



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
Date: June 7, 2023

#### **RE: Regional Stormwater Treatment Planned in Plymouth**

The City of Plymouth plans to study the feasibility of building regional stormwater treatment facilities in conjunction with a 2024 city pavement rehabilitation project. Plymouth plans to construct the facilities to provide treatment greater than the amount of treatment required for the pavement rehabilitation project. The additional treatment capacity would be available for future redevelopment (“treatment credits”). Plymouth staff recently discussed their ideas with the Commission engineers, the Commission administrator, and the Technical Advisory Committee – all of whom support this concept because of the multiple benefits (described further in this memo) it provides.

Although, regional stormwater treatment is allowed under BCWMC requirements and the Minnesota Stormwater Manual, I am bringing this to your attention as it’s a slightly different approach to stormwater management. The Commission will likely hear more about the regional treatment plans when the pavement rehabilitation project and adjacent redevelopment projects are reviewed by the Commission for compliance with development requirements.

#### Background:

Plymouth is planning a pavement rehabilitation project in 2024 within the middle of its “City Center” which is the area generally bounded by Vicksburg Lane, Highway 55, County Road 9, and Plymouth Creek (see map below). Plymouth staff believes there is an opportunity to construct a stormwater management project in conjunction with the pavement project that would provide regional treatment for the area as it redevelops. The stormwater project would ideally:

- Treat runoff from the entire re-developable area including public and private properties.
- Incentivize and streamline redevelopment as stormwater management capacity would already be available.
- Treat runoff from the re-developable area that currently drains directly to Plymouth Creek starting immediately, rather than waiting for redevelopment.
- Address future maintenance.

The City’s next steps include completing a feasibility study to verify the various regional treatment areas, identify the stormwater best management practices and provide cost estimates. If found to be viable, the city would design a project for Commission review and approval consideration.

Key elements of concept:

- The proposed regional stormwater treatment concept is similar to what's being proposed in the Bassett Creek Valley.
- Stormwater management features would be fully funded by the city (no BCWMC funding required or requested).
- City would retain all easements and perform all maintenance of the treatment facilities.
- City would handle all negotiations with developers on how treatment credits are used or paid for.
- Development projects would still be submitted to the Commission for review.
  - Developments would still need to meet all applicable stormwater management requirements in place at the time of the development (including MIDS – Minimal Impact Design Standards, if triggered).
  - Upon review of development projects, Commission engineers would confirm the pollution reductions needed for the project and would calculate the remaining balance of treatment capacity within the city's facilities, if used by the development.
  - Developers would be required to meet BCWMC rate control requirements on-site.
- The city will likely require some on-site pre-treatment of stormwater runoff.
- This mechanism preserves more private real estate for redevelopment as less land is needed at individual parcels for stormwater management.
- This mechanism ensures proper maintenance of stormwater management features because the city, as the owner, is responsible for maintenance. This also removes the need for maintenance agreements, streamlines the maintenance process, and reduces administration.

