

**EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT**

**Issue Statements, Desired Future Conditions, 10-year Goals: APPROVED DECEMBER 2024**

1. Public awareness and action – Medium Priority

**Issue Statement:** Lack of knowledge and resources for action limit the ability and interest of watershed residents and stakeholders to be good caretakers of the BCWMC waterbodies and ecosystems

Desired Future Condition	Goal (10-year)	Strategy, Action, or Task (some potential examples; highlight = new activity)
<p>Watershed residents and stakeholders understand their relationship with and impact on waterbodies and ecosystems and are good caretakers of these ecosystems through their actions and behaviors.</p>	<p>1A. Increase public knowledge of and participation in programs or practices for waterbody and ecosystem caretaking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> <li>- Participate as active member of West Metro Watershed Alliance</li> <li>- Collaborate and coordinate with member cities on creating and delivering education</li> <li>- Support implementation of small-scale BMP cost-share program (could be with some small amount of funding as incentive in conjunction with workshops?) [could be similar to channel maintenance fund where cities are implementing the cost share with residents or others]</li> <li>- Advertise existing grant programs maintained by partners</li> <li>- Utilize CIP projects to educate adjacent communities</li> <li>- Incorporate targeted outreach to watershed residents as part of CIP projects, where applicable</li> <li>- Events: creek clean ups, water ceremonies, trainings/workshops</li> </ul>
	<p>1B. Increase the number of people who access watershed information and improve accessibility to information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support development and distribution of educational materials through West Metro Watershed Alliance</li> <li>- Maintain the BCWMC website</li> <li>- Provide BCWMC communications in multiple languages</li> <li>- Incorporate targeted outreach to watershed residents as part of CIP projects, where applicable</li> <li>- Update BCWMC website and key documents in compliance with ADA requirements - \$20,000 estimate</li> <li>- Consider ADA accessibility during planning and design of CIP projects.</li> </ul>
	<p>1C. Support community science and volunteer efforts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue supporting CAMP program including recruiting and coordinating volunteers</li> <li>- Support volunteer activities such as native plantings, invasive species removals, clean ups, etc.</li> </ul>

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2. Engagement of diverse communities – Medium Priority			
Issue Statement: Efforts are needed to engage and build relationships with communities that have been under-represented in past BCWMC planning, programs, and projects.			
Desired Future Condition	Goal (10-year)	Strategy, Action, or Task (some potential examples; highlight = new activity)	
All communities, and especially those historically and currently under-represented, are positively engaged in relevant BCWMC planning, programs, and projects.	2A. Establish and maintain relationships and communication avenues with under-represented communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify diverse, minority, and underrepresented communities and their representative contacts</li> <li>- Develop and implement plans for an engagement, communication, and relationship building</li> <li>- Regularly submit communications to neighborhood newsletters or other publications</li> <li>- Annually attend meetings or events in diverse, minority, or underserved communities</li> <li>- Provide BCWMC communication materials in multiple languages</li> <li>- Cooperate with partners (e.g., Metro Blooms) on implementing projects and programs in environmental justice communities</li> <li>- Partner with cities already doing DEIA -related work.</li> </ul>	
	2B. Seek, consider, and respond to input from all impacted communities as part of the BCWMC’s plans, programs, and projects.		
	2C. Incorporate Dakota place names, history, culture, and Indigenous knowledge into BCWMC projects and programs.		

3. Recreation Opportunities – Low Priority			
Issue Statement: Opportunities to protect or enhance recreational use of, and access to, natural areas in the watershed may be lost without proactive consideration by the BCWMC and its partners in their activities.			
Desired Future Condition	Goal (10-year)	Strategy, Action, or Task (some potential examples; highlight = new activity)	
Recreational uses and access are maintained or enhanced, as appropriate, for priority waterbodies	3A. Support recreational uses of and access to lakes, streams and natural areas, particularly in underserved communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inventory/list priority waterbody recreation access/functions (i.e., what will be maintained)</li> <li>- Provide technical and other support for city and partner projects impacting recreational access to/use of priority waterbodies.</li> <li>- Incorporate trails, parks, and natural areas into BCWMC watershed map or other BCWMC communications. (to be included with current map update)</li> <li>- Maintain interactive Bassett Creek paddling map in partnership with City of Golden Valley. (found <a href="#">here</a>)</li> </ul>	
	3B. Consider protecting and enhancing recreational functions of and access to waterbodies and natural areas during BCWMC planning and projects.		