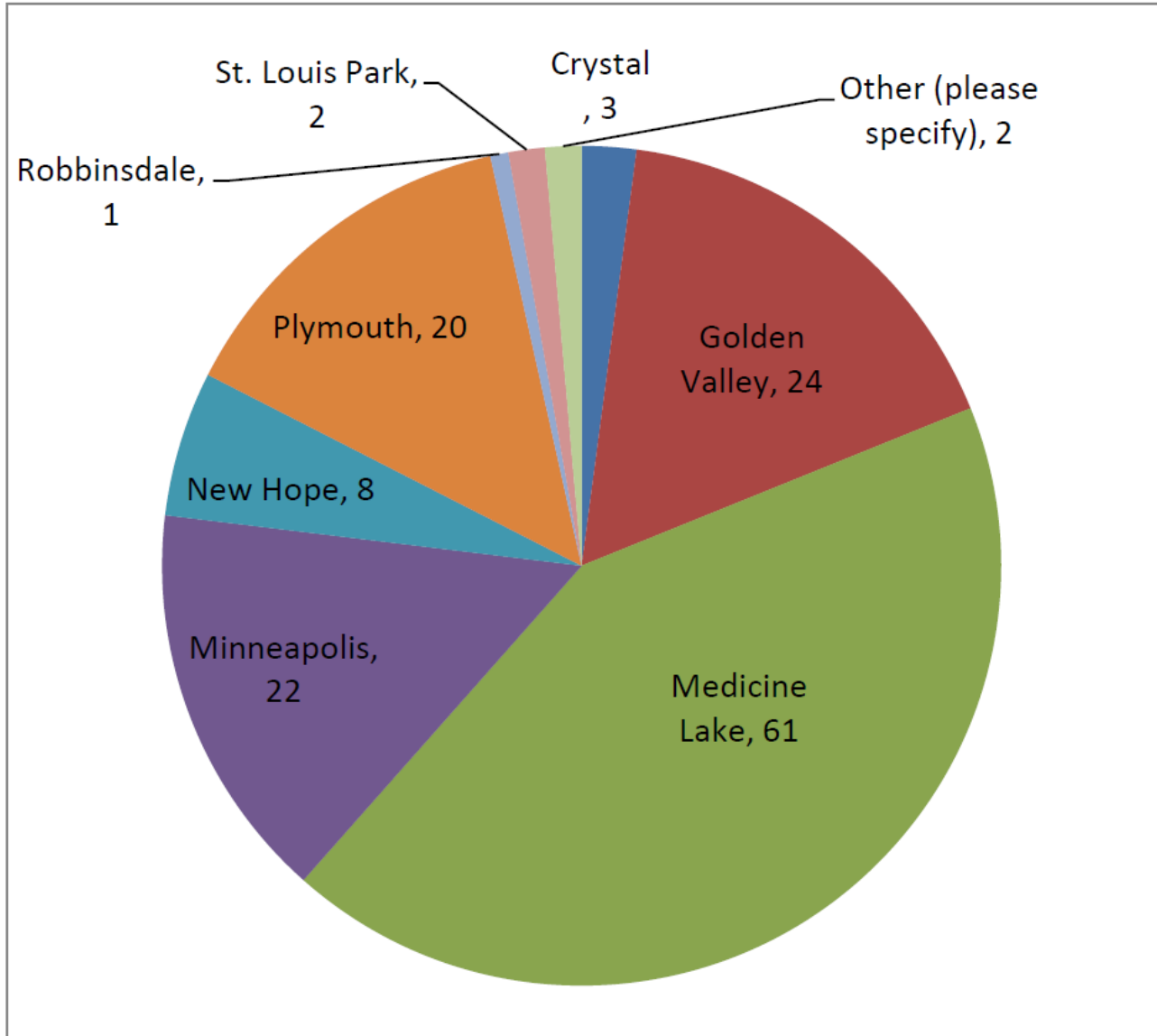
Watershed Assessment and Visioning Exercise

- Series of 10 Small Group Meetings (March – April)
 - ✓ City Councils
 - ✓ City Commissions
 - ✓ Residents
 - ✓ City staff
 - ✓ Assoc. of Medicine Lake Area Citizens (AMLAC)
- Outreach at Other Events
 - ✓ Plymouth Yard and Garden Expo
 - ✓ Plymouth Environmental Fair
 - ✓ Westwood Nature Center Arbor Day Celebration
 - ✓ Golden Valley Days
- Online Survey - 143 responses
- Press – Newsletter and newspaper articles & announcements, flyers



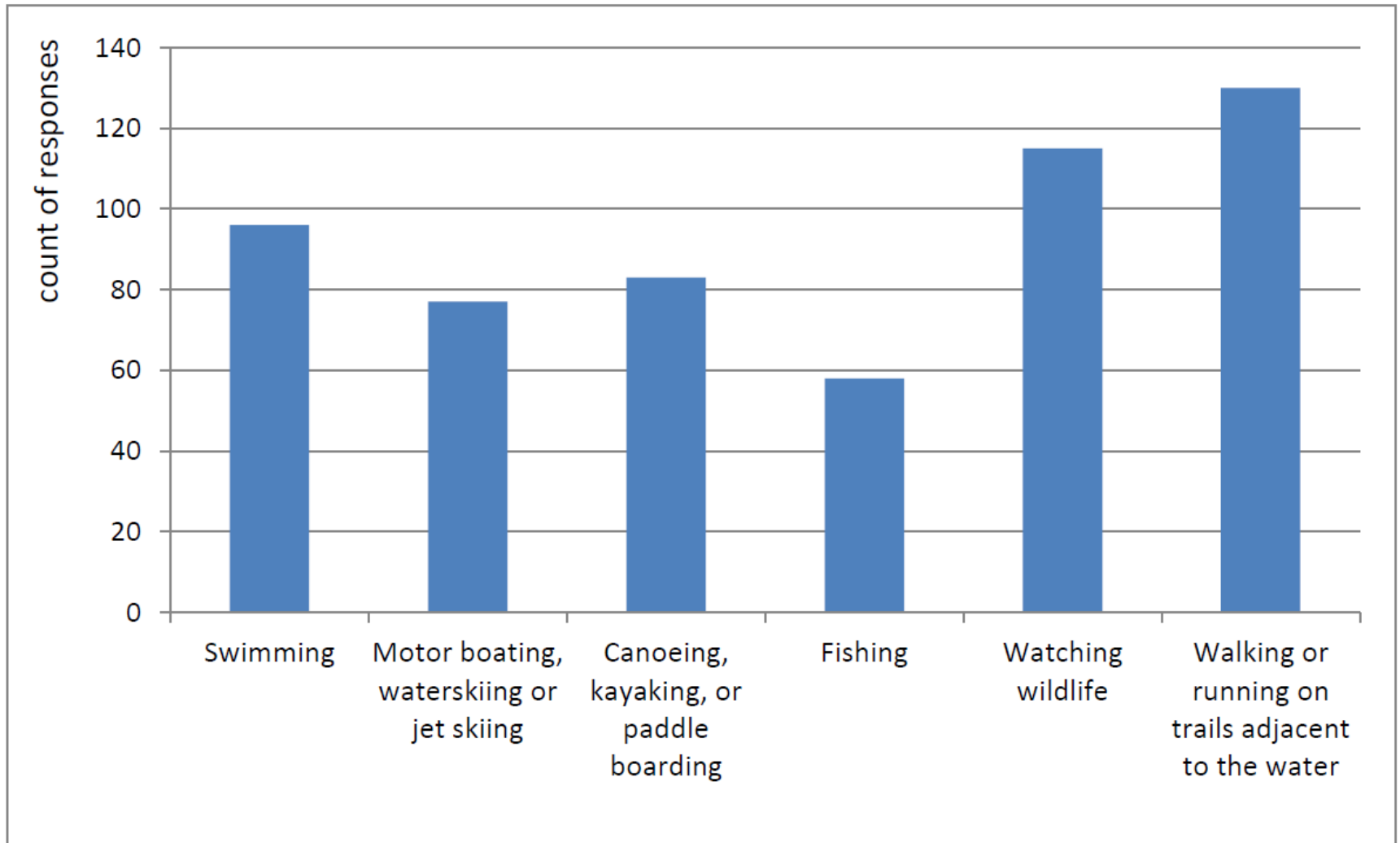
Bassett Creek WMC: Online Survey Results

1. What city do you live in?



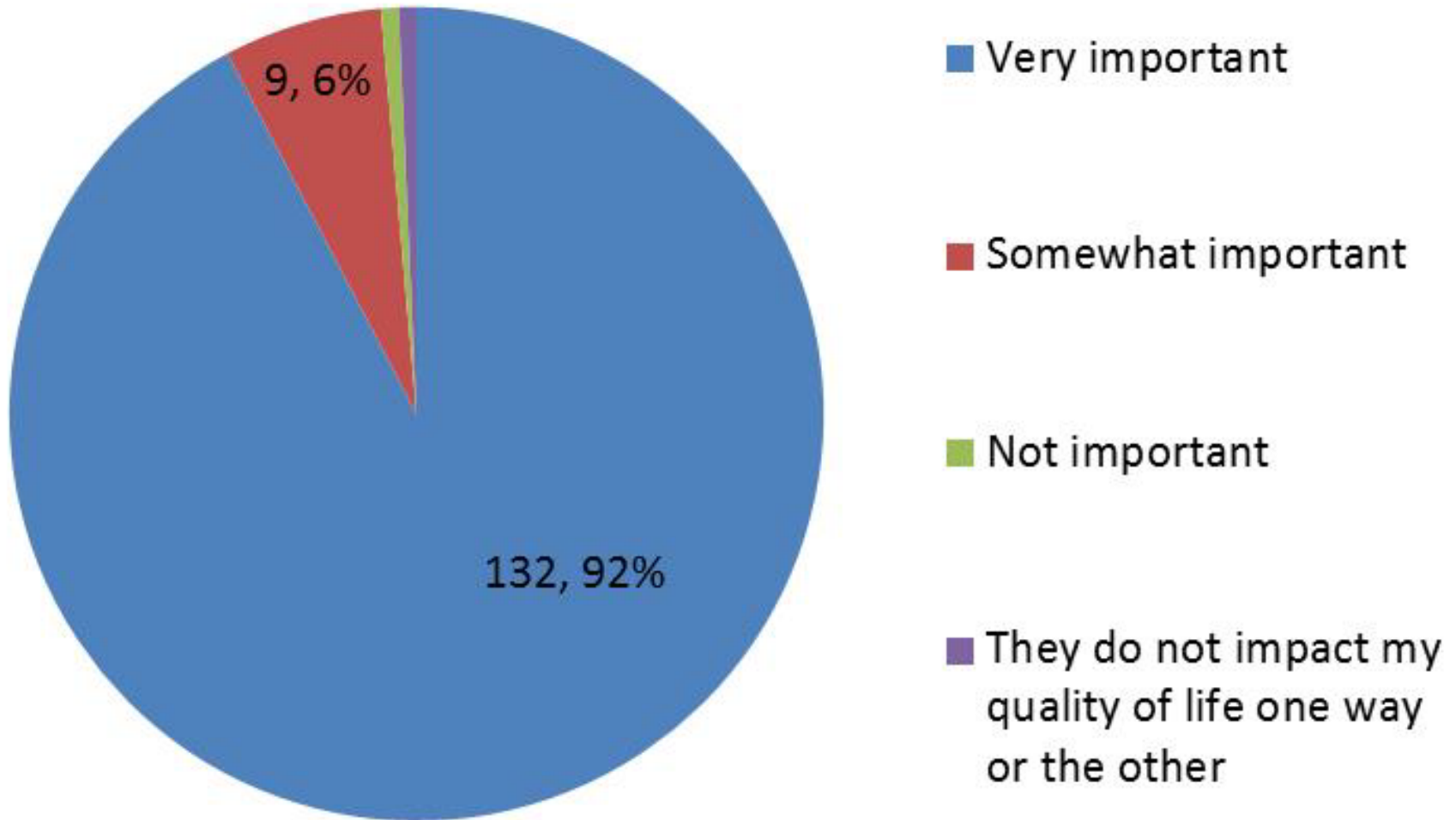
Bassett Creek WMC: Online Survey Results

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



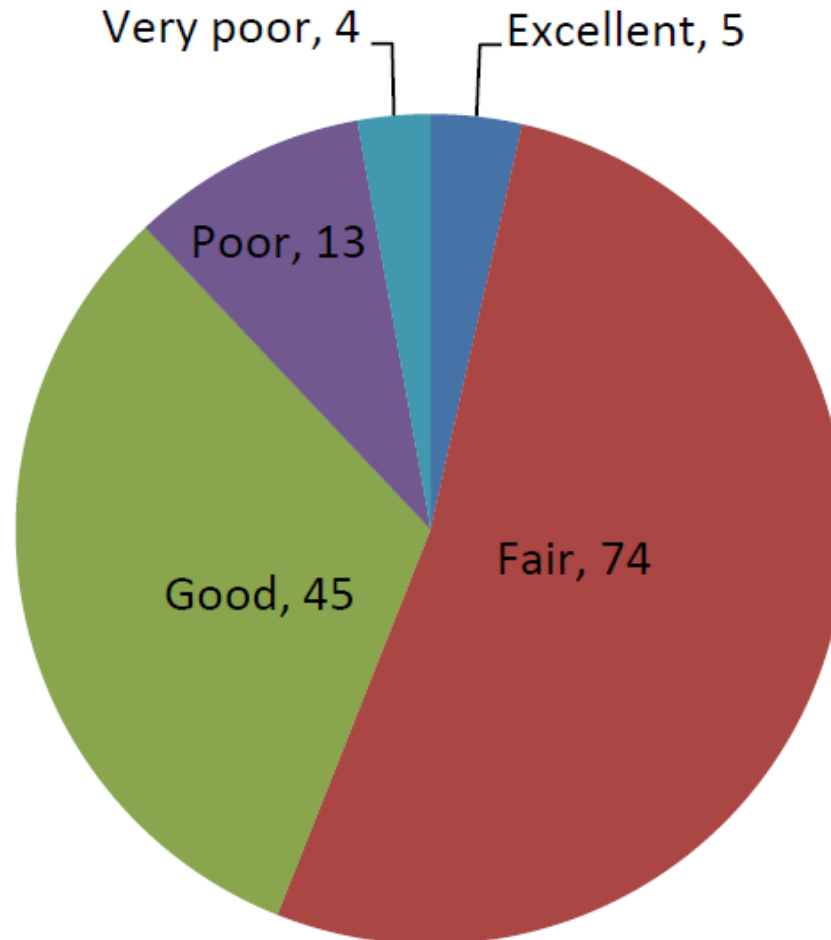
Bassett Creek WMC: Online Survey Results

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



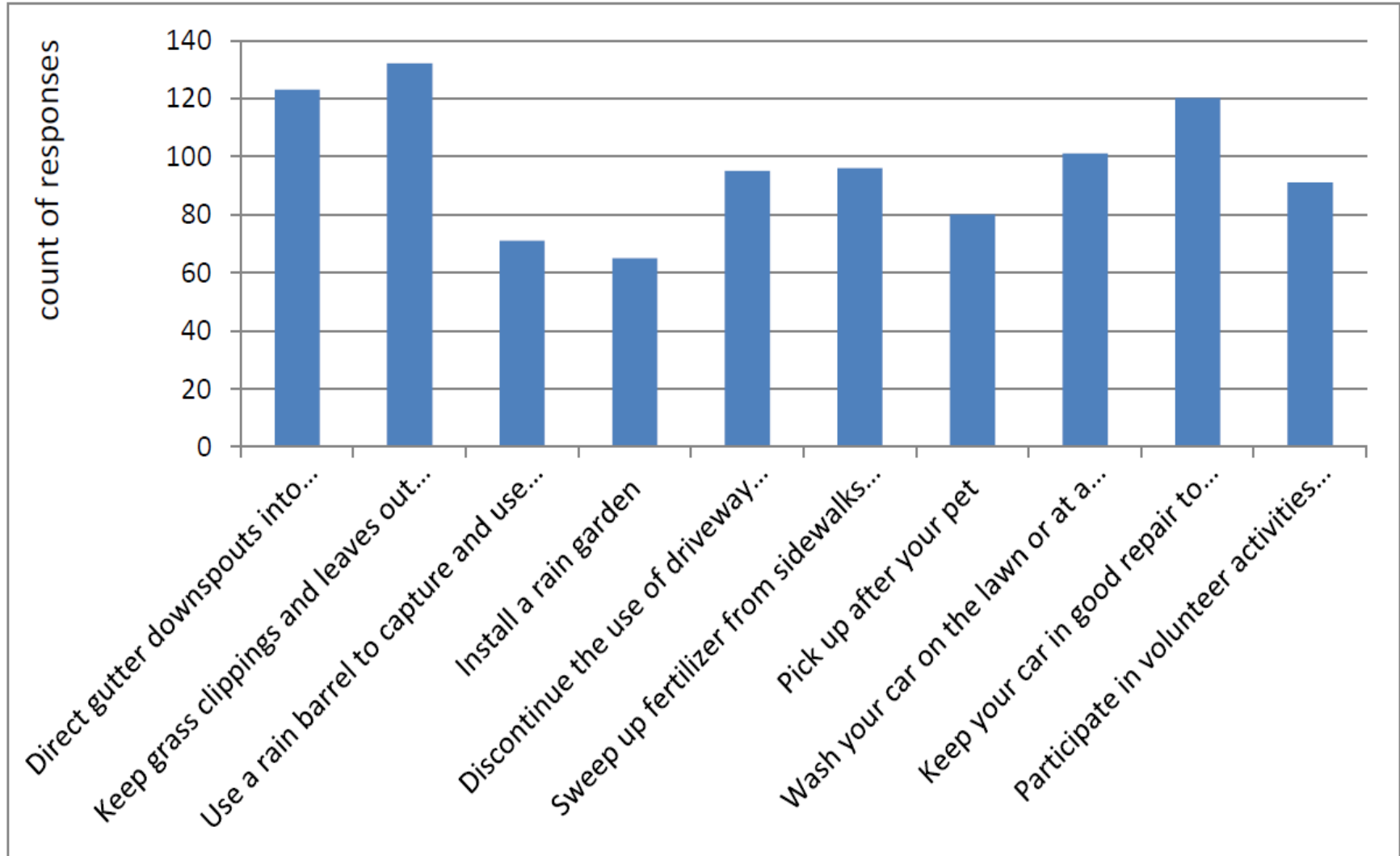
Bassett Creek WMC: Online Survey Results

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



Bassett Creek WMC: Online Survey Results

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



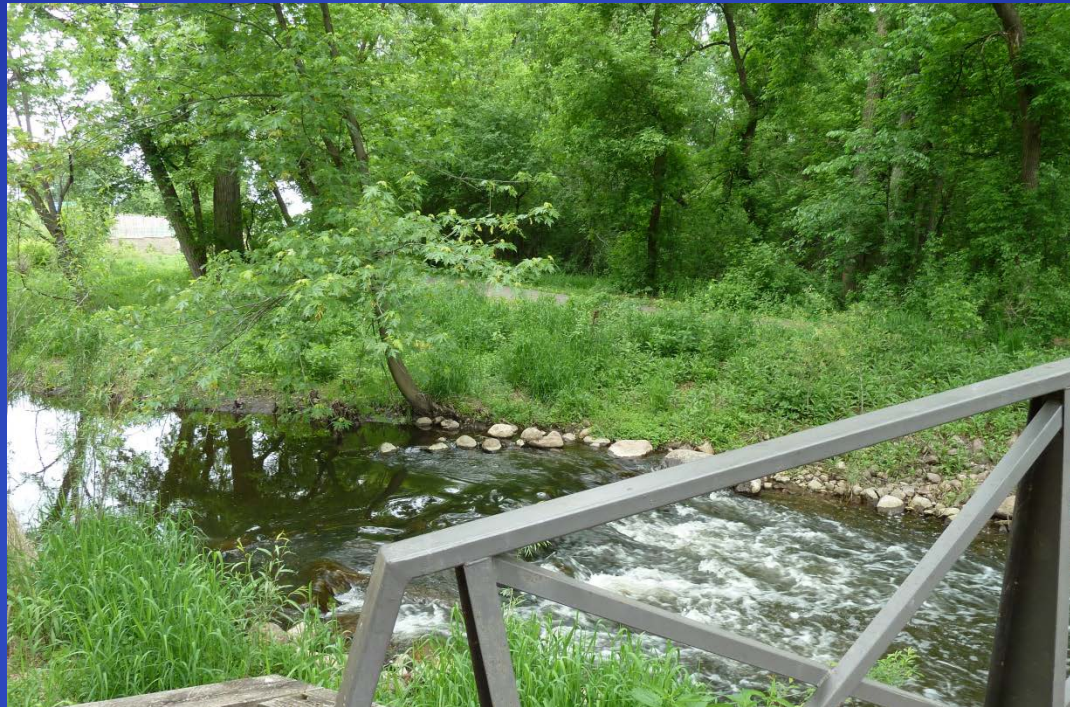
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Issues Identified

- Hundreds of responses gathered through small group meetings and survey
- All comments, suggestions, issues and concerns were read, sorted, and combined with similar issues
- Broader topics identified
 - Degraded habitats & lack of biodiversity
 - Lack of education and information
 - Recreation needs
 - Degraded water quality
 - Effects of storm water runoff and development
 - Water quantity, water levels, flooding (aside from Medicine Lake levels)
 - Medicine Lake levels
 - Actions by individuals
 - Governance, management & funding
 - Groundwater

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Ready to Prioritize!



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Thank you! Next Steps

- Report prioritization results to Commission for their consideration in setting goals and policies and determining needed projects or programs
- Publish results of online survey, issues gathered from all sources, and prioritization on the website at: www.bassettcreekwmo.org (see Watershed Management Plan 2014)
- Contact Watershed Administrator, Laura Jester, if further questions or concerns at 952-270-1990 or laura.jester@keystonewaters.com

