



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Council Conference Room - Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley MN

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – *Members of the public may address the Commission about any item not contained on the regular agenda. A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for the Forum. If the full 15 minutes are not needed for the Forum, the Commission will continue with the agenda. The Commission will take no official action on items discussed at the Forum, except for referral to staff or a Commissions Committee for a recommendation to be brought back to the Commission for discussion/action.*

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. CONSENT AGENDA (10 minutes)

- A. Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2026 Commission Meeting
- B. Acceptance of July Financial Report
- C. Approval of Payment of Invoices
 - i. Keystone Waters, LLC – June 2026 Administration
 - ii. Keystone Waters, LLC – June 2026 Administrative Expenses
 - iii. Barr Engineering – June 2026 Engineering Services
 - iv. Triple D Espresso – July Meeting Catering
 - v. City of Plymouth – June 2026 Accounting Services & Audit Assistance
 - vi. Kennedy & Graven – May 2026 Legal Services
 - vii. LB Carlson – 2025 Financial Audit
 - viii. Strategic Consulting & Coaching – Organizational Assessment Project
- D. Approval of Income Agreement with MPCA and Budget for Smart Salting Trainings in Parkers Lake Subwatershed
- E. Approval to Set Public Hearing on 2027 Capital Improvement Projects
- F. Acceptance of 2025 Financial Audit
- G. Approval of Theodore Wirth Golf Drainage Improvements Project

5. BUSINESS

- A. Consider Conditional Approval of Graffiti Mill East Building – Phase I Plans (20 min)
- B. Consider Approval of 50% Design Plans for Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-14) (20 min)
- C. Receive Presentation on 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Results (45 min)
 - i. Crane Lake
 - ii. Northwood Lake
 - iii. North Branch of Bassett Creek
 - iv. Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek
- D. Consider Approval of Scope & Budget for Assistance with Medicine Lake Task Force (15 min)
- E. Consider Approval of Contract with Communications & Administrative Assistant (15 min)

- F. Receive Report on 2026 Operating Budget Status (5 min)
- G. Appoint Delegates to MN Watersheds Resolution Meeting (5 min)

6. COMMUNICATIONS (15 minutes)

- A. Administrator's Report
 - i. Update on Organizational Assessment Project
 - ii. Volunteers Needed: [Golden Valley Sustainability Day](#) & [Fall Native Plant Sale](#)
 - iii. [MN Watersheds Summer Tour](#)
- B. Engineer
 - i. Report on Bassett Creek Restoration Project
 - ii. Report on Bassett Creek Valley Study Update Project
 - iii. Report on H&H Model Project
- C. Legal Counsel
- D. Chair
- E. Minnesota Watersheds
 - i. Summer Tour
- F. Commissioners
- G. TAC Members
- H. Committees

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- A. Administrative Calendar
- B. CIP Project Updates www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects
- C. Grant Tracking Spreadsheet
- D. WCA Notices, Plymouth and Golden Valley
- E. Scared Water Shared Future Press Release

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- [Metro Watersheds Quarterly Meeting](#): Tuesday, July 21st; 7:00 p.m. online
- [Golden Valley Sustainability Day](#): Sunday, July 26th; 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Golden Valley City Hall
- [Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project Public Open House](#): Monday, August 10th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Robbinsdale City Hall
- [BCWMC Regular Meeting](#): Thursday, August 20th, 8:30 a.m., Golden Valley City Hall
- [MN Watersheds Summer Tour](#): August 25 – 26th, Detroit Lakes MN
- [BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee Meeting](#): Wednesday, September 2nd, 10:30 a.m., Brookview
- [BCWMC Administrative Services Committee Meeting](#): Wednesday, September 2nd, 12:00 p.m., Brookview
- [Blue Thumb Fall Native Plant Sale](#): Saturday, September 19th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Golden Valley



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

AGENDA MEMO

Date: July 9, 2026

To: BCWMC Commissioners

From: Laura Jester, Administrator

RE: Background Information for 7/16/26 BCWMC Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**
2. **PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ACTION ITEM with attachment**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2026 Commission Meeting - **ACTION ITEM with attachment**
 - B. Acceptance of July Financial Report - **ACTION ITEM with attachment**
 - C. Approval of Payment of Invoices - **ACTION ITEM attachments available upon request – I reviewed the remaining invoices and recommend payment.**
 - i. Keystone Waters, LLC – June 2026 Administration
 - ii. Keystone Waters, LLC – June 2026 Administrative Expenses
 - iii. Barr Engineering – June 2026 Engineering Services
 - iv. Triple D Espresso – July Meeting Catering
 - v. City of Plymouth – June 2026 Accounting Services & Audit Assistance
 - vi. Kennedy & Graven – May 2026 Legal Services
 - vii. LB Carlson – 2025 Financial Audit
 - viii. Strategic Consulting & Coaching – Organizational Assessment Project
 - D. Approval of Income Agreement with MPCA and Budget for Smart Salting Trainings in Parkers Lake Subwatershed – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – *The Commission recently approved a [contract with Bolton & Menk](#) for outreach to snow removal companies in the Parkers Lake subwatershed as part of the [Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction CIP project](#). The contract includes plans to coordinate Smart Salting trainings for private applicators. The cost of each training is paid directly to MPCA. The attached income agreement was reviewed by Commission Attorney Anderson and must be in place before trainings can be scheduled. I am seeking approval of the agreement and a not-to-exceed budget of \$6,000 for up to 3 trainings to come from the CIP budget for this project.*
 - E. Approval to Set Public Hearing on 2027 Capital Improvement Projects – **ACTION ITEM no attachment** – *The Commission must hold a public hearing on 2027 CIP projects before the projects can be officially ordered and the final 2027 levy through Hennepin County can be set. The 2027 CIP projects are the Lagoon Dredging Project Phase II, Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project, and the Cost Share High Efficiency Street Sweeper for City of Crystal. I recommend setting a public hearing to coincide with your meeting on September 17, 2026.*
 - F. Acceptance of 2025 Financial Audit – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – *The financial audit for the 11-month fiscal year February 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 was recently completed, submitted to the State, per requirements, and posted online. Auditors found appropriate financial recordkeeping practices and reports and have no recommendations for changes or actions.*
 - G. Approval of Theodore Wirth Golf Drainage Improvements Project – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – *This project is located south of the trailhead parking lot at Theodore Wirth Park within the Bassett Creek Main*

Stem subwatershed. It includes some work in the floodplain, modifications to a stormwater pond, construction of a new drainage channel, and construction of 1,300 feet of cart path, resulting in a total of 3.88 acres of disturbance. The proposed project results in an increase of 0.17 acres of disconnected impervious surfaces. Project plans meet applicable BCWMC requirements and staff recommends approval.

5. BUSINESS

- A. Consider Conditional Approval of Graffiti Mill East Building – Phase I Plans (20 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – *The historic Fruen Mill in Minneapolis (on the banks of Bassett Creek and adjacent to Utepils Brewery) is under redevelopment as Graffiti Mill. At its meeting in August 2025 the Commission conditionally approved requested variances from some BCWMC floodplain requirements and flood level standards. The developer recently submitted an application for a project to expand and renovate the east building and for utility improvements. The Commission Engineer reviewed the plans and offers the attached comments and recommendations for approval with conditions.*
- B. Consider Approval of 50% Design Plans for Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-14) (20 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – *The feasibility study for [this CIP project](#) was approved in September 2023. Since then, TRPD secured significant additional project funding and is implementing this project using Barr Engineering as their design consultant. The 50% designs will be presented at this meeting. The attached slides provide an overview of the project elements and designs, expected benefits, and costs. Staff recommends approval and direction to continue to 90% designs. A public open house on this project is scheduled for the evening of August 10th.*
- C. Receive Presentation on 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Results (45 min) – **INFORMATION ITEM with attachments** – *The 2025 monitoring reports are included with meeting materials. Key results of the monitoring and recommendations for future actions will be presented at this meeting.*
 - i. Crane Lake
 - ii. Northwood Lake
 - iii. North Branch of Bassett Creek
 - iv. Ĥaňá Wakpádan/Bassett Creek
- D. Consider Approval of Scope and Budget for Assistance with Medicine Lake Task Force (15 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – *At the March Commission meeting there was consensus that development of a Medicine Lake Task Force was an appropriate step needed to inform implementation of the CIP project to “implement results of the Medicine Lake TMDL Assessment Project.” The work and recommendations of the Task Force would be considered the “feasibility study” for the CIP project. Staff recommends the attached project scope and budget for Commission Engineer assistance.*
- E. Consider Approval of Contract with Communications & Administrative Assistant (15 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – *Commissioner Pentel, Alternate Commissioner Kennedy and I interviewed 7 candidates for this position and I’m excited to recommend the approval of a contract with Kaitlyn Egan as the new Communications and Administrative Assistant for the BCWMC! Kaitlyn has extensive training and experience in journalism and communication strategies, is active in land conservation, and is a student in Tribal Resource and Environmental Stewardship. I believe her talents and passion will make a wonderful addition to the BCWMC team!*
- F. Receive Report on 2026 Operating Budget Status (5 min) – **INFORMATION ITEM (see Item 4B)** – *At this meeting, I will provide a brief verbal report on the status of the 2026 operating budget.*

- G. Appoint Delegates to MN Watersheds Resolution Meeting (5 min) – ACTION ITEM with attachment – Minnesota Watersheds will hold its Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions online by Zoom on August 31 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The BCWMC should appoint two delegates and one alternate delegate to attend the meeting to discuss and make decisions on resolutions for the 2027 legislative session and other policy matters.

6. COMMUNICATIONS (15 minutes)

- A. Administrator's Report – **INFORMATION ITEM with attachment**
- Update on Organizational Assessment Project
 - Volunteers Needed: [Golden Valley Sustainability Day](#) & [Fall Native Plant Sale](#)
 - [MN Watersheds Summer Tour](#)
- B. Engineer
- Report on Bassett Creek Restoration Project
 - Report on Bassett Creek Valley Study Update Project
 - Report on H&H Model Project
- C. Legal Counsel
- D. Chair
- E. Minnesota Watersheds
- Metro Watersheds Quarterly Meeting
 - Summer Tour
- F. Commissioners
- G. TAC Members
- H. Committees

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

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- D. WCA Notices, Plymouth and Golden Valley
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8. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Metro Watersheds Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday, July 21st; 7:00 p.m. online
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- Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project Public Open House: Monday, August 10th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Robbinsdale City Hall
- BCWMC Regular Meeting: Thursday, August 20th, 8:30 a.m., Golden Valley City Hall
- MN Watersheds Summer Tour: August 25 – 26th, Detroit Lakes MN
- BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 2nd, 10:30 a.m., Brookview
- BCWMC Administrative Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 2nd, 12:00 p.m., Brookview
- Blue Thumb Fall Native Plant Sale: Saturday, September 19th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Golden Valley



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 18, 2026
8:30 a.m.
7800 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley MN

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On June 18, 2026 at 8:31 a.m. Chair Cesnik called the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) to order.

Commissioners, city staff, and others present

City	Commissioner	Alternate Commissioner	Technical Advisory Committee Members (City Staff)
Crystal	<i>Absent</i>	Terri Schultz online	<i>Absent</i>
Golden Valley	Paula Pentel	Wendy Weirich	Emma Rakestraw and Claire Bargman
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Minneapolis	Jodi Polzin	<i>Absent</i>	Liz Stout
Minnetonka	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	Eric Eckman
New Hope	Jere Gwin-Lenth	<i>Absent</i>	Nick Macklem and Lola Ellingson-Shuster
Plymouth	Catherine Cesnik	<i>Absent</i>	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	<i>Absent</i>	John Ella	<i>Absent</i>
St. Louis Park	RJ Twiford	<i>Absent</i>	Erick Francis
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters, LLC		
Engineers	Stephanie Johnson, Greg Wilson, and Patrick Brockamp (online) - Barr Engineering Co.		
Recording Secretary	<i>Vacant Position</i>		
Legal Counsel	Dave Anderson, Kennedy & Graven		
Guests/Public	None		

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Administrator Jester requested the addition of an invoice as Item 4Cxi from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for the annual insurance premium.

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the agenda as revised. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 7-0. The cities of Crystal and Minnetonka were absent from the vote.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Carlson requested the removal of Item 4D: Approval of Commercial Insurance Proposal from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 7-0. The cities of Crystal and Minnetonka were absent from the vote.

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda.

- Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2026 Commission Meeting
- Acceptance of June Financial Report
- Approval of Payment of Invoices
 - Keystone Waters, LLC – May 2026 Administration
 - Keystone Waters, LLC – May 2026 Administrative Expenses
 - Barr Engineering – May 1 2026 Engineering Services
 - Triple D Espresso – June Meeting Catering
 - City of Plymouth – May 2026 Accounting Services
 - Kennedy & Graven – April 2026 Legal Services
 - Metro Conservation Districts – Children’s Water Festival
 - Stantec – WOMP Tasks
 - HDR – Website Accessibility Project
 - Metro Blooms – Minneapolis Water Quality Projects Support
 - League of MN Cities – Insurance Premium
- Approval of Budget for Watershed Plan Printing & Accessibility Updates
- Approval of Agreement with Met Council for 2026 Community Assisted Monitoring Program
- Approval of Conditional License Agreement with Hennepin County for Use of Hydrologic Model

4D. Approval of Commercial Insurance Proposal

Commissioner Carlson noted that a restructuring of insurance with regards to slip and fall litigation would be valuable and he welcomed discussion on the topic.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the commercial insurance proposal. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 7-0. The cities of Crystal and Minnetonka were absent from the vote.

5. BUSINESS

A. Consider Approval of Feasibility Study for Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project (CL-4) and Select Option for Implementation

Commission Engineer Johnson provided background on this project noting that the draft report was reviewed at last month's meeting and that since that meeting staff had discussed various implementation options with the TAC and Minnetonka staff. Commission Engineer Wilson provided a brief recap of the chloride pollution entering Crane Lake noting that chloride levels in the lake are above the water quality standard year-round. He reported that between reported application rates and modeling, it's estimated that the Ridgedale Mall, Hennepin County, and private business properties around the mall contribute 82% of the chloride pollution and that up to a 70% load reduction is needed to meet standards. He noted that based on discussions with city staff, Commission Engineers recommend a three phase approach to implementation as presented in the feasibility study. Phase I: prioritize educating/working with private landowners to incentivize best practices and tracking salt application rates; Phases II & III: informed by

results of Phase I and focused on equipment upgrades and retrofit planning which may include costs/cost-sharing for upgrades to salt storage or equipment, alternative pavements, abrasives, or snowmelt systems, or creation of a Smart Salting Retrofit plan.

Engineer Wilson noted that the establishment of city-run service districts may be an approach used in the future but that was not an avenue recommended at this time due to policy and administrative hurdles.

Upon a question, it was noted that no property owners (e.g., Ridgedale Mall owners or managers) were present at the meeting to discuss implementation options. There was discussion about the need for a policy on public-private partnerships and/or cost sharing with the private sector, the benefits that might be realized by a private business, and whether or not the recommended actions constitute a CIP project. Administrator Jester and Commission Attorney Anderson noted that some CIP projects do not involve actual physical construction. Examples include alum treatments in lakes and dredging projects. It was also noted that this CIP project would be the subject of a public hearing in September before officially ordering the project and setting the final levy.

Commissioner Polzin commented that this project represents a first step into non-structural source control for the Commission and that care should be taken to develop appropriate policies (including details on what elements might be eligible for funding) and consider precedent. Engineer Johnson noted that she agreed policies are needed and that the first phase of the project to engage with property owners and managers will inform the needs and possible implementation of phases two and three. Commissioner Polzin agreed the recommended implementation phases are the right approach and wondered if the recommended budget of \$330,000 is enough. It was noted that future phases could consider additional levy in future years, if warranted.

MOTION: Commissioner Pentel moved to approve the Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Project Feasibility Study and implementation of the recommended phases. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 7-0. The cities of Crystal and Minnetonka were absent from the vote.

B. Consider Approval of Feasibility Study of Lagoon Dredging Project Phase II (BC-7) and Select Option for Implementation

Commission Engineer Johnson provided background, reminding commissioners that the draft study was presented at the May meeting with a recommendation to implement alternative 3 which includes a combination of dredging and wetland restoration in Lagoon G. She reported that since the May meeting additional information on wetland restoration results were included in the report and that Commission staff had met with staff with the city of Golden Valley and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) regarding wetland buffers, project construction lead, and long-term maintenance. She reported that Golden Valley agreed that existing vegetation around Lagoon G would meet requirements for the wetland buffer, provided it was not disturbed as part of the project, and that neither the city nor of Golden Valley nor the Park Board have the staff capacity to construct the project. Hence, the Commission would be responsible for project construction, including bidding and contracting.

Engineer Johnson stressed the importance of long-term maintenance of the wetland restoration beyond the three years of vegetation establishment which is already included in the construction cost. She noted that Golden Valley indicated they cannot assume the cost of long-term maintenance but may be able to add this area into existing contracts for vegetation maintenance that might streamline logistics for the Commission. She noted that the MPPB had similar comments but indicated they may have in-house capability in the future for vegetation maintenance and/or may be willing to cost share maintenance because of the aesthetic benefits to the golf course.

Engineer Johnson reviewed the project costs for alternative three along with some options for lower cost options within that alternative, including only dredging one portion of the lagoon or only dredging to four feet instead of 6 feet. She noted the added benefits of dredging to six feet including more water quality benefits and a longer project lifespan. Commissioners Pentel and Polzin indicated their support for the recommended alternative 3 including dredging to 6 feet and understanding that a plan for long-term maintenance will need to be developed.

MOTION: Commissioner Polzin moved to approve the Lagoon Dredging Phase II Feasibility Study and implementation of alternative 3. Commissioner Twiford seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was a question on whether the lessons learned from the prior lagoon dredging project will be incorporated into this project. Commission Engineer Johnson indicated the TAC had several lengthy discussions after the completion of the original project and the resulting lessons learned will be incorporated into this project.

Upon a vote the motion carried 7-0. The cities of Crystal and Minnetonka were absent from the vote.

C. Consider Approval of 90% Designs for Flood Control Project Double Box Culvert Repair Project (FCP-1)

Commission Engineer Phillips provided an overview of the 90% plans noting that not much had changed since the 60% plans presented in March. He reported that additional coordination with Minneapolis and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is ongoing and that he is scheduled to present the plans at the Minneapolis Capital Project Task Force Committee to ensure proper coordination with other city projects. Engineer Phillips reported that next steps include finalizing the plans, developing the bid documents, and working with Commission Attorney Anderson on contracting documents. He noted the Commission is likely to consider awarding the construction contract in September with construction happening over the winter.

Engineer Phillips reviewed the proposed public communication plan which includes temporary signage along the Cedar Lake Regional Trail with a QR code to link to more information on a BCWMC webpage to be developed by the Commission Administrator.

There was discussion about the importance of security at the tunnel entrance which will be a responsibility of the construction contractor. It was noted that the construction contract will include indemnification language.

MOTION: Commissioner Twiford moved to approve the 90% plans for the Double Box Culvert Repair Project. Commissioner Polzin seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 7-0. The cities of Crystal and Minnetonka were absent from the vote.

[Chair Cesnik called a 5-minute break.]

D. Review 5-year Capital Improvement Program and Set Maximum Levy for 2027

Administrator Jester reviewed her recommendations for the 2027 maximum levy through Hennepin County which includes the project budgets for the alternatives chosen for implementation in items 5A and 5B above along with a second year of funding for the project in 5C, the previously approved cost share of the street sweeper for the City of Crystal, and an additional year of funding for the Main Stem Bassett Creek Restoration Project in Golden Valley. Administrator Jester reviewed the trend of levy amounts for the past 10 years noting the sharp increase in 2023 and reviewed the language in Statute 103B.251 regarding the Commission's ability to levy through the county. Chair Cesnik noted that most "low hanging fruit" (simpler, less costly projects) had been completed so that only difficult, costly projects remain. She also noted that it's important to be mindful of the cost to taxpayers and to ensure the cost benefit of projects is clear and justified.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the maximum levy of \$2,862,900 for 2027. Commissioner Polzin seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 7-0. The cities of Crystal and Minnetonka were absent from the vote.

E. Consider Administrative Services Committee Recommendation to Approve Contract for Organizational Assessment Project

Administrative Services Committee Chair Twiford reported that one proposal was received from Strategic Consulting and Coaching (SCC) for the Organizational Assessment Project that is slated to review governance structure options, ideal staffing levels, and funding mechanisms. He noted the committee reviewed and scored the proposal as highly qualified with an experienced team and appropriate budget; that Administrator Jester corresponded with references; and a few committee members interviewed the SCC team online and found them to be good subject matter experts in organizational assessments, who were well prepared for the interview. He noted the committee's recommendation to approve a contract with SCC and that a project kick-off meeting is scheduled for June 26th. Commissioners Polzin and Pentel noted their confidence that SCC will do a good job. Chair Cesnik noted the financial analysis component of the project is important to assess taxpayer benefits.

MOTION: Commissioner Pentel moved to approve the contract with Strategic Consulting and Coaching.
Commissioner Gwin-Lenth seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 7-0. The cities of Crystal and Minnetonka were absent from the vote.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Administrator's Report
 - i. Fruen Mill Documentary – Administrator Jester provided an interview for a documentary project on the redevelopment of the Fruen Mill.
 - ii. Applications for Communications & Administrative Assistant Position – About 30 applications have been received to date. Administrator Jester is reviewing them and will work with some members of the Administrative Services Committee to interview a slate of candidates.
 - iii. Comments to Clean Water Council on Chloride Reduction Program Needs – Administrator Jester submitted comments on the need for more robust funding and support for chloride reduction programs, mirroring the letter sent to the MPCA commissioner earlier in the year.
- B. Engineer
 - i. Report on Bassett Creek Restoration Project – Engineer Johnson reported that the contractor, Minnesota Native Landscapes, is in place and the permitting is still in process. A productive pre-construction meeting was recently held and that work should begin in late June or early July. She noted the city is finalizing easements with landowners with 57 of 59 easements secured. It was also noted that tree removal timing limitations were waived for this project.
- C. Legal Counsel – No report.
- D. Chair – Chair Cesnik noted she will be absent for the July meeting. Vice Chair Pentel will chair the meeting.
- E. Minnesota Watersheds
 - i. Comments on MN Watersheds Resolutions – Alternate Commissioner Kennedy provided comments on the resolutions; Administrator Jester also reviewed.
 - ii. Plumbing Board Rule Change Issue – Administrator Jester reported that a large and strong coalition of groups continue to engage with the Plumbing Board on the proposed rule change on stormwater reuse. She reported that a Plumbing Board meeting next week is likely to have many attendees prepared to present on this item.
- F. Commissioners
 - i. Report on Turtle Fest – Chair Cesnik reported an amazing turnout despite the afternoon rain with about 150 visitors to the BCWMC table including lots of kids and lots of adults with good questions. She reported Commissioner Hauer and Alternate Commission Minderman also took shifts at the event.
- G. TAC Members
 - i. Report on Plymouth Creek Restoration Project – TAC Chair Scharenbroich reported that tree removals are complete and that construction activities will resume later in the summer.
 - ii. Report on June 3rd TAC meeting – TAC Chair Scharenbroich reported that the TAC discussed the Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Project and the Medicine Lake Task Force.
- H. Committees – Administrative Services Committee will meet June 26th. TAC meeting scheduled for July 1st is likely cancelled.

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- A. Administrative Calendar
- B. CIP Project Updates www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects
- C. Grant Tracking Spreadsheet
- D. West Metro Water Alliance Annual Report

8. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners

From: Administrator Jester

Date: July 8, 2026

RE: Invoices for July 16th BCWMC Meeting

I have reviewed the invoices below and attached and I recommend payment by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission at the July 16, 2026 regular meeting.

	Vendor	Service	Amount
1	Keystone Waters, LLC	June 2026 Administration	\$7,722.00
2	Keystone Waters, LLC	June 2026 Administrative Expenses	\$286.44
3	Barr Engineering	June 2026 Engineering Services	\$89,396.53
4	Triple D Espresso	Meeting Catering	\$197.53
5	City of Plymouth	June 2026 Accounting Services & Audit Assistance	\$1,415.00 \$3,850.00
6	Kennedy & Graven	May 2026 Legal Services	\$1,356.08
7	LB Carlson LLP	Financial Audit	\$2,480.00
8	Strategic Consulting & Coaching	Organizational Assessment	\$1,725.00

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission								
Statement of Financial Position as of 6/30/2026								
Unaudited					400	100		
					Capital Improvement Projects	General Fund		TOTAL
ASSETS								
Current Assets								
Checking/Savings								
	•	102 • 4MP Fund Investment			3,501,986.62	673,599.33		4,175,585.95
	•	103 • 4M Fund Investment			4,837,459.45	1,278,340.83		6,115,800.28
		104 • US Bank Checking			0.00	-8,862.06		-8,862.06
		Total Checking/Savings			8,339,446.07	1,943,078.10		10,282,524.17
Accounts Receivable								
	•	111 • Accounts Receivable			0.00	0.00		0.00
	•	112 • Due from Other Governments			0.00	0.00		0.00
	•	113 • Delinquent Taxes Receivable			24,508.64	0.00		24,508.64
		Total Accounts Receivable			24,508.64	0.00		24,508.64
Other Current Assets								
	•	114 • Prepays			0.00	4,187.00		4,187.00
	•	116 • Undeposited Funds			0.00	0.00		0.00
		Total Other Current Assets			0.00	4,187.00		4,187.00
		Total Current Assets			8,363,954.71	1,947,265.10		10,311,219.81
TOTAL ASSETS					8,363,954.71	1,947,265.10		10,311,219.81
LIABILITIES & EQUITY								
Liabilities								
Current Liabilities								
Accounts Payable								
	•	211 • Accounts Payable			39,298.78	69,129.80		108,428.58
		Total Accounts Payable			39,298.78	69,129.80		108,428.58
Other Current Liabilities								
	•	212 • Unearned Revenue			200,000.00	0.00		200,000.00
	•	251 • Unavailable Rev - Property T			24,508.64	0.00		24,508.64
		Total Other Current Liabilities			224,508.64	0.00		224,508.64
		Total Current Liabilities			263,807.42	69,129.80		332,937.22
		Total Liabilities			263,807.42	69,129.80		332,937.22
Equity								
	•	311 • Nonspendable prepaids			0.00	4,187.00		4,187.00
	•	312 • Restricted for improvements			4,562,582.00	0.00		4,562,582.00
	•	315 • Unassigned Funds			0.00	406,219.07		406,219.07
	•	32000 • Retained Earnings			4,765,842.18	948,037.91		5,713,880.09
		Net Income			-1,228,276.89	519,691.32		-708,585.57
		Total Equity			8,100,147.29	1,878,135.30		9,978,282.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY					8,363,954.71	1,947,265.10		10,311,219.81

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission						
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and changes in Fund Balance - General Fund						
6/30/2026						
Unaudited						
		Annual Budget	June	July	Year to Date	Budget Balance
Ordinary Income/Expense						
Income						
	411 · Assessments to Cities	672,830.00	0.00		672,830.00	0.00
	412 · Project Review Fees	77,000.00	3,000.00		25,500.00	51,500.00
	413 · WOMP Reimbursement	5,000.00	0.00		4,500.00	500.00
	414 · Grants	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
	415 · Investment earnings	0.00	30,804.31		196,220.87	-196,220.87
	416 · Transfer from CIP and LT Accounts	65,070.00	0.00		0.00	65,070.00
	417 · Reimbursement for Expenses	0.00	0.00		348.83	-348.83
	418 · Insurance Dividend	300.00	0.00		0.00	300.00
	Total Income	820,200.00	33,804.31	0.00	899,399.70	-79,199.70
Expense						
1000 · Engineering						
	1010 · Technical Services	150,000.00	9,972.00	9,642.50	61,868.00	88,132.00
	1020 · Development/Project Review	90,000.00	4,705.50	6,045.00	30,697.50	59,302.50
	1030 · Non-fee and Preliminary Review	30,000.00	1,163.00	2,079.50	7,865.50	22,134.50
	1040 · Commission and TAC Meeting	16,000.00	2,316.50	812.50	7,602.20	8,397.80
	1050 · Surveys and Studies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	1060 · Water Quality / Monitoring	178,000.00	37,907.81	26,872.25	95,140.17	82,859.83
	1070 · Water Quantity	9,000.00	1,303.50	0.00	4,547.30	4,452.70
	1080 · Annual Flood Control Inspection	15,000.00	112.00	0.00	454.50	14,545.50
	1090 · Municipal Plan Review	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
	1100 · Watershed Outlet Monitoring	34,500.00	3,166.00	0.00	10,880.50	23,619.50
	1110 · Annual XP-SWMM Model Update	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	1120 · APM/AIS Work	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
	Total 1000 · Engineering	564,500.00	60,646.31	45,451.75	219,055.67	345,444.33
2000 · Plan Development						
	2010 · Next Gen Plan Development	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,743.85	3,256.15
	2020 · Savings for 2036 Plan	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
	Total 2000 · Plan Development	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,743.85	18,256.15
3000 · Administration						
	3010 · Administrator	81,900.00	6,064.50	7,722.00	36,742.68	45,157.32
	3015 · Additional Staff	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
	3020 · MAWD Dues	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	0.00
	3030 · Legal	28,000.00	1,707.88	1,356.08	6,892.50	21,107.50
	3040 · Financial Management	19,230.00	1,457.28	5,265.00	12,599.86	6,630.14
	3050 · Audit, Insurance & Bond	26,000.00	8,117.00	2,480.00	18,137.00	7,863.00
	3060 · Meeting Catering	2,400.00	197.53	197.53	1,382.71	1,017.29
	3070 · Administrative Services	4,200.00	376.30	286.44	1,115.55	3,084.45
	Total 3000 · Administration	209,230.00	17,920.49	17,307.05	84,370.30	124,859.70
4000 · Education						
	4010 · Publications / Annual Report	1,300.00	0.00	0.00	908.50	391.50
	4020 · Website	2,000.00	1,769.27	0.00	3,170.37	-1,170.37
	4030 · Watershed Education Partnership	18,350.00	4,350.00	0.00	7,850.00	10,500.00
	4040 · Education and Public Outreach	37,350.00	0.00	0.00	15,208.19	22,141.81
	4050 · Public Communications	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Total 4000 · Education	60,000.00	6,119.27	0.00	27,137.06	32,862.94
5000 · Maintenance						
	5010 · Channel Maintenance Fund	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
	5020 · Flood Control Project Long-Term	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00
	Total 5000 · Maintenance	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00
6000 · Special Projects						
	6030 · Bassett Creek Valley Floodplain	68,275.00	5,717.00	3,306.50	31,405.50	36,869.50
	6040 · Northwood & Lost Lake TMDL	9,247.00	1,591.50	409.50	8,341.00	906.00
	6050 · XPSWMM to PCSWMM Model	44,000.00	0.00	930.00	930.00	43,070.00
	6060 · Organizational Assessment	59,950.00	0.00	1,725.00	1,725.00	58,225.00
	Total 6000 · Special Projects	181,472.00	7,308.50	6,371.00	42,401.50	139,070.50
	Total Expense	1,100,202.00	91,994.57	69,129.80	379,708.38	720,493.62

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission									
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and changes in Fund Balance - Construction Fund									
6/30/2026									
Unaudited									
		Project Budget	June	July	Year to Date	Inception to Date Expense	Remaining Budget		
Expense									
• 1000 • Engineering		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
• 2024CR-M • CIP-BS Main Stem Restore		3,534,580.00	22,607.50	19,247.33	134,711.33	635,040.86	2,899,539.14		
• 2026CR-P • Plymouth Creek Restor Dunk 3		2,600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	155,556.08	2,444,443.92		
• BC-12 • CIP-CostShare Pur High Eff St S		150,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	146,500.00		
• BC-14 • CIP-Sochacki Pk Wter Quality Im		600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,500.00	586,500.00		
• BC-2381 • CIP-DeCola Ponds/Wildwood Pk		1,300,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84,049.39	1,215,950.61		
• BC-5 • CIP-Bryn Mawr Meadows		1,835,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	755,689.56	1,079,310.44		
• BC-7 • CIP-Main Stem Lagoon Dredging		2,759,000.00	16,889.50	860.50	77,081.36	1,702,602.35	1,056,397.65		
• BCP-2 • CIP- Basset Cr Pk & Winnetka		1,123,351.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,075,698.32	47,652.68		
• ML-12 • CIP-Medley Park Stormwater		1,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,358,137.20	141,862.80		
• ML-21 • CIP-Jevne Park Stormwater Mgmt		500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,390.75	443,609.25		
• ML-22 • CIP-Ponderosa Wood Strm Restore		407,238.00	0.00	0.00	332,267.80	404,925.11	2,312.89		
• NL-2 • CIP-Four Seasons Mall		990,000.00	0.00	0.00	544,774.77	754,455.33	235,544.67		
• PL-7 • CIP-Parkers Lake Stream Restore		485,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,805.00	253,331.62	231,668.38		
• SL-3 • CIP-Schaper Pond		612,000.00	10,765.00	107.50	22,183.72	605,004.02	6,995.98		
• TW-2 • CIP-Twin Lake Alum Treatment		163,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	91,037.82	71,962.18		
• CL-4 • CIP-Crane Lake Chloride Reduction		0.00	17,845.50	5,793.00	47,414.25	115,688.79	-115,688.79		
• FCP-1 • CIP-Flood Control Project Double E		1,504,000.00	8,208.31	13,290.45	68,038.66	113,227.18	1,390,772.82		
Total Expense		20,063,169.00	76,315.81	39,298.78	1,228,276.89	8,177,834.38	11,885,334.62		



State of Minnesota

Income Contract

SWIFT Contract Number: _____

This Contract is between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ("State") and Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission whose designated business address is P.O. Box 250827 Golden Valley MN 55427 ("Purchaser"). State and Purchaser may be referred to jointly as "Parties."

Recitals

1. Under Minn. Stat. § 115.03(11) & 115.06 the State is empowered to enter into income contracts.
2. The Purchaser is in need of MPCA Smart Salting training.
3. The State represents that it is duly qualified and agrees to provide the services described in this contract.

Accordingly, the Parties agree as follows:

Contract

1. Term of Contract

- 1.1 Effective date. July 16, 2026, or the date the State obtains all required signatures under Minn. Stat. § 16C.05, subd. 2, whichever is later.
- 1.2 Expiration date. December 31, 2026 or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever occurs first.

2. State's Duties

The State will:

MPCA will provide the Purchaser with Smart Salting training(s) of choice from the following:

Trainings available	Fee
Smart Salting for Roads Certification training	\$2,000
Smart Salting for Parking lots & Sidewalks Certification training	\$2,000

Smart Salting for Rural Roads Certification training	\$2,000
Smart Salting for Water Softening Certification training	\$2,000
Smart Salting for Property Management Certification training	\$1,500
Smart Salting Refresher trainings: (For Smart Salting certified individuals only) Liquid deicer, Salt & Snow Storage, Weather for Winter Maintenance and Smart Salting 101.	\$1,000

Trainings will be held in-person or virtually as requested by the Purchaser. The Purchaser is responsible for securing and coordinating the venue for in-person trainings. There may be additional travel expenses for the Purchaser for in-person trainings that require more than one hour of travel. All virtual trainings will be managed and hosted by the MPCA.

Training types and dates will be determined by the parties and scheduled based on Purchaser request and MPCA's instructor availability. Backup dates may be considered and agreed upon by the parties for dates that weather may prohibit attendance.

The MPCA will provide and manage registration for all scheduled trainings. Both parties will promote trainings. For all applicable trainings the MPCA will provide testing and manage the certification process.

3. Payment

The Purchaser will pay the State for all services performed by the State under this contract as follows: MPCA will send an invoice to the Purchaser for a lump sum of all trainings, this invoice must be paid within 30 days of receipt.

The total obligation of the Purchaser for all compensation and reimbursements to the State under this contract is \$[##].

4. Authorized Representative

The State's Authorized Representative is Chandi McCracken-Holm, or his/her successor or delegate.

The Purchaser's Authorized Representative is Laura Jester, P.O. Box 250827 Golden Valley MN 55427, 952-270-1990, laura.jester@keystonewaters.com, or his/her successor. If the Purchaser's Authorized Representative changes at any time during this Contract, the Purchaser must immediately notify the State.

5. Assignment, Amendments, Waiver, and Contract Complete.

- 5.1 Assignment. The Purchaser may neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this Contract without the prior consent of the State and a fully executed assignment agreement, executed and approved by the authorized parties or their successors.

5.2 Amendments. Any amendment to this Contract must be in writing and will not be effective until it has been executed and approved by the authorized parties or their successors.

5.3 Waiver. If the State fails to enforce any provision of this Contract, that failure does not waive the provision or its right to enforce it.

5.4 Contract Complete. This Contract contains all negotiations and agreements between the State and the Purchaser. No other understanding regarding this Contract, whether written or oral, may be used to bind either party.

6. Liability

Each party will be responsible for its own acts and behavior and the results thereof.

7. Government Data Practices.

The Purchaser and State must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, (or, if the State contracting party is part of the Judicial Branch, with the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch promulgated by the Minnesota Supreme Court as the same may be amended from time to time) as it applies to all data provided by the State under this Contract, and as it applies to all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by the Purchaser under this Contract. The civil remedies of Minn. Stat. § 13.08 apply to the release of the data governed by the Minnesota Government Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, by either the Purchaser or the State.

If the Purchaser receives a request to release the data referred to in this clause, the Purchaser must immediately notify and consult with the State's Authorized Representative as to how the Purchaser should respond to the request. The Purchaser's response to the request shall comply with applicable law.

8. Publicity and Endorsement.

8.1 Publicity. Any publicity regarding the subject matter of this Contract must identify the State as the sponsoring agency and must not be released without prior written approval from the State's Authorized Representative. For purposes of this provision, publicity includes notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, information posted on corporate or other websites, research, reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared by or for the Purchaser individually or jointly with others, or any subcontractors, with respect to the program, publications, or services provided resulting from this Contract.

8.2 Endorsement. The Purchaser must not claim that the State endorses its products or services.

9. State Audits.

Under Minn. Stat. § 16C.05, subd. 5, the Purchaser's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices relevant to this Contract are subject to examination by the State, the State Auditor, or Legislative Auditor, as appropriate, for a minimum of six years from the expiration or termination of this Contract.

10. Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue.

Minnesota law, without regard to its choice-of-law provisions, governs this Contract. Venue for all legal proceedings out of this Contract, or its breach, must be in the appropriate state or federal court with competent jurisdiction in Ramsey County, Minnesota.

11. Termination.

Either party may cancel this Contract at any time, with or without cause, upon 30 days' written notice to the other party.

1. Purchaser

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

SWIFT Contract No. _____

3. Commissioner of Administration

As delegated to The Office of State Procurement

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Admin ID: _____

2. State Agency

With delegated authority

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____



June 24, 2026

To the Board of Commissioners and Management
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

The following is a summary of our audit work, key conclusions, and other information that we consider important or that is required to be communicated to the Board of Commissioners, administration, or those charged with governance of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (the Commission).

OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Commission as of and for the 11-month period ended December 31, 2025. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information to you verbally and in our audit engagement letter. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously discussed and coordinated in order to obtain sufficient audit evidence and complete an effective audit.

AUDIT OPINIONS AND FINDINGS

Based on our audit of the Commission's financial statements for the 11-month period ended, December 31, 2025:

- We have issued unmodified opinions on the Commission's basic financial statements. The Commission has elected not to present management's discussion and analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America have determined necessary to supplement, although not required to be a part of, the basic financial statements. Our opinion on the Commission's basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information. Our report also included a paragraph emphasizing the Commission's decision to change its fiscal year-end to match its member cities beginning with the current reporting period for the 11-months ended December 31, 2025. Our opinion was not modified with respect to this matter.
- We reported no deficiencies in the Commission's internal control over financial reporting that we considered to be material weaknesses. Internal controls are never perfected, and those controls which protect the Commission's funds from such things as fraud and accounting errors need to be continually reviewed by management and modified as necessary.

- The results of our testing disclosed no instances of noncompliance required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.
- We reported no findings based on our testing of the Commission's compliance with Minnesota laws and regulations.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Commission are described in Note 1 of the notes to basic financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during the period.

We noted no transactions entered into by the Commission during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND MANAGEMENT JUDGMENTS

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these accounting estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated June 24, 2026.

DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

For purposes of this report, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Commission's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants.

OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards with management each year prior to retention as the Commission's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

OTHER MATTERS

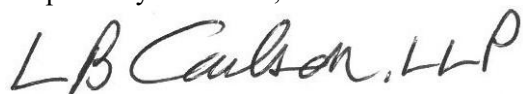
We were not engaged to report on the introductory section, which accompanies the financial statements, but is not required supplementary information. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

CLOSING

We would be pleased to further discuss any of the information contained in this report or any other concerns that you would like us to address. We would also like to express our thanks for the courtesy and assistance extended to us during the course of our audit.

The purpose of this report is solely to provide those charged with governance of the Commission, management, and those with responsibility for oversight of the financial reporting process, required communications related to our audit process. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LB Carlson, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LB CARLSON, LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 24, 2026

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Financial Statements and
Supplemental Information

11-Month Period Ended
December 31, 2025



Certified Public Accountants Business Consultants

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Net Position
as of December 31, 2025
(With Partial Comparative Information as of January 31, 2025)

	Governmental Activities	
	As of December 31, 2025	As of January 31, 2025
Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 11,007,620	\$ 9,342,531
Delinquent taxes receivable	24,509	20,785
Due from other governments	—	150,000
Prepaid items	4,187	3,910
Total assets	<u>\$ 11,036,316</u>	<u>\$ 9,517,226</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 124,937	\$ 136,944
Unearned revenue	200,000	480,880
Total liabilities	<u>324,937</u>	<u>617,824</u>
Net position		
Restricted for watershed improvements	9,352,934	7,868,526
Unrestricted	1,358,445	1,030,876
Total net position	<u>10,711,379</u>	<u>8,899,402</u>
Total liabilities and net position	<u>\$ 11,036,316</u>	<u>\$ 9,517,226</u>

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Activities
11-Month Period Ended December 31, 2025
(With Partial Comparative Information for the Year Ended January 31, 2025)

	Governmental Activities	
	Period Ended December 31, 2025	Year Ended January 31, 2025
Expenses		
Watershed management		
Administration	\$ 819,926	\$ 991,541
Improvement projects	705,948	1,329,088
Total expenses	<u>1,525,874</u>	<u>2,320,629</u>
Program revenues		
Watershed management		
Charges for services – member assessments	662,888	622,500
Charges for services – permit fees	52,906	61,226
Operating grants and contributions	7,930	18,163
Capital grants and contributions	–	300,000
Total program revenues	<u>723,724</u>	<u>1,001,889</u>
Net program revenue (expense)	(802,150)	(1,318,740)
General revenues		
Property taxes	2,236,426	2,177,623
Investment earnings	377,701	387,369
Total general revenues	<u>2,614,127</u>	<u>2,564,992</u>
Change in net position	1,811,977	1,246,252
Net position		
Beginning of year	<u>8,899,402</u>	<u>7,653,150</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 10,711,379</u>	<u>\$ 8,899,402</u>

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
as of December 31, 2025
(With Partial Comparative Information as of January 31, 2025)

			Total Governmental Funds	
			As of	As of
	General Fund	Improvement Capital Projects Fund	December 31, 2025	January 31, 2025
Assets				
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 1,417,860	\$ 9,589,760	\$ 11,007,620	\$ 9,342,531
Delinquent taxes receivable	—	24,509	24,509	20,785
Due from other governments	—	—	—	150,000
Prepaid items	4,187	—	4,187	3,910
	<u>4,187</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>4,187</u>	<u>3,910</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,422,047</u>	<u>\$ 9,614,269</u>	<u>\$ 11,036,316</u>	<u>\$ 9,517,226</u>
Liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$ 63,602	\$ 61,335	\$ 124,937	\$ 136,944
Unearned revenue	—	200,000	200,000	480,880
Total liabilities	<u>63,602</u>	<u>261,335</u>	<u>324,937</u>	<u>617,824</u>
Deferred inflows of resources				
Unavailable revenue – property taxes	—	24,509	24,509	20,785
Fund balances				
Nonspendable for prepaid items	4,187	—	4,187	3,910
Restricted for watershed improvements	—	9,328,425	9,328,425	7,847,741
Assigned for subsequent year's budget	53,530	—	53,530	—
Unassigned	1,300,728	—	1,300,728	1,026,966
Total fund balances	<u>1,358,445</u>	<u>9,328,425</u>	<u>10,686,870</u>	<u>8,878,617</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	<u>\$ 1,422,047</u>	<u>\$ 9,614,269</u>	<u>\$ 11,036,316</u>	<u>\$ 9,517,226</u>

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Fund balances – governmental funds	\$ 10,686,870	\$ 8,878,617
Certain revenues (including delinquent taxes) are included in net position, but are excluded from fund balances until they are available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.	<u>24,509</u>	<u>20,785</u>
Net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 10,711,379</u>	<u>\$ 8,899,402</u>

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
11-Month Period Ended December 31, 2025
(With Partial Comparative Information for the Year Ended January 31, 2025)

			Total Governmental Funds	
	General Fund	Improvement Capital Projects Fund	Period Ended December 31, 2025	Year Ended January 31, 2025
Revenue				
Member contributions	\$ 662,888	\$ —	\$ 662,888	\$ 622,500
Permit fees	52,906	—	52,906	61,226
Property taxes	—	2,232,702	2,232,702	2,179,144
Intergovernmental	6,653	—	6,653	317,808
Investment earnings	377,701	—	377,701	387,369
Refunds and reimbursements	1,277	—	1,277	355
Total revenue	<u>1,101,425</u>	<u>2,232,702</u>	<u>3,334,127</u>	<u>3,568,402</u>
Expenditures				
Current				
Engineering and monitoring	640,067	—	640,067	821,203
Legal	20,191	—	20,191	22,810
Professional services	22,797	—	22,797	26,517
Administrative services	74,868	—	74,868	65,401
Public relations and outreach	9,910	—	9,910	2,958
Financial management	19,348	—	19,348	16,610
Education	32,745	—	32,745	36,042
Capital outlay				
Improvement projects	—	705,948	705,948	1,329,088
Total expenditures	<u>819,926</u>	<u>705,948</u>	<u>1,525,874</u>	<u>2,320,629</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures	281,499	1,526,754	1,808,253	1,247,773
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	46,070	—	46,070	55,950
Transfers (out)	—	(46,070)	(46,070)	(55,950)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>46,070</u>	<u>(46,070)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Net change in fund balances	327,569	1,480,684	1,808,253	1,247,773
Fund balances				
Beginning of year	<u>1,030,876</u>	<u>7,847,741</u>	<u>8,878,617</u>	<u>7,630,844</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 1,358,445</u>	<u>\$ 9,328,425</u>	<u>\$ 10,686,870</u>	<u>\$ 8,878,617</u>

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Net change in fund balances – governmental funds	\$ 1,808,253	\$ 1,247,773
Certain revenues (including delinquent taxes) are included in net position, but are excluded from fund balances until they are available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.	<u>3,724</u>	<u>(1,521)</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 1,811,977</u>	<u>\$ 1,246,252</u>

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Budget and Actual
General Fund
11-Month Period Ended December 31, 2025

	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Revenue			
Member contributions	\$ 662,888	\$ 662,888	\$ —
Permit fees	70,600	52,906	(17,694)
Intergovernmental	5,000	6,653	1,653
Investment earnings	44,000	377,701	333,701
Refunds and reimbursements	—	1,277	1,277
Total revenue	<u>782,488</u>	<u>1,101,425</u>	<u>318,937</u>
Expenditures			
Current			
Engineering and monitoring	589,250	640,067	50,817
Legal	24,300	20,191	(4,109)
Professional services	22,000	22,797	797
Administrative services	98,803	74,868	(23,935)
Public relations and outreach	14,500	9,910	(4,590)
Financial management	18,150	19,348	1,198
Education	41,850	32,745	(9,105)
Total expenditures	<u>808,853</u>	<u>819,926</u>	<u>11,073</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(26,365)	281,499	307,864
Other financing sources			
Transfers in	<u>46,070</u>	<u>46,070</u>	<u>—</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ 19,705</u>	<u>327,569</u>	<u>\$ 307,864</u>
Fund balances			
Beginning of year		<u>1,030,876</u>	
End of year		<u>\$ 1,358,445</u>	

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Notes to Basic Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Organization

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (the Commission) is a joint venture of the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park, formed under the authority of Minnesota Statutes § 471.59. The Commission's purpose is to provide for cooperative planning, usage, and improvement of the watershed drained by the nine member communities. It is governed by a board consisting of nine commissioners, one appointed by each member city. The accounting policies of the Commission conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to governmental units.

B. Reporting Entity

A joint venture is a legal entity resulting from a contractual agreement that is owned, operated, or governed by two or more participants as a separate and specific activity subject to joint control, in which the participants retain either an ongoing financial interest or an ongoing financial responsibility. The Commission, as described above, is considered a joint venture of the nine member cities, and is included as such in their financial statements.

As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, these financial statements include the Commission (the primary government) and its component units. Component units are legally separate entities for which the primary government is financially accountable, or for which the exclusion of the component unit would render the financial statements of the primary government misleading. The criteria used to determine if the primary government is financially accountable for a component unit includes whether or not the primary government appoints the voting majority of the potential component unit's board, is able to impose its will on the potential component unit, is in a relationship of financial benefit or burden with the potential component unit, or is fiscally depended upon by the potential component unit. Based on these criteria, there are no component units required to be included in the Commission's financial statements.

C. Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities) display information about the reporting government as a whole. These statements include all of the financial activities of the Commission. The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include: 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment; 2) operating grants and contributions; and 3) capital grants and contributions. Taxes and other internally directed revenues are reported as general revenues.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue when all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. Generally, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

D. Fund Financial Statement Presentation

The accounts of the Commission are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate self-balancing accounting entity. Separate fund financial statements are provided for governmental funds, with major individual governmental funds reported in separate columns. The Commission reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund – The General Fund is the primary operating account of the Commission and is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Improvement Capital Projects Fund – The Improvement Capital Projects Fund is used to account for resources set aside for the construction of improvements to the watershed. Its primary resources include a property tax levy and state grants.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, only current assets, current liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources generally are included on the Balance Sheet. Operating statements of this fund present increases (revenue and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in fund balances. Under this basis of accounting, transactions are recorded in the following manner:

- 1. Revenue Recognition** – Revenue is recognized when it becomes measurable and available. “Measurable” means the amount of the transaction can be determined and “available” means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the Commission considers revenues to be available if collected within 60 days after year-end. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue when all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. Grant advances received for which not all eligibility requirements have been met are reported as unearned revenue at year-end. All significant revenue sources are considered susceptible to accrual.
- 2. Recording of Expenditures** – Expenditures are generally recorded when a liability is incurred; however, expenditures are recorded as prepaid for approved disbursements or liabilities incurred in advance of the year in which the item is to be used.

E. Budget

The Commission’s Board adopts an annual budget for the General Fund on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Budgetary control is at the fund level. All appropriations lapse at year-end. Actual expenditures for the period ended December 31, 2025, exceeded General Fund appropriations by \$11,073.

F. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, required management to make estimates that affect the amounts reported. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

G. Cash and Investments

Cash and investments balances from all funds are combined and invested to the extent available in various securities as authorized by state law. Earnings from the pooled investments are allocated to the General Fund based on the Commission’s investment policy. Investment pools are valued at amortized cost, while all other investments are reported at fair value.

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

The Commission categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; and Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. Debt securities classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy are valued using a matrix pricing technique. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities' relationship to benchmark quoted prices.

See Note 2 for the Commission's recurring fair value measurements at year-end.

H. Receivables

The Commission utilizes an allowance for uncollectible accounts to value its receivables; however, it considers all of its current receivables to be collectible. Taxes receivable is the only receivable not expected to be collected within one year.

I. Prepaid Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaids, which are recorded as expenditures/expenses at the time of consumption.

J. Capital Assets

The Commission has no capital assets. The Improvement Capital Projects Fund is used to construct holding ponds and other drainage system improvements within the watershed area. The improvements are on land belonging to the Commission's member communities and are not capitalized by the Commission.

K. Property Taxes

Under Minnesota Statutes § 103B.251, the Commission is authorized to certify to Hennepin County the costs of capital projects included in the capital improvement program in the Commission's watershed management plan. Project costs are certified to the county before October 1. The county is required by Minnesota Statutes § 103B.251, Subd. 6 to provide funds for the cost of such improvements. The Commission has elected to levy an ad valorem property tax on taxable properties within the watershed to provide such funds. Such taxes become a lien on January 1 and are recorded as receivables by the Commission on that date. Property taxes may be paid by taxpayers in two equal installments on May 15 and October 15. The county provides tax settlements to all taxing districts several times a year. Taxes which remain unpaid at December 31 are classified as delinquent taxes receivable and are offset by deferred inflows of resources on the governmental funds financial statements if not collected within 60 days after year-end.

L. Risk Management

The Commission is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts: theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; error and omissions; and natural disasters. The Commission participates in the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT), a public entity risk pool for its general property, casualty, and other miscellaneous insurance coverages. The LMCIT operates as a common risk management and insurance program for a large number of cities in Minnesota. The Commission pays an annual premium to the LMCIT for insurance coverage. The LMCIT agreement provides that the trust will be self-sustaining through member premiums and will reinsure through commercial companies for claims in excess of certain limits. Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage during the current period.

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

M. Deferred Inflows of Resources

In addition to liabilities, statements of financial position, or balance sheets, will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to future periods and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Commission has only one type of item, which arises under a modified accrual basis of accounting, that qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item, unavailable revenue, is reported only in the governmental funds Balance Sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenue from property taxes. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available.

N. Net Position Classifications and Flow Assumptions

In the government-wide financial statements, net position represents the difference between assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows of resources; and is displayed in the following components:

- **Net Investment in Capital Assets** – Consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by any outstanding debt attributable to acquire capital assets.
- **Restricted Net Position** – Consists of net position restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments.
- **Unrestricted Net Position** – All other net position that does not meet the definition of “restricted” or “net investment in capital assets.”

The Commission applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred, for which both restricted and unrestricted resources are available.

O. Fund Balance Classifications and Flow Assumptions

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report fund balance in classifications that disclose constraints for which amounts in those funds can be spent. These classifications are as follows:

- **Nonspendable** – Consists of amounts that are not in spendable form, such as prepaid items, inventory, and other long-term assets.
- **Restricted** – Consists of amounts related to externally imposed constraints established by creditors, grantors, or contributors; or constraints imposed by state statutory provisions.
- **Committed** – Consists of internally imposed constraints that are established by resolution of the Board of Commissioners. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board of Commissioners removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action it employed to previously commit those amounts.
- **Assigned** – Consists of internally imposed constraints consisting of amounts intended to be used by the Commission for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the governing body itself or by an official to which the governing body delegates the authority.
- **Unassigned** – The residual classification for the General Fund, which also reflects negative residual amounts in other funds.

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, the Commission first uses restricted resources and then unrestricted resources as they are needed. When committed, assigned, or unassigned resources are available for use, the Commission uses resources in the following order: 1) committed, 2) assigned, and 3) unassigned.

P. Prior Period Comparative Information/Reclassification

The financial statements include partial prior year comparative information. Such information does not include all of the information required or sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the Commission's financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2025, from which such partial information was derived. Certain prior year information presented has been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

Q. Change in Fiscal Year-End

The Commission elected to change its fiscal year-end to match its member cities beginning with the current fiscal reporting period, the 11-months ended December 31, 2025. The Commission will report annually on a calendar year basis thereafter.

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

A. Deposits

In accordance with applicable Minnesota Statutes, the Commission maintains deposits at depository banks authorized by its Board of Commissioners, including checking and savings accounts. The following is considered the most significant risk associated with deposits:

Custodial Credit Risk – In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Commission's deposits may be lost.

Minnesota Statutes require that all deposits be protected by federal deposit insurance, corporate surety bonds, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged must equal 110 percent of the deposits not covered by federal deposit insurance or corporate surety bonds. Authorized collateral includes treasury bills, notes, and bonds; issues of U.S. government agencies; general obligations rated "A" or better; revenue obligations rated "AA" or better; irrevocable standard letters of credit issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank; and certificates of deposit. Minnesota Statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping in a restricted account at the Federal Reserve Bank or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution that is not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral. The Commission has no additional deposit policies addressing custodial credit risk.

Through the use of sweep accounts, the carrying amount and the balance on the bank records of the Commission's deposits was \$0 at the end of the current period. All the Commission's deposits were fully covered by federal deposit insurance or collateral held by the Commission's agent in the Commission's name at the end of the current period.

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

B. Investments

The Commission has the following investments on December 31, 2025:

Investment Type	Fair Value Measurement	Credit Risk		Interest Risk	Total
		Rating	Agency		
Investment pools/mutual funds					
4M Fund	Amortized Cost	AAA	S&P	No Maturity	\$ 6,906,636
4M Plus Fund	Amortized Cost	AAA	S&P	No Maturity	4,100,984
					<u>\$ 11,007,620</u>

The Minnesota Municipal Money Market (4M) Fund and 4M Plus Fund are external investment pools regulated by Minnesota Statutes that are not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), but follow the regulatory rules of the SEC. The Commission's investments in these funds are measured at the value per share provided by the pool, which are based on an amortized cost method that approximates fair value. There are no restrictions or limitations on withdrawals from the 4M Fund. The 4M Plus Fund requires an initial 14-day investment period, subject to a penalty equal to 7 days of interest on funds withdrawn prior to the 14-day restriction period.

Investments are subject to various risks, the following of which are considered the most significant:

Custodial Credit Risk – For investments, this is the risk that in the event of a failure of the counterparty to an investment transaction (typically a broker-dealer) the Commission would not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Commission does not have a formal policy addressing this risk but typically limits its exposure by purchasing insured or registered investments or controlling who holds the securities.

Credit Risk – This is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. Minnesota Statutes limit the Commission's investments to direct obligations or obligations guaranteed by the United States or its agencies; shares of investment companies registered under the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940 that receive the highest credit rating, are rated in one of the two highest rating categories by a statistical rating agency, and all of the investments have a final maturity of 13 months or less; general obligations rated "A" or better; revenue obligations rated "AA" or better; general obligations of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency rated "A" or better; bankers' acceptances of United States banks eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve System; commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries, rated of the highest quality category by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies, and maturing in 270 days or less; Guaranteed Investment Contracts guaranteed by a United States commercial bank, domestic branch of a foreign bank, or a United States insurance company, and with a credit quality in one of the top two highest categories; repurchase or reverse purchase agreements and securities lending agreements with financial institutions qualified as a "depository" by the government entity, with banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System with capitalization exceeding \$10,000,000; a primary reporting dealer in U.S. government securities to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; or certain Minnesota securities broker-dealers. The Commission does not have a formal policy that further restricts investing in specific financial instruments.

Concentration Risk – This is the risk associated with investing a significant portion of the Commission's investment (considered 5 percent or more) in the securities of a single issuer, excluding U.S. guaranteed investments (such as treasuries), investment pools, and mutual funds. the Commission does not have a formal policy that limits the concentration of investments.

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Interest Rate Risk – This is the risk of potential variability in the fair value of fixed rate investments resulting from changes in interest rates (the longer the period for which an interest rate is fixed, the greater the risk). The Commission does not have a formal policy limiting the duration of investments.

NOTE 3 – INTERFUND TRANSFERS

The Commission transferred \$46,070 from the Improvement Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund during the period to allocate a portion of the Commission's property tax levy to finance administrative costs.

Transfers reported in the fund financial statements are eliminated in the government-wide financial statements.

NOTE 4 – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The nine member cities support the Commission through annual contributions, which are computed using a formula based on the net tax capacity of all property within the watershed and the total area of each member city within the watershed, as compared to the total area within the watershed. Contributions are assessed on a fiscal year basis. Contributions received in advance of the year to which they pertain are reported as unearned revenue in the year received. Member contributions for the period ended December 31, 2025, were as follows:

	Member Contributions
Crystal	\$ 35,181
Golden Valley	166,502
Medicine Lake	4,851
Minneapolis	47,195
Minnetonka	37,498
New Hope	35,470
Plymouth	298,710
Robbinsdale	10,654
St. Louis Park	26,827
	<u>\$ 662,888</u>

Member cities charge the Commission for expenditures incurred or services performed on the Commission's behalf. Expenditures paid to the member cities for the period ended December 31, 2025, included \$138,364 paid to the City of Golden Valley for capital outlay spending. The Commission also paid the City of Plymouth \$18,864 for financial reporting services.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Board of Commissioners and Management
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (the Commission) as of and for the 11-month period ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 24, 2026.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Commission's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

(continued)

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not the objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Commission's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LB Carlson, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LB CARLSON, LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 24, 2026

Memorandum

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)
From: Barr Engineering Co. (Jim Herbert, PE; Gabby Campagnola)
Subject: Item 4G: Theodore Wirth Golf Drainage Improvements – Golden Valley, MN
BCWMC July 16, 2026 Meeting Agenda
Date: July 8, 2026
Project: 23270051.72 1020 2607

4G Theodore Wirth Golf Drainage Improvements – Golden Valley, MN BCWMC 2026-07

Summary:

Proposed Work: Stormwater pond modification and drainage improvements

Project Proposer: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Project Schedule: Construction Fall 2026

Basis for Review at Commission Meeting: Work in the floodplain

Impervious Surface Area: Increase 0.17 acres

Recommendations for Commission Action: Approval

General Project Information

The proposed project is located south of the trailhead parking lot at Theodore Wirth Park within the Bassett Creek Main Stem subwatershed in Golden Valley (see attached map for location). The proposed project includes modifications to an existing stormwater pond, construction of a new drainage channel, and construction of approximately 1,300 feet of cart path, resulting in a total of 3.88 acres of disturbance. The proposed project creates 0.17 acres of new and fully reconstructed impervious surfaces, and results in an increase of 0.17 acres of disconnected impervious surfaces from 0.12 acres (existing) to 0.29 acres (proposed) within the construction limits.

The project application was submitted before May 1, 2026, so the project must adhere to the January 2023 BCWMC Requirements for Improvements and Development Proposals document (Requirements document).

Floodplain

The proposed project includes work in the BCWMC (Bassett Creek Main Stem) 100-year floodplain. The BCWMC 1% annual-chance (100-year) floodplain elevation of Bassett Creek at the project site is 826.6 feet NAVD88. The Requirements document states that projects within the floodplain must maintain no net loss in floodplain storage and no increase in flood level at any point along the trunk system (managed to at least a precision of 0.00 feet). The proposed project will result in approximately 1,893 cubic yards of floodplain fill due to the proposed drainage improvements. The proposed project will create 2,055 cubic yards of compensating storage due to the proposed grading and drainage channel, resulting in a net gain of approximately 162 cubic yards of floodplain storage. The applicant submitted HydroCAD modeling to show that the net increase in floodwater runoff volume from the proposed project is less than the increased floodplain storage, resulting in satisfaction of the no rise criteria.

Wetlands

The City of Golden Valley is the local government unit (LGU) responsible for administering the Wetland Conservation Act; therefore, BCWMC wetland review is not required. The proposed project results in a no-loss of wetlands according to Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act.

Rate Control

The proposed project does not create one or more acres of new and/or fully reconstructed impervious surfaces; therefore, BCWMC rate control review is not required.

Water Quality

The proposed project does not create one or more acres of new and/or fully reconstructed impervious surfaces; therefore, BCWMC water quality review is not required.

Erosion and Sediment Control

The proposed project results in 10,000 square feet or more acres of land disturbance; therefore, the proposed project must meet the BCWMC erosion and sediment control requirements. Proposed temporary erosion and sediment control features include construction entrances, inlet protection, and silt fence. Permanent erosion and sediment control features include stabilization with seed and blanket.

Recommendation for Commission Action

Approval



Project Location



Municipality



BCWMC Legal Boundary



BCWMC Hydrologic Boundary



Major Subwatershed



0 400 800
Feet



**BCWMC 2026-07
Theodore Wirth Golf
Drainage Improvements
Golden Valley, MN**

LOCATION MAP



Memorandum

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)
From: Barr Engineering Co. (Jim Herbert, PE; Gabby Campagnola)
Subject: Item 5A: Graffiti Mill East Building-Phase 1A – Minneapolis MN
BCWMC July 16, 2026 Meeting Agenda
Date: July 1, 2026
Project: 23270051.72 1020 2614

5A Graffiti Mill East Building – Phase 1A – Minneapolis, MN BCWMC 2026 – 14

Summary:

Proposed Work: East Building expansion/renovation and utility improvements

Project Proposer: Graffiti Mills, LLC

Project Schedule: Construction planned for late summer/fall 2026

Basis for Review at Commission Meeting: Work in the floodplain and variance

Impervious Surface Area: No change in impervious surfaces

Recommendations for Commission Action: Conditional Approval

General Project Information

Fruen Mill (now called Graffiti Mill) is a former industrial site located at 303 Thomas Ave North, within the Bassett Creek Main Stem subwatershed in Minneapolis (see attached map for location). The proposed commercial project includes building renovations, building expansion, utility improvements, parking modifications, and minor surfacing improvements, resulting in 0.24 acres of land disturbance. The proposed project creates 0.18 acres of fully reconstructed impervious surfaces. Some of the concrete in those areas outside the West and East Mill building footprint is planned to be removed and replaced with gravel surface.

Fruen Mill is comprised of two existing structures, the East and West Mill buildings. The lowest floor (basement) of each building is below the BCWMC 100-year floodplain elevation—9.42 feet below at the East Mill building and 8.35 feet below at the West Mill building. Under typical flow conditions, the low floor of both mill buildings is up to 5 feet below the creek elevation. Table 2 was provided by the applicant's consultant and summarizes the relevant elevations to the project such as the low floor (basement) and low opening, groundwater level, creek level, and the BCWMC 100-year floodplain.

Table 2. Lowest floor and lowest opening elevations for buildings and water elevation information.

Structure	Low Floor Elevation (ft)	Observed Groundwater Elev. Range (ft)*	Approx. Creek Elev. (ft)**	Critical Low Opening Elev. (ft)***	100-yr Floodplain Elev. (ft) (North to South)	100-yr Floodplain Elev. +2' (ft) (North to South)
East Mill	811.69	815.51 - 811.58	816.7	822.95	821.11 - 819.80	823.11 - 820.20
West Mill	812.84	815.51 - 811.58	816.7	824.01	821.19 - 820.10	823.19 - 822.10

*Observed elevations from on-site monitoring wells before dewatering and during building dewatering (summer, 2024).

**Surveyed creek elevation on 7/17/2025 at the staff gauge; note that just under 1" of rain was observed at nearby rain gauges on 6/16/2025, so creek level was likely higher than average.

***Since the floodplain slopes across the site (decreasing elevation from north to south), values for the 100-yr BCWMC floodplain elevation needed to be used at the opening locations. The 100-yr floodplain elevations at the critical low opening locations are 820.53 ft for the East Mill and 821.09 ft for the West Mill.

Table 3 was provided by the applicant's consultant and demonstrates the freeboard between the first floor and the BCWMC 100-year floodplain.

Table 3. First/Entrance floor elevations for buildings and water elevation information.

Structure	First Floor/Entrance Elevation (ft)*	100-yr Floodplain Elev. (ft)**	100-yr Floodplain Elev. +2' (ft)	Clearance Above/Below Freeboard (ft)
East Mill	822.95	821.11	823.11	-0.16
West Mill	824.01	821.19	823.19	0.82

*First floor above the basement level

**Highest BCWMC 100-yr floodplain level in contact with the structure; lower elevations to the south.

Variance Compliance

At its August 21, 2025 meeting, the BCWMC conditionally approved the requested variance to the following BCWMC floodplain requirements, as defined in the following statement: *The request was to redevelop the existing basement floors of both buildings for non-residential uses at their current elevations, up to 11.42 feet below the BCWMC freeboard requirements (100-year floodplain + 2.0 ft.), as shown in Tables 2 and 3, by using a dewatering system.*

In addition, the BCWMC conditionally approved a request for a deviation from the BCWMC flood level standards on the east building main floor to remain at its current elevation, with slightly less freeboard than the BCWMC standards, as shown in Tables 2 and 3. More specifically, this conditional approval relates only to the following three BCWMC standards:

- Section 4.0.1: Minimum building elevations (lowest floor) of new and redeveloped structures, including parking garages/ramps, must be at least 2.0 feet above the 100-year flood level. (Policy 29 in prior Watershed Management Plan)
- Section 4.0.3: The BCWMC will allow only those land uses in the BCWMC-established floodplain that will not be damaged by floodwater and will not increase flooding. (Policy 34 in prior Watershed Management Plan)
- Section 4.0.4: Allowable types of land use that are consistent with the floodplain include recreation areas, playgrounds, surface parking lots, temporary excavation and storage areas, public utility lines, agriculture, and other open spaces. (Policy 34 in prior Watershed Management Plan)

Approval of the above variances (Sections 4.0.1, 4.0.3, and 4.0.4) was conditioned on six requirements shown below.

1. The applicant must satisfy all other BCWMC development standards and submit any required application, signed by the City of Minneapolis, in accordance with Sections 2.0 and 3.0 of the BCWMC Requirements for Improvements and Development Proposals (Requirements Document). All required project plans and other sufficient information must be provided to evaluate the effect that the proposed project may have on the water resources of the watershed within the guidelines presented in the Requirements Document. Specific BCWMC requirements, general submittal guidelines and application requirements are provided in the Requirements Document. This document and the application form may be downloaded from the BCWMC's website at: <https://bassettcreekwmo.org/developer/standards-requirements>.

Commission Engineer response: See recommendation comments.

2. This approval does not allow a variance to Section 4.0.8 (Policy 38 in prior Watershed Management Plan), and so in addition to all other requirements, the project must meet the following criteria as contained in the Requirements Document:
 - Projects within the floodplain must maintain no net loss in floodplain storage
 - Projects within the floodplain must maintain no increase in flood level at any point along the trunk system (managed to at least a precision of 0.00 feet).

The Bassett Creek XPSWWM model was previously provided to the applicant's consultant to demonstrate compliance.

Commission Engineer response: Although the project results in 0.24 acres of land disturbance, the Owner has indicated that no grade changes are planned as part of the utility installation. The existing concrete in these areas will be removed and replaced with gravel.

3. The proposed floodproofing and dewatering system plan for the East and West Mill buildings must be designed by a professional engineer certified in the state of Minnesota. The buildings must be fully flood-proofed in accordance with all applicable codes and regulations (Policy 38 in prior Watershed Management Plan) to the satisfaction of the Commission Engineer. Floodproofing plan and dewatering system must include redundancy for power failures (backup power system, generator, etc.) or pump outages and consider crack sealing, floodproofing membranes, drain tile, pumps, sumps and pipes. An Operations & Maintenance plan for the floodproofing plan and dewatering system must also be filed with the city.

Commission Engineer response: See recommendation comments.

4. The approval herein is conditioned on adherence to the representation made by the applicant in its variance application that the basement levels of the East and West Mill buildings will be used only for commercial purposes and not residential/living or lodging space.

Commission Engineer response: See recommendation comments.

5. As part of its application, the applicant submitted Table 2 and Table 3 as documentation of the low floor and critical low opening elevations for the West and East Mill building. The final development plans, review application, and supporting documentation must not provide a lower level of surface water flood protection than those shown in such submittals, i.e., must not reduce the current freeboard.

Commission Engineer response: Although a portion of the East Building floor will be removed and lowered, the work does not involve lowering the floor below the elevation of 811.69 feet that was approved in conditional variance.

6. In furtherance of the BCWMC's goals related to water quality of Bassett Creek, the applicant shall redevelop the site in a manner that is consistent with all representations related to water quality made by the applicant as part of its variance application, and the applicant shall further adhere to any DNR-imposed conditions related to water quality. Additionally, all DNR General Appropriation Permit Application 2025-1746 comments must be addressed to the satisfaction of the Commission Engineer.

Commission Engineer response: See recommendation comments.

Floodplain

The BCWMC 1% annual-chance (100-year) floodplain elevation of Bassett Creek at the project site ranges from 821.8 to 816.45 feet NAVD88. The Requirements Document states that projects within the floodplain must maintain no net loss in floodplain storage and no increase in flood level at any point along the trunk system (managed to at least a precision of 0.00 feet). The proposed East Building project does not result in grade changes or floodplain fill, therefore, BCWMC floodplain review is not required.

Wetlands

The City of Minneapolis is the local government unit (LGU) responsible for administering the Wetland Conservation Act; therefore, BCWMC wetland review is not required.

Rate Control

The proposed project does not create one or more acres of new and/or fully reconstructed impervious surfaces; therefore, BCWMC rate control review is not required.

Water Quality

The proposed project does not create one or more acres of new and/or fully reconstructed impervious surfaces; therefore, BCWMC stormwater quality review is not required. [See recommendation comments regarding stream water quality issues.](#)

Erosion and Sediment Control

The proposed project results in 10,000 square feet or more acres of land disturbance; therefore, the proposed project must meet the BCWMC erosion and sediment control requirements. Proposed temporary erosion and sediment control features include sediment control logs.

Recommendation for Commission Action

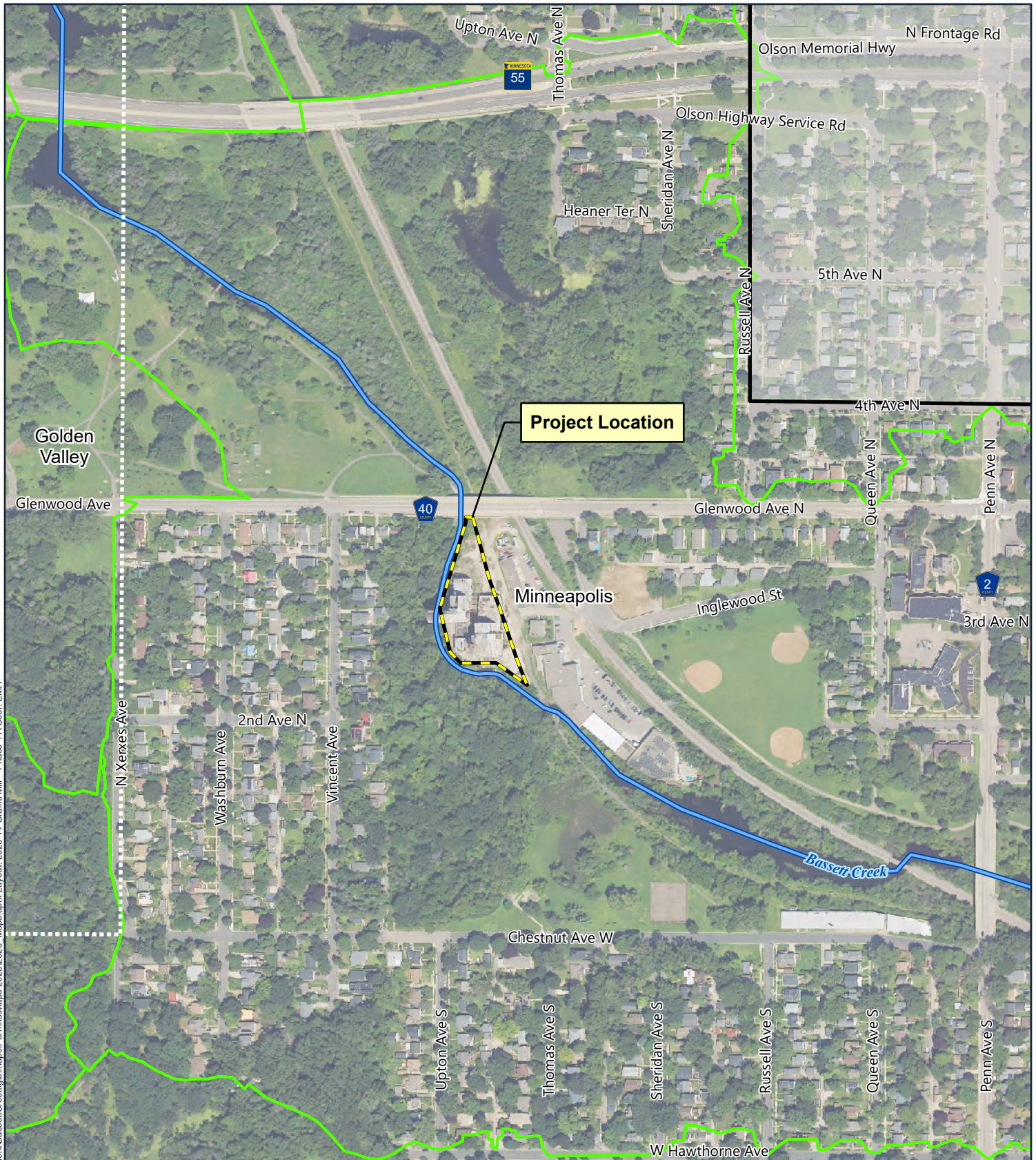
Conditional approval based on the following comments:

1. Variance Condition 3: The application included the technical memorandum dated June 15, 2026, regarding basement dewatering. The memorandum describes the general basement dewatering plan and some of the details are provided on the plans. We recommend revising the memorandum addressing each item identified in paragraph 3 and certifying the proposed floodproofing and dewatering system plan:
 - a. Floodproofing plan and dewatering system must include redundancy for power failures (backup power system, generator, etc.) or pump outages

- b. Floodproofing plan must consider crack sealing, floodproofing membranes, drain tile, pumps, sumps and pipes.
 - c. An Operations & Maintenance plan for the floodproofing plan and dewatering system must be filed with the city.
 - d. The proposed floodproofing and dewatering system plan for the East and West Mill buildings must be designed by a professional engineer certified in the state of Minnesota.
 - e. The variance application provided to the BCWMC (7/25/2025) and the Permit to Discharge Water to Bassett Creek (10/27/2025) provided to the city indicate the sump pumps would be capable of pumping continuously to Bassett Creek at a rate between 30 and 60 gpm. Yet, the drawings (Sheet P100) and the Long-Term Groundwater Discharge Permit – Additional information regarding TP (5/19/2026) is based on a groundwater pumping discharge at a constant 20 gpm. The change in pumping rate must be clarified.
 - f. The final drain tile layout plans and sump pump connection details, signed by a professional engineer in the State of MN must be provided for review.
2. Variance Condition 4: Applicant must provide a statement confirming the basement levels of the East and West Mill buildings will be used only for commercial purposes and not residential/living or lodging space.
3. Variance Condition 6: Applicant should provide status of review of DNR General Appropriation Permit Application 2025-1746.
4. Sheet C4-2, P100, Draft East Building Drain Tile Plan: the sump locations are not consistent between these plans. Revise as needed.
5. Sheet C4-1, C4-2: Drawings must clarify sump outlet and outfall protection. Under current conditions the sumps appear to discharge to a concrete apron, and the proposed civil drawings show “rock outlet protection.”
 - a. In the proposed condition does the concrete apron remain?
 - b. If feasible, the outlet pipe should be extended to discharge near the creek invert to minimize potential erosion.
 - c. Detail 10/C8-1 does not appear to represent the sump discharge alignment.
 - d. The sump discharge should be directed in a downstream direction along the creek, as feasible.
6. The applicant should evaluate whether construction entrances are required for the proposed project. If required, the plans must identify their locations and include installation details.
7. The following water quality comments must be addressed:
 - a. The Main Stem of Bassett Creek is listed as impaired for fish and benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessments, as well as chloride. The MPCA has identified eutrophication and elevated chloride concentrations as a primary cause of these impairments and stressors to aquatic life in this reach. Any discharge to Bassett Creek should meet or be cleaner than the state's Class 2b standards for the creek.
 - b. The Permit to discharge water to Bassett Creek (10/27/2025) indicates “The dewatering system discharge will meet all applicable water quality standards and will have chloride and total suspended solids concentrations below those typically found now in Bassett

Creek.” Tables 1 and 2 in the referenced 10/27/2025 document (submitted to City of Minneapolis) shows the following analytes do not meet applicable standards.

- i. Zinc, total (as Zn) = 0.0751mg/L > 0.067mg/L (Class 2b Standard) on 9/8/2025
 - ii. Phosphorus, total (TP) = 0.395 mg/L > 0.1 mg/L (Class 2b Standard) on 9/8/2025
 - iii. Phosphorus, total (TP) = 0.166 mg/L > 0.1 mg/L (Class 2b Standard) on 8/20/2025
8. The proposed work appears to include reconstruction of impervious surfaces outside of the parcel boundary. According to the Requirements Document, if a property has several redevelopment projects over time that individually do not trigger the BCWMC performance goal (based on new/fully reconstructed impervious surfaces), but would when combined, the applicant will be required to provide treatment in accordance with the BCWMC performance goal for all redevelopments. The BCWMC performance goal will apply to any surfaces as part of the redevelopment (even if the surface is outside the parcel boundary).



Project Location



Municipality



BCWMC Legal Boundary



BCWMC Hydrologic Boundary



Major Subwatershed



0 200 400
Feet



**BCWMC 2026-14
Graffiti Mill – Phase 1 A
Minneapolis, MN**

LOCATION MAP

BARR

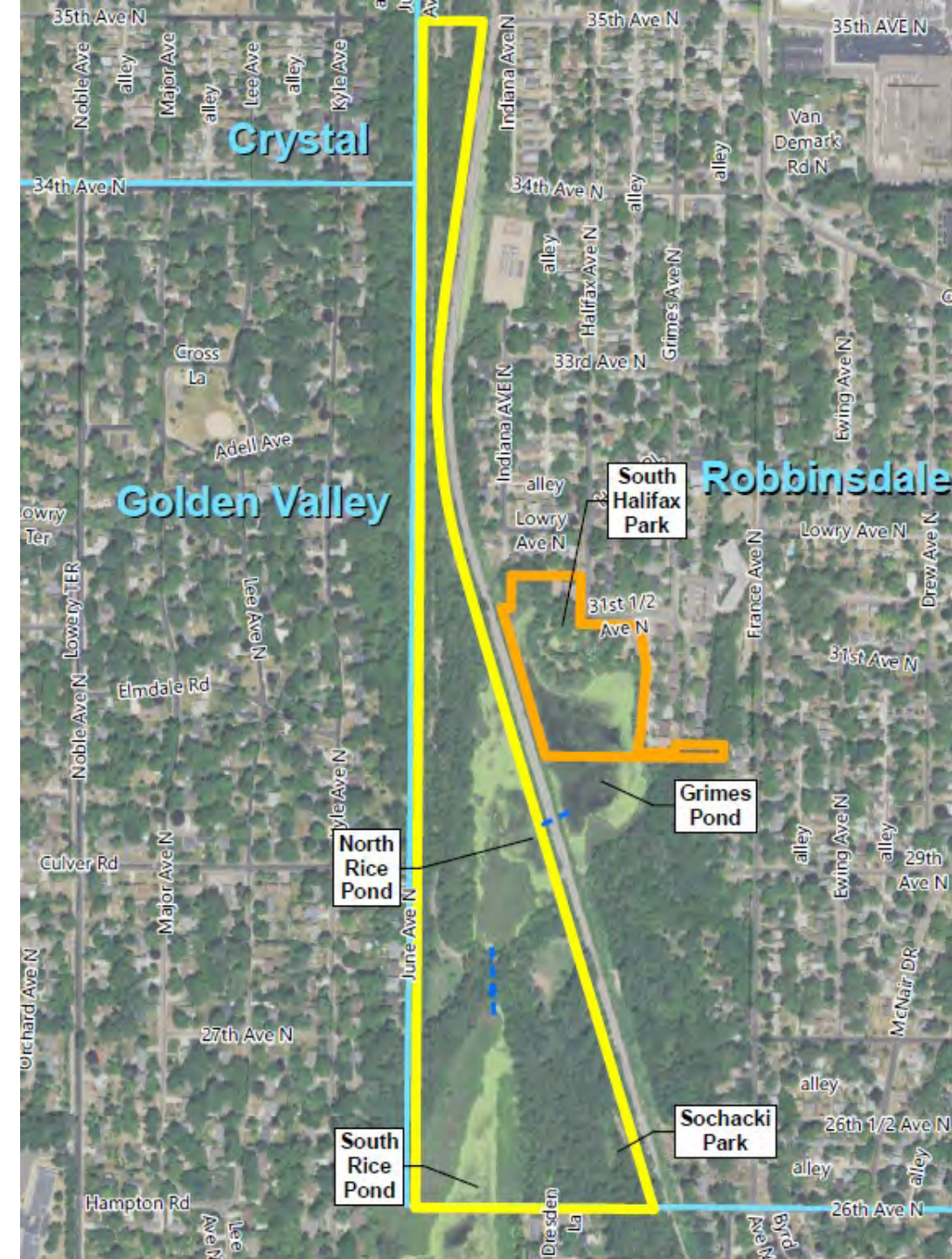
Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-14)

50% Design Plan Review

July 16, 2026

Greg Wilson, P.E., Barr Engineering Co.
Jami Markle, Three Rivers Park District

Prepared for Three Rivers Park District on behalf of the Bassett
Creek Watershed Management Commission



Project Background



September, 2022 – Barr completes Sohacki Park Subwatershed Assessment

March, 2023 - Commission approves addition of water quality improvement project recommendations to CIP (BC-14)

September, 2023 - Commission approves feasibility study

April 18, 2024 – Three Rivers Park District approves Barr's scope and budget for design and construction oversight

Feasibility Study Recommendations and Estimated Benefits



Monitoring/Modeling Scenario	Grimes Pond Avg. Summer TP	North Rice Pond Avg. Summer TP	South Rice Pond Avg. Summer TP	Avg. TP Entering Bassett Creek
Existing 2020 and 2021 Summer Average TP (µg/L)	168	104	230	230
Predicted Summer TP Concentration Following BMP Implementation (µg/L)	128	75	107	107
Percent TP Reduction Following BMP Implementation	24%	28%	53%	53%
Predicted Annual TP Load Reduction Following BMP Implementation (lbs/yr)				68.3

- Structural BMPs
 - Two ponds in South Rice Pond watershed, one each in Grimes and North Rice Pond watersheds
 - Clear debris from inlets/outlets, remove sediment deposits, stabilize erosion
- In-pond BMPs to reduce internal phosphorus load
 - Conduct water level drawdowns—control invasives, shift floating plant dominance
 - Areal alum applications
- Revegetate and control soil erosion in upland areas
- Street sweeping—emphasis in untreated watersheds

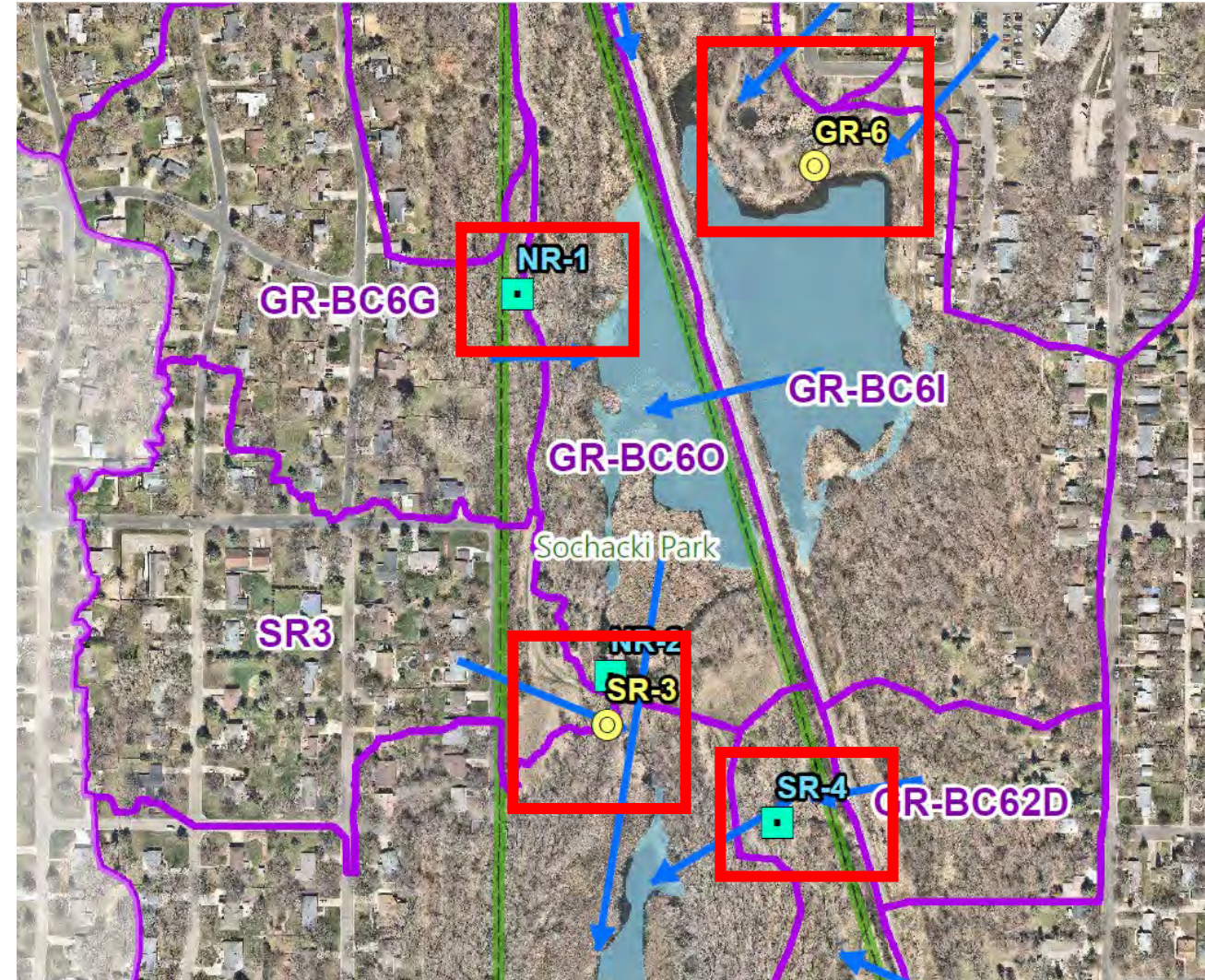
Work Completed Since Feasibility Study

- Phase II and additional investigations
 - o Coordination w/ regulatory Agencies
 - o Pre-characterization of hazardous soils
- Geotechnical investigation
- Additional topographic and tree surveys
- Secured additional funding from HUD and Hennepin County ERF
- Began permitting conversations
 - o Minnesota DNR
 - o US Army Corps of Engineers
 - o Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
 - o Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- 50% structural BMP design plans and drawdown planning and permit preparation



Feasibility Concepts to 50% Design Plans

- Retained feasibility study features for 50% design
 - o BMP design objectives, sizing and locations
 - o New Pond NR-1
 - o New Pond SR-3
 - o New BMP GR-6
 - o Dredge/expand Pond SR-4 and stabilize outlet channel to South Rice Pond
 - o Controlled water level drawdowns (each pond)
 - o Bassett Creek water quality benefit
- Updated feasibility study features for 50% design
 - o Enrollment in MPCA/MDA Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup (VIC) programs
 - o Implement Response Action Plans (RAP) with each Agency
 - o Expanded BMP footprint and tree removals
 - o Over-excavate BMPs, provide liner and/or adequate cover between BMPs and contamination; address geotechnical concerns



Milestone Schedule



Tasks and milestones	Previous Tentative Schedule	Recommended Revised Schedule
Design – complete 50% plans for review and permitting	November 2024	July 2026 <i>[done]</i>
Permitting	Fall 2024 / February 2025	Now through Fall 2026
Public Meeting(s)	Fall 2024 / February 2025	August 2026
Design – complete 90% plans for review	February 2025	September 2026
Design – complete 100% plans for review	March 2025	October 2026
Pond Water Level Drawdowns	Fall / Winter 2025/2026	September—October, 2026
Structural BMP Bidding	March / April 2025	October / November 2026
Structural BMP Construction	Fall / Winter 2025/2026	Fall / Winter 2026/2027



Approval and Permits Required



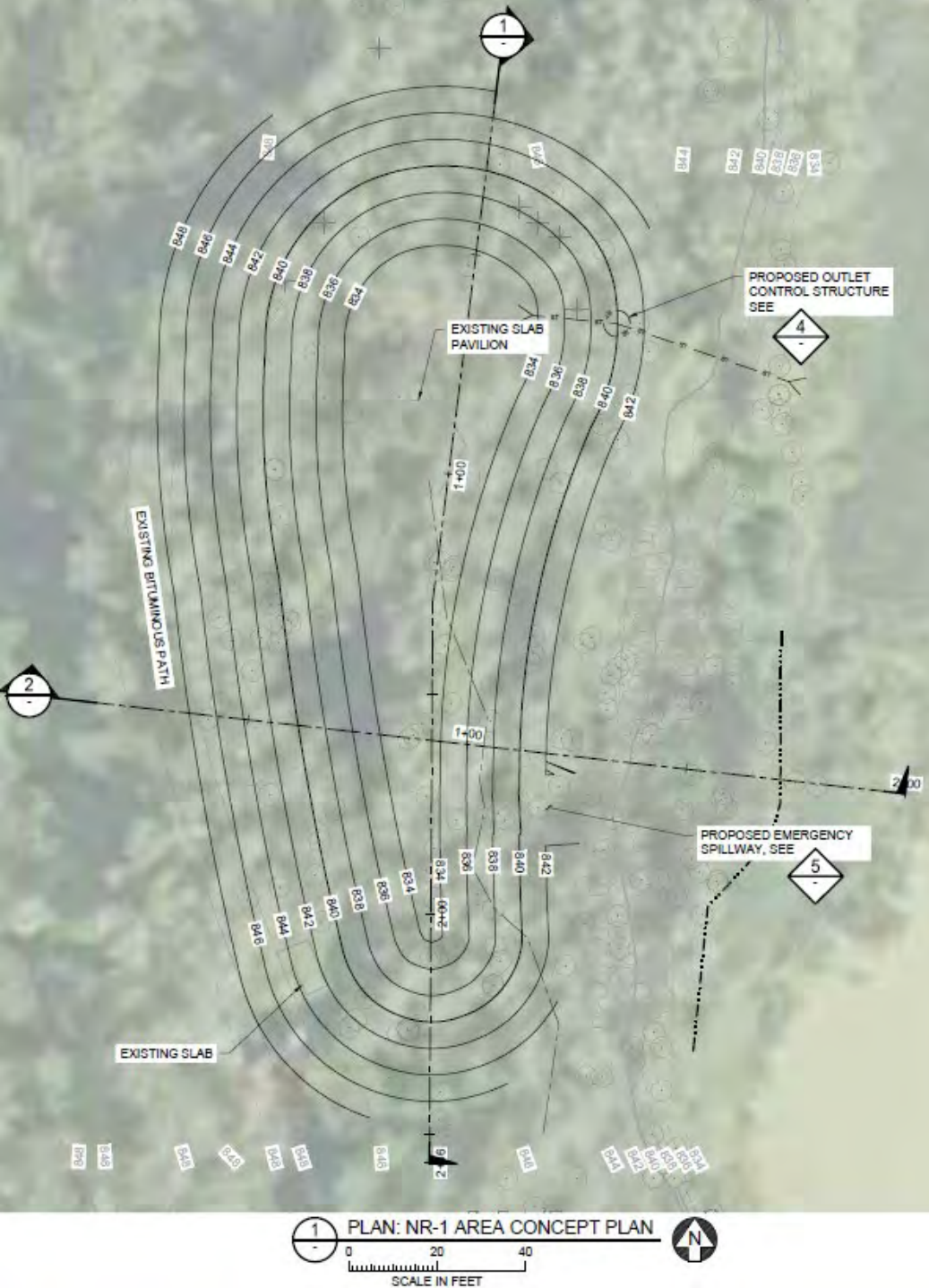
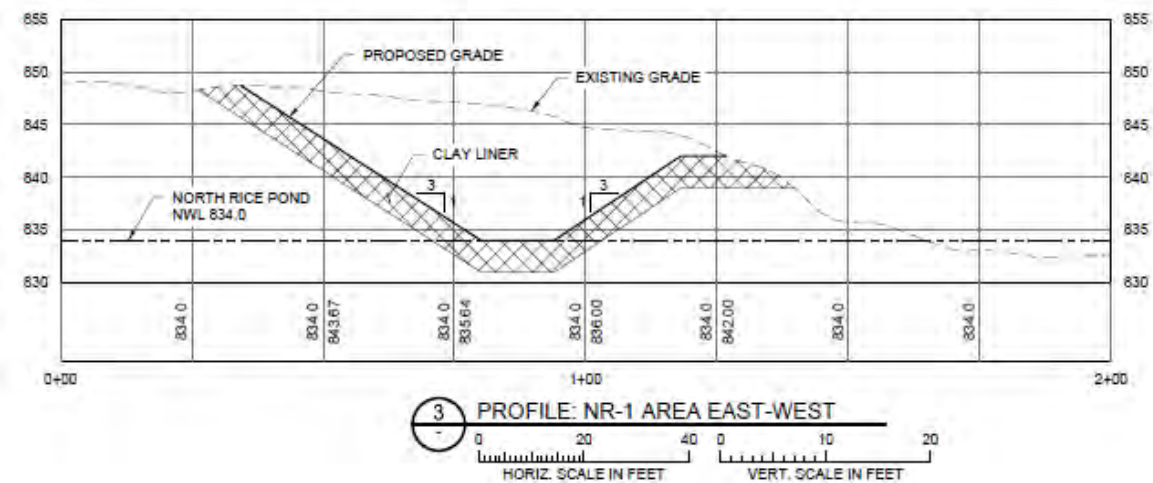
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Public Waters Work Permit
- Compliance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) [Nationwide] Permit – (Section 404)
- Compliance with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) requirements/guidance for
 - Section 401 Water Quality Certification (if necessary)
 - Managing dredged material
 - Managing contaminated material and debris
 - Construction Stormwater General Permit
- City of Robbinsdale Stormwater Permit

Proposed Structural BMPs

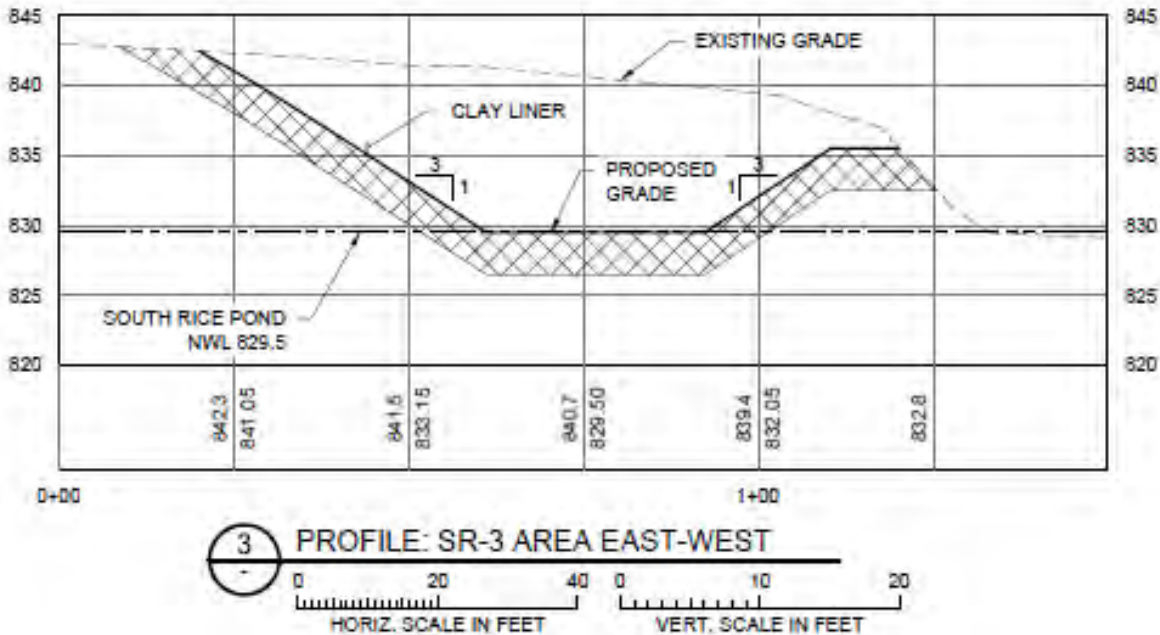
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BMP ID/Name	BMP Location	BMP Description	Approximate Number of Tree Removals	Wetland/ Prairie Impacts	Annual TP Removal (lbs/yr)
Pond NR-1	Northwest portion of Sochacki Park, tributary to North Rice Pond	Construct new stormwater pond for untreated runoff from City of Golden Valley	120	None. Disturbance is limited to upland area.	3.6
Pond SR-3	West portion of Sochacki Park, tributary to South Rice Pond	Construct new stormwater pond for untreated runoff from City of Golden Valley	85	Negligible. Pond will be developed from wooded upland area.	3.3
BMP GR-6	South Halifax Park, tributary to Grimes Pond	Construct permeable filtration system with CC17 crushed limestone to better treat runoff from City of Robbinsdale	2	Approximately 0.2 acres of wetland area, below <u>MnDNR</u> OHWL, would be used to install permeable filtration system.	15.5
Pond SR-4	East portion of Sochacki Park, tributary to South Rice Pond	Dredge and expand existing pond to better treat runoff from City of Robbinsdale and stabilize outlet channel	120	None. Pond expansion is occurring in wooded upland area.	38.9

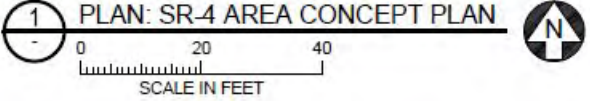
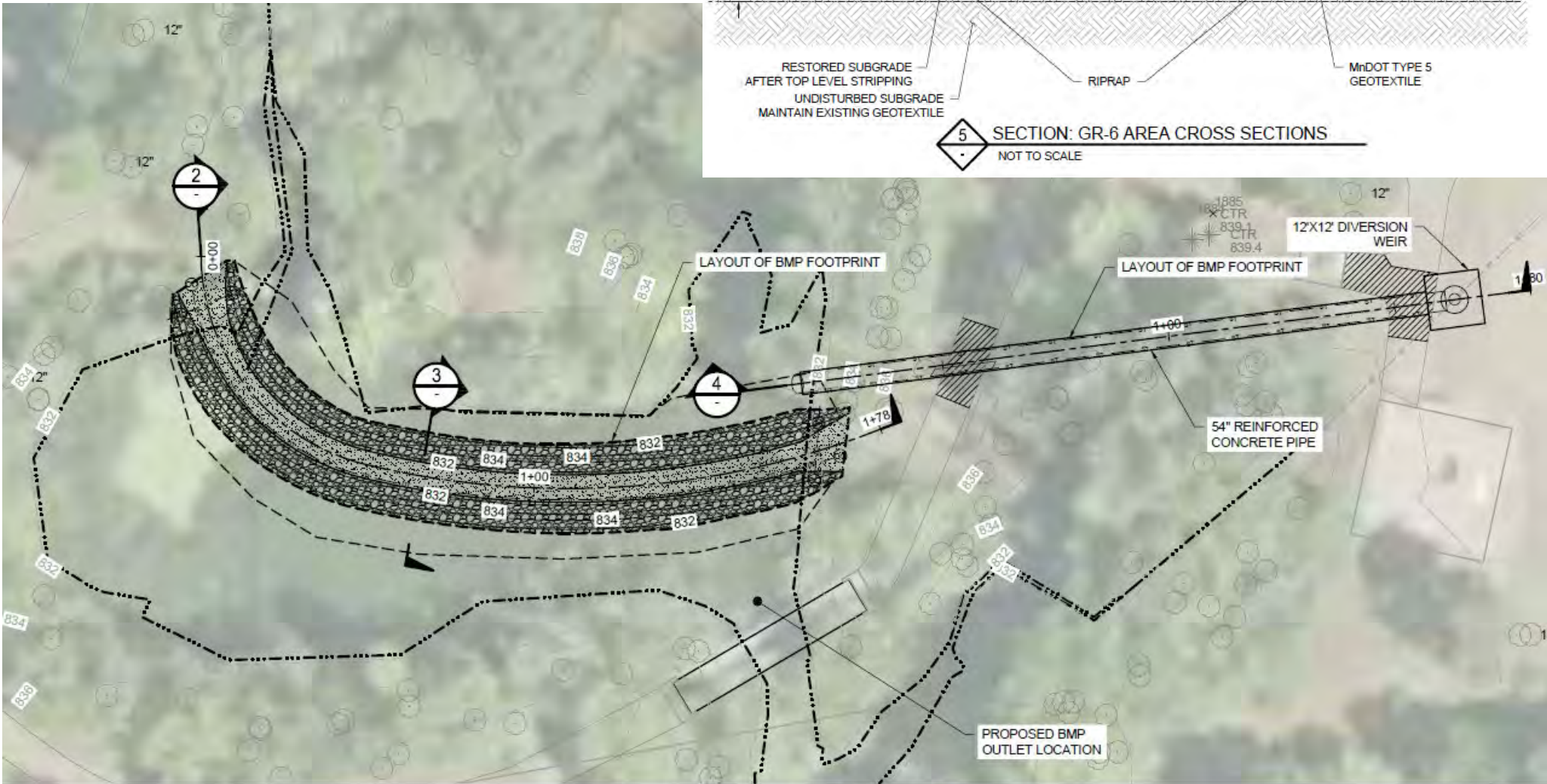
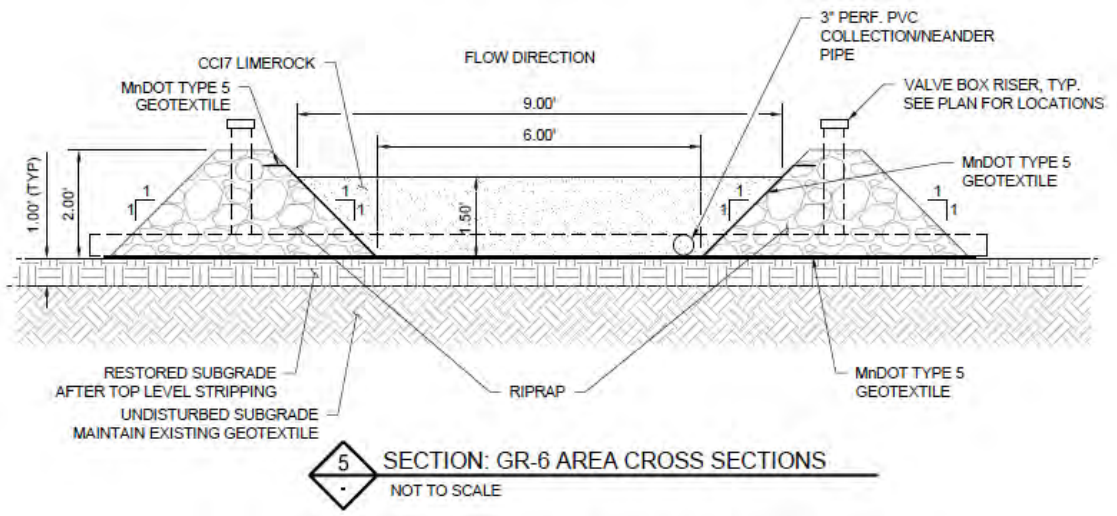
BMP NR-1 (16.4-acre tributary subwatershed to North Rice Pond)



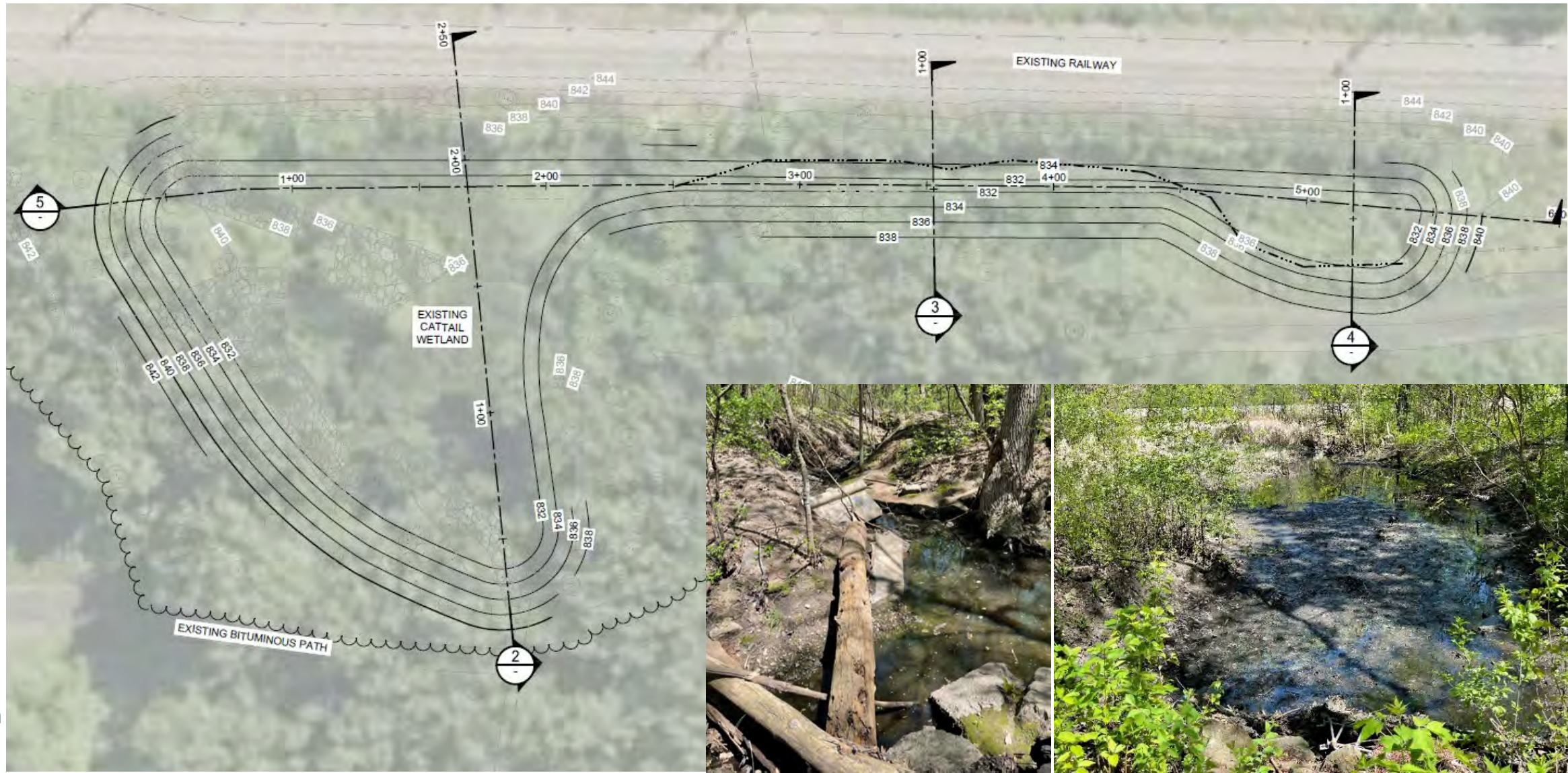
BMP SR-3 (15.7-acre tributary subwatershed to South Rice Pond)



BMP GR-6 (46.4-acre tributary subwatershed to Grimes Pond)

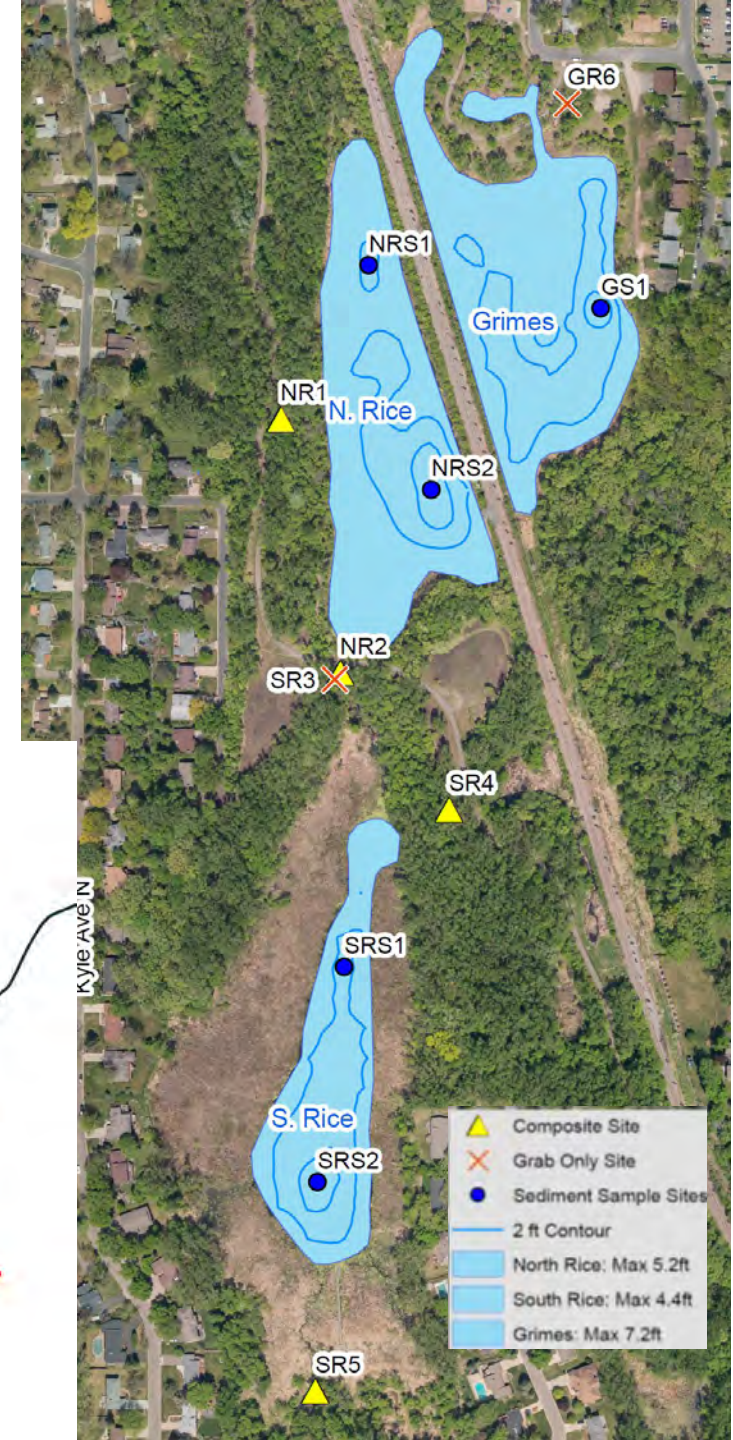
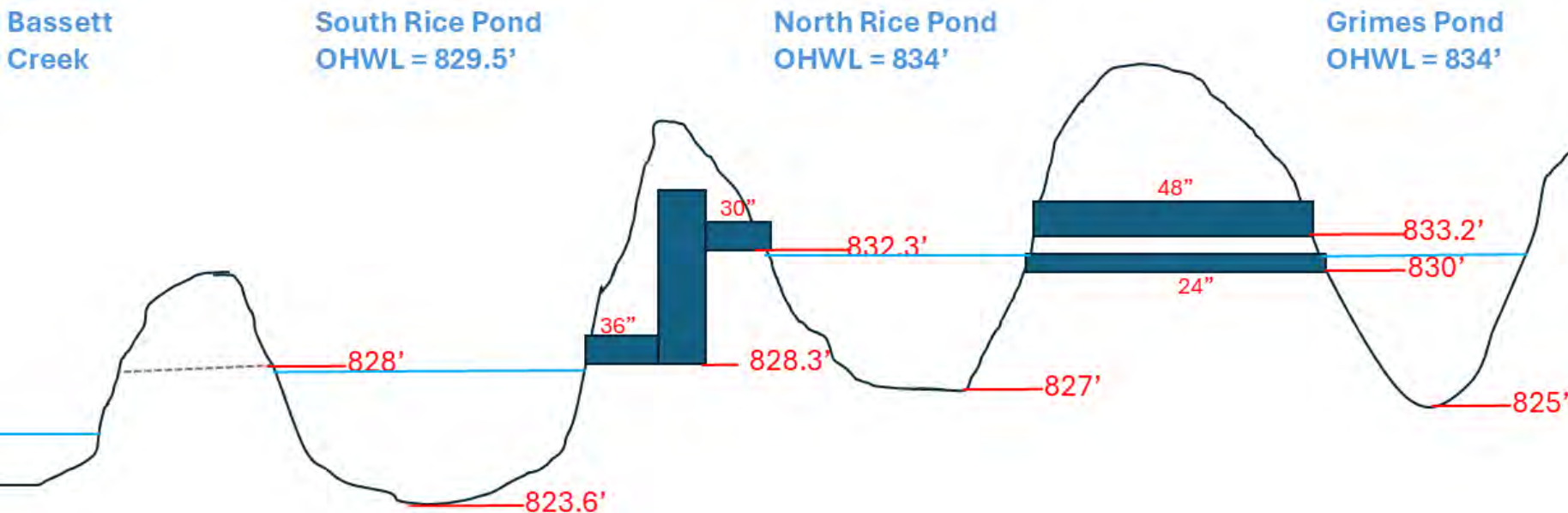


BMP SR-4 (204.3-acre tributary subwatershed to South Rice Pond)



Controlled Water Level Drawdowns for Each Pond

- Drawdowns help control curlyleaf pondweed, and reduce phosphorus load from plant die-off, to flip floating-plant dominated system and minimize sediment phosphorus release and odor
- Water levels of all 3 ponds will be pumped down in the fall of 2026 in advance of winter freeze up with assistance from existing gravity connections



Project Funding



Total Project Funding for Design and Construction

*Federal HUD Grant	\$	1,616,279.00
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission	\$	600,000.00
Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund Grant	\$	477,000.00
	\$	2,693,279.00

**Original assumption ~\$400k reserved for recreational facilities (e.g. boardwalks and viewing platforms)*



Next Steps



- Consider approval of 50% design as presented
- If approved to move forward with design:
 - o File permit applications
 - o Public meeting
 - o Continue to 90% designs and cost estimates
 - o Develop construction specifications



Thank you Discussion/Questions



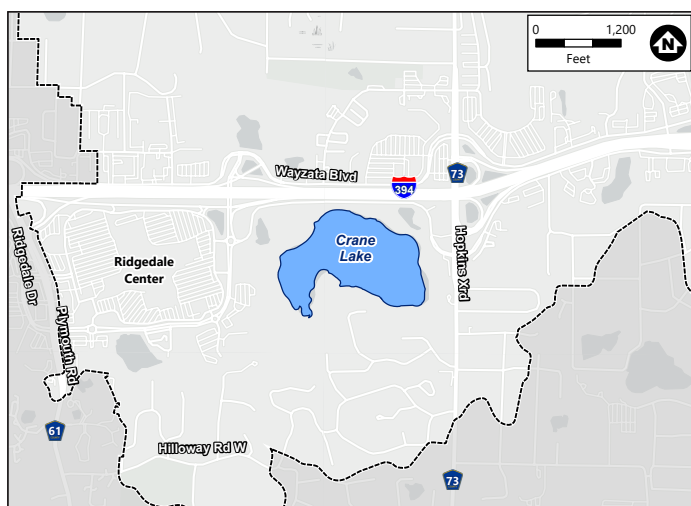


Figure 1: Crane Lake location

Monitoring water quality in Crane Lake

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) has monitored water quality conditions in the watershed's 10 priority lakes since 1972. This monitoring is performed to detect changes or observe trends in water quality, inform pollution modeling and studies, and target future projects. A summary of 2025 monitoring efforts on Crane Lake is provided below.

At a glance: 2025 monitoring results

In 2025, the BCWMC monitored Crane Lake for the following:

- Water chemistry (nutrients, chlorophyll *a*, chloride)
- Water clarity and dissolved oxygen
- Phytoplankton and zooplankton (microscopic plants and animals)
- Macrophytes (aquatic plants)

Results of 2025 monitoring show that Crane Lake met the applicable Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and BCWMC water quality standards for total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a*, but Secchi depth (a measure of water clarity) did not meet the MPCA water quality standard.

Trend analyses show a significant decline in water clarity, but no significant change in total phosphorus or chlorophyll *a* concentrations over the past 26 years. Other results include the following:

- Although the average chloride (salt) concentrations were lower in 2025 than in 2016 and 2021, all of the chloride measurements in 2025 failed to meet the MPCA's chronic standard.

About Crane Lake

BCWMC classification	Priority-2 shallow lake
Watershed area	591 acres
Lake size	30 acres
Average depth	3.3 feet
Maximum depth	5 feet
Ordinary high water level	920.5 feet
Normal water level	917.1 feet
Downstream receiving water body	Medicine Lake
Location (city)	Minnetonka
MPCA impairments	Chlorides
Aquatic invasive species	Curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, hybrid cattail
Public access	No

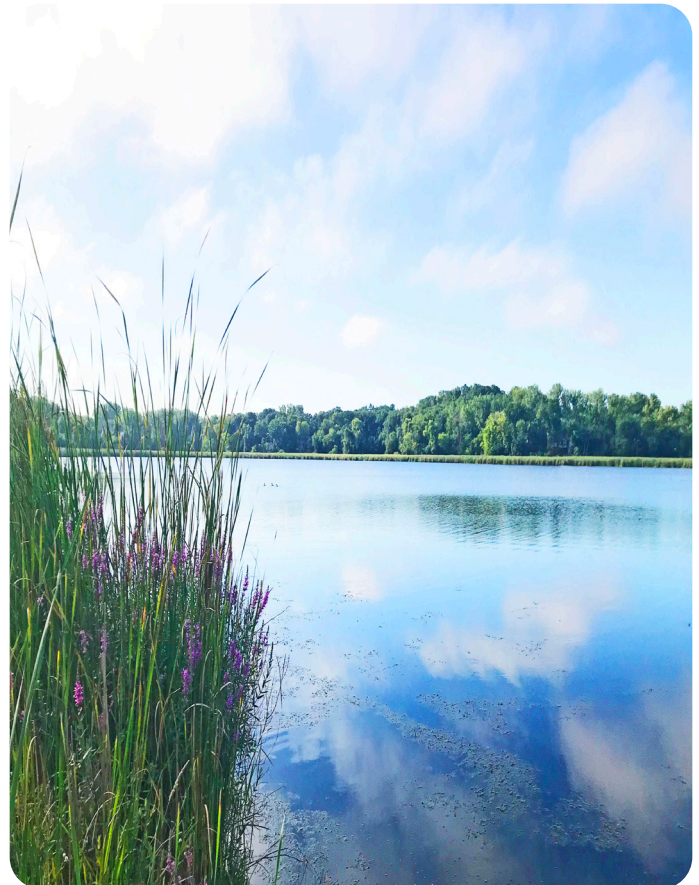
- Chloride (salt) concentrations have increased significantly in the lake from 1972 to 2025.
- In 2025, the number of plant species in the lake and the floristic quality index (FQI) value, a measure of plant species quality, were better than the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) plant index of biotic integrity (IBI) thresholds.
- Summer average phytoplankton densities from 2011 to 2025 showed little variation and remained consistent with good water quality.
- Primarily driven by rising chloride levels, the zooplankton community (a variety of microscopic animals in the water column) has been in significant decline over the past 46 years including the number of species and the total abundance of zooplankton.
- Lower chloride levels in 2025 are likely a factor in improved zooplankton numbers in 2025 which were higher than all but three summer averages from 1980 through 2021.

Recommendations

- The BCWMC recently completed a study to inform a Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project. It is recommended that the Commission move forward with implementing recommendations from that study to reduce the lake's chloride concentrations.
- Continue to provide education and information to lake users to reduce the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS).
- Continue water quality and biological monitoring at a 5-year frequency.

Definitions

- **Hypereutrophic:** Nutrient-rich lake conditions characterized by frequent and severe algal blooms and low water clarity; excessive algae can significantly reduce lake oxygen levels
- **Eutrophic:** Lake condition characterized by abundant accumulation of nutrients supporting dense growth of algae and other organisms; decay of algae can reduce lake oxygen levels
- **Mesotrophic:** Lake condition characterized by medium levels of nutrients and clear water
- **Oligotrophic:** Lake condition characterized by a low accumulation of dissolved nutrients, high oxygen content, sparse algae growth, and very clear water



2025 water chemistry

Total phosphorus levels

While phosphorus is necessary for plant and algae growth, excessive phosphorus leads to excessive algae growth, decreased water clarity, and impaired water quality. Common sources of phosphorus include fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, atmospheric deposition, soil erosion, and aquatic plant die-off (such as curly-leaf pondweed). Phosphorus can also be released from sediments when dissolved oxygen concentrations are very low.

- **BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard:** Summer average of 60 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) or less
- **2025 range:** Low of 24 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in mid-April to a high of 52 ($\mu\text{g/L}$ in early September, Figure 2)
- **2025 summer average:** 38 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (met BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard, Figure 2)

Chlorophyll *a* levels

Chlorophyll *a* is a pigment in algae and generally reflects the amount of algae growth in a lake. Lakes that appear clear generally have chlorophyll *a* levels below 15 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

- **BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard:** 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ or less
- **2025 range:** Low of 3 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in mid-April to a high of 17 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in early August (Figure 3)
- **2025 summer average:** 12 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (met BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard, Figure 3)

Water clarity

Water clarity is often affected by the amount of algae or other suspended material in a lake. It is usually measured by lowering an 8-inch “Secchi” disc into the lake and recording the depth at which it disappears from eyesight. The deeper the disc is visible, the better the water clarity.

- **BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard:** 1.0 meter or more
- **2025 range:** Low of 0.6 meters in early August and early September to a high of 1.2 meters in mid-July (Figure 4)
- **2025 summer average:** 0.8 meters (fails to meet BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard, Figure 4).

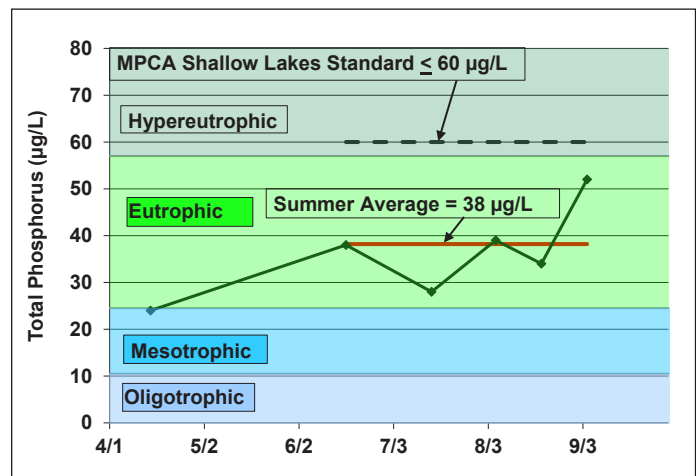


Figure 2: 2025 total phosphorus trends

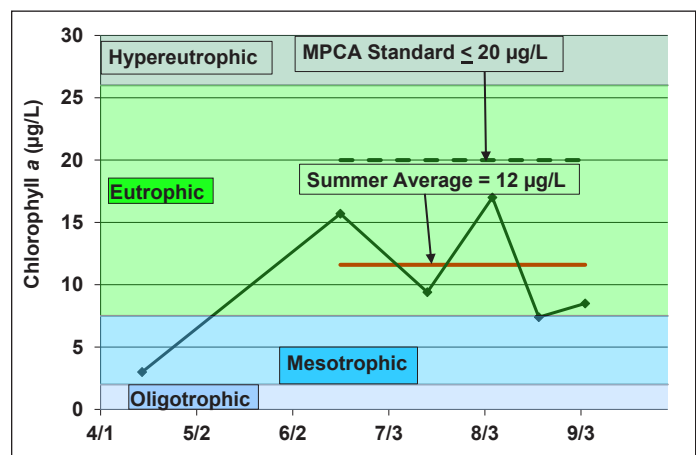


Figure 3: 2025 chlorophyll *a* trends

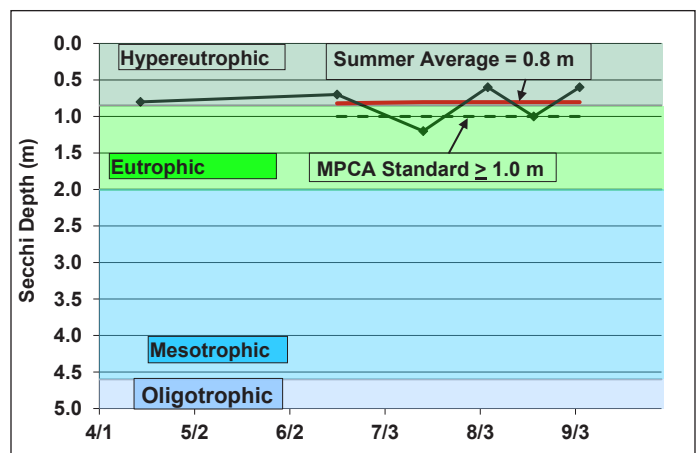


Figure 4: 2025 water clarity (Secchi disc depth) trends

Historical trends (1972–2025)

Crane Lake's summer water quality has been monitored since 1972. Figures 5 through 7 show summer averages (June through September) for total phosphorus from 1975 to 2025 and for chlorophyll *a* and Secchi disc depth from 1977 to 2025. Over this period, 48 percent of the total phosphorus averages, 54 percent of chlorophyll *a* averages, and 46 percent of Secchi disc averages met Minnesota State Water Quality Standards for shallow lakes in the North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion under Minnesota Rules (Minn. R. Ch. 7050.0222 Subp. 4).

All total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* summer averages from 2004 through 2025 met the MPCA standards. The lake's dense plant growth limited Secchi depth to the top of plants in 2016 (0.9 meters), 2021 (0.7 meters), and 2025 (0.8 meters) and these depths failed to meet MPCA standards.

Trend analysis for the past 26 years shows:

- Declining summer average total phosphorus concentrations. Declines from 2016 through 2025 are likely due to dense growths of bearded stonewort, a plant that obtains all of its nutrients from the water.
- Nearly negligible change in summer average chlorophyll *a* concentrations over the 26-year period (0.02 µg per year).
- Declining summer average Secchi disc depths from 2016 through 2025 were due to dense plant growths that limited Secchi depth to the top of the plants.
- The decline in total phosphorus and increase in chlorophyll *a* were not statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level, but the decline in Secchi disc depth was significant.

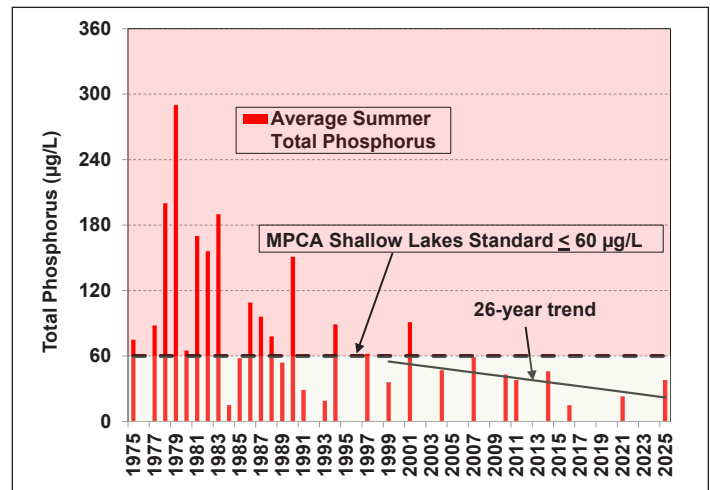


Figure 5: Historical total phosphorus trends

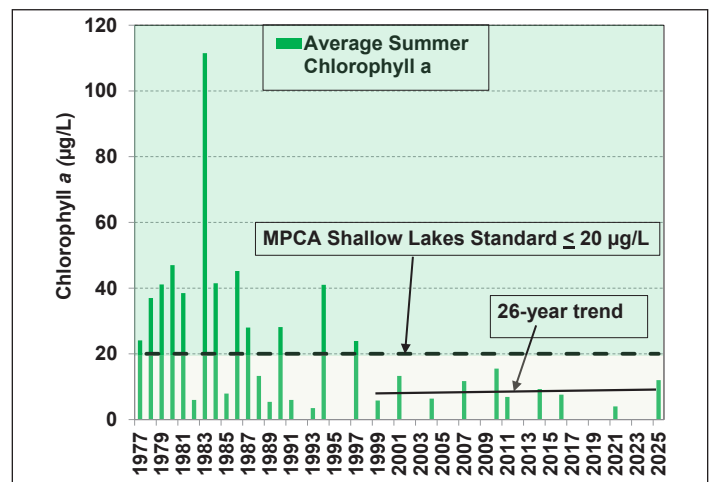


Figure 6: Historical chlorophyll *a* trends

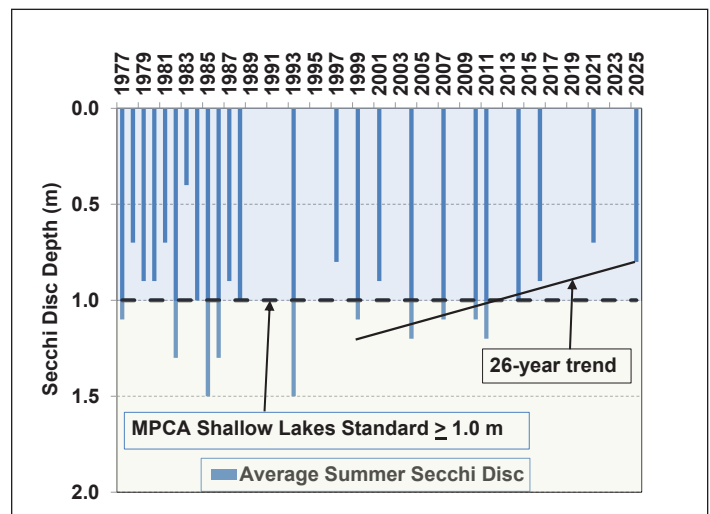


Figure 7: Historical water clarity (Secchi disc depth) trends

Chloride levels: 1972 through 2025

Chloride concentrations in area lakes have increased since the early 1990s, when many government agencies switched from sand or sand/salt mixtures to salt for winter road maintenance. When snow and ice melt, the salt goes with it, washing into lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. It only takes 1 teaspoon of road salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a point where it can no longer support freshwater life. The pollution is essentially permanent, as there is no easy or affordable way to remove chloride from water.

Because high chloride concentrations can harm fish, zooplankton, and plant life, the MPCA has established maximum and chronic chloride standards. The maximum standard is the highest concentration of chloride that aquatic organisms can be exposed to for a brief time with zero-to-slight mortality. The chronic standard is the highest chloride concentration to which aquatic life can be exposed indefinitely without causing chronic toxicity. Chronic toxicity is defined as a stimulus that lingers or continues for a long period, often one-tenth of the life span or more. Chronic effects can include mortality, reduced growth, reproductive impairment, harmful behavioral changes, and other nonlethal effects. A lake is considered impaired for chlorides if two or more measurements exceed the chronic criterion (230 mg/L) within a 3-year period or if one measurement exceeds the maximum criterion (860 mg/L).

Chloride measurements collected in Crane Lake from 1972 to 2025 are shown in Figure 8; chloride trends during this period are shown in Figure 9.

2025 chloride measurements ranged from 237 mg/L in late August to 369 mg/L in mid-June; the annual average chloride concentration was 291 mg/L. All measurements were above the chronic chloride standard and below the maximum. Crane Lake is listed on the MPCA's impaired waters list as impaired for chlorides.

Trend analyses indicate a statistically significant upward trend in chloride concentrations over the 54-year period of record at the 95-percent confidence level. Chloride concentrations measured from 1972 through 1988 were below the MPCA chronic chloride standard, except for three exceedances: 267 mg/L in June 1976, 287 mg/L in June 1977, and 268 mg/L in late August 1977. More than 50 percent of chloride concentrations estimated using specific conductance measurements from 1997–2011 exceeded the MPCA chronic chloride standard.

In 2016, measured chloride concentrations exceeded the chronic standard from April–August and declined below the standard in September. Chloride concentrations in the

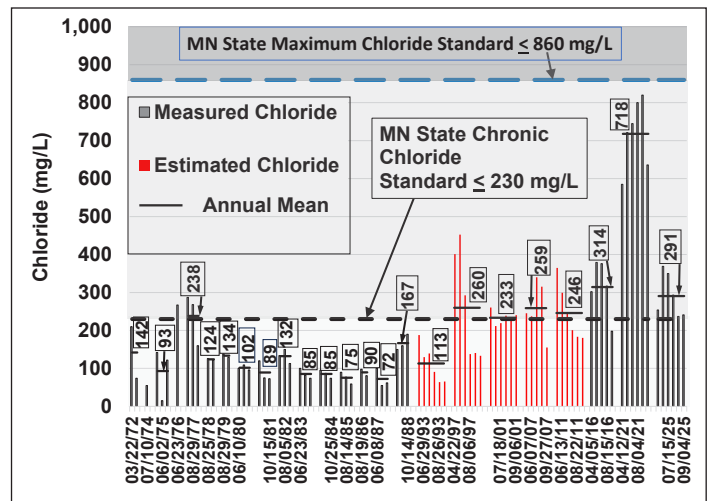


Figure 8: Historical chloride concentrations

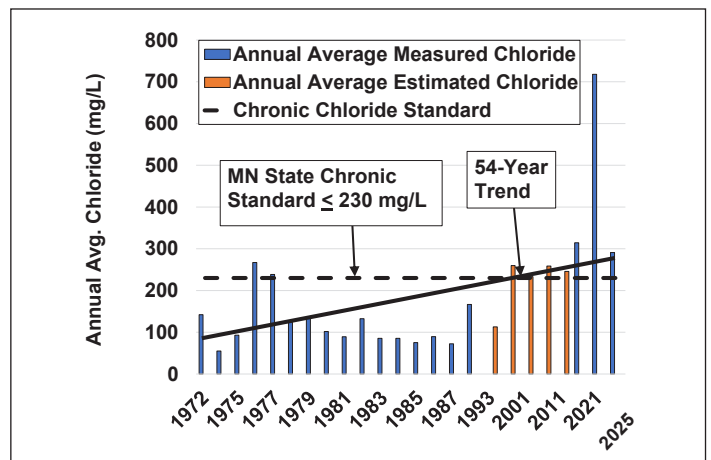


Figure 9: Historical chloride trends

lake doubled between 2016 and 2021, and all measured concentrations in 2021 exceeded the MPCA chronic chloride standard. All chloride concentrations measured in 2025 also exceeded the chronic chloride standard, although concentrations were lower than those observed in 2021.

Much more detailed information on chloride concentrations and their sources are found in the feasibility study for the Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project.

Macrophytes (aquatic plants): Lake plant eutrophication index of biological integrity (IBI)

Eutrophication (excessive nutrients) can have detrimental effects on a lake, including reducing the quantity and diversity of plants. The MNDNR developed a lake plant eutrophication index of biological integrity (IBI) to measure the response of a lake plant community to eutrophication. The lake plant eutrophication IBI includes two metrics: (1) the number of species in a lake and (2) the “quality” of the species, as measured by the floristic quality index (FQI). The MNDNR has determined a threshold for each metric. Lakes that score below the thresholds contain degraded plant communities and are likely stressed from anthropogenic (human-caused) eutrophication.

Crane Lake plant survey data from 1993 to 2025 were assessed to determine Plant IBI trends. Figure 10 shows the number of species and Figure 11 shows FQI scores for that period, compared with the MNDNR Plant IBI thresholds.

- **Number of species:** A shallow lake, such as Crane Lake, meets the MNDNR Plant IBI threshold when at least 11 species are present. During the period examined, the number of species in Crane Lake ranged from 5 to 15, exceeding the MNDNR Plant IBI threshold during June and August of 2007, 2016, 2021, and 2025.
- **FQI values (quality of species):** The MNDNR Plant IBI threshold for shallow lakes, as measured by FQI, is a minimum value of 17.8. During the period examined, FQI values in Crane Lake ranged from 10.7 to 20.7, exceeding the MNDNR Plant IBI threshold during August 2001, June and August 2007, June and August 2016, August 2021, and June and August 2025. The August 2025 value of 20.7 was the highest FQI value recorded to date.
- **2025 results:** The number of species and FQI values in the lake were better than the MNDNR Plant IBI thresholds in June and August.

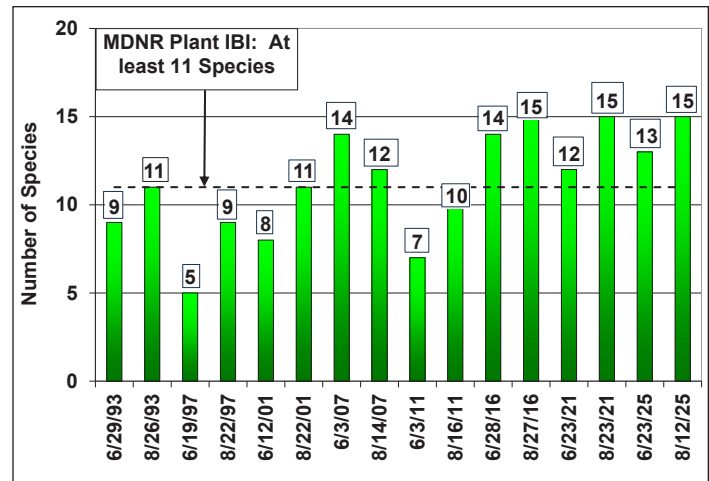


Figure 10: MNDNR plant IBI: number of species

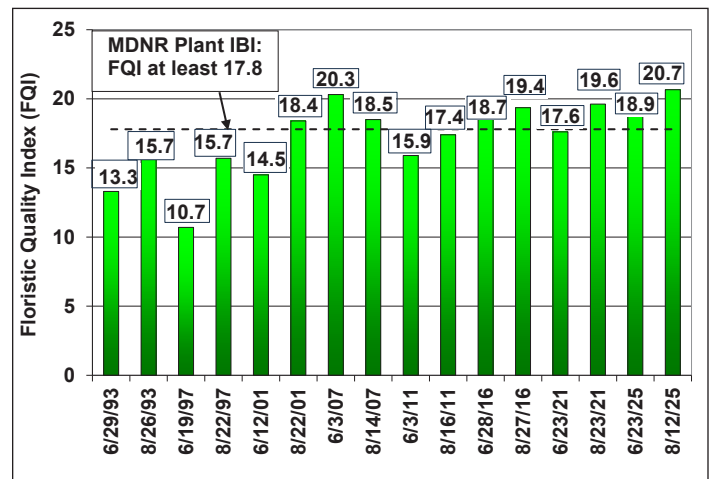


Figure 11: MNDNR plant IBI: floristic quality index (FQI)

Bearded stonewort in Crane Lake

In 2016, *Lychnothamnus barbatus* (bearded stonewort) was first observed in Crane Lake. This plant was found in nearby Westwood Lake (and Minnesota) for the first time in 2015. Bearded stonewort is in the family Characeae, algae that resemble rooted aquatic plants.



Bearded stonewort obtains all of its nutrients from the water and can reduce phosphorus concentrations in a lake, improving water quality.

In 2016, bearded stonewort grew densely throughout the lake and dominated the plant community. Despite this, the lake maintained a diverse plant community that met plant IBI standards. Its frequency was similar in June (84 percent) and August (87 percent) of 2016 and in June 2021 (84 percent). From June to August 2021, bearded stonewort increased markedly, occurring at 98 percent of sample points by August. Its density also rose substantially

during that period, with the share of sample points at the maximum density of 3 on a 1-to-3 scale increasing from 71 percent in June to 89 percent in August.

In 2025, bearded stonewort occupied most of the lake's littoral zone in June and, by August, formed a dense canopy at or just below the water's surface. Despite this, the lake continued to support a diverse plant community that met plant IBI standards. Its frequency increased from 80 percent of sample points in June to 90 percent in August. Density also rose, with 70 percent of sample points at the maximum rake fullness of 3 in June and 82 percent in August.

Aquatic invasive species

In 2025, three aquatic invasive species were present in Northwood Lake. Invasive species are detrimental to habitats because they spread rapidly and displace native species.

- **Curly-leaf pondweed**

(*Potamogeton crispus*): Curly-leaf pondweed was first observed in Crane Lake in 1993 and was documented in 38 percent of plant surveys conducted between 1993 and 2025. In June 2025, it was found at five of the 125 sample locations, but it was not observed in August.



- **Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)**

This emergent species has consistently been found at one or two locations along the lake's shoreline since 1993. In 2025, it was found at five locations in June and three in August. Purple loosestrife-eating beetles (*Galerucella*) were present on the plants during both surveys, and extensive beetle-related damage was noted. This damage indicates the beetles are effectively controlling purple loosestrife.



- **Hybrid cattail (*Typha glauca*):**

Hybrid cattail was first observed at a single location along the northern shoreline in 2016. In 2021, it was found at a single location along the southern shoreline. In 2025, it was identified at five locations along the northern, southern, and eastern shorelines in June and three locations along the northern and southern shorelines in August.



Phytoplankton and zooplankton

Phytoplankton, or algae, are small aquatic plants naturally present in lakes. Phytoplankton derive energy from the sun through photosynthesis and provide food for several types of aquatic organisms, including zooplankton (microscopic animals), which are, in turn, eaten by fish. An inadequate phytoplankton population limits a lake's zooplankton population and indirectly limits fish production in a lake. Excess phytoplankton can reduce water clarity and dissolved oxygen.

Phytoplankton samples were collected from Crane Lake to assess water quality and the food resources available to zooplankton. Figure 12 summarizes the abundance and major phytoplankton groups observed in the lake from 1980 to 2025. Green algae, diatoms, and cryptomonads—important food sources for zooplankton—were well represented. Summer average phytoplankton densities from 2011 to 2025 showed little variation and remained consistent with good water quality, ranging from 4,181 units per milliliter in 2021 to 6,559 units per milliliter in 2025. These values were at the lower end of the summer averages recorded from 1980 to 2007, which ranged from 3,279 units per milliliter in 1993 to 39,846 units per milliliter in 1986.

Unlike phytoplankton, zooplankton do not produce their own food. As “filter feeders,” they eat millions of small algae; given the right quantity and species, they can filter the volume of an entire lake in a matter of days. They are also valuable food for planktivorous fish and other organisms. Fish generally select the largest zooplankters they see and prefer cladocerans to copepods. Cladocerans swim slowly and lack the copepods' ability to escape predation by jerking or jumping out of the way.

Figure 13 summarizes the number and major zooplankton groups observed in Crane Lake for the monitored years. In 2025, small rotifers—the least preferred prey for fish—dominated the zooplankton community in April, June, late August, and September. Copepods were also common and dominated in July and early August. Summer average cladoceran abundance (12,370 per square meter) was more than an order of magnitude lower than summer averages for copepods (242,507 per square meter) and rotifers (693,622 per square meter). This low cladoceran abundance likely reflects fish predation. In shallow lakes, cladocerans are often scarce because they lack a deep-water refuge from fish. In deeper lakes, deeper water can provide enough oxygen for zooplankton but too little for fish, so cladoceran abundance is often higher.

The increase in chloride concentrations in 2021 negatively affected the zooplankton community, whereas the lower

chloride concentrations measured in Crane Lake in 2025 had a positive effect. Studies have shown declines in adult cladocerans and copepods at chloride concentrations within the range measured in Crane Lake in 2021, while immature copepods (nauplii) and rotifers were less affected. In Crane Lake, summer-average abundance changed as follows:

- Cladocerans declined from 76,593 per square meter in 2016 to 1,698 per square meter in 2021, then increased to 12,370 per square meter in 2025.
- Adult copepods declined from 43,481 per square meter in 2016 to zero in 2021, then increased to 3,404 per square meter in 2025.
- Immature copepods declined from 242,048 per square meter in 2016 to 12,149 per square meter in 2021, then increased to 239,103 per square meter in 2025.

- Rotifers declined from 399,777 per square meter in 2016 to 120,993 per square meter in 2021, then increased to 693,622 per square meter in 2025.

The 2025 summer average number of zooplankton in Crane Lake was higher than all but three summer averages from 1980 through 2021.

Over the past 54 years, chloride concentrations in Crane Lake have increased significantly at the 95-percent confidence level, reducing zooplankton species diversity. Studies have similarly documented lower zooplankton diversity with increasing chloride concentrations. Consistent with those findings, the number of zooplankton species in Crane Lake has declined over the past 46 years, and trend analysis indicates that this decline is significant at the 95-percent confidence level (see Figure 14). Zooplankton abundance also declined over the same period, but that trend was not significant at the 95-percent confidence level (see Figure 15).

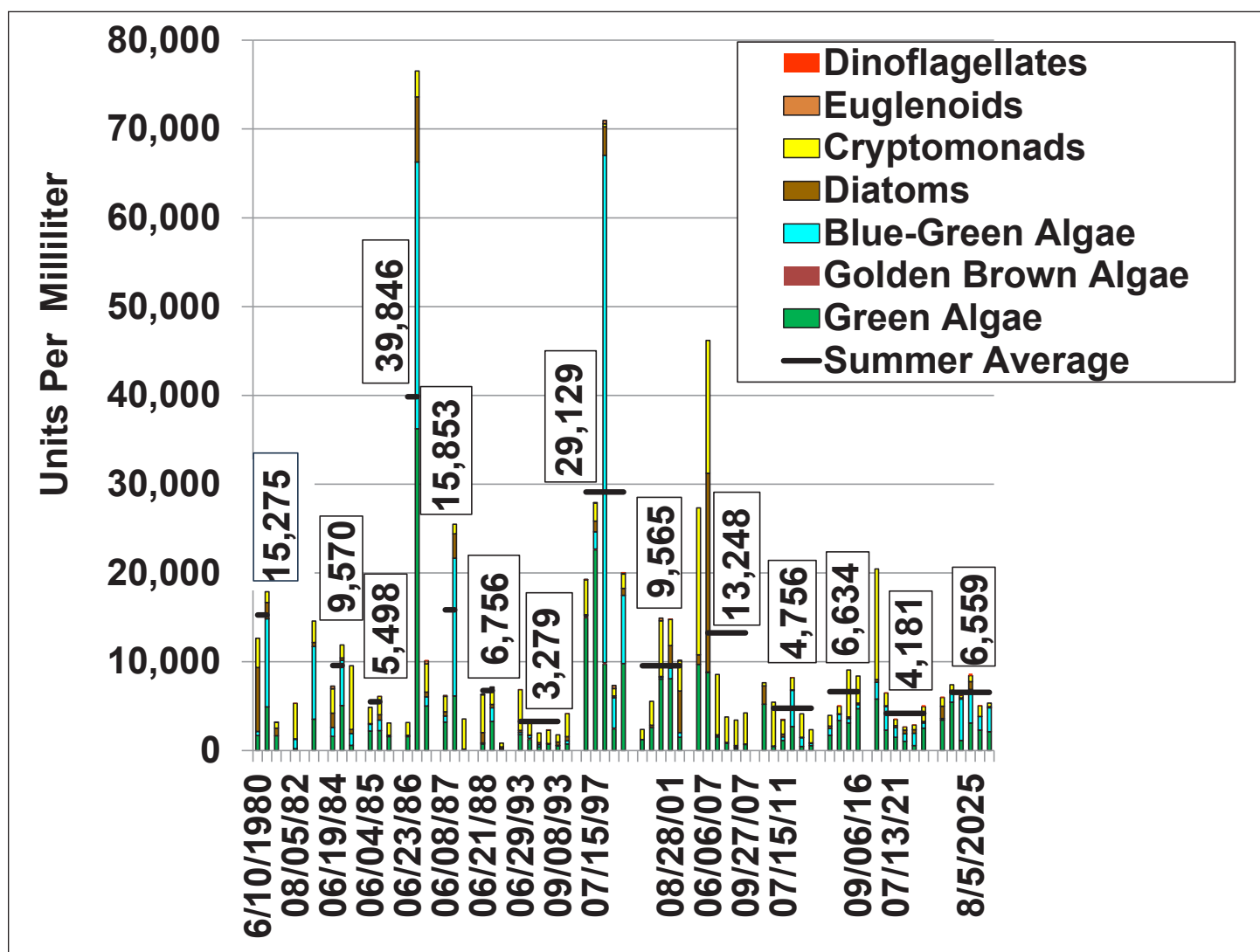


Figure 12: Historical phytoplankton

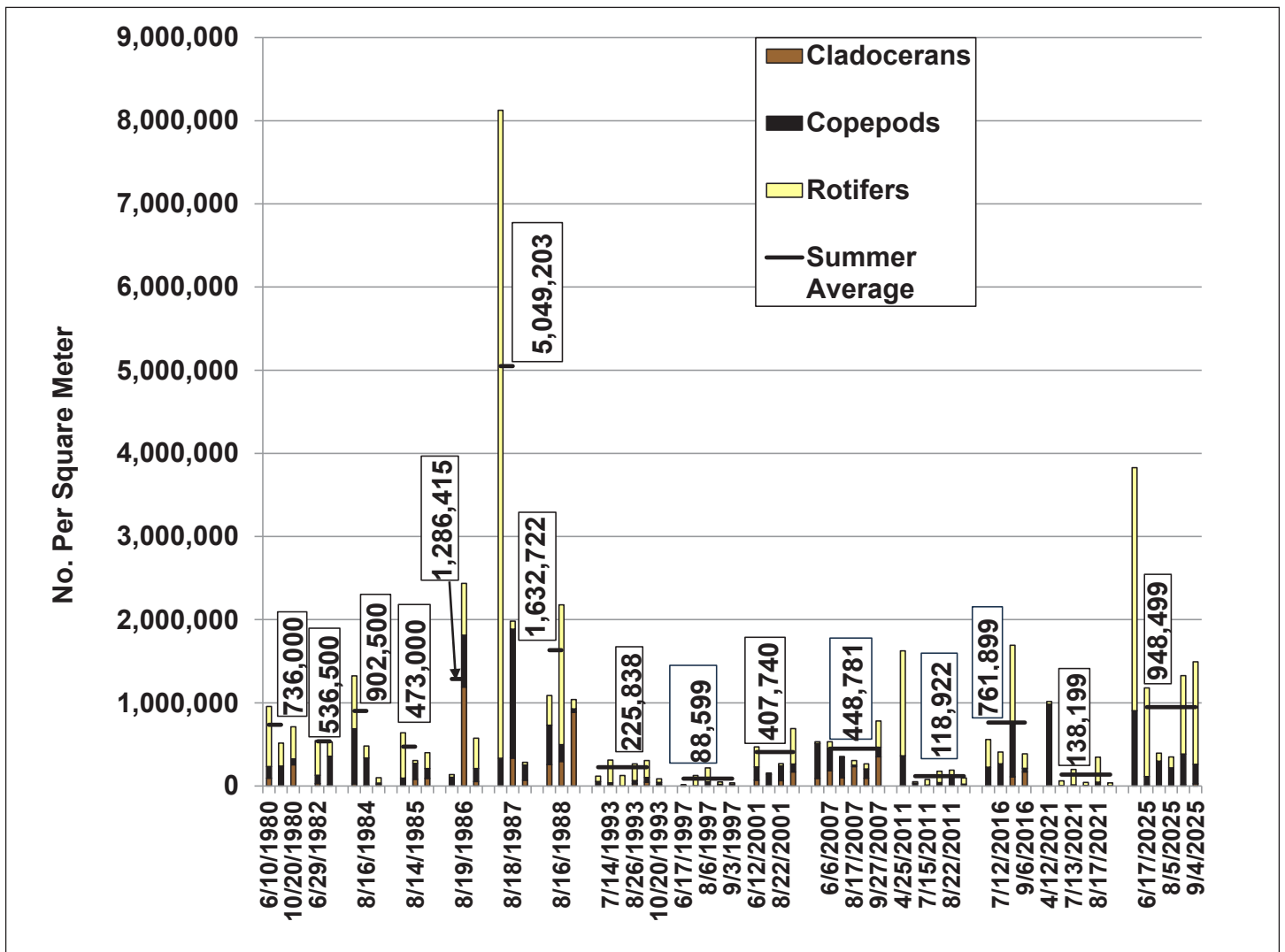


Figure 13: Historical zooplankton

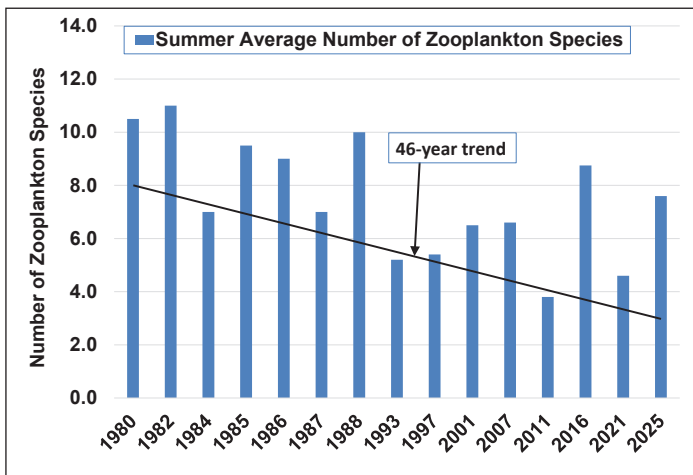


Figure 14: Historical trends in zooplankton diversity

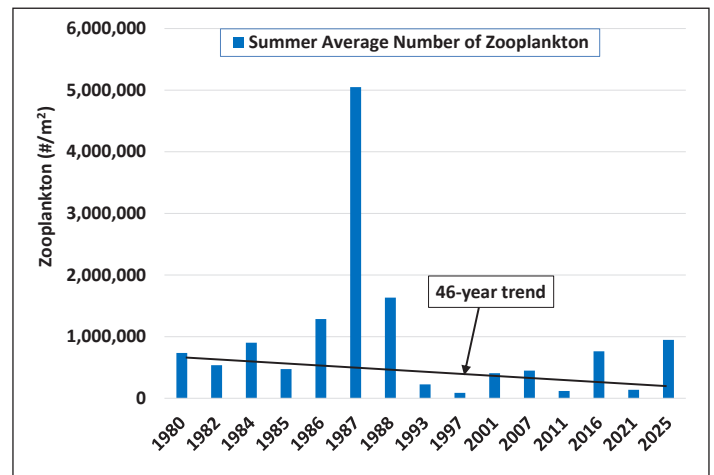


Figure 15: Historical trends in zooplankton abundance



Northwood Lake 2025 water quality monitoring



Figure 1: Northwood Lake location

Monitoring water quality in Northwood Lake

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) has monitored water quality conditions in the watershed's 10 priority lakes since 1972. This monitoring is performed to detect changes or observe trends in water quality, inform pollution modeling and studies, and target future projects.

Northwood Lake is a widened section of the North Branch of Bassett Creek, which enters the lake from the west and exits to the east (Figure 1). A summary of 2025 monitoring efforts on Northwood Lake is provided below.

At a glance: 2025 monitoring results

In 2025, the BCWMC monitored Northwood Lake for the following:

- Water chemistry (nutrients, chlorophyll *a*, chloride)
- Water clarity and dissolved oxygen
- Phytoplankton and zooplankton (microscopic plants and animals)
- Macrophytes (aquatic plants)

Results of the 2025 monitoring show that Northwood Lake failed to meet the applicable Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and BCWMC water quality standards for Secchi disc depth (a measure of water clarity), total phosphorus, and chlorophyll *a*. The lake is considered hypereutrophic due to excess nutrients and algae. Trend analyses show a significant decline in water clarity, but no significant change in total phosphorus or chlorophyll *a* concentrations over the past 10 years. Other results include the following:

- All 2025 chloride measurements met the MPCA maximum and chronic chloride standards; the 2025

About Northwood Lake

BCWMC classification	Priority-1 shallow lake
Watershed area	1,294 acres
Lake size	15 acres
Average depth	2.7 feet
Maximum depth	5 feet
Ordinary high water level	885.5 feet
Normal water level	--
Downstream receiving water body	Ĥaĥá Wakpádan/Bassett Creek
Location (city)	New Hope
MPCA impairments	Nutrients
Aquatic invasive species	Curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, yellow iris, narrow-leaved cattail
Public access	Yes

annual average chloride value was lower than the values for 2016, 2019, and 2022.

- In 2025, the number of plant species in the lake in June and August, and the June floristic quality index (FQI) value, a measure of plant species quality, were better than the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) plant index of biotic integrity (IBI) thresholds. In August, the FQI value was poorer than the MNDNR plant IBI threshold.
- The summer average number of phytoplankton in 2025 was substantially lower than in 2022, but within the range of summer averages from 2005 through 2019.
- The 2025 summer average number of zooplankton in Northwood Lake was the highest observed during the monitored period.

Recommendations

- The BCWMC is currently working with the MPCA to complete a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study to identify management strategies to reduce excess phosphorus in Northwood Lake. After the TMDL project is completed, the recommended projects and practices should be implemented to improve the lake's water quality.
- Continue to provide education and information to lake users to reduce the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS).
- Continue water quality and biological monitoring at a 3-year frequency.

Definitions

- **Hypereutrophic:** Nutrient-rich lake conditions characterized by frequent and severe algal blooms and low water clarity; excessive algae can significantly reduce lake oxygen levels
- **Eutrophic:** Lake condition characterized by abundant accumulation of nutrients supporting dense growth of algae and other organisms; decay of algae can reduce lake oxygen levels
- **Mesotrophic:** Lake condition characterized by medium levels of nutrients and clear water
- **Oligotrophic:** Lake condition characterized by a low accumulation of dissolved nutrients, high oxygen content, sparse algae growth, and very clear water



2025 water chemistry

Total phosphorus levels

While phosphorus is necessary for plant and algae growth, excessive phosphorus leads to excessive algae growth, decreased water clarity, and impaired water quality. Common sources of phosphorus include fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, atmospheric deposition, soil erosion, and aquatic plant die-off (such as curly-leaf pondweed). Phosphorus can also be released from sediments when dissolved oxygen concentrations are very low.

- **BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard:** Summer average of 60 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) or less
- **2025 range:** Low of 48 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in mid-April to a high of 300 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in early mid-July (Figure 2)
- **2025 summer average:** 177 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (failed to meet BCWMC/MPCA shallow lake standard, Figure 2)

Chlorophyll *a* levels

Chlorophyll *a* is a pigment in algae and generally reflects the amount of algae growth in a lake. Lakes that appear clear generally have chlorophyll *a* levels below 15 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

- **BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard:** 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ or less
- **2025 range:** Low of 7.5 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in mid-May to a high of 145 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in mid-July (Figure 3)
- **2025 summer average:** 71 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (fails to meet BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard, Figure 3)

Water clarity

Water clarity is often affected by the amount of algae or other suspended material in a lake. It is usually measured by lowering an 8-inch “Secchi” disc into the lake and recording the depth at which it disappears from eyesight. The deeper the disc is visible, the better the water clarity.

- **BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard:** 1.0 meter or more
- **2025 range:** Low of 0.3 meters in mid-June to a high of 1.4 meters in mid-April (Figure 4)
- **2025 summer average:** 0.6 meters (fails to meet BCWMC/MPCA shallow lakes standard, Figure 4)

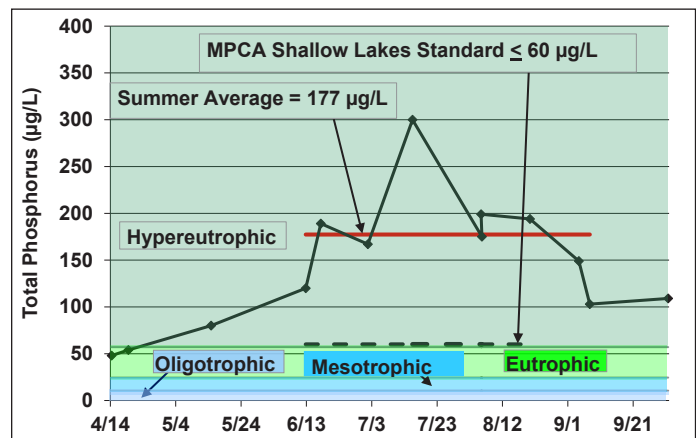


Figure 2: 2025 total phosphorus trends

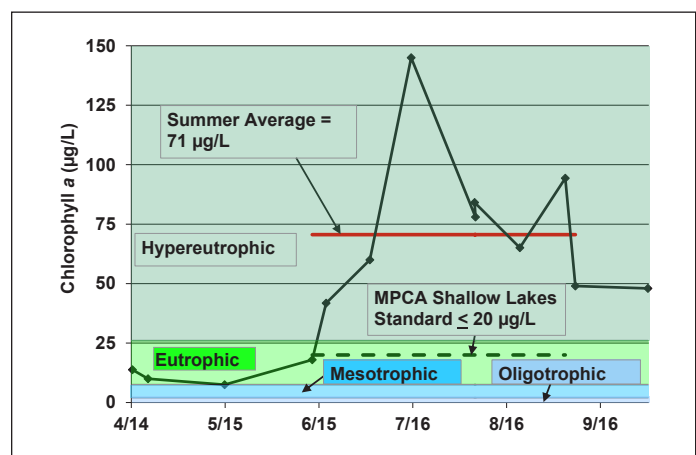


Figure 3: 2025 chlorophyll *a* trends

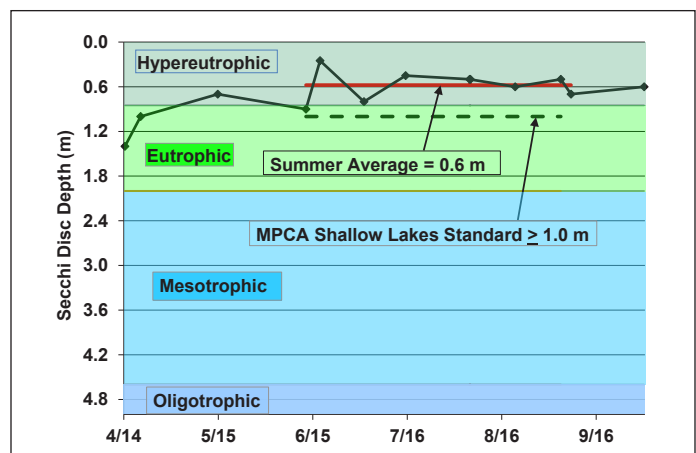


Figure 4: 2025 water clarity (Secchi disc depth) trends

Historical trends (1972–2025)

Northwood Lake's summer water quality has been monitored since 1972. Figures 5 through 7 show summer averages (June through September) for total phosphorus from 1972 to 2025 and for chlorophyll *a* and Secchi disc depth from 1977 to 2025. Over this period, all total phosphorus averages, 77 percent of chlorophyll *a* averages, and 57 percent of Secchi disc averages did not meet Minnesota state water quality standards for shallow lakes in the North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion under Minnesota Rules (Minn. R. Ch. 7050.0222 Subp. 4).

Northwood Lake is a widened section of the North Branch of Bassett Creek, so its water quality is strongly influenced by creek conditions and the substantial runoff delivered to the lake. Curly-leaf pondweed has also expanded in the lake, contributing additional phosphorus during summer following its natural die-off in late June. The Northwood Lake TMDL study will identify management measures to reduce excess phosphorus and improve water quality.

Trend analysis for the past 10 years shows:

- Increasing summer average total phosphorus concentrations.
- Increasing summer average chlorophyll *a* concentrations.
- Declining summer average Secchi disc depths.

The increases in total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* were not statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level, but the decline in Secchi disc depth was significant.

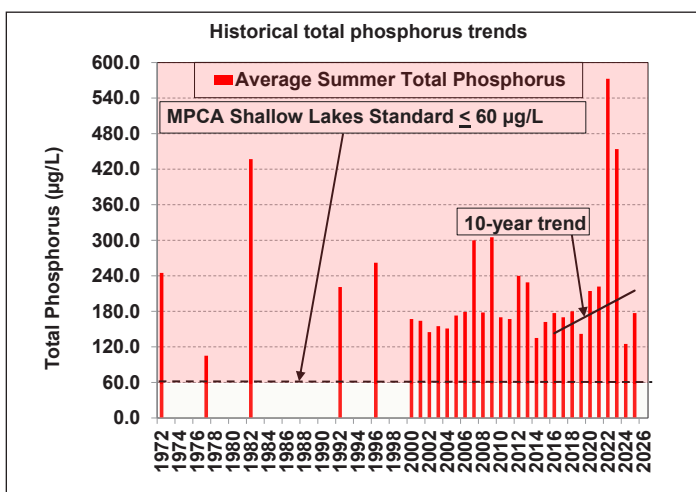


Figure 5: Historical total phosphorus trends

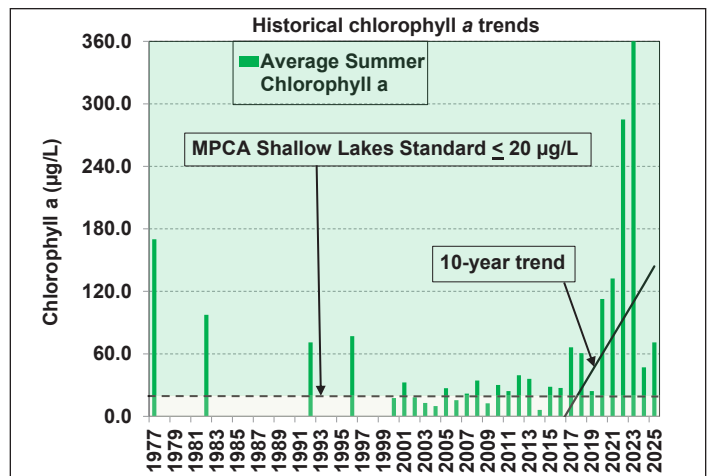


Figure 6: Historical chlorophyll *a* trends

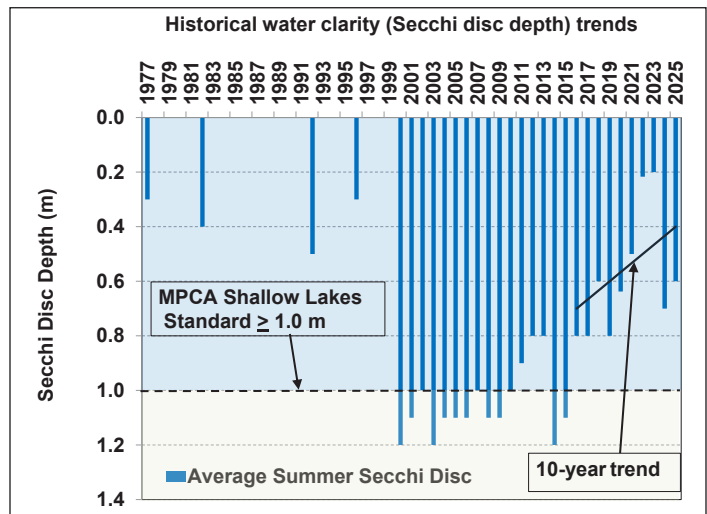


Figure 7: Historical water clarity (Secchi disc depth) trends

Chloride levels in 2016, 2019, 2022, and 2025

Chloride concentrations in area lakes have increased since the early 1990s, when many government agencies switched from sand or sand/salt mixtures to salt for winter road maintenance. When snow and ice melt, the salt goes with it, washing into lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. It only takes 1 teaspoon of road salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a point where it can no longer support freshwater life. The pollution is essentially permanent, as there is no easy or affordable way to remove chloride from water.

Because high chloride concentrations can harm fish, zooplankton, and plant life, the MPCA has established maximum and chronic chloride standards. The maximum standard is the highest concentration of chloride that aquatic organisms can be exposed to for a brief time with zero-to-slight mortality. The chronic standard is the highest chloride concentration to which aquatic life can be exposed indefinitely without causing chronic toxicity. Chronic

toxicity is defined as a stimulus that lingers or continues for a long period, often one-tenth of the life span or more. Chronic effects can include mortality, reduced growth, reproductive impairment, harmful behavioral changes, and other nonlethal effects. A lake is considered impaired for chlorides if two or more measurements exceed the chronic criterion (230 mg/L) within a 3-year period or if one measurement exceeds the maximum criterion (860 mg/L).

Chloride measurements collected from Northwood Lake in 2016, 2019, 2022, and 2025 are shown in Figure 8; all measurements were well below the maximum standard. The measurements collected in April 2016 and April 2022 exceeded the chronic chloride standard; however, all other measurements collected from 2016 through 2025 met the standard. Northwood Lake is not considered impaired for chloride because the two exceedances of the chronic chloride standard occurred more than 3 years apart. The 2025 average annual chloride concentration (74 mg/L) was lower than those measured in 2016 (110 mg/L), 2019 (99 mg/L), and 2022 (193 mg/L).

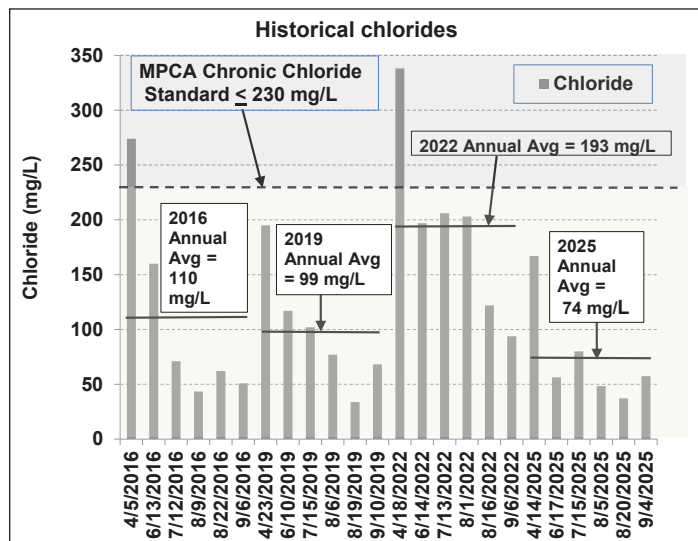


Figure 8: Historical chloride concentrations

Macrophytes (aquatic plants): Lake plant eutrophication index of biological integrity (IBI)

Eutrophication (excessive nutrients) can have detrimental effects on a lake, including reducing the quantity and diversity of plants. The MNDNR developed a lake plant eutrophication index of biological integrity (IBI) to measure the response of a lake plant community to eutrophication. The lake plant eutrophication IBI includes two metrics: (1) the number of species in a lake and (2) the “quality” of the species, as measured by the floristic quality index (FQI). The MNDNR has determined a threshold for each metric. Lakes that score below the thresholds contain

degraded plant communities and are likely stressed from anthropogenic (human-caused) eutrophication.

Northwood Lake plant survey data from 1992 to 2025 were assessed to determine plant IBI trends. Figures 9 and 10 show the number of species and FQI scores for that period, compared with the MNDNR plant IBI thresholds.

- Number of species:** A shallow lake, such as Northwood Lake, meets the MNDNR plant IBI threshold when at least 11 species are present. During the period examined, the number of species in Northwood Lake ranged from 0 to 15, exceeding the MNDNR plant IBI threshold during August 2019, August 2022, June 2025, and August 2025. Due to poor water clarity, plants were not observed in the lake in 1992 and 1996.

A water quality improvement project completed by the City of New Hope from 2000 through 2003 improved water clarity by using barley straw to inhibit algal growth in the lake. Consequently, aquatic plants became established in the lake in 2000.

The number of plant species in the lake consistently increased from four in 2000 to 15 in 2019. A severe algal bloom in 2022 reduced water clarity, and the number of plant species declined, ranging from 10 to 12. Water clarity improved in 2025, and the number of plant species increased, ranging from 13 to 16. 2025 was the first year since monitoring began in 1992 that the number of species met the MNDNR plant IBI threshold during both June and August; the June value of 16 was the highest number of species present during the period of record.

- FQI values (quality of species):** The MNDNR plant IBI threshold for shallow lakes, as measured by FQI, is a minimum value of 17.8. During the period examined, FQI values in Northwood Lake ranged from 10.5 to 18.5. All values except the June 2025 value were below the MNDNR plant IBI threshold. FQI could not be computed in 1992 and 1996 because plants were not observed in the lake. As noted above, plants became established in the lake in 2000. FQI consistently increased from 10.5 in 2000 to 17.6 in 2019. A severe algal bloom in 2022 reduced water clarity and FQI. FQI increased in 2025, and the June value of 18.5 was the highest FQI value recorded to date.
- 2025 results:** The number of species in the lake was better than the MNDNR plant IBI threshold in June and August. The FQI value in June was better than the MNDNR plant IBI threshold, but the August value was below the MNDNR plant IBI threshold.

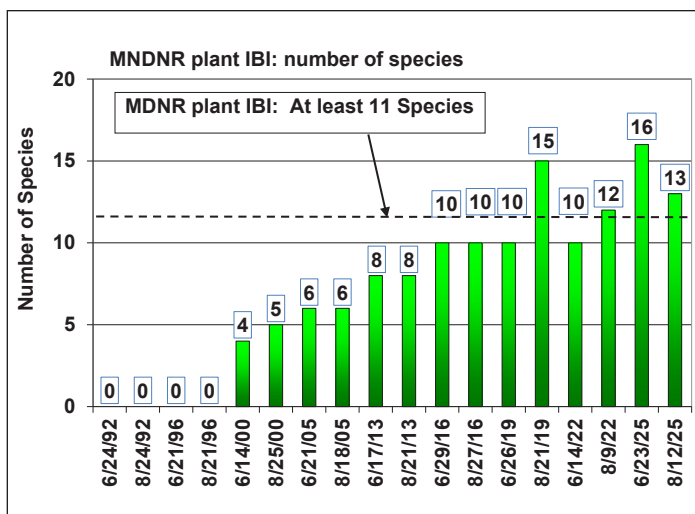


Figure 9: MNDNR plant IBI: number of species

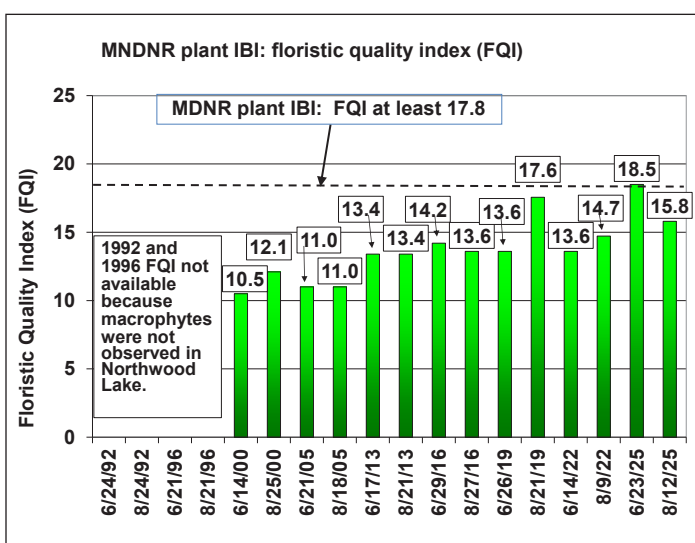
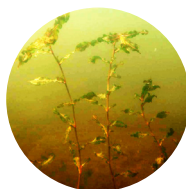


Figure 10: Floristic quality index

In 2025, five aquatic invasive species were present in Northwood Lake. Invasive species are detrimental to habitats because they spread rapidly and displace native species.

- Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*):** Curly-leaf pondweed has been observed in Northwood Lake since 2000. Curly-leaf pondweed increased in extent and density from 2016 (50 percent of sample locations) through 2019 (92 percent of sample locations). Curly-leaf pondweed was again observed at 92 percent of sample locations in June 2022, and then declined to 86 percent of sample locations in June 2025. It was problematic in June of 2019, 2022, and 2025, with average rake densities of 2.1 (2025) to 2.5 (2016 and 2019) on a 1 to 3 scale. The surge and subsequent die-off of curly-leaf pondweed added phosphorus



to the lake, resulting in increased algal growth and decreased clarity.

- Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*):** This emergent species has been observed along the shoreline since 2000. Its extent has declined since 2016, when it was scattered around the lake. In 2019, it was observed at one location in June and two in August. In 2022, it was observed at one location in both June and August. In 2025, it was observed at two locations in both June and August. Purple loosestrife observed in 2016, 2019, 2022, and 2025 showed damage from beetles introduced for biological control of the population, suggesting the treatment was effective.
- Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*):** Reed canary grass has been observed along the shoreline since 2016. It was found at one location in 2016, and at two locations in 2019 and June 2022. Its extent increased to six locations in August of 2022, remained at six locations in June of 2025, and declined to four locations in August 2025.
- Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*):** Yellow iris was first observed in 2019 at one location on the south end of the lake. In 2022, it was found at one south-end location in June and one northeast-side location in August. In 2025, it was observed at one northeast-side location in both June and August.
- Narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*):** This emergent species was first observed in 2022 at five locations and was seen at four locations in 2025.



Phytoplankton and zooplankton

Phytoplankton, or algae, are small aquatic plants naturally present in lakes. Phytoplankton derive energy from the sun through photosynthesis and provide food for several types of aquatic organisms, including zooplankton (microscopic animals), which are, in turn, eaten by fish. An inadequate phytoplankton population limits a lake's zooplankton population and indirectly limits fish production in a lake. Excess phytoplankton can reduce water clarity.

Phytoplankton samples were collected from Northwood Lake to evaluate water quality and the quality of food available to zooplankton. Figure 11 summarizes the

number and major phytoplankton groups observed in Northwood Lake for the monitored years. Green algae, diatoms, and cryptomonads, good sources of food for zooplankton, were well represented. The summer average number of phytoplankton in 2025 (23,147 units per milliliter) was substantially lower than in 2022 (187,401 units per milliliter) but within the range of summer averages from 2005 through 2019 (17,495–27,591 units per milliliter).

The phytoplankton monitoring also included blue-green algae, a type of bacteria called cyanobacteria. This type of bacteria thrives in warm, nutrient-rich water and can grow rapidly under certain conditions, causing “blooms.” Blue-green algae can produce toxins that can harm humans and other animals. Blue-green algae are also a poor-quality food for zooplankton; they can be toxic to zooplankton and may not be assimilated if ingested.

Figure 12 summarizes the number of blue-green algae observed in Northwood Lake for monitored years compared with World Health Organization (WHO) thresholds for health impacts. Blue-green algae numbers in samples collected from 2000 through 2025 were consistently below the lowest WHO adverse health-impact threshold, except for one sample in 2009 and four samples in 2022:

- August 12, 2009, sample: The number of blue-green algae was above the WHO threshold for “low probability for adverse health impacts.”
- July 13, August 1, August 16, and September 6, 2022, samples: The number of blue-green algae was above the WHO threshold for “moderate probability for adverse health effects.”

Blue-green algae numbers in 2025 samples were well below the threshold.

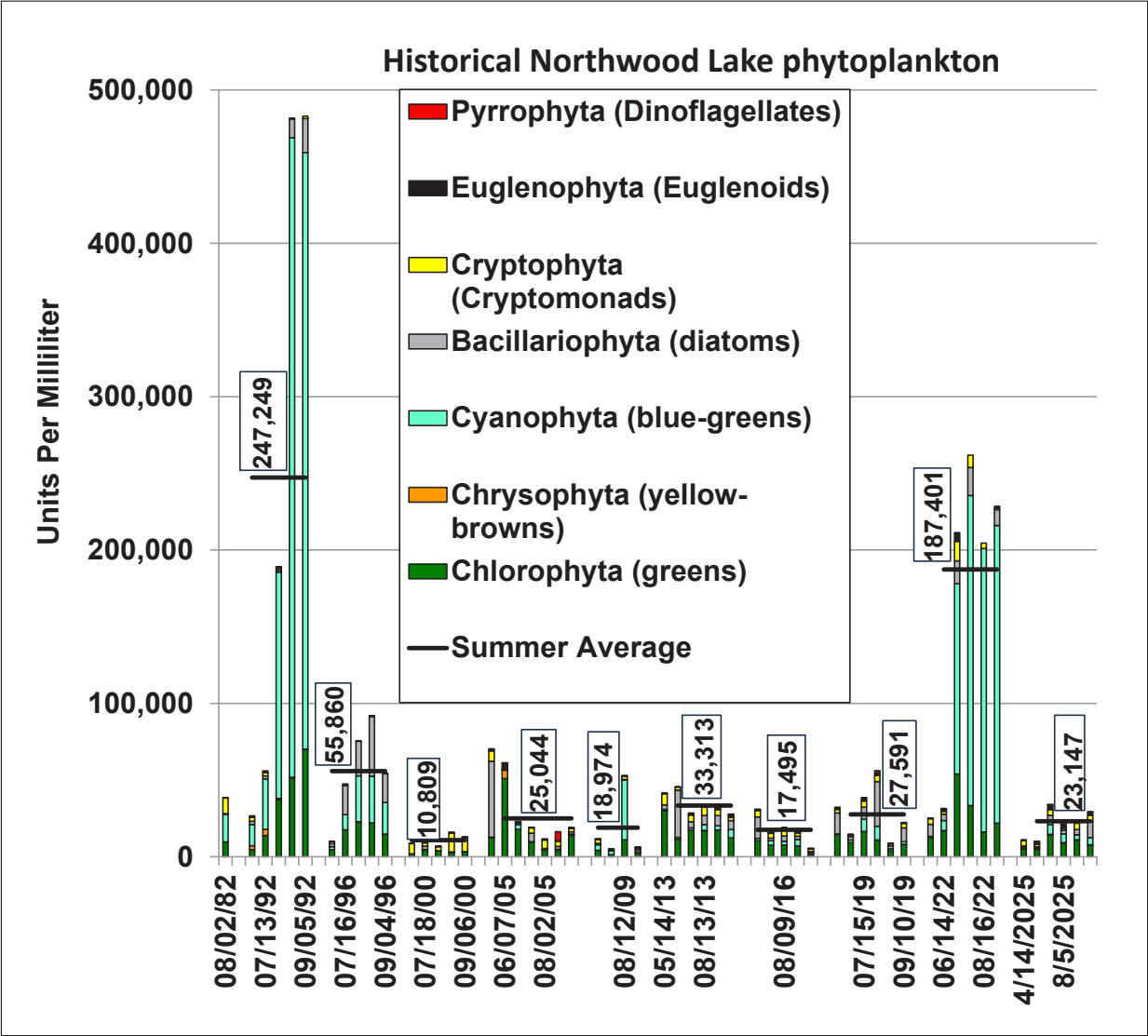


Figure 11: Historical phytoplankton

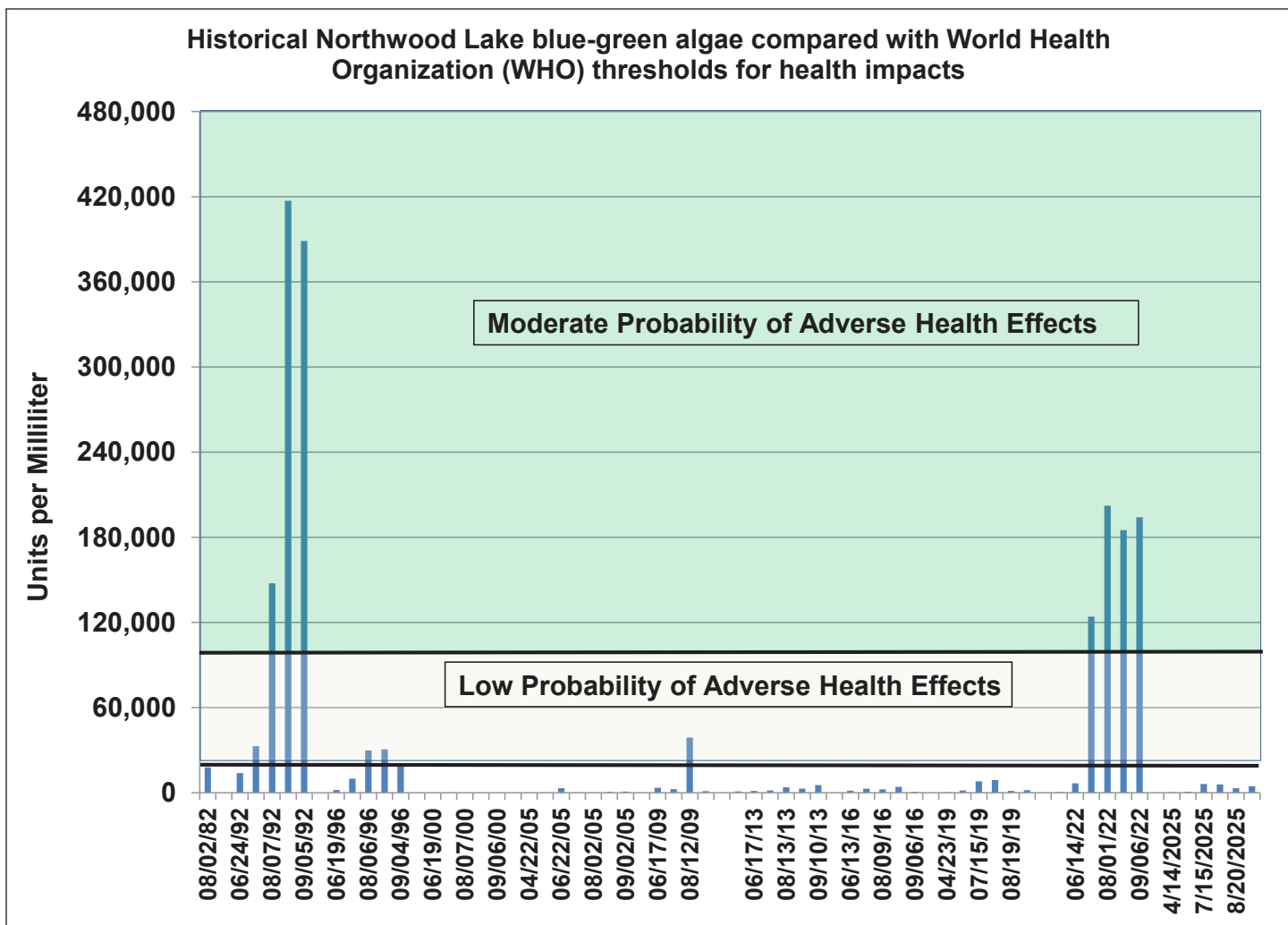


Figure 12: Historical blue-green algae compared with World Health Organization (WHO) thresholds for health impacts

Unlike phytoplankton, zooplankton do not produce their own food. As “filter feeders,” they eat millions of small algae; given the right quantity and species, they can filter the volume of an entire lake in a matter of days. They are also valuable food for planktivorous fish and other organisms. Fish generally select the largest zooplankters they see and prefer cladocerans to copepods. Cladocerans swim slowly and lack the copepods’ ability to escape predation by jerking or jumping out of the way.

Figure 13 summarizes the number and major zooplankton groups observed in Northwood Lake for the monitored years. Small rotifers, the least preferred food for fish, dominated the zooplankton community throughout 2025. Copepods were also prevalent, while the number of cladocerans was so low that they are not generally visible on Figure 13. The low number of cladocerans is likely due to fish predation. Low numbers of cladocerans in shallow lakes are common because they lack a deep-water refuge from fish. Deeper waters have sufficient oxygen for zooplankton but insufficient oxygen for fish. Consequently, deeper lakes often have higher numbers of cladocerans

than shallow lakes. Northwood Lake’s 2025 summer average zooplankton abundance was the highest recorded during the monitoring period: 3,865,167 per square meter, compared with 104,158 to 3,148,538 per square meter from 2000 through 2022.

There were more zooplankton from 2013 through 2025 than before 2013. This is likely due to the increased extent and density of aquatic plants within the lake. Aquatic plants provide hiding places for zooplankton to avoid predation by fish. Aquatic plants were not observed in Northwood Lake before 2000, and zooplankton numbers were very low. Using barley straw to inhibit algal growth and improve water clarity from 2000 to 2003 increased the extent and density of the aquatic plant community. Zooplankton numbers have also increased.

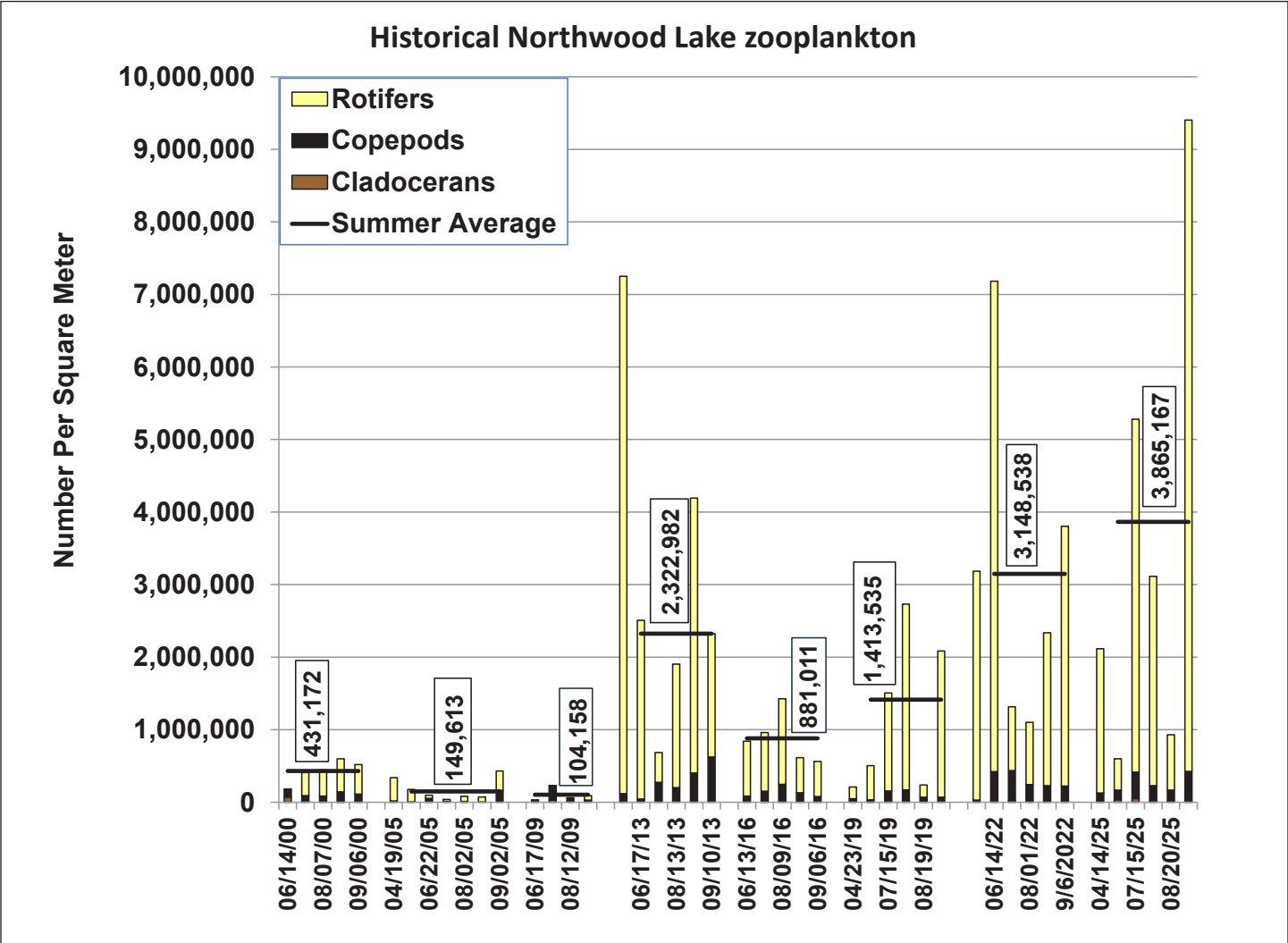


Figure 13: Historical zooplankton





2024–2025 Stream Monitoring: North Branch of Bassett Creek

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) monitored the North Branch of Bassett Creek for water depth, flow, temperature, specific conductance, and water quality during 2024 and 2025. In 2024, the BCWMC monitored macroinvertebrates (bottom dwelling organisms like bugs and snails) and habitat. Macroinvertebrate data were used to assess overall community health through a biotic index, which evaluates selected community attributes, assigns scores to each, and sums the scores to produce an overall stream health score. This report presents the results of these monitoring efforts.

North Branch of Bassett Creek	
Stream length (miles)	4.6
Size of drainage area (acres)	2,578
Location of stream origin	Plymouth (origin), New Hope, Crystal
Downstream receiving waterbody	Ĥaĥá Wakpádan/Bassett Creek
MPCA impairments	<i>Escherichia coli</i>

1. Summary

The BCWMC completed monitoring on the North Branch of Bassett Creek in 2024–2025. Monitoring activities included:

- Collecting macroinvertebrate and habitat data from the stream in 2024.
- Gathering water depth and flow measurements, continuous temperature and specific conductance readings, instantaneous pH and dissolved oxygen levels, and water quality samples during 2024 and 2025.
- Collecting continuous dissolved oxygen and temperature data during the summers of 2024 and 2025.

The 2024–2025 monitoring program represents an ongoing effort by the BCWMC to conduct long-term assessments of the North Branch of Bassett Creek. Previous monitoring efforts included:

- Collecting habitat data from the stream in 2015 and 2018.
- Sampling macroinvertebrates on 11 occasions between 1980 and 2018.
- Gathering water depth and flow measurements, continuous temperature, and specific conductance readings in 2018–2019.
- Collecting water quality samples in 2018–2019.

The objectives of this stream monitoring are to assess flow and water quality, identify temporal changes, evaluate compliance with Minnesota

Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) water quality and biological standards, and determine stressors affecting the biological community.

Monitoring results indicate that the North Branch of Bassett Creek does not meet MPCA standards for *E. coli* bacteria, chlorides, total suspended solids, or river eutrophication standards (RES), which include total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and dissolved oxygen fluctuations (DO flux). However, MPCA standards were achieved for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and metals (including total cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, and zinc).

Between 1980 and 2024, BCWMC collected benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling organisms) from the North Branch of Bassett Creek on 12 occasions. The purpose of this sampling was to evaluate water quality and detect changes over time. Water quality monitoring often gives us small snap shots of conditions at the exact time of data collection. However, macroinvertebrates (e.g., aquatic bugs) live in the water during all or part of their life cycles. Some bugs can tolerate poor conditions like warm temperatures and low oxygen levels, while other species can only survive in streams with good water quality. Assessing the types and numbers of bugs in the stream provides insight on its water quality along with the overall ecological health of the creek.

The 2015, 2018, and 2024 monitoring programs also included habitat evaluations.

The Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (M-IBI) was used to assess the health of the macroinvertebrate community. Developed by the MPCA and incorporated into Minnesota's water quality standards, the M-IBI identifies biologically impaired rivers and streams. From 1980 to 2024, M-IBI scores for the North Branch ranged from 11 to 36; none met the MPCA impairment threshold of 37. The 2024 M-IBI score was 18, a modest increase from the 2018 score of 16, suggesting a slight improvement in macroinvertebrate community health during this timeframe.

A stream restoration project on the North Branch of Bassett Creek (completed in 2012–2013) improved water quality and aquatic habitat. After completion, the M-IBI score rose from 19 (2009) to 30 (2015). The main improvement was an increase in the proportion of clinger taxa (organisms that adhere to rocks or other substrates to resist displacement by stream flow), suggesting reduced sediment deposition in the stream. Following the project's completion, five IBI metrics improved in 2015 and then progressively worsened in 2018 and 2024. A sixth metric score remained unchanged following the completion of the stream restoration project; however, it declined from 5.7 in 2015 to 1.4 in 2024. The 2024 MIBI score was 18, which falls short of the requirement.

2. Recommendations

Because the North Branch of Bassett Creek did not meet MPCA standards for *E. coli* bacteria, chlorides, total suspended solids, or RES from 2018 through 2025, and because 1980–2024 M-IBI scores fell below the MPCA impairment threshold, the following actions are recommended:

- Evaluate the sources of elevated total suspended solids, *E. coli*, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll *a* in the stream, and develop strategies to improve water quality and support attainment of MPCA standards. The ongoing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for Northwood Lake will identify the main sources of phosphorus loading within a portion of the North Branch watershed and recommend targeted pollution reduction projects. Implementing these projects is expected to lower total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* levels, improve overall stream water quality, and have a positive effect on the stream's M-IBI score.
- Maintain ongoing initiatives aimed at reducing chloride (deicing salt) usage in the watershed, such as encouraging the Smart Salting Level 1 Certification course and requiring newly permitted properties to implement a chloride management plan.
- Review the stream corridor for erosion issues and develop and implement management solutions to address and repair these areas.

- Enhance habitat conditions within the North Branch of Bassett Creek to increase the stream’s M-IBI score. Recommended strategies include integrating overhanging, submerged, and emergent vegetation, along with woody debris.
- Continue monitoring stream habitat, flow, water quality, and macroinvertebrates to assess compliance with MPCA water quality and biological standards, track trends over time, and identify stressors affecting the macroinvertebrate community.

3 2024–2025 stream monitoring program

Water quality in the North Branch of Bassett Creek was monitored from 2024 to 2025 at a station near 34th Avenue. As shown in Table 1 and Figure 1, the water quality monitoring site is within the reach of the North Branch of Bassett Creek, where a stream restoration project was completed from 2012 to 2013 to enhance water quality and aquatic habitat.

Table 1 Stream restoration projects along the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Project	Status	Location
North Branch Bassett Creek Restoration Project: 200 feet upstream of Douglas Drive to 32nd Avenue North	Construction began fall 2012; completed in fall 2013	Crystal

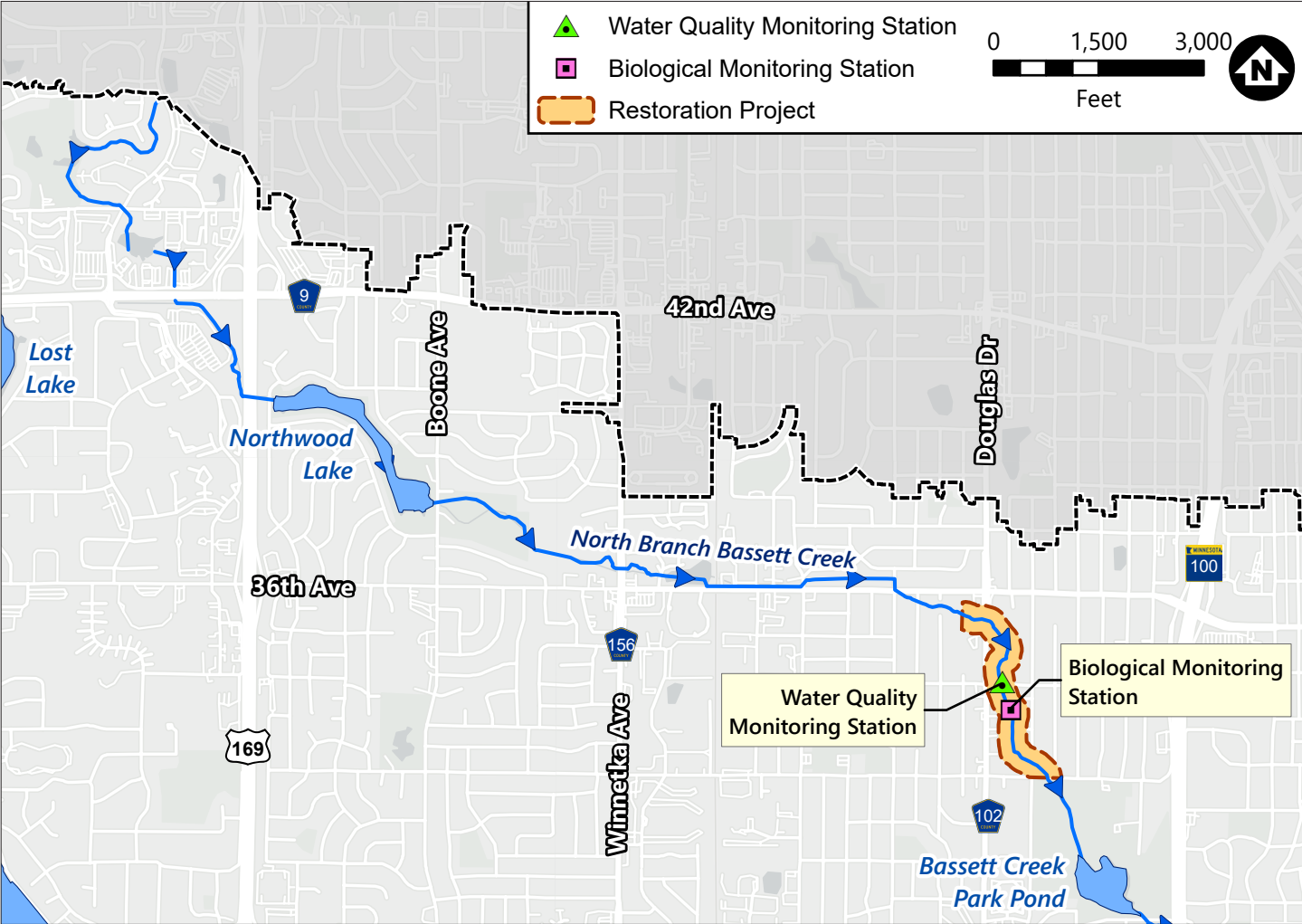


Figure 1 North Branch water quality and biological monitoring locations at 34th Avenue

Water depth, flow, specific conductance, and temperature were measured continuously during the monitoring period. Because ice conditions in the channel during the winter months prevent accurate measurements of continuous flow, temperature, and specific conductance, the monitoring period for these parameters was limited to spring through early winter.

Water quality samples were collected manually on 29 occasions to monitor base flow conditions and with an automatic sampler on 10 occasions to monitor storm events. Manual sample collections usually included instantaneous measurements of temperature, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, and pH.

Storm and base flow samples were analyzed for nutrients (total phosphorus, ortho phosphorus, dissolved phosphorus, nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, and total Kjeldahl nitrogen), solids (total suspended solids and volatile suspended solids), chlorides, hardness, calcium, and magnesium. Base flow samples were also analyzed for chlorophyll *a*, and *E. coli* bacteria. Quarterly grab samples were analyzed for metals (chromium, cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc).

Dissolved oxygen was continuously measured from September 11 through September 18, 2024, and August 29 through September 6, 2025.

The following equipment was used for the monitoring program:

- **Radar water-level sensor, data logger, and flow meter:** A radar water-level sensor (Figure 2) measured water levels at 15-minute intervals, and a data logger (Figure 3 and Figure 4) recorded the measurements. A data logger is an electronic device that records data over time. Flow was measured at a range of depths using a flow meter, and a stage-rating curve was developed to estimate flow from the measured water depths. The stage-rating curve equation was added to the data logger program, enabling the automatic computation of flow from water depth throughout the monitoring period.
- **Cellular modem (Figure 3):** Enables staff to control equipment and download data from their office.
- **SunSaver regulator (Figure 3):** This instrument controls the current flowing from the solar panel to the battery and prevents the current from flowing in reverse (i.e., battery to the solar panel).

- **Solar panel (Figure 4):** Charges the battery used to operate the equipment.
- **Automatic sampler (Figure 5):** Collects storm samples.
- **Temperature probe and data logger:** The probe measures water temperature, and the data logger (Figure 3 and Figure 4) recorded the measurements.
- **Specific-conductance probe and data logger:** The probe measures specific conductance, and the data logger (Figure 3 and Figure 4) records the measurements.



Figure 2 Radar water level sensor

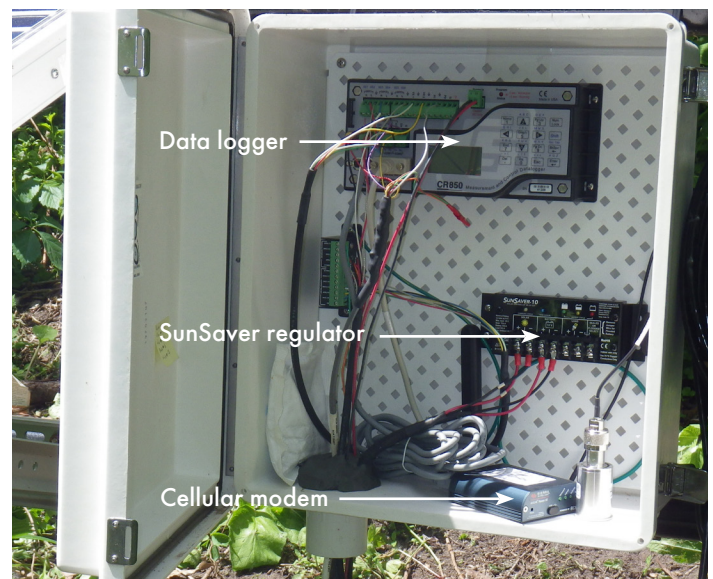


Figure 3 Data logger, SunSaver regulator, and cellular modem

Table 2 2018–2019 and 2024–2025 water depth and flow

Parameter	2018			2019			2024			2025		
	Low	High	Avg.	Low	High	Avg.	Low	High	Avg.	Low	High	Avg.
Average daily water depth (feet)	0.3	2.6	0.8	0.6	3.5	1.0	0.04	1.8	0.8	0.4	2.4	0.8
Average daily flow (cfs)	0.01	74.9	2.9	0.3	53.4	5.4	0.0	23.8	0.8	0.1	59.4	3.5

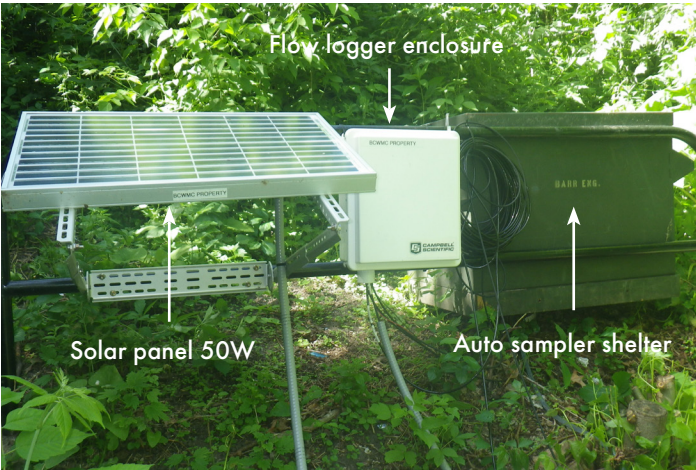


Figure 4 Flow logger enclosure, solar panel, and auto sampler shelter

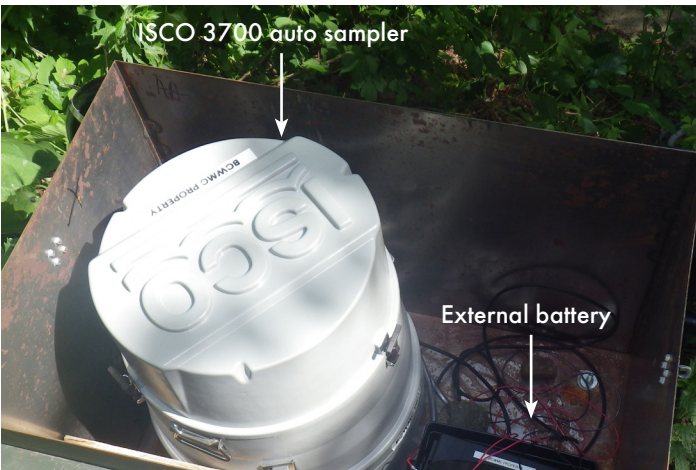


Figure 5 Automatic sampler and external battery

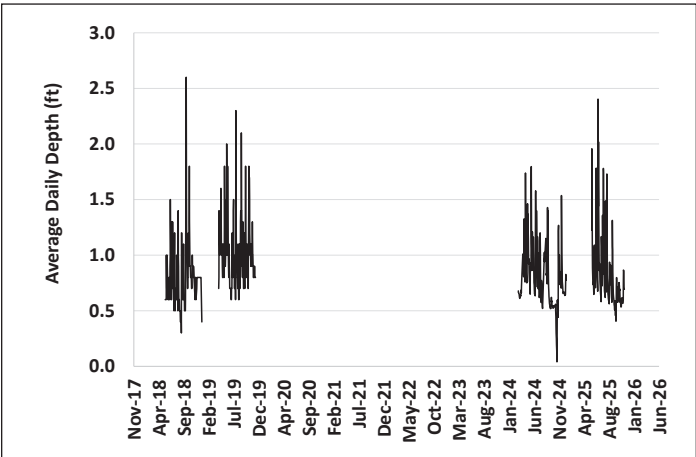


Figure 6 2018–2019 and 2024–2025 average daily water depth of the North Branch of Bassett Creek

3.1 Results of 2024–2025 stream monitoring program

3.1.1 Water depth and flow

Water depth and flow were recorded at 15-minute intervals during the monitoring period (spring–late fall) in 2024 and 2025. For comparative purposes, data on water depth and flow collected in 2018 and 2019 are presented alongside the recent measurements in Table 2 and Figures 6 and 7. The average water depth in 2018, 2024, and 2025 remained consistent at 0.8 feet, whereas in 2019 it was slightly higher at 1.0 foot. In contrast, the average flow observed in 2024 (0.8 cfs) was lower than the averages recorded in 2018 (2.9 cfs), 2019 (5.4 cfs), and 2025 (3.5 cfs).

3.1.2 Temperature

Temperature was measured at 15-minute intervals throughout the 2024–2025 monitoring period. Temperature data collected in 2018 and 2019 are presented alongside the recent measurements in Table 3 and Figure 8 for comparative purposes.

In 2018, 2019, and 2024, the average water temperature was consistent at 60 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). In 2025, this value increased modestly to 64 degrees Fahrenheit (see Table 3). Daily average water temperatures ranged from a minimum of 30 °F in all assessed years to a maximum between 80 °F and 83 °F (see Table 3), a normal range for a warm-water stream.

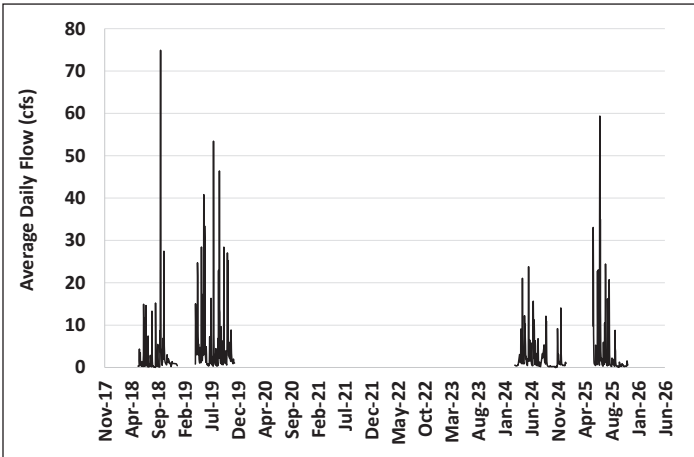


Figure 7 2018–2019 and 2024–2025 average daily flow in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Table 3 2018–2019 and 2024–2025 water temperature in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Parameter	2018			2019			2024			2025		
	Low	High	Avg.	Low	High	Avg.	Low	High	Avg.	Low	High	Avg.
Average daily water temperature °F	30	83	60	30	82	60	30	80	60	30	83	64

3.13 pH

The pH of water is a measure of the degree of its acidic or alkaline reaction. The applicable pH standard for the North Branch of Bassett Creek is a minimum of 6.5 and a maximum of 9.0. A stream meets the pH standard if it meets the standard at least 90 percent of the days of the monitoring season.

In 2024, pH ranged from 7.2 to 8.6; in 2025, it ranged from 7.4 to 8.1. The average for both years was 7.7 (Figure 8).

3.14 Dissolved oxygen

Dissolved oxygen is required for all aquatic organisms to live. When dissolved oxygen drops below acceptable levels, desirable aquatic organisms, such as fish, can be harmed or killed. The MPCA dissolved oxygen standard for the North Branch of Bassett Creek is at least 5 mg/L as a daily minimum. A stream meets the dissolved oxygen standard if at least 90 percent of the measurements are at least 5 mg/L and there are at least three such measurements.

In 2024, instantaneous dissolved oxygen measurements in the North Branch of Bassett Creek ranged from 6.4 to 8.4; the average was 7.5 (Figure 9). In 2025, instantaneous measurements ranged from 6.6 to 12.5; the average was 8.7 (Figure 9). The 2024–2025 data included 17 instantaneous dissolved oxygen measurements, all of which were within the MPCA standard of at least 5 mg/L as the daily minimum (Figure 9).

Stream dissolved oxygen concentrations generally follow a diurnal cycle, with concentrations increasing during the day and decreasing overnight. When eutrophication causes excessive algae or rooted plants in a stream, the stream may experience oxygen levels below 5 mg/L overnight due to excess oxygen consumption by plant respiration. Photosynthesis by plants during the day adds oxygen to the stream. This daily fluctuation in dissolved

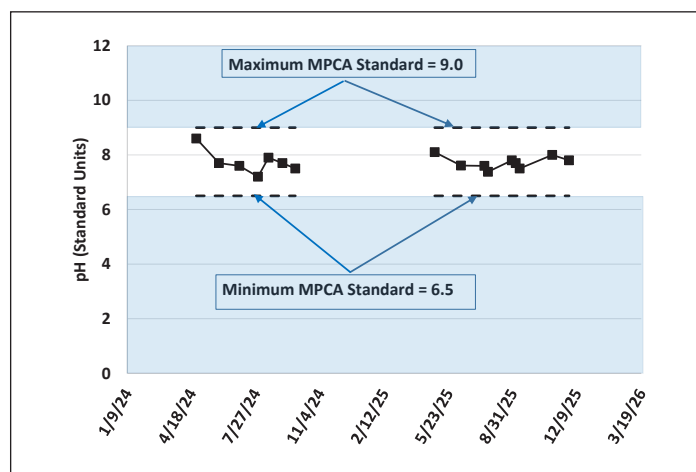


Figure 8 2024–2025 pH from the North Branch of Bassett Creek

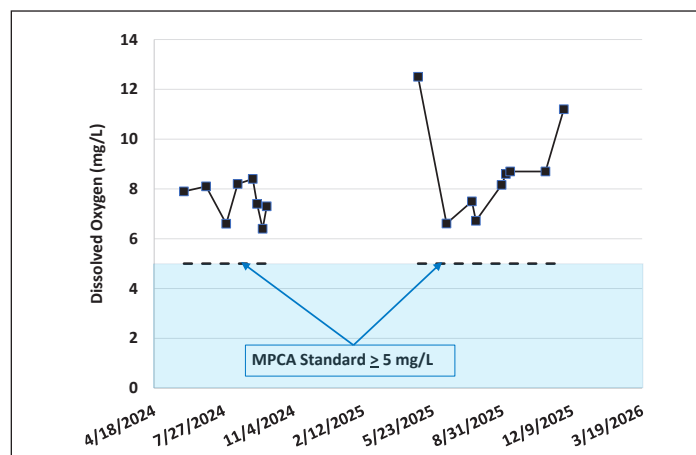


Figure 9 2024–2025 dissolved oxygen in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

oxygen (lower levels at night and higher levels during the day) is termed DO flux. DO flux is calculated by subtracting the daily minimum DO from the daily maximum DO to obtain the difference.

In order to measure the DO flux, continuous dissolved oxygen measurements were taken in the North Branch of Bassett Creek from September 11 through September 18, 2024, and August 29 through September 6, 2025. In 2024, measurements ranged from 3.0 to 8.3 mg/L. The overall average was 5.8 mg/L (Table 4 and Figure 10), and 18 percent of readings were below the 5 mg/L MPCA standard (Figure 10).

Table 4 2024–2025 summary of continuous dissolved oxygen (DO) measurements on the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Date	Daily Average DO (mg/l)	Daily Maximum DO (mg/l)	Daily Minimum DO (mg/L)	Daily DO Flux (mg/l)
9/11/2024	6.8	8.3	6.1	2.2
9/12/2024	6.6	7.7	5.8	1.9
9/13/2024	6.2	7.7	5.3	2.4
9/14/2024	4.9	6.6	3.2	3.4
9/15/2024	4.5	5.8	3.0	2.8
9/16/2024	5.4	7.1	4.5	2.6
9/17/2024	5.7	7.1	4.7	2.4
9/18/2024	6.0	7.6	5.0	2.6
2024 Average	5.8	7.2	4.7	2.5
8/29/2025	7.4	8.1	6.8	1.4
8/30/2025	7.2	8.0	6.8	1.3
8/31/2025	7.3	8.2	6.7	1.5
9/1/2025	7.2	8.1	6.3	1.8
9/2/2025	7.1	8.9	6.5	2.4
9/3/2025	7.8	8.2	7.3	0.8
9/4/2025	7.9	9.0	7.1	1.9
9/5/2025	8.3	9.0	7.5	1.5
9/6/2025	8.3	8.9	7.9	1.1
2025 Average	7.6	8.5	7.0	1.5

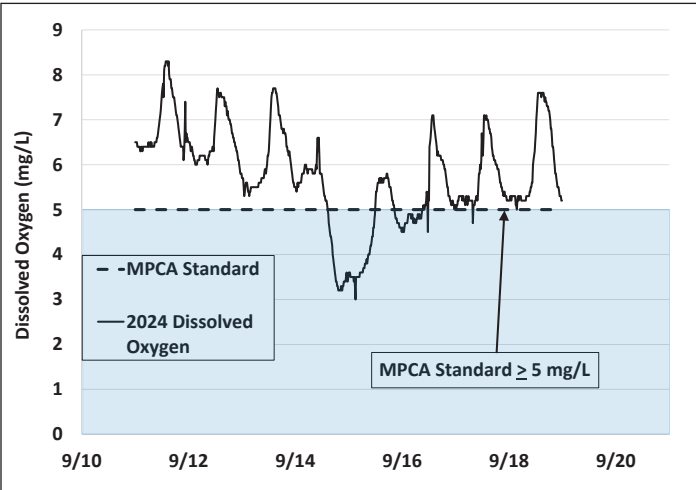


Figure 10 2024 North Branch of Bassett Creek summer continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring data

In 2025, continuous measurements ranged from 6.3 to 9.0 mg/L; the overall average was 7.6 mg/L (Table 4 and Figure 11). In 2025, no measurements were less than the 5 mg/L MPCA standard (Figure 11).

In total, during the 2024-2025 period, 91 percent of DO measurements met the MPCA standard of 5 mg/L or more. Because more than 90 percent of the measurements met the standard, and more than 20

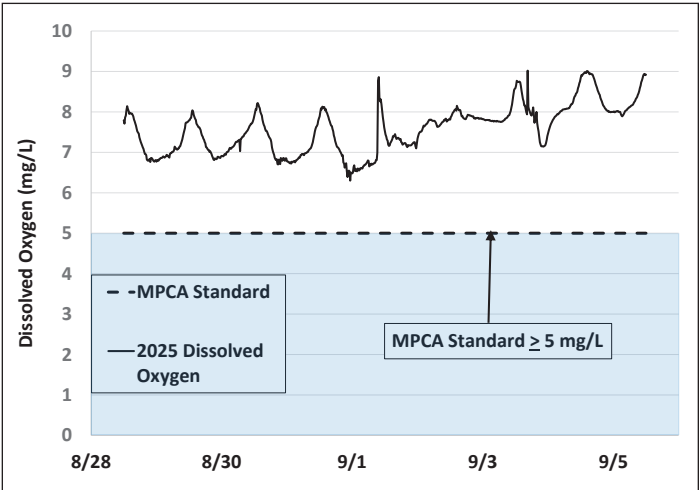


Figure 11 2025 North Branch of Bassett Creek summer continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring data

measurements were made over the 2-year period, continuous dissolved oxygen met the MPCA standard (Figure 10 and Figure 11).

DO flux data are used to determine compliance with river eutrophication standards (RES) as described below.

3.15 River eutrophication standards (RES)

Total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and DO flux data are used to determine compliance with RES. Phosphorus is essential for plant and algal growth; however, excessive phosphorus levels can lead to algal blooms, reduced water clarity, and overall degradation of water quality. Common sources of phosphorus include fertilizers, street leaves and grass clippings, atmospheric deposition, soil erosion, and decaying plant material. The concentration of algae in water is indicated by chlorophyll *a*, a pigment found within algae. The MPCA RES set criteria for total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and DO flux, requiring both the “causative variable” (total phosphorus) and the “response variables” (chlorophyll *a* and DO flux) to be evaluated together to determine eutrophication.

To assess stream impairment, data for total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* must be collected in at least 2 separate years over a 10-year period, with a minimum of 12 measurements per parameter from June through September used to establish seasonal averages. These averages are compared to MPCA standards: a maximum of 100 µg/L for total phosphorus and 18 µg/L for chlorophyll *a*.

For DO flux, a minimum 4-day deployment is required during summer months, and at least two deployments over different years are necessary; the maximum allowable DO flux is 3.5 mg/L. A stream is considered compliant with RES if either the causative or response variables meet the established thresholds.

The seasonal average for total phosphorus in the North Branch of Bassett Creek (June–September 2024–2025) was 189 µg/L, exceeding the MPCA maximum standard of 100 µg/L (Figure 12). Comparative data from 2018 and 2019 show a seasonal average total phosphorus concentration of 235 µg/L, also above the MPCA standard (Figure 13). The seasonal average for chlorophyll *a* in 2024–2025 was 28.7 µg/L, surpassing the MPCA maximum of 18 µg/L (Figure 14). In contrast, the 2018–2019 average was 17.6 µg/L, meeting the MPCA standard

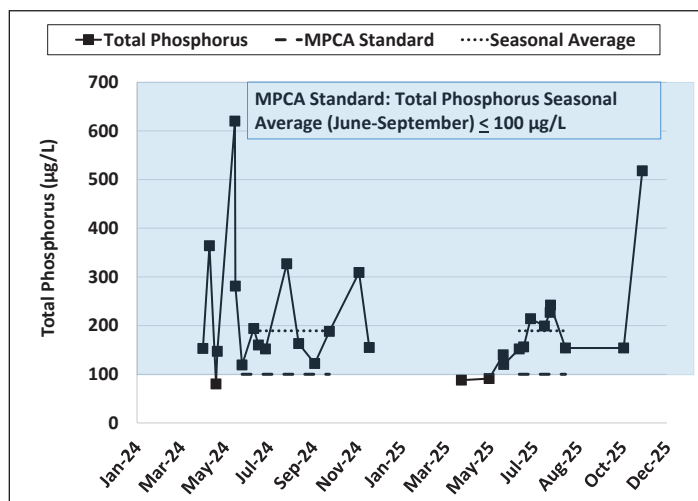


Figure 12 2024–2025 total phosphorus in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

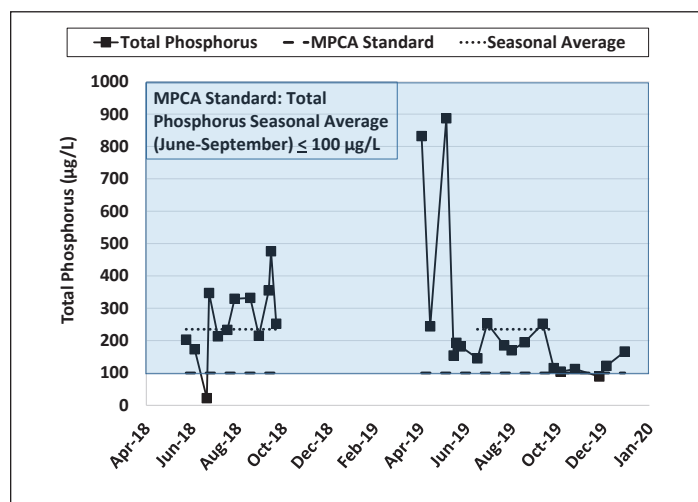


Figure 13 2018–2019 total phosphorus in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

(Figure 15). The DO flux response variable during 2024–2025 ranged from 0.8 mg/L to 3.4 mg/L, thus remaining within the MPCA threshold of 3.5 mg/L (Table 4).

During 2024–2025, both total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* concentrations exceeded their respective MPCA standards, resulting in the North Branch of Bassett Creek failing to meet the RES criteria. Although this stream is not currently included on Minnesota’s 303(d) list of impaired waters for RES, the failure to meet RES criteria for total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* during this period indicates that it would be classified as impaired for RES.

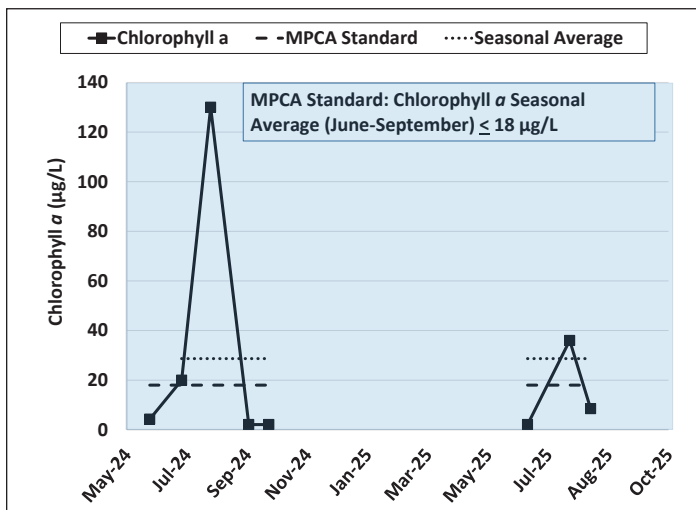


Figure 14 2024–2025 chlorophyll a in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

3.1.6 Chlorides

Chloride concentrations in area streams have increased since the early 1990s, when many government agencies switched from sand or sand/salt mixtures to salt for winter road maintenance. When snow and ice melt, the salt goes with it, washing into lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. It only takes 1 teaspoon of road salt to pollute 5 gallons of water such that it can no longer support freshwater life. Once in the water, chloride pollution is essentially permanent, as there is no easy or affordable way to remove it.

Because high chloride concentrations can harm fish and plant life, the MPCA has established maximum and chronic chloride standards. The maximum standard is the highest concentration of chloride that aquatic organisms can be exposed to for a brief period with zero-to-slight mortality. The chronic standard is the highest chloride concentration to which aquatic life can be exposed indefinitely without causing chronic toxicity. Chronic toxicity is defined as a stimulus that lingers or continues for a long period, often one-tenth the life span or more. A chronic effect can be mortality, reduced growth, impaired reproduction, harmful changes in behavior, and other nonlethal effects. A stream is considered impaired if two or more measurements exceed the chronic criterion (230 mg/L) within 3 years or if one measurement exceeds the maximum criterion (860 mg/L).

Based on samples collected in 2024 and 2025, chloride concentrations in the North Branch of Bassett Creek ranged from 32 mg/L (measured

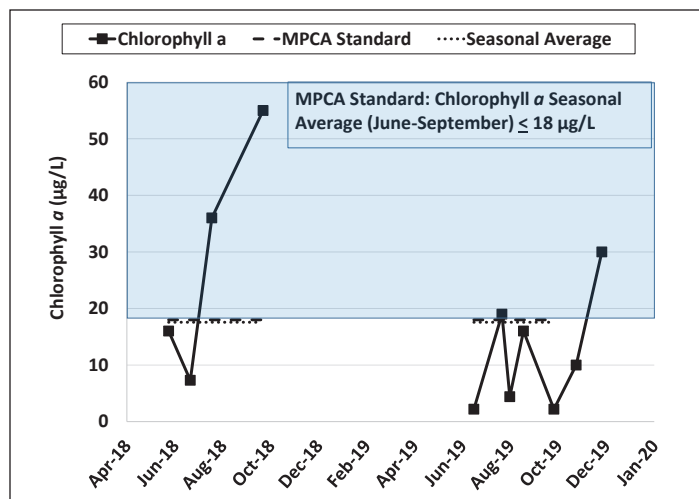


Figure 15 2018–2019 chlorophyll a in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

June 26, 2025) to 287 mg/L (measured March 24, 2025), as shown in Figure 16. All samples obtained by BCWMC during 2024 and 2025 complied with the MPCA maximum chloride standard; however, one out of 29 samples (3 percent) exceeded the MPCA chronic chloride standard.

Comparative analysis of data from 2018–2019 revealed chloride concentrations ranging from 10 mg/L (measured September 28, 2018) to 437 mg/L (measured December 28, 2019) (Figure 16). All samples met the MPCA maximum chloride standard, though two out of 30 samples (7 percent) surpassed the MPCA chronic chloride standard—both were collected in December 2019.

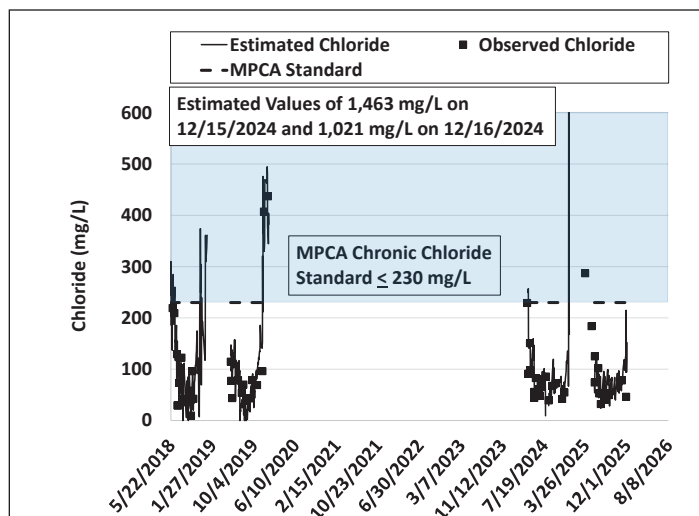


Figure 16 2018–2019 and 2024–2025 chloride concentrations: observed and estimated from average daily specific conductance measurements in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Further information regarding chloride levels was obtained via the analysis of specific conductance. Specific conductance evaluates water's ability to conduct electricity, reflecting dissolved substances such as chloride ions. A linear regression analysis indicated that 78 percent of the observed specific conductance at the North Branch of Bassett Creek monitoring station was attributable to chloride ions in the stream. The resulting statistical model was used to estimate average daily chloride values based on observed specific conductance. In 2024, estimated chloride concentrations ranged from 9 mg/L to 1,463 mg/L using this approach, averaging 96 mg/L (Figure 16). Chloride concentrations exceeded the MPCA maximum chloride standard of 860 mg/L on 2 of the 229 days that were estimated (1 percent) and the chronic chloride standard on 6 of the 229 days that were estimated (3 percent). In 2025, estimated chloride concentrations ranged from 24 mg/L to 215 mg/L, with an average of 77 mg/L (Figure 16); all 2025 estimates met the MPCA maximum and chronic chloride standards.

Analysis of comparative data from 2018–2019 showed that 2018 stream chloride concentrations estimated from specific conductance ranged from 0 mg/L to 374 mg/L, with an average of 134 mg/L (Figure 16). Exceedances of the MPCA chronic chloride standard occurred on 32 of the 177 days estimated (18 percent). In 2019, chloride concentrations estimated from specific conductance ranged from 0 mg/L to 495 mg/L, averaging 114 mg/L (Figure 16), with exceedances on 23 of 195 days (12 percent).

The North Branch of Bassett Creek is not currently included on Minnesota's 303(d) impaired waters list for chloride. Nonetheless, as more than two chloride measurements exceeded the MPCA chronic chloride standard during both 2018–2019 and in 2024, the stream would be classified as impaired for chloride in accordance with current regulatory criteria.

3.1.7 *E. coli* bacteria

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that *E. coli* is the preferred indicator of the potential presence of waterborne pathogens. The MPCA standard for *E. coli* protects streams used for two types of recreation: primary body contact (e.g., swimming, where inadvertent ingestion of water is likely) and secondary body contact (e.g., wading, where the likelihood of ingesting water is much smaller). The MPCA uses average and maximum *E. coli* values to determine impairment. *E. coli* standards are applicable only during the warmer months of April through October, since swimming or wading in Minnesota streams during the November through March period is not expected.

The North Branch of Bassett Creek does not meet water quality standards for bacteria and thus is included on Minnesota's 303(d) impaired waters list. The 2018–2025 bacteria data described below are consistent with that listing.

Average *E. coli* is assessed by a standard based on a geometric mean Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criterion of 126 *E. coli* colony-forming units (cfu) per 100 mL. Data are aggregated by individual month (e.g., all April values, all May values, etc.) for up to 10 years to determine impairment due to high average monthly *E. coli* values. At least 3 months of data must be collected, preferably between June and September, and at least five samples must be collected during those 3 months (15 samples) to determine impairment due to high average *E. coli* levels.

Maximum *E. coli* is assessed using a maximum criterion of 1,260 cfu, not to be exceeded by 10 percent of all samples collected from April through October over the 10-year assessment period (independent of month).

If either the geometric mean of the aggregated monthly values for one or more months exceeds 126 cfu per 100 mL, or more than 10 percent of individual values exceed 1,260 cfu per 100 mL over the 10-year assessment period, the waterbody is considered impaired.

E. coli data from 2018, 2019, 2024, and 2025 were evaluated to assess compliance with the MPCA impairment standard. The calculated geometric means for April through October ranged from

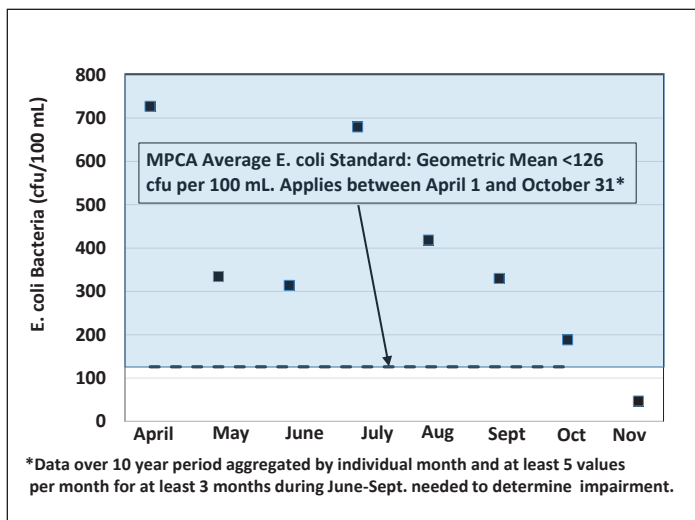


Figure 17 2018–2019 and 2024–2025 monthly geometric means of *E. coli* bacteria in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

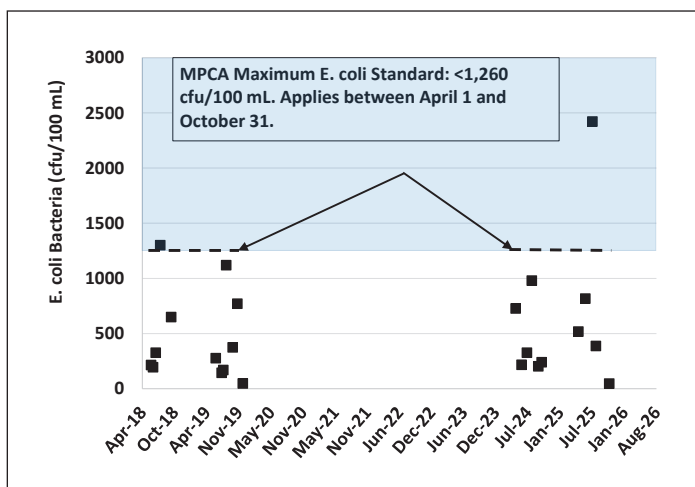


Figure 18 2018–2019 and 2024–2025 *E. coli* bacteria in the North Branch of Bassett Creek

a minimum of 314 cfu per 100 mL in June to a maximum of 727 cfu per 100 mL in April (see Figure 17). None of these monthly means met the MPCA standard of 126 cfu per 100 mL (refer to Figure 17), indicating that the stream would be classified as impaired by this metric. Nevertheless, an official determination of impairment cannot be made due to an insufficient number of samples: five samples were collected across two months (June and July), and only four samples during a third month (September), which does not fulfill the requirement of a minimum of five samples per month for three separate months.

Of the 23 samples gathered between April and October in the monitored years, two (9 percent) surpassed the MPCA maximum *E. coli* standard

(sample results of 1,300 cfu/100 mL on July 25, 2018, and 2,421 cfu/100 mL on July 23, 2025—see Figure 18). Since fewer than 10 percent of collected samples exceeded the maximum criterion during the 7-year monitoring period, this portion of the standard was considered satisfied.

3.1.8 Total suspended solids

Total suspended solids consist of soil particles, algae, and other materials that are suspended in water and reduce water clarity. They typically increase during rain events or snowmelt when runoff from the watershed flows into the stream. Excessive total suspended solids can harm aquatic life and degrade aesthetic and recreational qualities. A stream is considered to exceed the standard for total suspended solids (30 mg/L) if (1) the standard is exceeded more than 10 percent of the days of the assessment season (April through September) and (2) at least three such measurements exceed the standard.

In 2024, total suspended solids concentrations in the North Branch of Bassett Creek ranged from a minimum of less than 3 mg/L (recorded on May 30 and September 6) to a maximum of 408 mg/L (observed on May 21), with an average value of 58 mg/L (Figure 19). Of the 14 samples collected between April and September, three (21 percent) exceeded the MPCA standard of 30 mg/L (Figure 19).

In 2025, measured concentrations ranged from less than 3 mg/L (June 11 and August 13) to 40 mg/L (November 25), averaging 13 mg/L (Figure 19). Only one of the 10 samples obtained from April through September (10 percent) surpassed the MPCA threshold (Figure 19).

A comparative analysis of data from 2018–2019 indicates that total suspended solids concentrations were higher overall during those years. In 2018, values ranged from a low of 2 mg/L (June 12) to a high of 248 mg/L (September 20), with an average of 67 mg/L (Figure 19). Five of 12 samples (42 percent) collected between April and September exceeded the MPCA standard (Figure 19).

In 2019, concentrations ranged from 1 mg/L (June 18) to 487 mg/L (May 9), averaging 72 mg/L (Figure 19). Seven out of 13 samples (54 percent) taken from April through September exceeded the MPCA criterion (Figure 19).

The North Branch of Bassett Creek is not presently listed on Minnesota's 303(d) list of impaired waters for total suspended solids. However, given that more than 10 percent of samples collected from April through September in 2018, 2019, 2024, and 2025 exceeded the standard, the stream would qualify as impaired for total suspended solids.

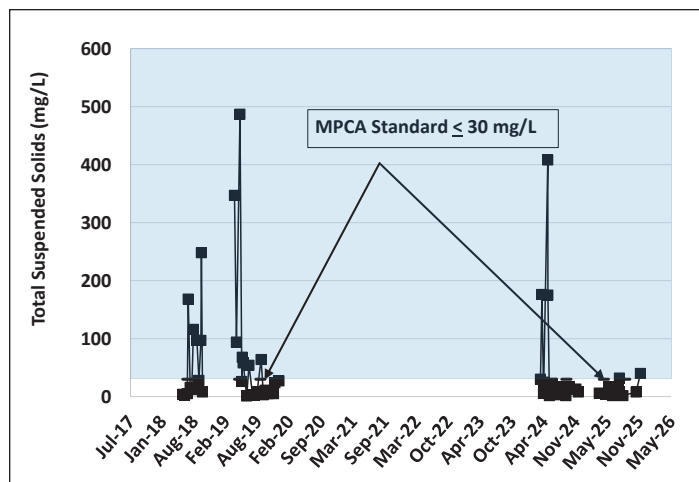


Figure 19 2018–2019 and 2024–2025 total suspended solids in the North Branch of Bassett Creek



3.1.9 Metals

Metals are naturally occurring elements found throughout the Earth's crust. Their multiple industrial, domestic, agricultural, medical, and technological applications have led to their widespread distribution in the environment. Because heavy metal-induced toxicity can harm aquatic life, the MPCA has established three standards for Class 2B waters—chronic, maximum, and final acute values (FAVs)—for each metal type. (The MPCA has classified Bassett Creek as a Class 2B water.)

The chronic standard is the highest toxicant concentration at which aquatic organisms can be indefinitely exposed without harmful effects. The maximum standard is a concentration that protects aquatic organisms from the potentially lethal effects of a short-term “spike” in toxicant concentrations. The maximum standard is always equal to one-half of the FAV: the concentration that would kill about one-half of the exposed individuals of a very sensitive species. The FAV is most often used as an “end-of-pipe” effluent limit to prevent an acutely toxic condition in the effluent or the mixing zone. Because higher water hardness reduces metal toxicity, the MPCA metals standards vary with water hardness. To show this variation (Figures 21 through 26), metal concentrations are plotted on the y-axis and hardness on the x-axis.

Quarterly samples from the North Branch of Bassett Creek were analyzed for total cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, and zinc during the 2024 and 2025 monitoring period. All results met MPCA standards (see Figures 20–25). Comparative data from 2018–2019 also show that all samples complied with MPCA standards. These findings indicate that metals are not causing toxicity to aquatic organisms in the stream.

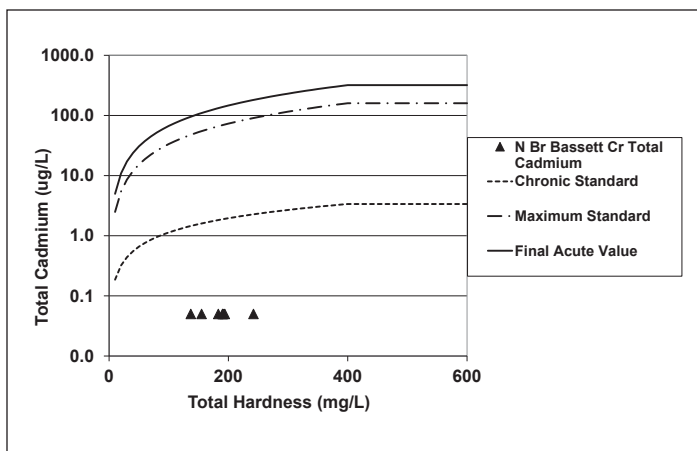


Figure 20 2024–2025 total cadmium in the North Branch of Bassett Creek compared to MPCA standards

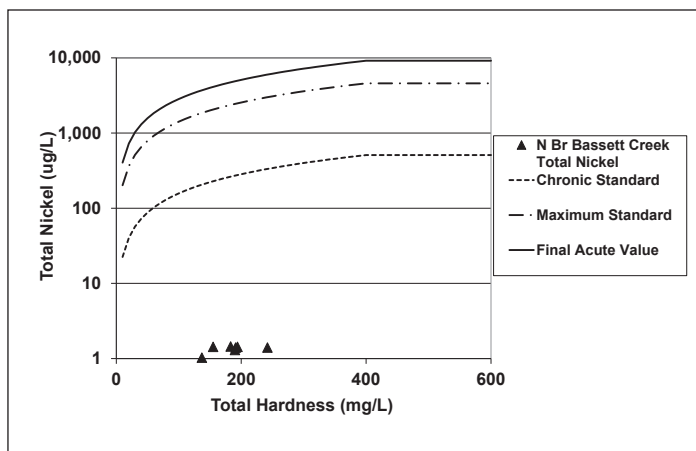


Figure 23 2024–2025 total nickel in the North Branch of Bassett Creek compared to MPCA standards

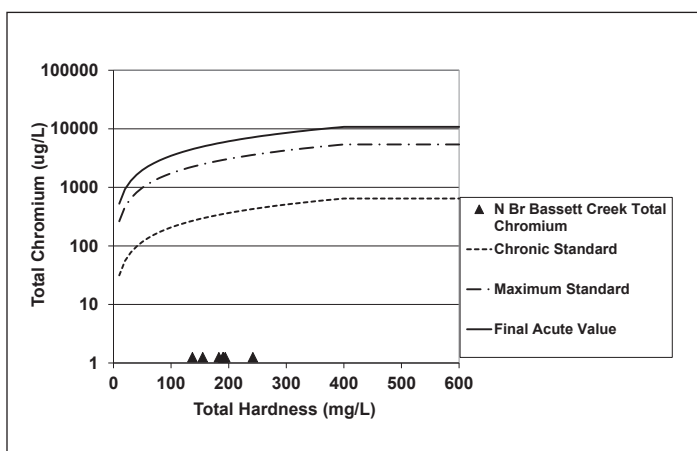


Figure 21 2024–2025 total chromium in the North Branch of Bassett Creek compared to MPCA standards

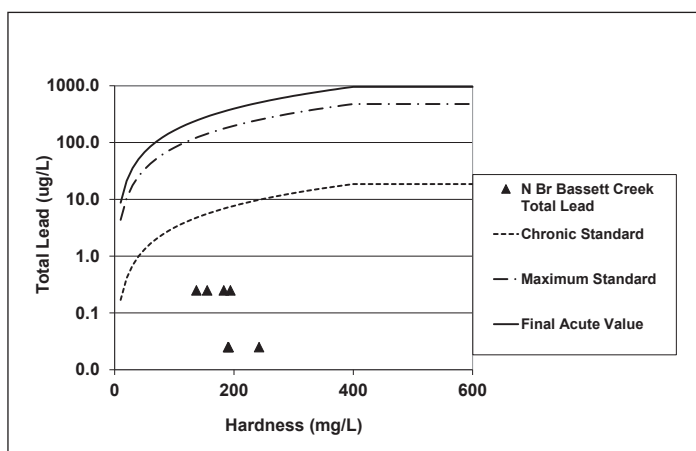


Figure 24 2024–2025 total lead in the North Branch of Bassett Creek compared to MPCA standards

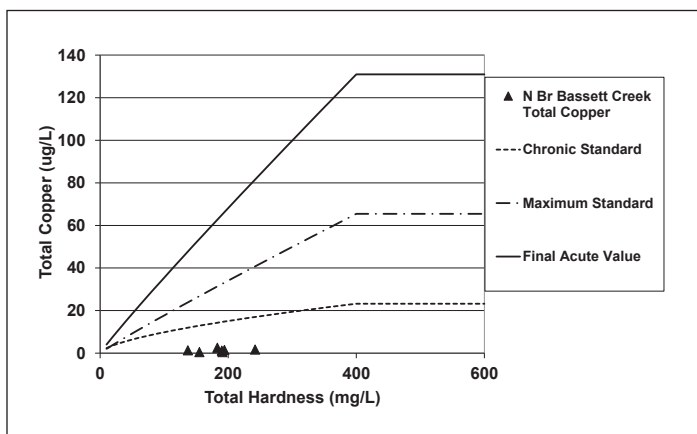


Figure 22 2024–2025 total copper in the North Branch of Bassett Creek compared to MPCA standards

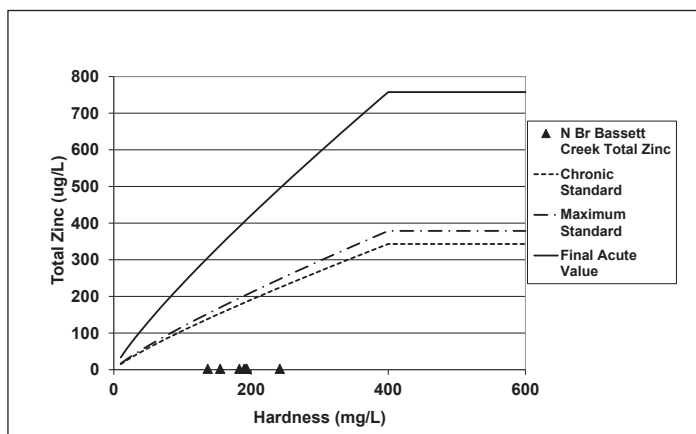


Figure 25 2024–2025 total zinc in the North Branch of Bassett Creek compared to MPCA standards

4 Biotic index evaluation of the North Branch of Bassett Creek

In 2024, the BCWMC monitored the North Branch of Bassett Creek for benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling organisms like bugs and snails) and assessed the stream's habitat (see Figure 1 for the sampling location). This sampling has been conducted 12 times between 1980 and 2024 to evaluate water quality and detect changes over time. The Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (M-IBI) was used to evaluate the health of the stream's macroinvertebrate community. The MPCA developed the M-IBI and added it to Minnesota's water quality standards to help identify biologically impaired rivers and streams.

4.1 North Branch Bassett Creek Habitat

Habitat is a key factor in determining the presence and distribution of macroinvertebrates in streams. Stream macroinvertebrates are influenced by habitat factors such as substrate size and composition, the quantity of fine sediment deposited on the substrate, and the presence of vegetation. The substrate provides places for food and refuge for macroinvertebrates. Aquatic vegetation provides shelter against predation by small fish. Adverse changes in habitat can result in adverse changes to the macroinvertebrate community.

Habitat surveys of the North Branch of Bassett Creek at 34th Avenue were completed in 2015, 2018 (Figure 26), and 2024 (Figure 27) using the MPCA quantitative habitat survey method.

A summary of the results is presented in Table 5. Habitat conditions differed between the 2018 and 2024 surveys, with improvements in some metrics, but degradation in others.

Habitat improvements included:

- Higher average filamentous algae abundance.
- Reduced fine sediment depth.

Habitat degradation included:

- Increased embeddedness, indicating that larger coarse substrates such as gravel, cobble, and boulders were more surrounded, covered, or buried by finer sediments such as silt, sand, or mud.
- Greater extent and length of erosion along the left and right banks.

- Shorter transect length with boulders present in water deeper than 10 cm.

As shown in Table 5, habitat scores of zero were recorded in 2015, 2018, and 2024 for aquatic plants, overhanging vegetation, submerged vegetation, and woody debris. The absence of these habitat features creates deficiencies that limit the types of macroinvertebrates the stream can support.

Also as shown in Table 5, changes in flow between the 2015, 2018, and 2024 monitoring events included an increase and then reduction in flow at this location. These changes in flow do not clearly correlate with the recorded IBI scores during these years.



Figure 26 2018 biological sample reach



Figure 27 2024 biological sample reach

Table 5 2015, 2018, and 2024 North Branch Bassett Creek habitat comparison at 34th Avenue

Parameter	North Branch		
	2015	2018	2024
Discharge (flow) (cfs) ¹	0.03	8.2	0.04
Average depth of water (cm)	6	25	8.5
Average depth of fine sediment (cm)	0.6	0.7	0.3
Average embeddedness of coarse sediment (%)	51	38	44
Percent of transects with left-bank erosion	15	0	39
Percent of transects with right-bank erosion	0	0	31
Average length of bank erosion per transect: left bank (m)	0.3	0.0	1.1
Average length of bank erosion per transect: right bank (m)	0.0	0.0	0.2
Average amount of algae (filamentous or attached) observed on quadrat (%)	31.0	0.0	3.8
Average number of macrophytes observed on quadrat (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with overhanging vegetation	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with submergent vegetation	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with emergent vegetation	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with woody debris	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with boulders	13.8	19.2	0.0

¹Discharge when macroinvertebrate samples were collected.

4.2 M-IBI

The MPCA has established biological water quality standards for all Minnesota streams and rivers, including Bassett Creek. An M-IBI and a fish index of biotic integrity (F-IBI) were added to Minnesota standards and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on June 26, 2018.

The M-IBI helps identify biologically impaired rivers and streams by assessing the health of their macroinvertebrate communities. The M-IBI score is the sum of the scores from 10 individual metrics. Each metric assesses an attribute of the macroinvertebrate community; collectively, the metrics assess the community's overall health. Each M-IBI metric ranges from 0 to 10; the lowest possible score is 0, and the highest is 10. Increasing scores indicate improving conditions. Because 10 metrics are summed to attain the M-IBI score, and each metric has a maximum score of 10, the maximum possible score is 100. To meet the MPCA macroinvertebrate standard, the sum of the scores from the 10 individual metrics must equal or exceed the impairment threshold. The MPCA

Macroinvertebrate Class 5 (Southern Streams) standard of 37 applies to the North Branch of Bassett Creek.

The BCWMC collected macroinvertebrate samples from the North Branch of Bassett Creek on September 30, 2024, and the MPCA computed the M-IBI score to determine whether the stream met the M-IBI biological standard. The 2024 score of 18 did not meet the M-IBI biological standard (Figure 28).

Macroinvertebrate data collected by BCWMC from 1980 through 2024 were analyzed using the M-IBI. All M-IBI scores were assessed against the MPCA standard; however, none met the required benchmark. The BCWMC's M-IBI scores ranged from 11 in 2000 to 36 in 2003 (Figure 28). Notably, the 2024 M-IBI score of 18 was a modest increase from the 2018 score of 16, suggesting a slight improvement in macroinvertebrate community health during this period (Figure 28).

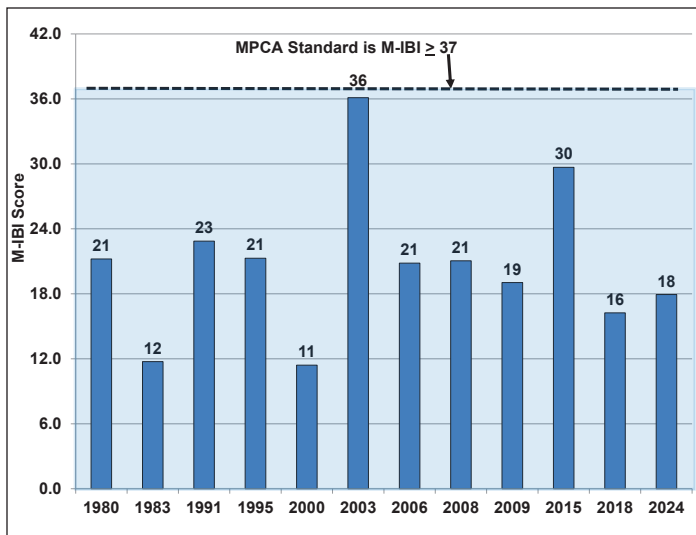


Figure 28 1980–2024 M-IBI metric scores for the North Branch of Bassett Creek

As shown in Figure 1 and Table 1, a stream restoration project was completed on the North Branch of Bassett Creek from 2012 to 2013, to improve water quality and aquatic habitat. Following the project’s completion, the M-IBI score rose from 19 in 2009 to 30 in 2015 (Figure 28). Notably, the macroinvertebrate community exhibited a substantial increase in clinger taxa—organisms that adhere to rocks or other substrates to resist displacement by stream flow—resulting in enhanced clinger scores and suggesting decreased sediment accumulation along the streambed.

Reduced sediment levels contribute to substrate stability, thereby facilitating secure attachment through diminished surface slipperiness. The proportion of clinger taxa in the stream has progressively increased, with elevated post-project clinger metric scores recorded from 2015 through 2024. In 2024, the score reached 9.4, approaching the maximum value of 10 (see Figure 29). Collectively, these findings confirm that the stream restoration initiative successfully reduced sediment deposition and that favorable conditions were sustained through 2024.

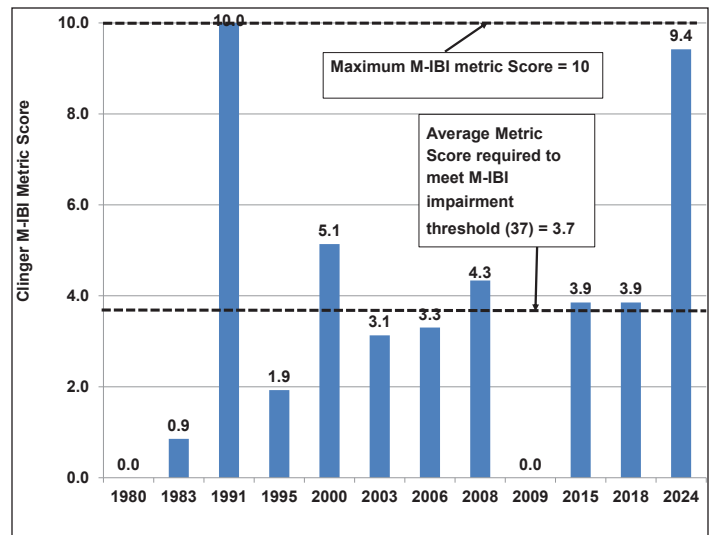


Figure 29 1980-2024 M-IBI clinger metric scores for the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Below, from left to right, pictures of macroinvertebrates found in the North Branch of Bassett Creek that are clingers: Top row—*Baetis flavistriga* (mayfly nymph), *Cheumatopshyche* (caddisfly larvae), *Simulium* (blackfly larvae). Bottom row—*Cricotopus* (midge larvae), and *Stenacron* (mayfly nymph)



After the project’s completion, five M-IBI metrics—Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies), predator, Trichoptera, tolerant, and HBI_MN—improved initially in 2015, then declined in 2018 and 2024. The climbers metric remained unchanged in 2015 but decreased in subsequent years. Together, declines in these six metrics reduced the overall M-IBI score by 19 points from 2015 to 2024. This decline was partially offset by increases in the clinger and insect taxa metrics, adding 7 points and limiting the net decline to 12 points. Had the six declining metrics remained at 2015 levels, the resulting 2024 M-IBI score would have been 37, which would have met the MPCA standard. However, the actual score was 18, which does not satisfy this requirement. Additional information regarding the reductions in these metrics is provided on page 17.

Odonata taxa were present in the North Branch of Bassett Creek during eight of the 11 sample events between 1980 and 2018 but were not observed in 2024 (Figure 30). The Odonata taxa (dragonflies and damselflies) score increased from 3.9 in 2009 to 6.1 in 2015, declined in 2018, and was zero in 2024 (Figure 30), indicating habitat and/or water quality degradation occurred from 2015 through 2024.

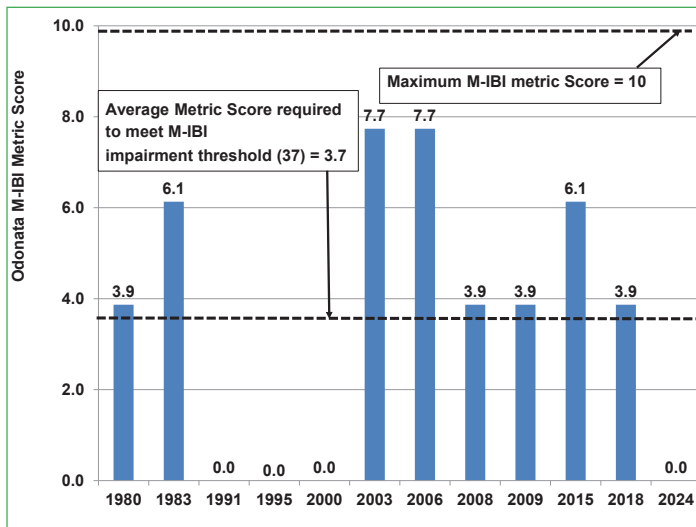


Figure 30 1980-2024 M-IBI Odonata metric scores for the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Below, pictures of Odonata taxa found in the North Branch of Bassett Creek from left to right: *Calopteryx* (damselfly larvae present in 2003, 2006, 2008, and 2015), *Ishnura* (damselfly larvae present in 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2015), and *Enallagma* (damselfly larvae present in 1980 and 1983).



Predator taxa, defined as organisms that feed on other macroinvertebrates, showed an increase in scores from 3.1 in 2009 to 3.8 in 2015, followed by a consistent decline to zero by 2024 (Figure 31). This downward trajectory indicates potential habitat or water quality degradation between 2015 and 2024. Common predator groups include Odonata larvae (damselflies and dragonflies) and giant water bugs. The documented decrease in Odonata during this period contributed to the reduction of the M-IBI score for the predator metric.

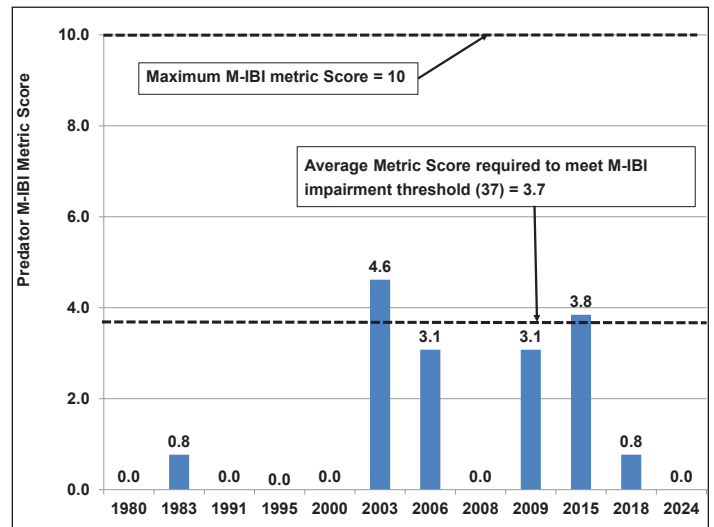


Figure 31 1980-2024 M-IBI predator metric scores for the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Below, pictures of predator taxa found in the North Branch of Bassett Creek in 2015, but not in 2024, from left to right: *Belostoma* (giant water bug), *Erpobdella punctata* (leech), and *Ishnura* sp. (damselfly larvae).



Typically, Trichoptera (caddisflies) are sensitive to elevated nutrient levels, excessive sedimentation, and diminished diversity and complexity within their habitat. The Trichoptera taxa score increased from 1.0 in 2009 to 2.0 in 2015, followed by a decrease to zero in 2018, where it remained through 2024 (Figure 32). This pattern indicates potential habitat or water quality degradation during the period from 2015 to 2024.

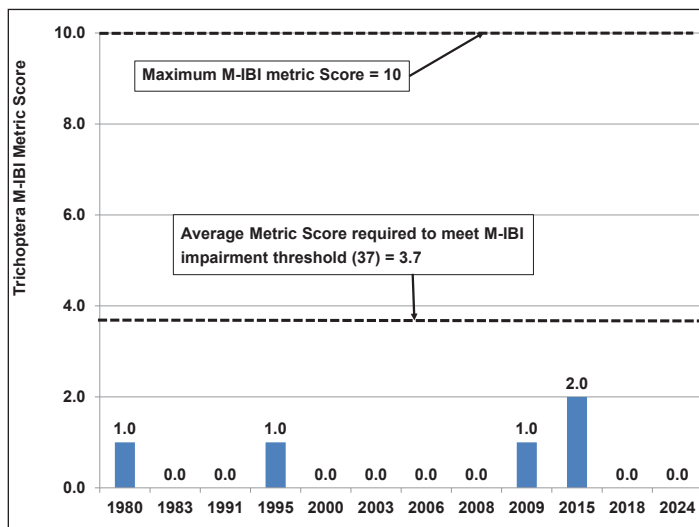


Figure 32 1980-2024 M-IBI Trichoptera metric scores for the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Below, from left to right: Trichoptera taxa found in the North Branch of Bassett Creek in 2015 but not in 2018 and 2024—*Hydroptila* (microcaddisfly) and *Oecetis* (longhorn caddisfly).



The tolerant metric assesses the relative proportion of taxa able to endure environmental degradation, determined by a tolerance value of 6 or higher. This metric uses tolerance values assigned by the MPCA to macroinvertebrate taxa observed in Minnesota, with higher values indicating more significant stream degradation. An increased percentage of tolerant taxa correlates with lower scores on this metric. The tolerant metric score increased from 2.4 in 2009 to 4.4 in 2015, subsequently declined in 2018, and rose slightly in 2024; however, it remained below the 2015 peak (Figure 33). The reduction in the tolerant metric score between 2015 and 2024 suggests a deterioration in stream conditions during this interval.

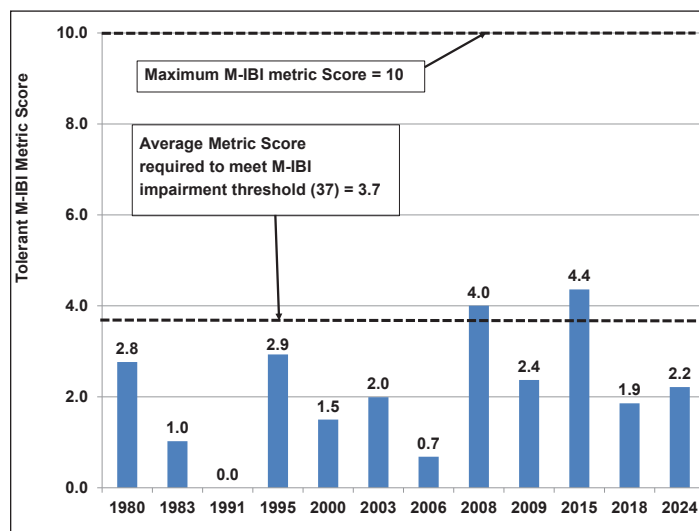


Figure 33 1980-2024 M-IBI tolerant metric scores for the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Below, from left to right: taxa with tolerance values greater than 6 found in the North Branch of Bassett Creek in 2024—*Baetis flavistriga* (mayfly larvae) and *Simulium* (black fly larvae).



The climber metric score remained unchanged following the completion of the stream restoration project on the North Branch of Bassett Creek; however, it declined from 5.7 in 2015 to 1.4 in 2024 (Figure 34). Climbers are macroinvertebrates that climb on various substrates, including overhanging vegetation, submerged and emergent vegetation, woody debris, and boulders. Climber taxa encompass Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies), leeches, and snails. Surveys conducted in 2015, 2018, and 2024 consistently reported a habitat score of zero for overhanging vegetation, submerged and emergent vegetation, and woody debris. The absence of these habitat types, coupled with decreasing “percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water with boulders” scores from 2018 to 2024, and a reduction in Odonata scores between 2015 and 2024, collectively contributed to the decline in the climber metric score during this period.

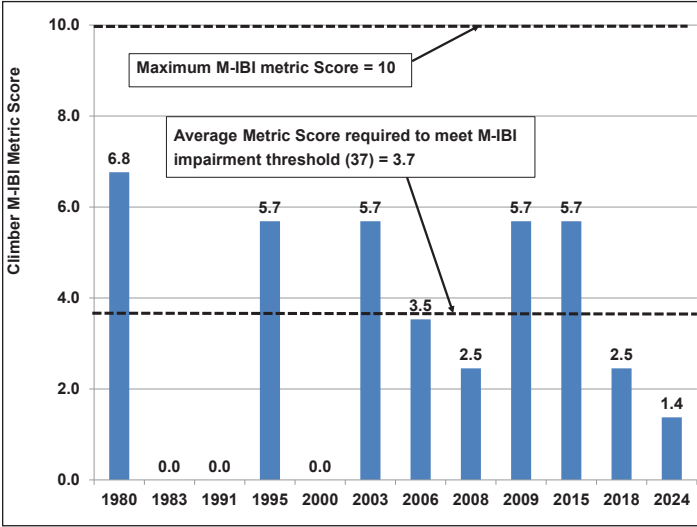


Figure 34 1980-2024 climber metric scores for the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Below, pictures of macroinvertebrates found in Bassett Creek that are climbers, from left to right: *Helobdella stagnalis* (leech, present in 2015, 2018, and 2024), *Physa* (snail, present in 2015 and 2018 but not 2024), and *Belostoma* sp. (giant water bug, present in 2015 and 2018, but not 2024).





The HBI_MN metric score is determined from abundance-weighted averages for each taxon, based on the MPCA tolerance values and the count of individuals per taxon. A decline in water quality or habitat conditions adversely affects the M-IBI score for this metric. The HBI-MN score increased from 3.0 in 2009 to 3.8 in 2015, then gradually decreased to 2.9 in 2024 (Figure 35). This trend suggests that water quality and/or habitat likely degraded between 2015 and 2024.

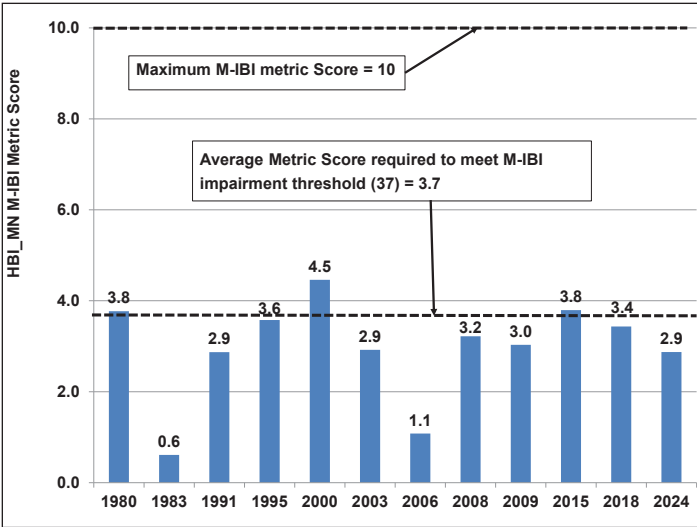


Figure 35 1980-2024 M-IBI HBI_MN metric scores for the North Branch of Bassett Creek

Enhancing habitat within the North Branch of Bassett Creek is recommended to increase the stream’s M-IBI score. Proposed actions include introducing overhanging, submerged, and emergent vegetation, as well as woody debris, to improve the stream’s ecological conditions. A small-scale habitat improvement project at the North Branch biological monitoring site near 34th Avenue is suggested to evaluate whether such enhancements can help the North Branch of Bassett Creek meet the MPCA biological standard.

Barr recommends pursuing water quality improvements to decrease nutrient and sediment concentrations and chlorides to enhance the M-IBI scores further. The implementation of projects identified in the ongoing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for Northwood Lake would contribute to nutrient reduction, improved water quality, and have a positive effect on the M-IBI score for the North Branch of Bassett Creek.



2000–2024 Stream Monitoring Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES), in partnership with the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC), monitored flow and water quality on the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek from 2000 through the present as a part of its Watershed Outlet Management Program (WOMP). This monitoring work is partially supported by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) with funds from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. The monitoring station was located at Irving Avenue from 2000 through early December 2020, when it was moved a short distance downstream to a location near Van White Boulevard. In 2024, the BCWMC monitored three locations on the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek for macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling organisms such as bugs and snails) and habitat conditions. Macroinvertebrate data were used to assess overall community health using a biotic index that evaluates selected community attributes, assigns scores to each, and sums the scores to produce an overall stream health score. This report presents the results of these monitoring efforts.

Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek	
Stream length (miles)	12 ¹
Size of drainage area (acres)	24,900 ²
Average flow (cubic feet per second)	25
Location of stream origin	Plymouth (origin), Golden Valley, Crystal, Minneapolis
Downstream receiving waterbody	Mississippi River
MPCA impairments	Chloride, fish bioassessments, macroinvertebrate bioassessments, fecal coliform bacteria

¹ Length of Main Stem from the outlet of Medicine Lake to the entrance of the tunnel near Van White Memorial Boulevard, between Olson Memorial Highway and Glenwood Avenue.

² Cumulative tributary area, not including landlocked basins.

1 Summary

The MCES, in partnership with the BCWMC, has monitored flow and water quality on the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek from 2000 through the present as a part of its WOMP program. The BCWMC completed habitat and macroinvertebrate monitoring on the creek in 2024. The monitoring program represents an ongoing effort by the BCWMC to conduct long-term assessments of the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek. Previous BCWMC efforts at the three Main Stem locations monitored in 2024 included:

- Collecting habitat data at all three stream locations in 2015 and at two locations—Rhode Island Avenue and east of Brookridge Avenue—in 2018 (Figure 1).
- Sampling macroinvertebrates on 11 occasions between 1980 and 2018.

The objectives of this stream monitoring are to assess flow and water quality, identify temporal changes, evaluate compliance with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) water quality and biological standards, and determine stressors affecting the biological community.

Water quality data were assessed during a 10-year period (2015–2024) to determine compliance with MPCA standards. Monitoring results show that during the assessment period, the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek did not meet MPCA standards for dissolved oxygen, *E. coli* bacteria, chloride, or total suspended solids. In contrast, MPCA standards were met for temperature, pH, river eutrophication standards (RES)—including total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a*—and metals, including total cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, and zinc.

Between 1980 and 2024, BCWMC sampled benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling organisms) from the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek on 12 occasions. The Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (M-IBI), developed by the MPCA and incorporated into Minnesota’s water quality standards, was used to evaluate macroinvertebrate community health and identify whether the creek was biologically impaired. Streams with an M-IBI score of 37 or higher meet the standard (i.e., impairment threshold). None of the M-IBI scores from 1980 through 2024 met the M-IBI standard on the Main Stem.

Scores at the three monitoring locations were:

- Rhode Island Avenue: 13 to 23, with an average of 18.
- East of Brookridge Avenue: 15 to 31, with an average of 22.
- Irving Avenue: 11 to 28, with an average of 20.

Minnesota’s impaired waters list identifies water bodies that do not meet MPCA standards. In 2022, the MPCA listed the entire Main Stem as impaired for aquatic life based on benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessments.

BCWMC completed stream restoration projects on the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek between 2010 and 2022 (Figure 1). From 2012 to 2018, Main Stem M-IBI scores increased at all three sites, with improvements in seven of the 10 index metrics. These gains were likely associated with the stream restoration projects completed during that period. Clinger taxa (aquatic macroinvertebrates that can attach themselves to rocks, wood, and other smooth substrates to resist displacement by streamflow) increased substantially at all three Main Stem sites, indicating reduced sediment accumulation on the streambed. Clinger scores improved again at all three locations in 2024, suggesting that benefits from the restoration projects persisted over time.

From 2012 to 2024, tolerant metric scores increased at the Rhode Island and Irving Avenue sites, indicating improved water quality and/or habitat conditions. This metric reflects the percentage of collected taxa with tolerance values of 6 or greater; higher percentages indicate more degraded conditions and produce lower scores, while lower percentages indicate better conditions and produce higher scores. Increased scores at Rhode Island and Irving Avenue suggest that stream restoration resulted in sustained improvements in water quality and/or habitat conditions. East of Brookridge Avenue, tolerant metric scores increased from 2012 to 2018, suggesting similar restoration-related improvements, but declined in 2024, indicating that those gains were not sustained.

Although clinger scores improved at all three locations and tolerant metric scores improved at two locations in 2024, declines in other index metrics lowered overall M-IBI scores to levels comparable to

those observed before 2018. This pattern indicates declining water quality and/or habitat conditions from 2018 to 2024.

In 2024, the MPCA completed a Stressor Identification study for the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek to identify factors contributing to biological impairment. The study identified chloride, eutrophication, habitat degradation, and altered hydrology/connectivity as stressors. Suspended solids and dissolved oxygen were classified as inconclusive, indicating that additional data are needed to determine whether they also contribute to impairment.

Bassett Creek WOMP data from Irving Avenue for 2015–2024 support the MPCA’s conclusion that chloride contributes to biological impairment. The data also indicate that suspended solids and dissolved oxygen contribute to impairment, while eutrophication does not appear to be a stressor because RES criteria were met. Quantitative habitat surveys at Rhode Island Avenue (2015, 2018, and 2024) and Irving Avenue (2015 and 2024) further support the MPCA’s conclusion that habitat degradation may contribute to biological impairment in Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek. Comparison of the 2024 results with earlier surveys indicates improvement in some habitat metrics—likely associated with stream restoration projects—but degradation in others.

2 Recommendations

Because the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek did not meet MPCA standards for dissolved oxygen, *E. coli* bacteria, chlorides, and total suspended solids in 2024, and because 1980–2024 M-IBI scores fell below the MPCA impairment threshold, the following actions are recommended:

- Evaluate the sources of elevated total suspended solids and *E. coli* bacteria and develop strategies to improve water quality and support attainment of MPCA standards.
- Maintain ongoing initiatives aimed at reducing chloride (de-icing salt) usage in the watershed to achieve compliance with the MPCA chloride standard for the stream. Examples include encouraging the Smart Salting Level 1 Certification course and requiring newly permitted properties to implement a chloride management plan.

- Review the stream corridor for erosion issues and develop and implement management solutions to address and repair these areas.
- Continue partnership with MCES to complete WOMP water quality monitoring.
- Continue monitoring stream habitat and macroinvertebrates to track biological conditions over time and assess compliance with MPCA biological standards.

3 Stream water quality monitoring program

Water quality in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek was monitored by MCES in partnership with the BCWMC as part of its WOMP program from 2000 to 2020 at a station on Irving Avenue (River Mile 1.9). Later in 2020, the station was moved a short distance downstream to a location near Van White Boulevard (River Mile 1.7). This report discusses the following WOMP data collected from 2000 through 2024: flow, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, chloride, *E. coli* bacteria, total suspended solids, and metals (total cadmium, total chromium, total copper, total nickel, total lead, and total zinc).

As shown in Figure 1, the water quality, biological, and habitat monitoring sites on the Main Stem are within reaches where stream restoration projects were completed by the BCWMC to enhance water quality and aquatic habitat (Table 1).

3.1 Evaluation of Main Stem 2000–2024 flow and water quality data

3.1.1 Flow

Figure 2 presents the average daily flow in the Main Stem from 2000 through 2024. During this period, daily average flow ranged from 0.09 cubic feet per second (cfs) in January 2020, to 554 cfs in April 2001, with an overall average of 30.0 cfs. Table 2 summarizes annual low, high, and average daily flows from 2015 through 2024.

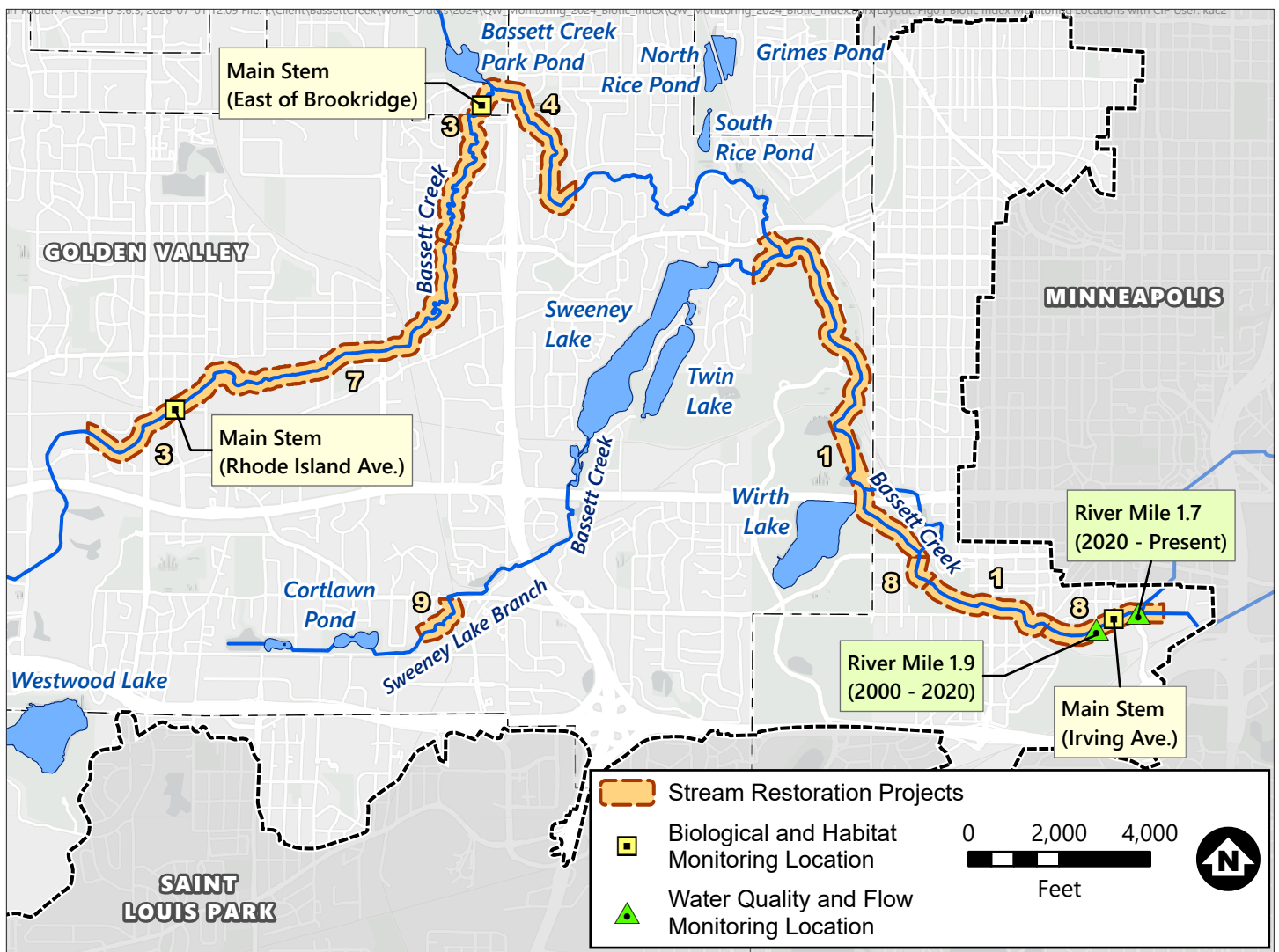


Figure 1 Water quality, biological, and habitat monitoring locations and locations of stream restoration projects along the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádan/Bassett Creek

Table 1 Stream restoration projects along Ĥaĥá Wakpádan/Bassett Creek

#	Project Name	Status	Location
1	Main Stem Restoration Project, Golden Valley Road to Glenwood Avenue	Construction began in October 2014, with substantial completion in the spring of 2015; the project was completed in November 2015.	Golden Valley
3	Main Stem Restoration Project, Wisconsin Avenue to 10th Avenue and Duluth Street to the Crystal Border	Construction began in December 2012, with substantial completion by March of 2013; the project was officially completed in November 2013.	Crystal
4	Main Stem Restoration Project, Golden Valley/Crystal Border to Regent Avenue	Construction was completed in the winter of 2010–2011; final construction tasks and plantings were completed in the summer of 2012.	Golden Valley
7	Bassett Creek Main Stem Stream Restoration Project, 10th Avenue to Duluth Street	Construction began in the winter of 2015–2016 and was completed in 2016; establishment of native vegetation began in 2016 and continued throughout 2018.	Golden Valley
8	Main Stem Channel Restoration, Cedar Lake Road to Dupont Avenue N/2nd Avenue N., plus Fruen Mill Area	Construction began in late 2020 and was completed in December 2020; establishment of native vegetation occurred from 2021 through 2022.	Minneapolis
9	Sweeney Lake Branch Channel Restoration, Cortlawn Pond to Turner's Crossroad	Construction began and was completed in the spring of 2008.	Golden Valley

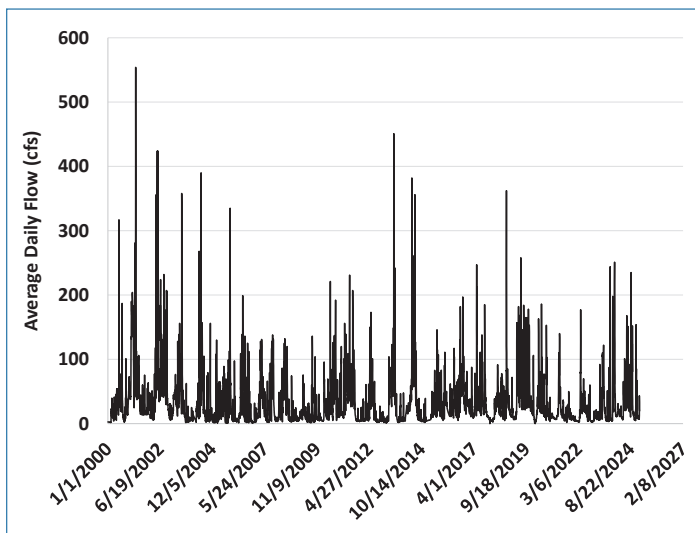


Figure 2 2000–2024 Main Stem average daily flow

Table 2 2015–2024 statistics for flow in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

Year	Average Daily Flow (cubic feet/second)		
	Low	High	Avg.
2015	4.2	146	23.3
2016	5.0	197	35.5
2017	5.0	247	31.6
2018	2.7	362	28.1
2019	6.1	158	53.3
2020	0.09	186	23.2
2021	1.8	140	17.2
2022	2.3	177	16.2
2023	3.3	251	28.8
2024	4.8	235	31.7

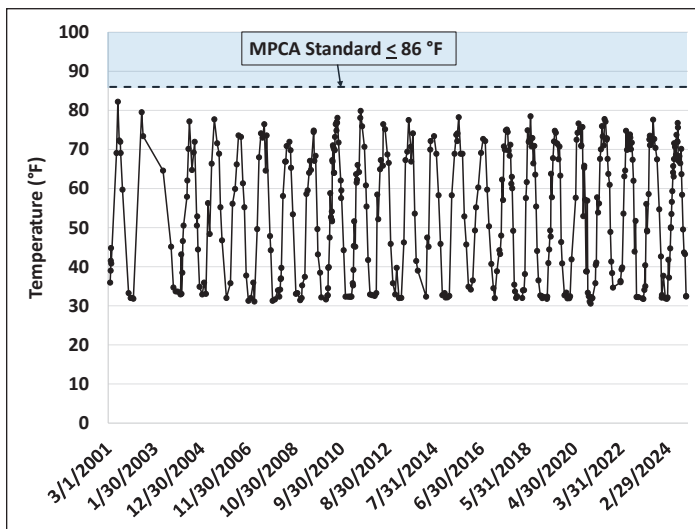


Figure 3 2001–2024 temperature in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

3.1.2 Temperature

Figure 3 presents the Main Stem temperature data from 2001 through 2024. During this period, water temperatures ranged from 31 °F to 82 °F, with an average of 54 °F. Stream temperatures were within the normal range for a warmwater stream.

3.1.3 pH

The pH of water is a measure of the degree of its acidic or alkaline reaction. The applicable pH standard for the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek is a minimum of 6.5 and a maximum of 9.0. A stream meets the pH standard if it meets the standard at least 90 percent of the days of the monitoring season.

Figure 4 shows Main Stem pH measurements from 2016 through 2024. Values ranged from 6.9 to 8.9, with an average of 7.7, and all measurements were within the MPCA standard of 6.5 to 9.0.

3.1.4 Dissolved oxygen

Dissolved oxygen is required for all aquatic organisms to live. When dissolved oxygen drops below acceptable levels, desirable aquatic organisms, such as fish, can be harmed or killed. The MPCA dissolved oxygen standard for the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek is at least 5 mg/L as a daily minimum. A stream meets the dissolved oxygen standard if at least 90 percent of the measurements are at least 5 mg/L and there are at least three such measurements.

Figure 5 summarizes Main Stem dissolved oxygen measurements collected from 2016 through 2024. Concentrations ranged from 3.1 to 14.2 mg/L and averaged 8.3 mg/L. Of the 189 measurements collected during this period, 167 met the MPCA standard (88 percent). Although the Main Stem is not currently listed on Minnesota’s 303(d) impaired waters list for dissolved oxygen, based on this data, the stream would qualify as impaired because fewer than 90 percent of samples met the MPCA standard.

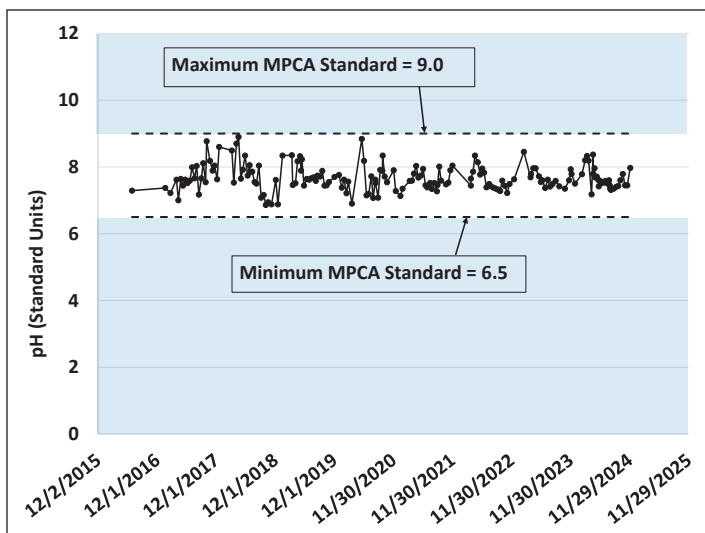


Figure 4 2016–2024 pH in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

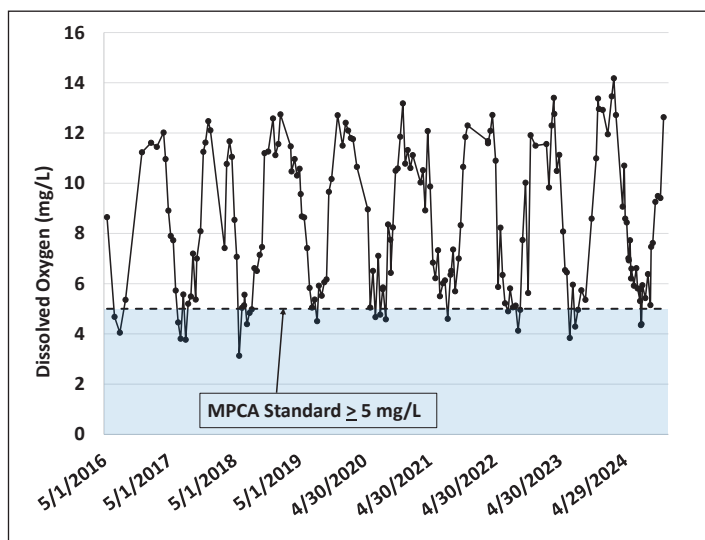


Figure 5 2016–2024 dissolved oxygen in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

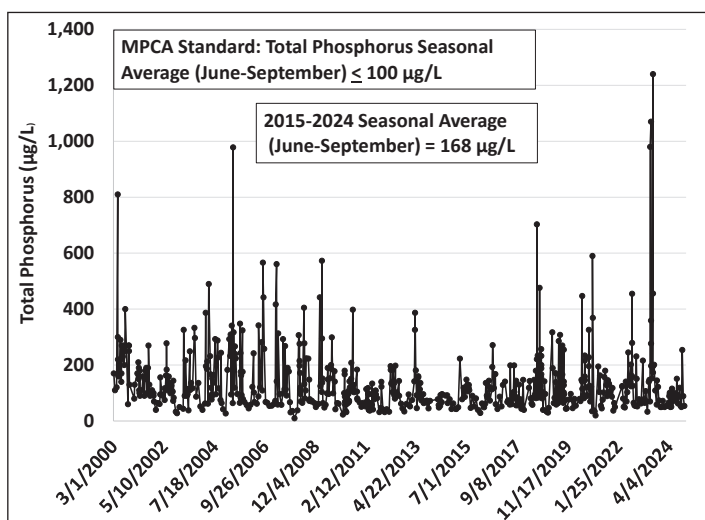


Figure 6 2000–2024 total phosphorus in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

3.1.5 River eutrophication standards (RES)

Total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and dissolved oxygen (DO) flux (difference between daily maximum and daily minimum dissolved oxygen concentrations) data are used to determine compliance with RES. Phosphorus is essential for plant and algal growth; however, excessive phosphorus levels can lead to algal blooms, reduced water clarity, and overall degradation of water quality. Common sources of phosphorus include fertilizers, street leaves and grass clippings, atmospheric deposition, soil erosion, and decaying plant material. The concentration of algae in water is indicated by chlorophyll *a*, a pigment found within algae. The MPCA RES criteria for total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and DO flux, require both the “causative variable” (total phosphorus) and the “response variables” (chlorophyll *a* and DO flux) to be evaluated together to determine eutrophication.

To assess stream impairment, data for total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* must be collected in at least 2 separate years over a 10-year period, with a minimum of 12 measurements per parameter from June through September used to establish seasonal averages. These averages are compared to MPCA standards: a maximum of 100 µg/L for total phosphorus and 18 µg/L for chlorophyll *a*. A stream is considered compliant with RES if either the causative or the response variable meets the established thresholds.

DO flux is assessed using continuous dissolved oxygen measurements collected during at least one 4-day summer deployment to calculate the difference between the maximum and minimum DO concentrations within each 24-hour period. At least two deployments in different years are required to evaluate DO flux, and the maximum allowable flux is 3.5 mg/L. Because continuous dissolved oxygen measurements were not taken in the Main Stem during the monitoring period, DO flux could not be evaluated. Instead, chlorophyll *a* was used as the response variable to assess compliance with MPCA RES.

Figure 6 summarizes Main Stem total phosphorus concentrations from 2000 through 2024. Concentrations ranged from 10 to 1,240 µg/L and averaged 134 µg/L. The 2015–2024 seasonal average (June–September) was 168 µg/L.

Figure 7 summarizes Main Stem chlorophyll *a* concentrations from 2002 through 2024. Concentrations ranged from <1 to 78 µg/L and averaged 13 µg/L. The 2015–2024 seasonal average (June–September) was 12.1 µg/L.

The 2015–2024 seasonal average for total phosphorus in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek exceeded the MPCA standard of 100 µg/L (Figure 6), while the chlorophyll *a* seasonal average met the MPCA standard of 18 µg/L. Under the MPCA RES, a stream is considered compliant if either the causative variable (total phosphorus) or response variable (chlorophyll *a*) meets the applicable standard. Therefore, the Main Stem is considered compliant with the MPCA RES.

3.1.6 Chlorides

Chloride concentrations in area streams have increased since the early 1990s, when many government agencies switched from sand or sand/salt mixtures to salt for winter road maintenance. When snow and ice melt, the salt goes with it, washing into lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. It only takes 1 teaspoon of road salt to pollute 5 gallons of water such that it can no longer support freshwater life. Once in the water, chloride pollution is essentially permanent, as there is no easy or affordable way to remove it.

Because high chloride concentrations can harm fish and plant life, the MPCA has established maximum and chronic chloride standards. The maximum standard is the highest concentration of chloride to which aquatic organisms can be exposed for a brief period, with zero to slight mortality. The chronic standard is the highest chloride concentration to which aquatic life can be exposed indefinitely without causing chronic toxicity. Chronic toxicity is defined as a stimulus that lingers or continues for a long period, often one-tenth the life span or more. A chronic effect can be mortality, reduced growth, impaired reproduction, harmful changes in behavior, and other nonlethal effects. A stream is considered impaired if two or more measurements exceed the chronic criterion (230 mg/L) within 3 years or if one measurement exceeds the maximum criterion (860 mg/L).

Figure 8 summarizes Main Stem chloride concentrations measured from 2001 through 2024. Concentrations ranged from 6 to 840 mg/L and averaged 159 mg/L. All samples met the MPCA

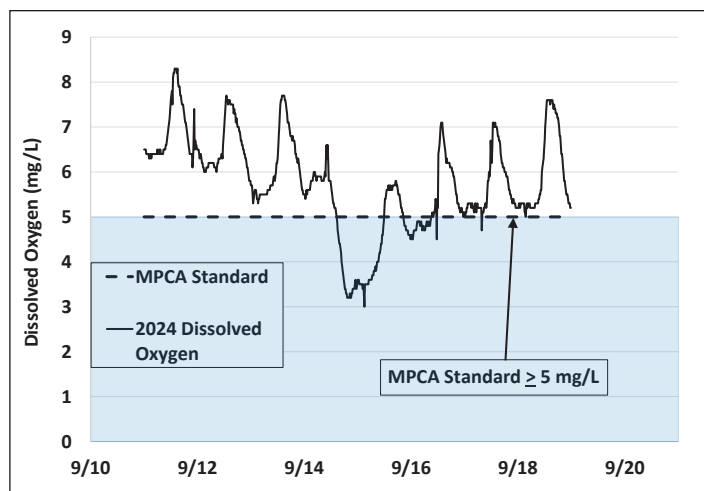


Figure 7 2002–2024 chlorophyll *a* in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

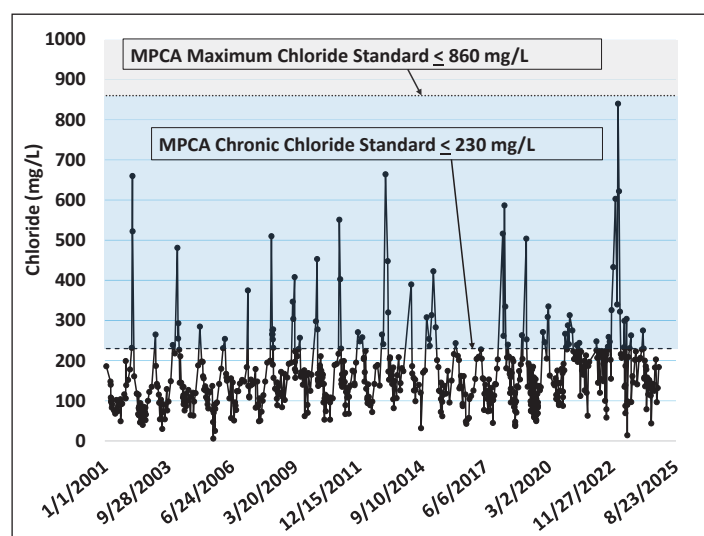


Figure 8 2001–2024 chloride concentrations in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

maximum chloride standard; however, 42 of 280 samples collected from 2015 through 2024 (15 percent) exceeded the MPCA chronic chloride standard. Exceedances occurred each year during this period, ranging from one to 10 measurements, except in 2017, when all samples met the chronic standard.

The Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek is listed as impaired for chloride on Minnesota's 303(d) impaired waters list, and the 2015–2024 data are consistent with that listing.

3.1.7 *E. coli* bacteria

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that *E. coli* is the preferred indicator of potential waterborne pathogens. The MPCA standard for *E. coli* protects streams used for two types of recreation: primary body contact (e.g., swimming, where inadvertent ingestion of water is likely) and secondary body contact (e.g., wading, where the likelihood of ingesting water is much smaller). The MPCA uses average and maximum *E. coli* values to determine impairment. *E. coli* standards are applicable only during the warmer months of April through October, since swimming or wading in Minnesota streams during the November through March period is not expected.

Average *E. coli* is assessed by a standard based on a geometric mean EPA criterion of 126 *E. coli* colony-forming units (cfu) per 100 milliliters (mL). Data are aggregated by individual month (e.g., all April values, all May values, etc.) for up to 10 years to determine impairment due to high average monthly *E. coli* values. At least 3 months of data must be collected, preferably between June and September, and at least five values must be collected during those 3 months (15 samples) to determine impairment due to high average *E. coli* levels.

Maximum *E. coli* is assessed using a maximum criterion of 1,260 cfu, not to be exceeded by 10 percent of all samples collected from April through October over the 10-year assessment period (independent of month). If either the geometric mean of the aggregated monthly values for one or more months exceeds 126 cfu per 100 mL, or more than 10 percent of individual values exceed 1,260 cfu per 100 mL over the 10-year assessment period, the waterbody is considered impaired.

Figure 9 summarizes *E. coli* data collected from 2006 through 2024. Concentrations ranged from 1 to 15,600 cfu per 100 mL, with an average of 612 cfu/100 mL. Of the 158 samples collected from April through October between 2015 and 2024, 37 samples (23 percent) exceeded the MPCA maximum *E. coli* standard (Figure 9). Because more than 10 percent of samples exceeded the maximum criterion during the 10-year assessment period, this portion of the standard was not met.

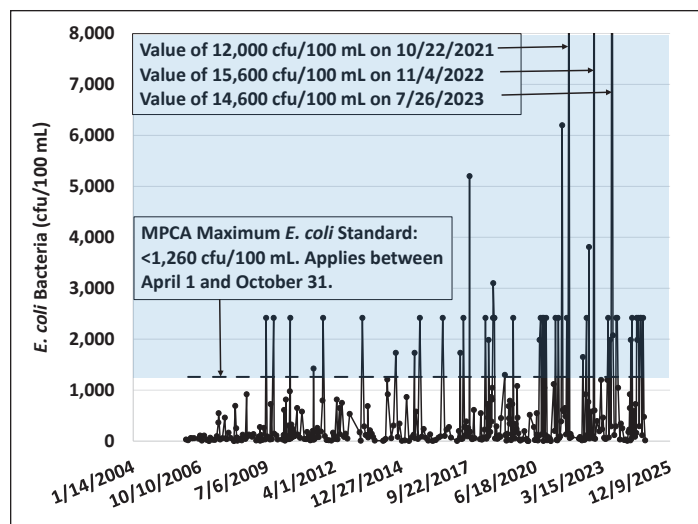


Figure 9 2006–2024 *E. coli* bacteria in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥā Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

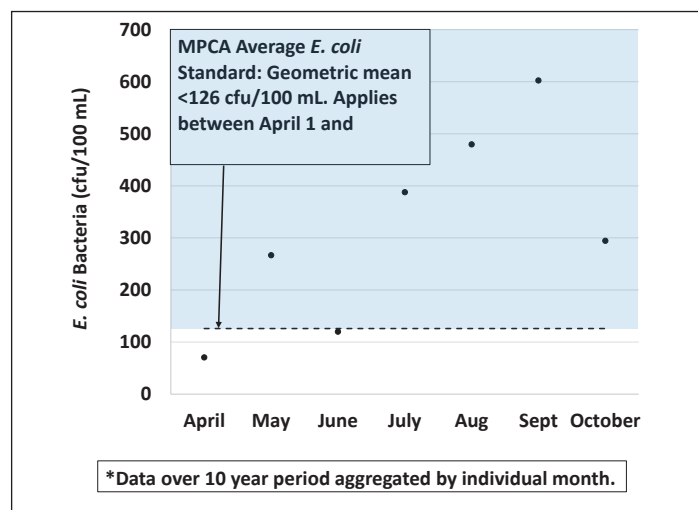


Figure 10 2015–2024 monthly geometric means of *E. coli* bacteria in the Main Stem

E. coli data collected from 2015 through 2024 were evaluated against the MPCA average impairment standard. Monthly geometric means from April through October ranged from 71 cfu/100 mL in April to 602 cfu/100 mL in September (Figure 10). The April and June means met the MPCA average *E. coli* standard of 126 cfu/100 mL; however, the May and July through October means exceeded the standard, based on 21 to 28 samples per month. Therefore, this portion of the MPCA standard was not met.

The 2015 to 2024 monitoring confirms elevated levels of bacteria in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥā Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek as evidenced by *E. coli* over the state standard and consistent with the creek's impairment listing for fecal coliform bacteria (the prior metric used to assess bacteria impairment).

3.1.8 Total suspended solids

Total suspended solids consist of soil particles, algae, and other materials that are suspended in water and reduce water clarity. They typically increase during rain events or snowmelt when runoff from the watershed flows into the stream. Excessive total suspended solids can harm aquatic life and degrade aesthetic and recreational qualities. A stream is considered to exceed the standard for total suspended solids (30 mg/L) if (1) the standard is exceeded more than 10 percent of the days of the assessment season (April through September) and (2) at least three such measurements exceed the standard.

Figure 11 summarizes Main Stem total suspended solids measurements collected from 2000 through 2024. Concentrations ranged from 1 to 786 mg/L, with an average of 27 mg/L. During the 2015–2024 MPCA assessment season (April–September), 36 of 196 measurements (18 percent) exceeded the MPCA standard. Although the Main Stem is not currently listed on Minnesota’s 303(d) impaired waters list for total suspended solids, the stream would qualify as impaired because the standard was exceeded on more than 10 percent of assessment-season days during the 10-year assessment period.

3.1.9 Metals

Metals are naturally occurring elements found throughout the Earth’s crust. Their multiple industrial, domestic, agricultural, medical, and technological applications have led to their widespread distribution in the environment. Because heavy metal toxicity can harm aquatic life, the MPCA established three standards for Class 2B waters—chronic, maximum, and final acute values (FAVs)—for each metal type. (The MPCA classified Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek as a Class 2B water.) The chronic standard (CS) is the highest toxicant concentration to which aquatic organisms can be exposed indefinitely without harmful effects. The maximum standard (MS) is a concentration that protects aquatic organisms from the potentially lethal effects of a short-term “spike” in toxicant concentrations. The MS is always equal to one-half of the FAV: the concentration that would kill about one-half of the exposed individuals of a very sensitive species. The FAV is most often used as an “end-of-pipe” effluent limit to prevent an acutely toxic condition in the effluent or the mixing zone. Because higher water hardness reduces metal toxicity, the MPCA metals standards vary with water hardness. To show this variation (Figures 12 through 17), metal concentrations are plotted on the y-axis and hardness on the x-axis.

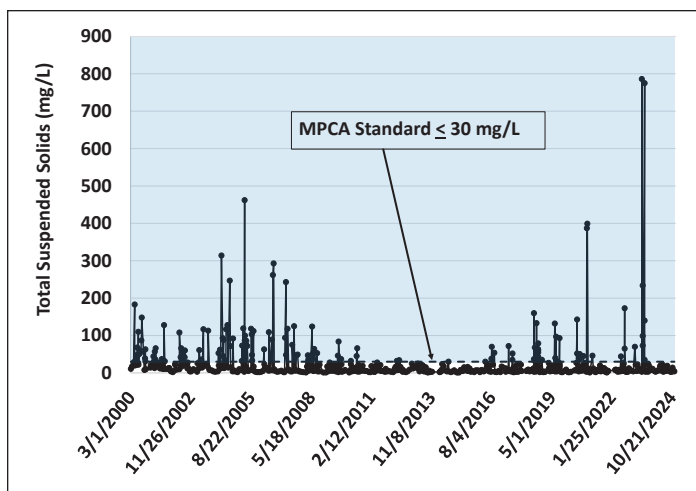


Figure 11 2000–2024 total suspended solids in the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek



From 2000 through 2024, Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek samples were analyzed for total cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, and zinc. All results met MPCA final acute value and maximum standards, and all total cadmium, chromium, nickel, and zinc concentrations met MPCA chronic standards (Figures 12–17). Between 2000 and 2007, five total copper results and 29 lead results exceeded the MPCA chronic standard; however, all copper and lead concentrations measured from 2008 through 2024 met the standard. These findings indicate that metals have not caused toxicity to aquatic organisms in the stream since 2007. During the 2015–2024 MPCA assessment period, all metal concentrations met the three MPCA standards.

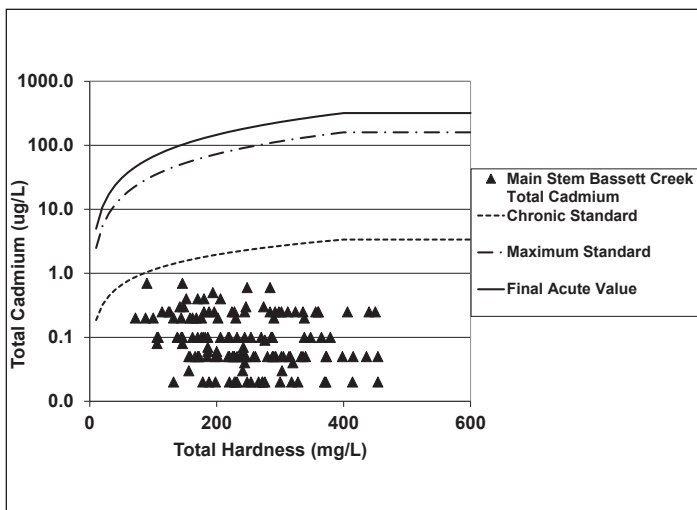


Figure 12 2000–2024 total cadmium in the Main Stem compared to MPCA standards

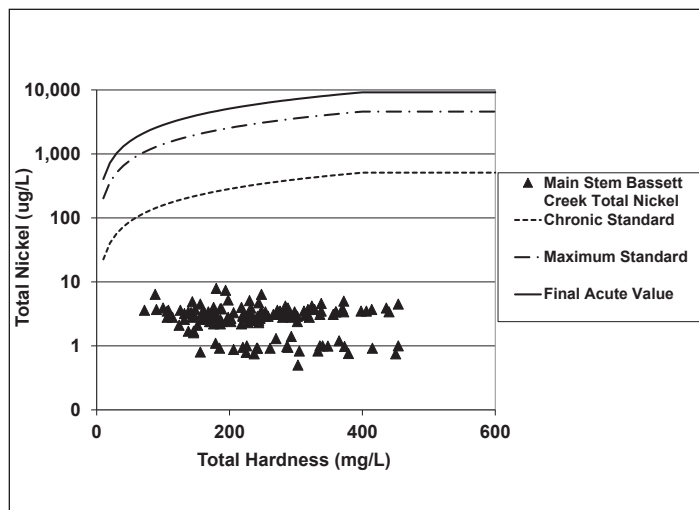


Figure 15 2000–2024 total nickel in the Main Stem compared to MPCA standards

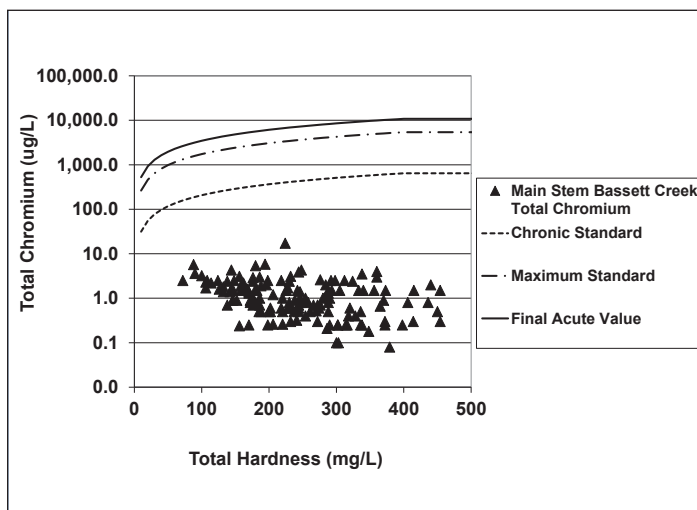


Figure 13 2000–2024 total chromium in the Main Stem compared to MPCA standards

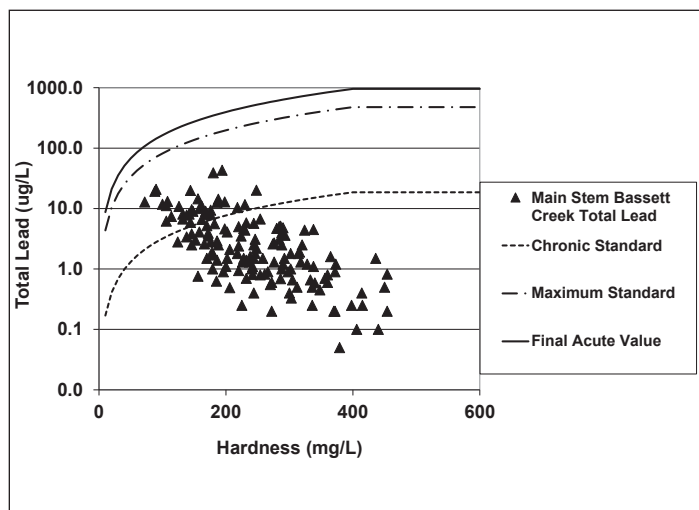


Figure 16 2000–2024 total lead in the Main Stem compared to MPCA standards

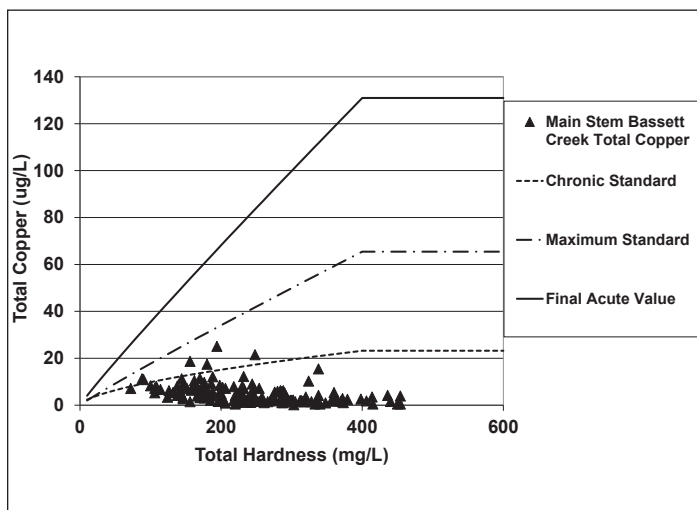


Figure 14 2000–2024 total copper in the Main Stem compared to MPCA standards

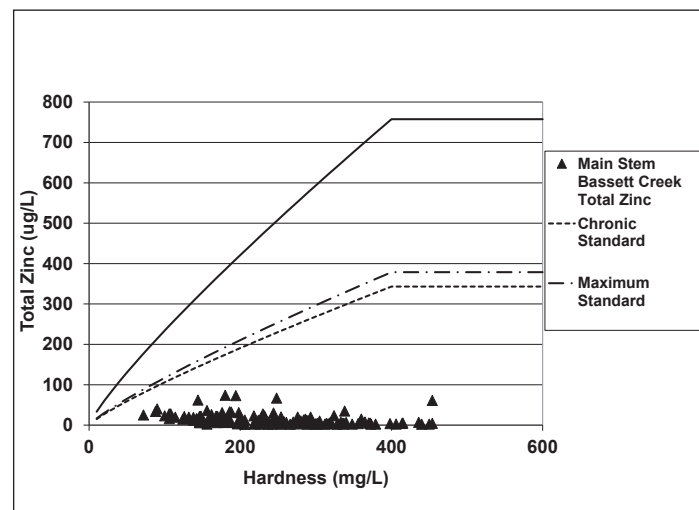


Figure 17 2000–2024 total zinc in the Main Stem compared to MPCA standards

4 Biotic index evaluation of the Main Stem

In 2024, the BCWMC monitored benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling organisms like bugs and snails) and assessed habitat conditions in the Main Stem of Ĥaḥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek at the locations shown in Figure 1. This monitoring has been conducted 12 times between 1980 and 2024 to evaluate water quality and track changes in the macroinvertebrate community over time. Community health was assessed using the M-IBI, which was developed by the MPCA and incorporated into Minnesota's water quality standards to identify biologically impaired rivers and streams.

4.1 Main Stem habitat

Habitat strongly influences the presence and distribution of stream macroinvertebrates. Important habitat factors include substrate size and composition, the amount of fine sediment deposited on the substrate, and aquatic vegetation. Substrate provides food resources and refuge, while aquatic vegetation offers protection from predation by small fish. Habitat degradation can therefore negatively affect macroinvertebrate communities.

The BCWMC conducted Main Stem habitat surveys using MPCA quantitative methods at Rhode Island Avenue and east of Brookridge Avenue in 2015, 2018, and 2024, and at Irving Avenue in 2015 and 2024. Table 3 summarizes the survey results.

4.1.1 Rhode Island Avenue location

Macrophyte abundance in the Rhode Island Avenue sampling reach increased from 2018 to 2024, reflecting improved habitat conditions. Abundance also increased from 2015 to 2018, likely in response to the Main Stem restoration project between Tenth Avenue and Duluth Street. Construction began in winter 2015 and was completed in 2018, after which native vegetation was established along the restored streambanks. These results suggest that the restoration-related increase in macrophyte abundance has persisted.

However, some habitat metrics showed degradation at this location from 2018 to 2024, including:

- Greater fine sediment depth.

- Higher percent embeddedness (the degree to which larger, coarse substrate particles like gravel, cobbles, and boulders are surrounded, covered, or sunken into finer sediments like silt, sand, or mud).
- Greater extent and length of left and right bank erosion.
- Lower average filamentous algae abundance.
- Shorter transect length with overhanging vegetation, submergent macrophytes, and boulders in water deeper than 10 cm.

4.1.2 East of Brookridge Avenue location

Habitat conditions differed between the 2018 and 2024 surveys, with improvements in some metrics, but degradation in others. Habitat improvements included:

- Reduced fine sediment depth.
- Reduced extent of left bank erosion.
- Higher average filamentous algae abundance.
- Greater macrophyte abundance.
- Greater transect length with submergent vegetation and woody debris in water deeper than 10 cm.
- Woody debris in water deeper than 10 cm also increased from 2015 to 2018, indicating this habitat improvement was sustained through 2024.

Habitat degradation at the east of Brookridge Avenue location between 2018 and 2024 included:

- Higher percent embeddedness.
- Increased extent of right bank erosion (percent of transects that have erosion).
- Increased length of left bank erosion (average of the measurements of bank erosion).

4.1.3 Irving Avenue location

Habitat conditions differed between the 2015 and 2024 surveys, with improvements in some metrics, but degradation in others. Habitat improvements included:

- Reduced percent embeddedness.
- Reduced extent of right bank erosion and no change in extent of left bank erosion.

- Reduced length of right bank erosion.
- Greater macrophyte abundance.
- Greater transect length with submergent vegetation, woody debris, and boulders in water deeper than 10 cm.

Habitat improvements at the Irving Avenue location are likely attributable to two BCWMC stream restoration projects:

- Main Stem restoration project completed from 2014 to 2015, which included the reach from Golden Valley Road to Glenwood Avenue.

- Main Stem channel restoration completed from 2020 to 2022, which included the reach from Cedar Lake Road to Dupont Avenue N./Second Avenue N. and the Fruen Mill Area.

Habitat degradation at the Irving Avenue location between 2015 and 2024 included:

- Greater fine sediment depth.
- Greater length of left bank erosion.
- Lower average filamentous algae abundance.

Table 3 2015, 2018, and 2024 Ĥaĥá Wakpáday/Bassett Creek Main Stem habitat comparisons: Rhode Island Avenue, east of Brookridge, and Irving Avenue

Parameter	Rhode Island Ave.			East of Brookridge			Irving Ave.	
	2015	2018	2024	2015	2018	2024	2015	2024
Discharge (flow) (cfs) ¹	4.3	40.3	2.9	3.4	40.8	2.7	8.9	7.1
Average depth of water (cm)	18	39	13	19	34	16	22	22
Average depth of fine sediment (cm)	2.0	0.3	0.9	0.4	2.3	1.5	2.1	2.5
Average embeddedness of coarse sediment (%)	50	50	56	50	42	49	69	62
Percent of transects with left-bank erosion	92	0	46	54	77	62	69	69
Percent of transects with right-bank erosion	77	0	46	62	39	54	69	54
Average length of bank erosion per transect: left bank (m)	1.1	0	0.9	0.5	0.4	2.64	1	1.2
Average length of bank erosion per transect: right bank (m)	0.6	0	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.7
Average amount of algae (filamentous or attached) observed on quadrat (%)	0.0	2.9	0	8.0	1.8	5	9	8.1
Average number of macrophytes observed on quadrat (%)	0.0	5.8	8.5	0.0	0	4	0	1.2
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with overhanging vegetation	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	3.1	0	0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with submergent vegetation	0.0	9.0	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	2.7
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with emergent vegetation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with woody debris	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.8	0	0.8
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water depth with boulders	0.0	6.0	0.0	6.7	4.2	1.2	0	0.8

¹Discharge when macroinvertebrates were collected

4.2 M-IBI biological metrics

The MPCA has established biological water quality standards for all Minnesota streams and rivers, including Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek. In 2018, the M-IBI and a fish index of biotic integrity (F-IBI) were added to these standards and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on June 26, 2018.

The M-IBI helps identify biologically impaired rivers and streams by assessing the health of their macroinvertebrate communities. The M-IBI score is the sum of the scores from 10 individual metrics. Each metric assesses an attribute of the macroinvertebrate community; collectively, the metrics assess the community's overall health. Each M-IBI metric ranges from 0 to 10; the lowest possible score is 0, and the highest is 10. Increasing scores indicate improving conditions. Because 10 metrics are summed to attain the M-IBI score, and each metric has a maximum score of 10, the maximum possible score is 100. To meet the MPCA macroinvertebrate standard, the sum of the scores from the 10 individual metrics must equal or exceed the impairment threshold. The MPCA Macroinvertebrate Class 5 (Southern Streams) standard of 37 applies to the Main Stem of Bassett Creek.

On September 27, 2024, the BCWMC collected macroinvertebrate samples from two Main Stem Bassett Creek sites: Rhode Island Avenue and Irving Avenue. A third sample was collected east of Brookridge on September 30. The MPCA calculated M-IBI scores to evaluate whether the stream met the biological standard. The 2024 scores—18 at Rhode Island Avenue, 15 east of Brookridge, and 17 at Irving Avenue—did not meet the M-IBI standard (Figure 18).

The MPCA also calculated M-IBI scores from macroinvertebrate data collected by the following:

- BCWMC at the three Main Stem sites from 1980 through 2024 (except for 2008 and Irving Avenue in 2018).
- MPCA at Rhode Island Avenue and Irving Avenue in 2008.
- Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) at Irving Avenue in 2018.

None of the assessed scores met the MPCA standard (Figure 18):

- Rhode Island Avenue: 13 to 23, with an average of 18.
- East of Brookridge: 15 to 31, with an average of 22.
- Irving Avenue: 11 to 28, with an average of 20.

Minnesota's impaired waters list identifies water bodies that fail to meet MPCA standards. The MPCA completed macroinvertebrate sampling at Rhode Island Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue in 2010 and 2020 and calculated M-IBI scores to assess the stream for biological impairment. At Rhode Island Avenue, scores declined from 23.0 in 2010 to 19.9 in 2020; at Pennsylvania Avenue, scores declined from 23.5 to 10.8 over the same period (Figure 18).

Because all scores were below the MPCA M-IBI standard, the MPCA listed the entire Main Stem as impaired for aquatic life in 2022 based on benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessments. Macroinvertebrate data collected by the BCWMC for the Main Stem from 1980 through 2024 are consistent with this impairment listing (Figure 18).

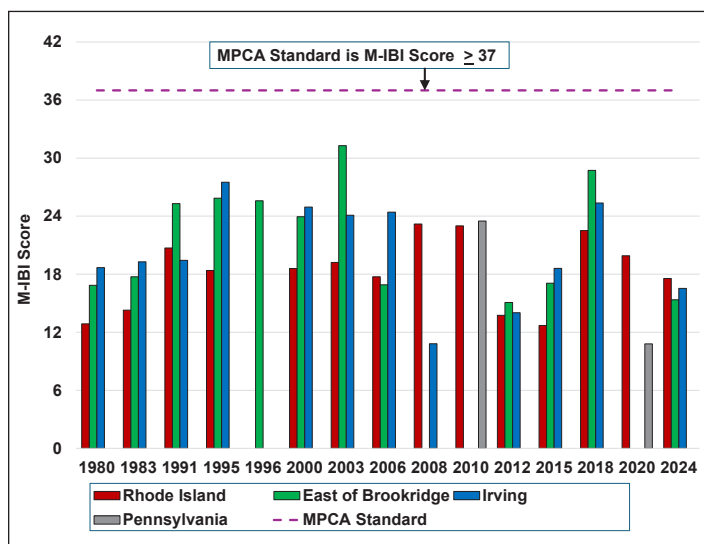
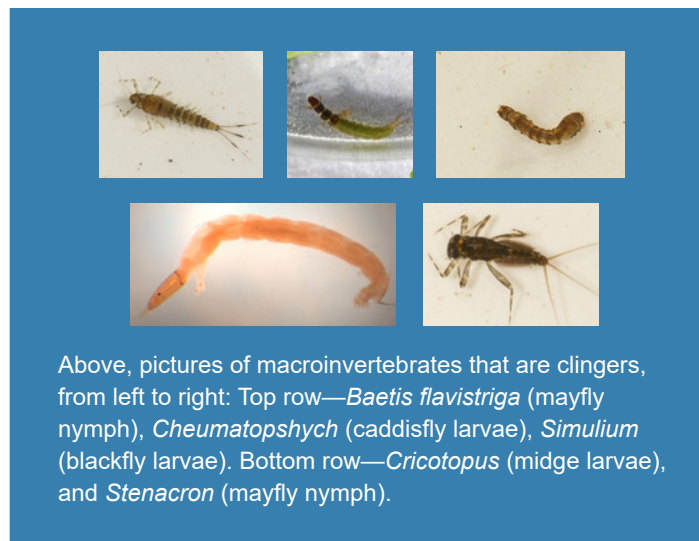


Figure 18 1980–2024 M-IBI metric scores from the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

MPCA M-IBI scores declined from 2010 to 2020, whereas BCWMC M-IBI scores improved from 2012 to 2018. The increase in BCWMC scores likely reflects the influence of stream restoration projects completed during that period (Figure 1 and Table 1):

- Crystal border to Regent Avenue, completed in 2012
- Wisconsin Avenue to 10th Avenue and Duluth Street to the Crystal border, completed in 2013
- Golden Valley Road to Irving Avenue, completed in 2015
- 10th Avenue to Duluth Street, construction completed in 2016; native vegetation establishment began in 2016 and continued through 2018

From 2012 to 2018, clinger taxa increased substantially at all three Main Stem sites, resulting in higher clinger scores and indicating reduced sediment accumulation on the streambed. These taxa attach to rocks and other stable substrates to resist displacement by stream flow, and lower sediment levels improve substrate stability by reducing surface slipperiness. Elevated clinger scores persisted at all three sites through 2024, suggesting that sediment-reduction benefits from the stream restoration projects continued over time. In 2024, Irving Avenue received the maximum clinger score of 10, while east of Brookridge scored 9.2, approaching the maximum score (Figure 19).



From 2012 to 2024, tolerant metric scores increased at the Rhode Island and Irving Avenue sites, indicating improved water quality and/or habitat conditions (Figure 20). The MPCA assigns Minnesota macroinvertebrate taxa tolerance values from 1 to 10, with higher values representing greater tolerance of degraded conditions. Taxa with values of 6 or higher are considered tolerant. This metric is based on the percentage of collected taxa with tolerance values of 6 or greater; higher percentages indicate more degraded conditions and lower scores, while lower percentages indicate better conditions and yield higher scores. The increased scores at Rhode Island Avenue and Irving Avenue suggest that stream restoration efforts produced sustained improvements in water quality and/or habitat conditions.

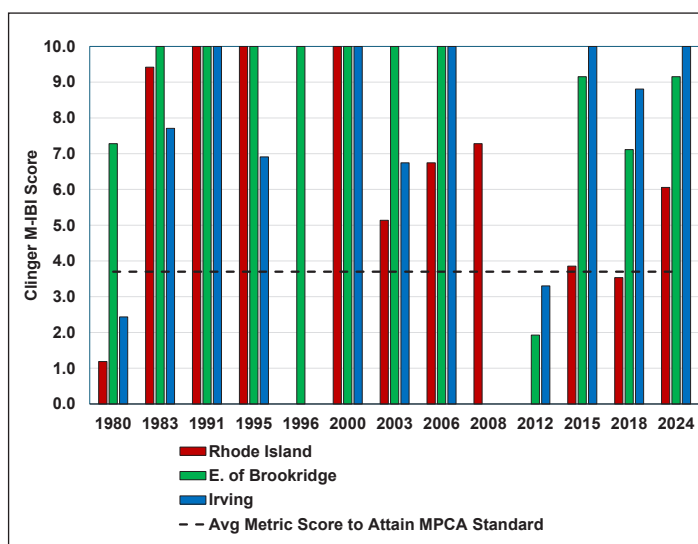


Figure 19 1980–2024 scores for clinger metric of M-IBI from the Main Stem of Ĥahá Wakpádan/Bassett Creek

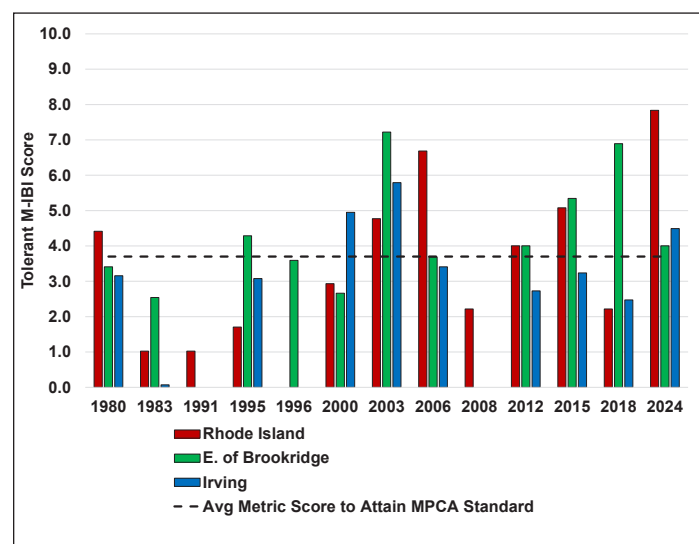


Figure 20 1980–2024 scores for tolerant metric of M-IBI from the Main Stem of Ĥahá Wakpádan/Bassett Creek

At the east of Brookridge Avenue location, tolerant metric scores increased from 2012 to 2018, suggesting that stream restoration improved water quality and/or habitat conditions. However, the decline in this score in 2024 indicates that these improvements were not sustained (Figure 20).



Above, taxa with tolerance values greater than 6, from left to right, *Baetis flavistriga* (mayfly larvae) and *Simulium* (black fly larvae).

Despite 2024 improvements in clinger metric scores at all three locations and tolerant metric scores at two locations, overall M-IBI scores for all three Main Stem locations declined in 2024 to levels similar to those observed before 2018 (Figure 8). This decline reflected poorer performance in five metrics at the Rhode Island Avenue site and seven metrics at both the east of Brookridge Avenue and Irving Avenue sites. Across all three sites, the 2024 decline included:

- Decreased diversity, and less even organism distribution; the five dominant taxa accounted for a greater proportion of the total sample (see Figure 21).
- Decreased scores for the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (HBI_MN) metric, signifying a rise in the average tolerance value among stream organisms and suggesting habitat and/or water quality degradation (See Figure 22). (HBI_MN is Minnesota's adaptation of the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index and uses abundance-weighted average tolerance values of observed aquatic macroinvertebrates to assess stream water quality and habitat conditions.)
- Disappearance of dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata), further indicating degraded habitat and/or water quality (See Figure 23).
- Decreased numbers of predator taxa, correlating with a reduction in water quality or habitat. The absence of dragonflies and damselflies—a predator group—contributed to this decrease (See Figure 24).

- Decreased numbers of climber taxa, reflecting diminished habitats such as overhanging vegetation, submerged plants, boulders, and woody debris; the disappearance of dragonflies and damselflies, which are climbers, also impacted climber scores (See Figure 25).

Additional metric declines observed in 2024 included:

- Reduced caddisfly (*Trichoptera*) abundance at the east of Brookridge Avenue and Irving Avenue sites, suggesting degraded habitat and/or water quality (See Figure 26).
- A lower tolerance metric score east of Brookridge Avenue, where the proportion of macroinvertebrates with Minnesota tolerance values of 6 or greater increased in 2024, indicating a shift toward more disturbance-tolerant taxa (See Figure 20). The MPCA assigns Minnesota macroinvertebrate taxa tolerance values from 1 to 10, with higher values representing greater tolerance of degraded conditions. Taxa with values of 6 or higher are considered tolerant.
- Decreased percentage of macroinvertebrates classified as insects at Irving Avenue, indicating reduced stream health (See Figure 27).

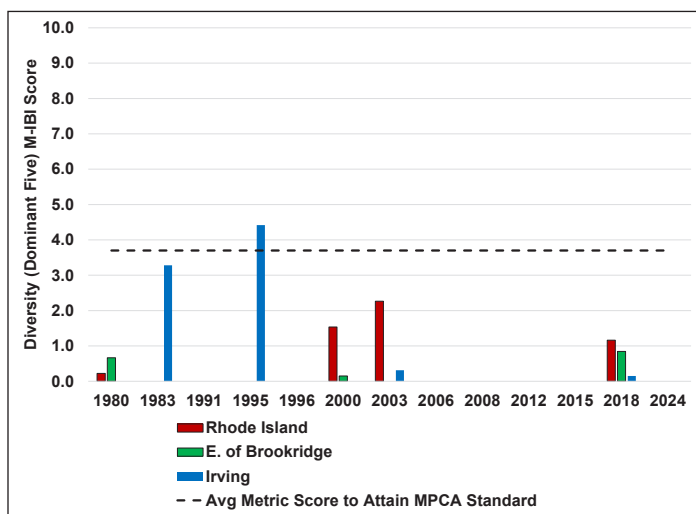


Figure 21 1980–2024 scores for diversity (dominant five) metric of M-IBI from the Main Stem of Hañá Wakpádan/Bassett Creek

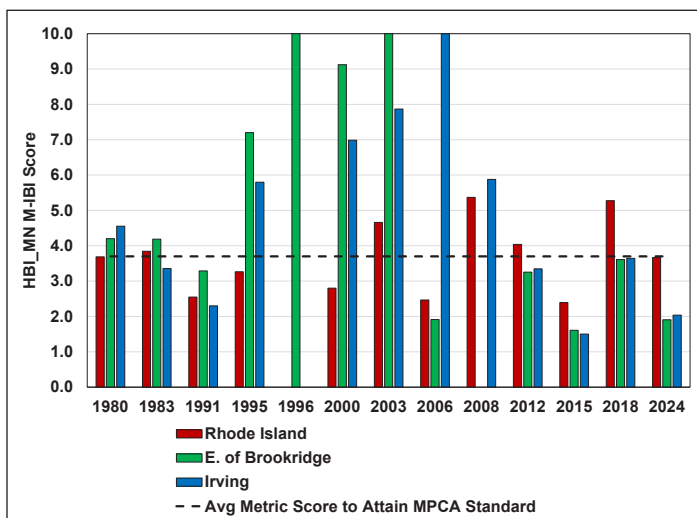


Figure 22 1980–2024 scores for HBI_MN metric of M-IBI from the Main Stem of Ħaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

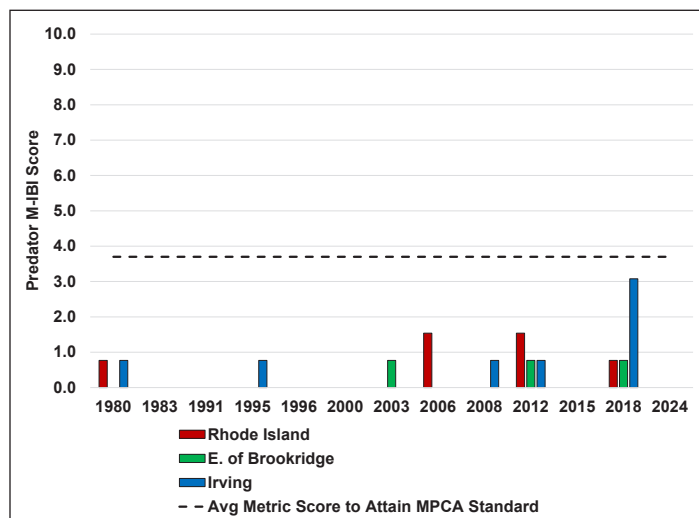


Figure 24 1980-2024 scores for predator metric of M-IBI from the Main Stem of Ħaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

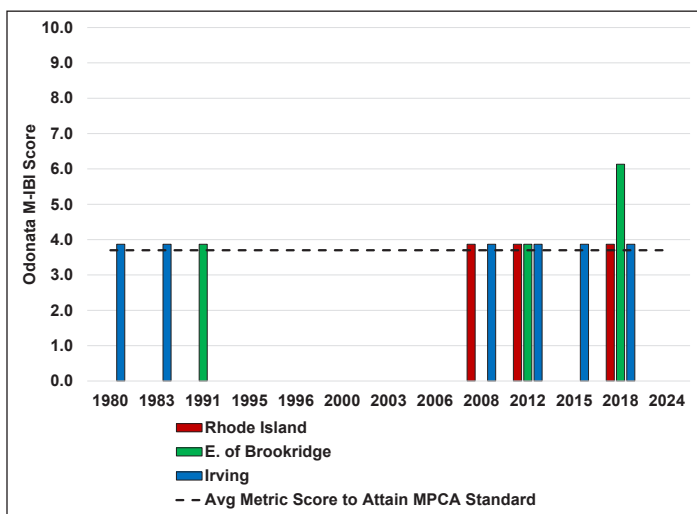


Figure 23 1980–2024 scores for dragonfly and damselfly (odonata) metric of M-IBI from the Main Stem of Ħaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

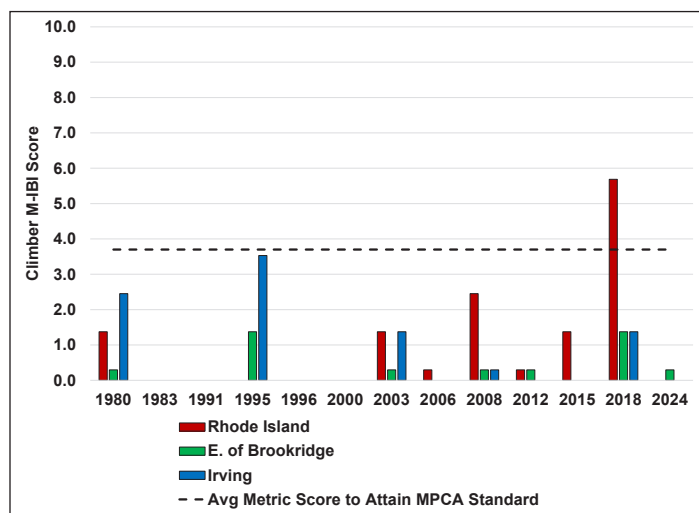
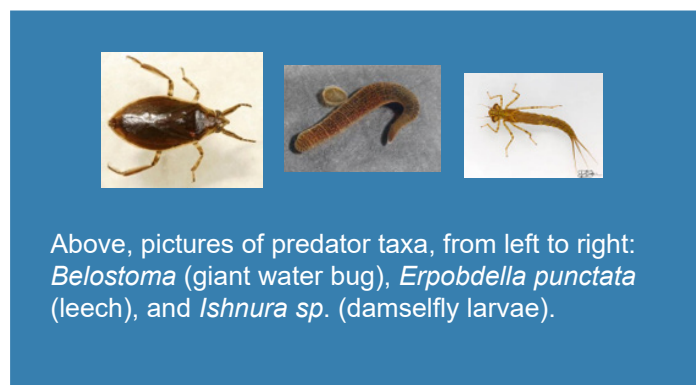
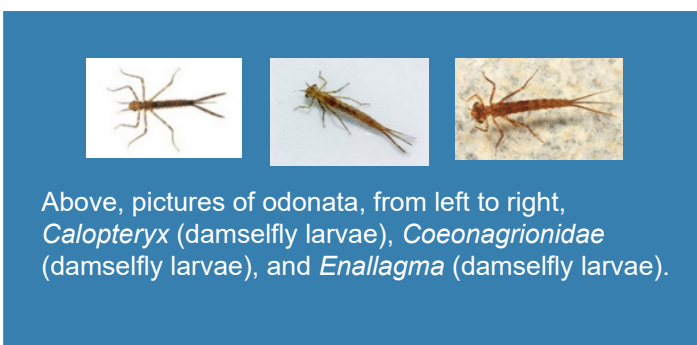


Figure 25 1980–2024 scores for climber metric of M-IBI from the Main Stem of Ħaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek



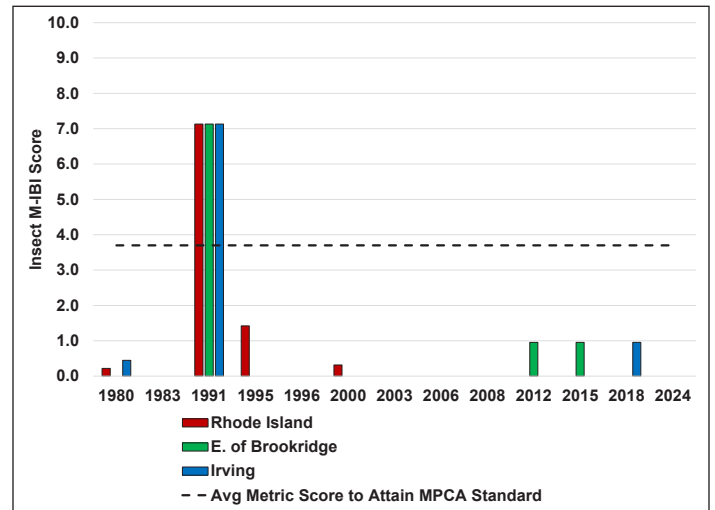
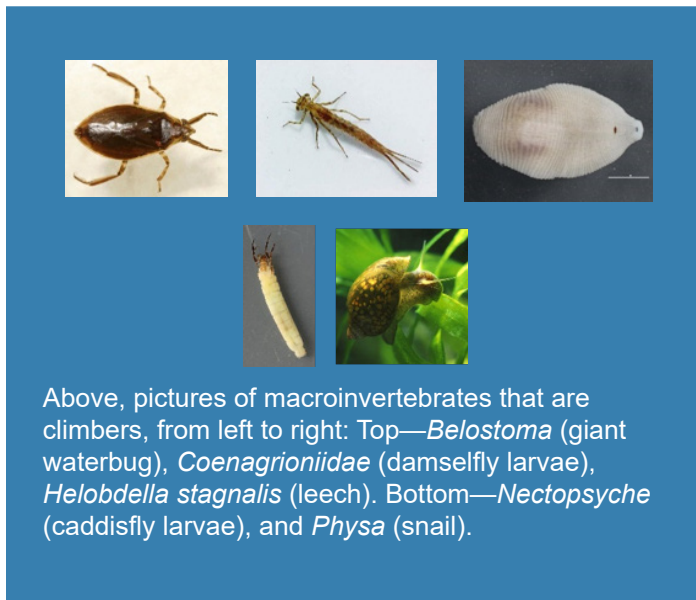


Figure 27 1980-2024 scores for insect metric of M-IBI from the Main Stem of Ĥaḥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek

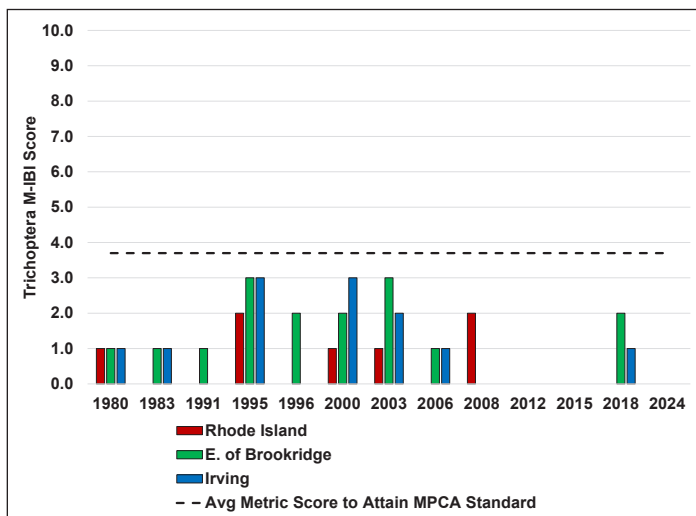
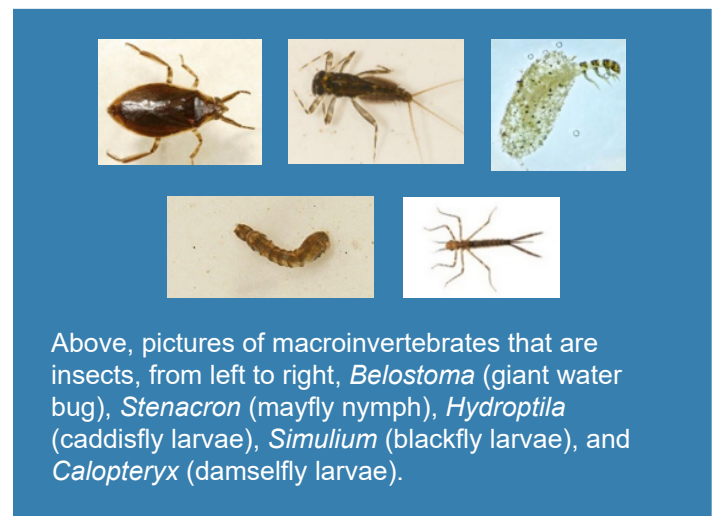
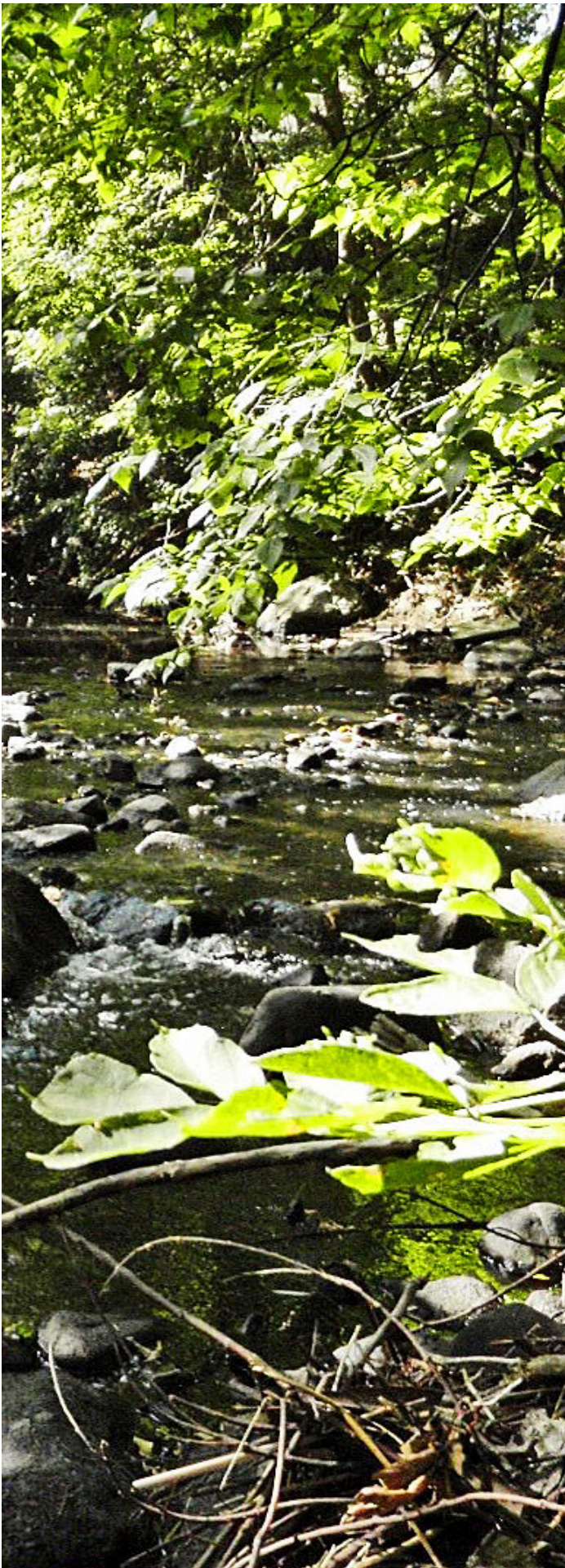


Figure 26 1980-2024 scores for caddisfly (*Trichoptera*) metric of M-IBI from the Main Stem of Ĥaḥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek





In 2024, the MPCA completed a Stressor Identification study for the Main Stem of Ĥaḥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek Bassett Creek to evaluate factors contributing to biological impairment. The study identified chloride, eutrophication, habitat degradation, and altered hydrology/connectivity as stressors. Suspended solids and dissolved oxygen were classified as inconclusive, indicating that additional data are needed to determine whether they also contribute to impairment.

Water quality data from the Bassett Creek WOMP station at Irving Avenue were assessed for the 10-year period from 2015 through 2024 to evaluate compliance with MPCA standards. The results support the MPCA's conclusion that chloride is contributing to biological impairment.

During the assessment period, the Main Stem of Ĥaḥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek did not meet MPCA standards for dissolved oxygen, *E. coli* bacteria, chloride, or total suspended solids. Standards were met for temperature, pH, river eutrophication—including total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a*—and metals, including total cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, and zinc. These results indicate that suspended solids and dissolved oxygen, along with chloride, are contributing to biological impairment, while eutrophication does not appear to be a stressor because the stream met RES criteria.

Quantitative habitat surveys completed at Rhode Island Avenue in 2015, 2018, and 2024 and at Irving Avenue in 2015 and 2024 support the MPCA's conclusion that habitat degradation may contribute to biological impairment in Ĥaḥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek. Comparison of the 2024 results with previous surveys indicates a combination of habitat improvements (likely related to stream restoration projects) and habitat degradation occurred leading up to the 2024 monitoring.

Memorandum

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)
From: Barr Engineering Co. (Stephanie Johnson) and Laura Jester (BCWMC Administrator)
Subject: Item 5D – Consider Approval of Scope of Work and Budget for Assistance with Medicine Lake Task Force
Date: July 9, 2026

5D. Consider Approval of Scope and Budget for Assistance with Medicine Lake Task Force

Recommendations

- a) Consider approving the proposed scope of work and budget for Commission Engineer assistance with convening and facilitation of Medicine Lake Task Force

Background

At the BCWMC meeting in May 2026 there was consensus that the BCWMC should participate and assist with convening and facilitating a Medicine Lake Task Force. While the Task Force will have no decision-making authority, the goals of the task force are:

1. To develop a shared understanding of the lake's challenges and current conditions.
2. To understand lake residents' and users' observations and indicators of a healthy lake.
3. To facilitate a discussion among experts on methods to improve overall lake health including water quality, ecology, and recreational suitability.
4. To develop recommendations for projects or programs needed to improve water quality and lake ecology and manage aquatic invasive species while considering permitting constraints.
5. To inform expenditure of the BCWMC's CIP funds for "projects resulting from the Medicine Lake TMDL Assessment" as included in Table 4-6 of the 2026 Watershed Management Plan as CIP #1.

Medicine Lake is on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) impaired waters list for excess nutrients and fish bioassessments. The lake is also known to be infested with aquatic invasive species including starry stonewort, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, and zebra mussels.

In 2010, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) study was prepared for Medicine Lake to address the excess nutrient (more specifically, phosphorus) impairment within the waterbody. The TMDL study identified the major sources of phosphorus such as stormwater runoff from the surrounding watershed and internal sources such as phosphorus release from lake bottom sediments and the mid-summer die-off of curly-leaf pondweed. The study estimated the maximum amount of phosphorus that Medicine Lake can receive without violating water quality standards, estimated the amount of pollutant reduction needed to meet the state standards, and allocated that amount among the pollutant sources through the assignment of wasteload allocations (WLAs). The BCWMC was identified as the "convener" of a categorical WLA meaning the BCWMC cooperates with the member cities to identify and implement water quality improvements to reduce phosphorus pollution in the lake.

In addition to efforts to reduce pollutant loadings, Medicine Lake is also being actively managed for aquatic invasive species, including starry stonewort and curly-leaf pondweed. The lake is also infested with Eurasian watermilfoil and, in 2017, zebra mussels were discovered within the lake. Aquatic vegetation management within Medicine Lake is guided through a Lake Vegetation Management Plan, approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 2022. The Lake Vegetation Management Plan outlines how aquatic plants within the lake will be managed and works to find a balance between the conservation of native plant communities and recreational and access needs of lake users. The BCWMC cooperates with the Three Rivers Park District to manage aquatic invasive species within Medicine Lake.

One of the top priorities in the BCWMC's 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan is improving water quality in Medicine Lake so that it meets nutrient water quality standards. The Plan also includes a goal to maintain or improve the lake floristic quality indices (FQIs) and number of aquatic plant species within Medicine Lake as associated with state standards for aquatic vegetation.

In 2025, the BCWMC completed [a study](#) to assess progress toward meeting the Medicine Lake TMDL requirements, including an assessment of significant water quality projects completed since the 2010 TMDL study, pollution reductions achieved, current lake water quality compared to state standards, and additional pollutant reductions and projects needed to achieve the lake's water quality goals. Findings from the 2025 study note significant pollution reductions in watershed loading to Medicine Lake have been achieved, although the lake continues to not meet water quality standards. As a result, the study recommends focusing management strategies on internal nutrient sources, including an alum treatment to reduce internal phosphorus loading.

The study also acknowledges that meeting the nutrient water quality standard for Medicine Lake could have some unintended consequences for the lake's biological response from aquatic invasive species. As a result, the study recommends considering AIS response as part of any treatment planning and taking an adaptive management approach to AIS control if/when a treatment is undertaken.

The BCWMC's 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) currently includes \$2,000,000 budgeted in the years 2028-2029 for the implementation of water quality improvements at Medicine Lake ("Projects resulting from the Medicine Lake TMDL Assessment, CIP #1). In addition to the TMDL assessment report, the BCWMC and City of Plymouth wish to gain input on potential management practices from a group of key technical partners and impacted lakeshore property and business owners.

Creation of a Medicine Lake Task Force is proposed to gather this input. Information gathered from the Task Force over the next several months would be used in combination with previously completed technical studies (such as the 2025 TMDL Assessment Project) to inform implementation strategies. This effort is analogous to a feasibility study for a CIP project.

Scope of Work

Work on the Medicine Lake Task Force is proposed to begin the summer of 2026 and extend through approximately June of 2027. Work will begin with a public engagement effort and public survey to gather input from lakeshore residents and lake users. Information gathered from the survey will be used to help inform the Task Force's focus.

1. Resident and Lake Users Engagement and Surveys

Prior to convening the Task Force group, the Commission Administrator will work with the Cities of Plymouth and Medicine Lake to develop and distribute a survey for lake residents and lake users. The survey will be used to gather insights and observations and to understand the conditions residents and users would consider indicators of a healthy lake. The survey will be hosted online by the City of Plymouth. The City of Plymouth will mail postcards to lake residents within Plymouth with a QR code to access the survey. Postcards, flyers, or emails will similarly be distributed to Medicine Lake residents. Flyers with the QR code will also be posted at public access points to capture input from lake users.

The Commission Administrator and Plymouth staff will collect and summarize the survey results which will be used to inform discussions of the Task Force and to plan for the public meeting/open house described later in this scope.

2. Development and Convening of the Medicine Lake Task Force

Following completion of the public engagement efforts, the BCWMC will work with the Cities of Plymouth and Medicine Lake to convene a group of technical experts and key area representatives to discuss and share information on Medicine Lake. Topics to be discussed within the Task Force will include: the lake's natural processes and natural resource management considerations, challenges that Medicine Lake is currently facing, top priorities for the lake's management over the next 5-10 years, management efforts currently being undertaken, permitting considerations, and the current roles and responsibilities of agencies and organizations represented on the task force.

The Medicine Lake Task is expected to consist of representatives from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District, City of Plymouth, City of Medicine Lake, BCWMC, Barr Engineering Co., PLM Lake & Land Management, and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC), as well as 2 - 3 key representatives for lakeshore property owners and lake recreational users.

It is anticipated that the Medicine Lake Task Force will convene over a series of 4-5 meetings during the fall of 2026 through winter of 2027. It is expected that meetings will cover topics such as:

- **Meeting #1: Background and Introduction to Medicine Lake**
Summary of limnology 101, brief history of Medicine Lake water quality and management approaches within the lake, overview of participants' roles and responsibilities; review of survey results from lake users.
- **Meeting #2: Medicine Lake Ecology: Aquatic vegetation, macroinvertebrates, fish, AIS, etc.**
Current conditions and management within the lake; known stressors; applicable regulations; AIS management in other lakes and/or research outcomes – what's working and what's not working; areas where more information is needed.
- **Meeting #3: Medicine Lake Water Quality: Nutrients and other pollutants**
Current conditions within the lake; known stressors; applicable regulations; management actions currently underway; areas where more information is needed.

- **Meeting #4: Discussion and Recommendations**

Task Force members will discuss what they learned from the previous meetings and develop viable implementation options for projects or programs to improve water quality and lake ecology and manage aquatic invasive species.

Task Force meetings will be held in person, with a remote option (after the first meeting) for participants that are not able to attend in-person.

BCWMC and City of Plymouth staff will act as co-leaders for the Medicine Lake Task Force development and engagement effort, with Barr staff providing support throughout the process and with City of Medicine Lake representatives' involvement, as desired. Communications and coordination with the Task Force members will be led by BCWMC staff. The planning for Task Force meetings will be undertaken jointly by BCWMC, City of Plymouth, and Barr staff. Barr staff will also support by providing technical expertise and participating as Task Force technical members.

The proposed budget assumes Barr's participation in one planning meeting in advance of each Task Force meeting. We assume that no new technical analyses will be performed by Barr as part of this effort, but rather that Barr's representation on the Task Force and presentations will draw primarily from technical content and materials previously developed for past studies, planning, and presentations on Medicine Lake water quality, assessments, AIS, and management topics. We have budgeted up to 20 hours for the refinement and revisions to these materials for the purposes of presentation and engagement with the Task Force.

Assumptions and Limitations:

The Task Force will concentrate its work on in-lake conditions and in-lake management options. There are several topics that will not be addressed nor discussed by the Task Force including external sources of pollutants, lake water levels, boating or wake boats, boat launch inspection schedules or launch closures, or private property conditions.

Meetings of the Task Force will not be considered public meetings and will not be open to the public in order to maximize limited time and concentrate on pertinent information.

3. Report on Task Force Outcomes

At the completion of the Task Force's convening, Barr will prepare a draft report on the Task Force meetings to summarize the process, key information shared, input received from participants, and Task Force recommendations. A first draft of the report will be completed and provided for review and comment from BCWMC and City of Plymouth staff. Comments will be incorporated into a revised draft.

The revised draft report will be shared with Task Force members and a meeting will be held for presentation on the key takeaways of the effort and to receive feedback on implementation priorities and next steps. The BCWMC TAC may also receive a presentation of the draft report and provide input or recommendations to the Commission. Following these meetings, a final report will be completed incorporating information from feedback during those discussions.

This final report will be presented at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Plymouth's Environmental Quality Committee and at a BCWMC meeting. The final report will also be provided via city staff to the City of Plymouth City Council.

4. Informational Meeting for Lake Residents and Users

Following the culmination of the Task Force's work, the BCWMC and City of Plymouth will host an informational meeting or public open house. The event will be an opportunity for lake residents and users to review information on current lake conditions, hear about Task Force recommendations, ask questions, and learn how they can help protect and improve the lake. BCWMC and Plymouth staff have heard from residents that this would be an important activity to help inform the public and provide transparency on the work of the Task Force and next steps. A public hearing in September 2027 is also expected to precede the action of officially ordering the resulting CIP project for 2028.

Proposed Timeline and Commission Engineers' Estimated Costs

The following table summarizes the estimated budget for Commission Engineers and the anticipated schedule for the Medicine Lake Task Force effort. Similar to a CIP feasibility study, the funding source for this effort is the budget for the CIP project (CIP #1) for "projects resulting from the Medicine Lake TMDL Assessment." As typical for CIP engagement efforts or assistance with CIP feasibility studies, costs associated with Commission Administrator time or other staff time are not included here and will be allocated to their regular budgets.

Task	Estimated Budget	Estimated Schedule
1. <u>Resident and Lake Users Engagement and Surveys</u> Support and assistance, as needed	\$1,000	July – September 2026
2. <u>Development and Convening of the Medicine Lake Task Force</u> Planning, preparation, and participation in the Medicine Lake Task Force	\$21,300	October 2026 – April 2027
3. <u>Report on Task Force Outcomes</u> Report development & presentations to Task Force, TAC, and BCWMC	\$21,100	June 2027
4. <u>Informational Meeting for Lake Residents and Users</u> Support and assistance, as needed	\$1,000	July 2027
Total	\$44,400	

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

Communications and Administrative Assistant

THIS AGREEMENT is made on this 16th day of July, 2026, by and between the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, a municipal joint powers entity formed under the laws of Minnesota (the “Commission”), and Kaitlyn Egan, an individual person (the “Contractor”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Contractor has the necessary skill, experience, education, and training to provide professional services to the Commission in capacity of Communications and Administrative Assistant, and the Contractor can and desires to provide such services to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to procure from the Contractor services as Communications and Administrative Assistant.

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, including the mutual promises and agreements contained in this Agreement, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. **Independent Contractor.** The Commission hereby retains the Contractor as an independent contractor pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. The Contractor is an independent contractor and not an employee of the Commission. The Contractor will not be provided with a place of business and will retain control over the manner and means of the services provided as an independent contractor. The Contractor will provide, at Contractor’s expense, necessary office space, transportation, computer/internet capability, an email address, and incidental office supplies.

Furthermore, the Contractor shall be exclusively responsible under this Agreement for the Contractor’s own FICA payments, workers’ compensation insurance if required under law, unemployment compensation insurance, withholding amounts, or self-employment taxes if any such payments, amounts, or taxes are required to be paid by law or regulation. The Contractor understands and warrants that she will not be entitled to receive benefits customarily provided by public employers to their employees, including, but certainly not limited to, rights to tenure, workers’ compensation benefits, unemployment compensation benefits, health, life, or disability insurance, sick and vacation leave, ESST, severance pay, pension benefits, or other rights or benefits.

2. **Contractor’s Services and Work Products.** The Contractor agrees to provide services as the Commission’s Communications and Administrative Assistant, which include, but are not necessarily limited to, those described on Exhibit A attached hereto. The Contractor agrees to perform all services in a professional matter, using best efforts, in a manner consistent with the level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by professional consultants currently providing similar services.

The Contractor shall report directly to the Commission's Administrator. The Contractor shall, in the execution of such services, conform to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, ordinances, and regulations. All records, information, materials, and other work products, including, but not limited to, any completed reports, plans, or materials prepared or developed by the Contractor in connection with the provision of services pursuant to this Agreement shall become the property of the Commission upon delivery to Commission representatives. Services provided to the Commission under this Agreement shall be performed exclusively by the Contractor. This Agreement, being intended to secure the personal services of the Contractor, shall not be assigned, sublet or transferred to another individual without the written consent of the Commission.

3. **Compensation for Services; Invoicing.** The Commission agrees to pay the Contractor for the services in the amount of \$48.00 per hour. The Contractor shall invoice the Commission monthly for the Contractor's services. The Contractor is not entitled to reimbursement for any out-of-pocket expenses unless expressly approved by the Commission Administrator in writing. It is anticipated that the Contractor will average approximately 50 hours per month, though workload will fluctuate throughout the year depending on the needs and expectations of the Commission. Notwithstanding the hourly rate above, compensation for services provided under this Agreement may not exceed \$29,952 per Commission fiscal year, pro-rated for the first year due to the midyear effective date and excluding reimbursement for any pre-approved expenses, provided, however, that the Contractor may exceed such amount if expressly preauthorized by the Commission in writing.

The Contractor shall provide the Commission with detailed invoices that describe the services provided, the date of the service, and the amount of time spent by the Contractor on such services. Services shall be invoiced in 15-minute increments. The Commission shall make payment to the Contractor within 45 days of receiving an invoice from the Contractor.

4. **Termination.** Either party may, with or without cause, terminate this Agreement by providing 14 days' written notice to the other party as provided in section 11 below. After termination, the Commission shall have no further obligation to the Contractor except to compensate the Contractor for services performed prior to termination. This Agreement shall terminate upon the Commission's final payment to the Contractor for the services provided by the Contractor during the term of this Agreement.
5. **Indemnification.** The Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Commission and its officials, employees, contractors and agents from any loss, claim, liability, and expense (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses of litigation) arising from, or based in the whole, or in any part, on any act or omission by the Contractor in the performance of services pursuant to this Agreement.
6. **Records Access.** Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.05, subd. 5, the Contractor must allow the Commission, or its duly authorized agents, and the state auditor or legislative auditor reasonable access to any books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and

practices that are pertinent to all services provided under this Agreement for a minimum of six years from the termination of this Agreement.

7. **Data Practices.** The Contractor shall comply with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Contractor shall not disclose not public data except as authorized by the Act. The Contractor will immediately report to the Commission Administrator any requests from third parties for information relating to this Agreement.
8. **No Agency.** The Contractor is an independent contractor and shall not be considered to be the agent or servant of the Commission for any purpose and shall have no authority to enter into any contracts, create any obligations, or make any warranties or representations on behalf of the Commission unless specifically given such authority in writing or by separate action of the Commission, which may include, but is not necessarily limited to, Commission direction, motion, resolution, or formal policy.
9. **Governing Law.** The laws of the State of Minnesota shall control this Agreement. Any disputes, controversies, or claims arising under this Agreement shall be heard in the state or federal courts of Minnesota and the parties waive any objections to jurisdiction.
10. **Entire Agreement; Amendments.** This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties, and no other agreement prior to or contemporaneous with this Agreement shall be effective, except as expressly set forth or incorporated herein. Any purported amendment to this Agreement is not effective unless it is in writing and executed by both parties.
11. **Notices.** Any notice or demand, authorized or required under this Agreement, shall be in writing and shall be sent by first class United States mail, with a copy emailed, to the respective addresses below:

To the Contractor:

Kaitlyn Egan

Email: kegan1027@gmail.com

To the Commission:

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
Attention: Administrator
P.O. Box 270825
Golden Valley MN 55427
Email: laura.jester@keystonewaters.com

12. **No Waiver by the Commission.** By entering into this Agreement, the Commission does not waive its entitlement to any immunities or liability limits under statute or common law.
13. **No Discrimination.** The Contractor agrees not to discriminate in providing services under this Agreement on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, disability, age, sexual

orientation, status with regard to public assistance, or religion. Violation of this section may lead to immediate termination of this Agreement.

14. **Agreement Not Exclusive.** The Commission retains the right to hire other additional consultants or contractors in the Commission's sole discretion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on the date and year written above.

CONTRACTOR

By: _____
Kaitlyn Egan

THE COMMISSION

By: _____
Chair

By: _____
Secretary



EXHIBIT A

Position Title: Communications and Administrative Assistant
Position Status: Part-time, contracted 40 – 50 hours per month
Contract Rate: Hourly rate \$42 - \$48/hour, plus approved expenses, no benefits
Location: Hybrid - Primarily remote with required attendance at some meetings and events in the BCWMC (primarily Golden Valley and Plymouth, MN)
Reports To: Administrator

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Communications and Administrative Assistant will help to expand the communications and community engagement activities of the BCWMC and will provide administrative and operational support for the administrator and board of commissioners. The candidate must be self-motivated with a demonstrated ability to work independently and complete most tasks without supervision. This is not an employee of the BCWMC, but rather an independent contracted individual or an individual within a firm. Team-based contracting/consulting will not be considered. No benefits are available. Direct expenses may be reimbursed.

The duties listed below are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed by the candidate. Additional communication/engagement or administrative related tasks may be assigned by the administrator or board of commissioners. The amount of work and tasks over the course of a month is expected to vary with some weeks requiring more than 10 - 12 hours and other weeks requiring considerably less. A flexible schedule is preferred.

Examples of Communication & Engagement Tasks

- Compose written communications; edit technical reports and assist with report layout including for ADA accessibility compliance
- Assist with social media including establishing accounts and creation of content
- Write and distribute regular press releases on BCWMC projects and programs; keep “news” section of website updated
- Maintain website to ensure it reflects current information and project updates
- Track education and outreach events and attendance levels
- Participate in West Metro Water Alliance steering committee meetings
- Assist with developing consistent communication and outreach with residents in environmental justice areas or vulnerable communities
- Assist with advancing goals to incorporate Native American language and knowledge in materials, projects, and programs

EXHIBIT A

- Draft/redesign BCWMC annual activity report
- Organize watershed tour every other year
- Assist commissioners with registration and logistics for Minnesota Watershed meetings and events, and other training or events, as needed
- Assist with education events including tabling; education materials management/stocking and delivering; volunteer coordination
- Manage the Community Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) including coordination of volunteers; picking up samples; maintaining equipment boxes
- Participate in Education Committee meetings and assist with carrying out committee recommendations/programs

Examples of Administrative Tasks

- Monthly meeting attendance and preparation: print, post, and mail meeting materials; draft meeting minutes; arrange for catering (BCWMC monthly meeting attendance expected online or in person)
- Update monthly spreadsheet to track invoices and gather W9s, as needed
- Arrange meetings for committees, partner updates, etc. and secure meeting space; update online calendar and public meeting notice
- Maintain commission rosters
- Assist with electronic and paper file management, records retention, and development of electronic file management system
- Track and file contracts
- Evaluate, develop, and implement changes in administrative procedures to improve efficiency
- Assist with external grant tracking and grant management
- Assist with development and implementation of new program for tracking and communicating about capital improvement program (CIP) projects and evaluation of past projects

Additional Functions

- Participate as a member of the BCWMC team by contributing ideas and helping where needed with projects and programs
- Effectively represent the BCWMC to other local units of government, member cities, partner organizations, and the public
- Other duties, as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Education: Must possess an associate's degree. A bachelor's degree is preferred.

EXHIBIT A

Experience:

- 1+ years of working in communication/education role
- Demonstrated experience using word processing and spreadsheet software
- Experience working with the public or non-profit entity

Preferred Qualifications:

- Good writing skills to produce effective and readable non-technical reports, documents, and correspondence
- Good oral and interpersonal communication skills
- Strong organizational skills with attention to accuracy and detail
- Willingness to learn new technology and processes and recommend enhancements

Expectations:

- Promptly responds to email and phone calls and develops positive working relationships with internal and external audiences
- Ability to communicate accurately and effectively in-person, via telephone, and email
- Ability to establish priorities, balance diverse work and implement projects successfully
- Ability to work successfully with considerable independence (self-motivated) with good time management skills
- Effectively listens, speaks, and interacts tactfully in a work group and with the public
- Occasional weekend and evening work required

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

The physical demands described are representative of those that must be met to perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This work occasionally requires moving and carrying equipment up to 50 pounds. Performing the duties of this job requires the use of a computer, telephone, copy machine, and other office technology.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY

None, unless otherwise assigned.

**Minnesota Watersheds
2026 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions
August 31, 2026
Via Zoom**

Member Meeting Materials

Enclosed are the following items:

1. Notice of Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions
2. Delegate Appointment Form
3. Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions Agenda
4. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions
5. Proposed Legislative Platform Updates
6. Proposed Resolutions
7. Active Resolutions

Please note that the Delegate Appointment Forms are **REQUIRED**. For the Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions to be held, **a quorum of 22 delegates MUST be present and must include at least one delegate from each of the three regions.** Please return your Delegate Appointment Forms to Jan Voit at jvoit@mnwatersheds.com at your earliest convenience.

This packet has been distributed to managers, commissioners, administrators, and staff via email. No paper copies of this packet will be sent via the U.S. Postal Service.

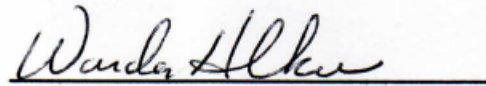
**We are looking forward to your participation in this year's
virtual Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions!**

Minnesota Watersheds 2026 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2026 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions will be held by Zoom beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 31 for the following purposes:

1. to receive and accept the report of the Secretary regarding the 2025 Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions,
2. to consider and act upon proposed Legislative Platform updates, and
3. to consider and act upon proposed Resolutions.

Sincerely,



Wanda Holker
Secretary

Minnesota Watersheds 2026 Delegate Appointment Form

The _____ hereby certifies that it is

name of watershed organization

a watershed district or watershed management organization duly established and in good standing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103B or 103D and is a member of Minnesota Watersheds for the year 2026.

The _____ hereby further certifies

name of watershed organization

the following individuals have been appointed as delegates, or as an alternate delegate, all of whom are managers in good standing with their respective watershed district or watershed management organization.

Delegate #1: _____

Delegate #2: _____

Alternate: _____

Authorized by: _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Title

** Please return this form to jvoit@mnwatersheds.com at your earliest convenience. **



Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions

AGENDA

Monday, August 31, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Join online: [CLICK HERE](#)

Join by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 819 9915 5892

Passcode: 362794

GENERAL BUSINESS

10:00 a.m. Call to Order and Process Overview

10:05 a.m. Approval of Agenda (Action)

ACTION ITEMS

10:05 a.m. **2025 MEETING MINUTES** (Action)

10:10 a.m. **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM** (Action)

10:30 a.m. **RESOLUTIONS HEARING** (Action)

Note: If you wish to testify "FOR" or "AGAINST", please raise your hand. You must be recognized by the chair before you speak. Limit your comments to two (2) minutes. Voting on each resolution will be done by hand raising.

Resolution 2026-01 – Encouraging DNR and USFWS to Construct Retention Sites on DNR and USFWS Lands for Storing Water

Resolution 2026-02 – Supporting Dedicated State Funding for SWCD and Watershed District Shoreline Management Assistance

Resolution 2026-03 – Supporting Statewide Training and Certification for Shoreline Management Staff

Resolution 2026-04 – Supporting Improved Public Education and Updated Shoreline Management Guidance

Resolution 2026-05 – Supporting Rule and Process Improvements for Public Waters Shoreline Alteration Management

Resolution 2026-06 – Seeking Revision of Minnesota State 477A.19 to Preserve \$10 Million of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid

Resolution 2026-07 – Seeking Establishment of a Hazard Mitigation Fund

Resolution 2026-08 – Seeking Legislation that Allows Stormwater as an Alternative Water Source for Outdoor Uses

Resolution 2026-09 – To Protect Lake Ecosystems and Shoreline Integrity from Wake Boat Impacts

12:30 p.m. **ADJOURNMENT**

Minnesota Watersheds | 1005 Mainstreet | Hopkins, MN 55343 | mnwatersheds.com

For more information, contact Jan Voit, jvoit@mnwatersheds.com | 507-822-0921



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission MEMO

Date: July 9, 2026
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
To: BCWMC Commissioners
RE: **Administrator's Report**

Aside from this month's agenda items, the Commission Engineers, city staff, committee members, and I continue to work on the following Commission projects and issues.

CIP Projects (more resources at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects.>)

2020 Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-5), Minneapolis: A feasibility study by the Commission Engineer was developed in 2018 and approved in January 2019. The study included wetland delineations, soil borings, public open houses held in conjunction with MPRB's Bryn Mawr Meadows Park improvement project, and input from MPRB's staff and design consultants. Project construction year was revised from 2020 and 2022 to better coincide with the MPRB's planning and implementation of significant improvements and redevelopment Bryn Mawr Meadows Park where the project will be located. A public hearing for this project was held September 19, 2019. The project was officially ordered at that meeting. In January 2020 this project was awarded a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR; a grant work plan was completed and the grant with BWSR was fully executed in early May 2020. The project and the grant award was the subject of an article in the Southwest Journal in February: <https://www.southwestjournal.com/voices/green-digest/2020/02/state-awards-grant-to-bryn-mawr-runoff-project/>. In September 2020, Minneapolis and MPRB staff met to review the implementation agreement and maintenance roles. BCWMC developed options for contracting and implementation which were presented at the November meeting. At that meeting staff was directed to develop a memorandum of understanding or agreement among BCWMC, MPRB, and city of Minneapolis to recognize and assign roles and responsibilities for implementation more formally. The draft agreement was developed over several months and multiple conversations among the parties. At the May 2021 meeting the Commission approved to waive potential conflict of the Commission legalcounsel and reviewed a proposal for project design by the Commission Engineer. The updated design proposal and the design agreement among all three parties were approved at the June 2021 meeting. Four public open houses were held in the park in 2021 to gather input on park concepts. Project partners met regularly throughout design to discuss schedules, planning and design components, and next steps. Concept designs were approved by the MRPB Board in late 2021. Staff met with MnDOT regarding clean out of Penn Pond and continue discussions. 50% design plans were approved by the Commission at the January 2022 meeting; 90% design plans were approved at the March 2022 meeting along with an agreement with MPRB and Minneapolis for construction. The agreement was approved by all three bodies. Commission Engineers finalized designs and assisted with bidding documents. Bids were returned in early August. At the meeting in August, the Commission approved moving forward with project construction (through MPRB), and approved a construction budget (higher than previously budgeted) and an amended engineering services budget. MPRB awarded the construction contract. In late November the contractor began the initial earthwork and started on portions of the stormwater pond excavations. By late December the 1st phase of construction was complete with the ponds formed and constructed. The contractor began driving piles in late January and began installing underground piping in early February. At the March meeting, the Commission approved an increase to the engineering services budget and learned the construction budget is currently tracking well under budget. The change order resulting from the City of Minneapolis' request to replace a city sewer pipe resulted in extra design/engineering costs that were approved by the Administrator so work could continue without delays. The MPRB will reimburse the Commission for those extra costs and will, in-turn, be paid by the city. In early May construction was focused in the Morgan / Laurel intersection. The right-of-way storm sewer work is complete including the rerouting of some of the existing storm infrastructure and installation of the stormwater diversion structures. Construction of the ponds is complete and stormwater from the neighborhood to the west is now being routed through new storm sewers to the ponds. Vegetation is currently being

established around the ponds. At the October 2023 meeting the Commission approved an amendment to the agreement with MPRB and Minneapolis in order to facilitate grant closeout. At the December 2023 meeting the Commission approved a partial reimbursement to MPRB for \$400,000. Corrections to a weir that was installed at the wrong elevation were made in spring 2024. A final grant report was submitted to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources in late January 2024 and the final grant payment was recently received. Project as-built drawings were completed and an operations and maintenance plan is being finalized. August 2025 update: St. Anthony Falls Lab is using the new ponds as part of a study to understand how stormwater pond plant communities affect functioning of stormwater ponds, and how pond design, maintenance and management can be adapted to promote conditions that maximize water quality benefits in urban and road-impacted areas. Project partners recently met to agree on a timeline for completing all documents and agreements between MPRB and Minneapolis. A final project report and reimbursement request are expected at the September or October Commission meeting. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bryn-mawr-meadows-water-quality-improvement-project>

Original Project Budget: \$1,835,000.00; Remaining Funds: \$1,079,310.44 (Funds will be used to reimburse MPRB and City of Minneapolis upon receipt of final report and reimbursement request with appropriate documentation.)

2020 Jevne Park Stormwater Improvement Project (ML-21) Medicine Lake (No change since July 2023): At their meeting in July 2018, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to prepare a feasibility study for this project. The study got underway last fall and the city's project team met on multiple occasions with the Administrator and Commission Engineer. The Administrator and Engineer also presented the draft feasibility study to the Medicine Lake City Council on February 4, 2019 and a public open house was held on February 28th. The feasibility study was approved at the April Commission meeting with intent to move forward with option 1. The city's project team is continuing to assess the project and understand its implications on city finances, infrastructure, and future management. The city received proposals from 3 engineering firms for project design and construction. At their meeting on August 5th, the Medicine Lake City Council voted to continue moving forward with the project and negotiating the terms of the agreement with BCWMC. Staff was directed to continue negotiations on the agreement and plan to order the project pending a public hearing at this meeting. Staff continues to correspond with the city's project team and city consultants regarding language in the agreement. The BCWMC held a public hearing on this project on September 19, 2019 and received comments from residents both in favor and opposed to the project. The project was officially ordered on September 19, 2019. On October 4, 2019, the Medicine Lake City Council took action not to move forward with the project. At their meeting in October 2019, the Commission moved to table discussion on the project. The project remains on the 2020 CIP list. In a letter dated January 3, 2022, the city of Medicine Lake requested that the Commission direct its engineer to analyze alternatives to the Jevne Park Project that could result in the same or similar pollutant removals and/or stormwater storage capacity. At the March meeting, the Commission directed the Commission Engineer to prepare a scope and budget for the alternatives analysis which were presented and discussed at the April 2022 meeting. No action was taken at that meeting to move forward with alternatives analysis. In May and June 2023, Commission staff discussed the possibility of incorporating stormwater management features into a redevelopment of Jevne Park currently being considered by the City of Medicine Lake. After review of the preliminary park design plans, the Commission Engineer and I recommended implementation of the original CIP Project to the City. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=467>.

Original Project Budget \$500,000; Remaining Funds: \$ 443,609.25 (Funds are held until a viable project is identified or Commission officially closes the project and returns funds to the Closed Project Account.)

2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project and Carp Management, Golden Valley (SL-3) (No change since June):

Repairs to the baffle structure were made in 2017 after anchor weights pulled away from the bottom of the pond and some vandalism occurred in 2016. The city continues to monitor the baffle and check the anchors, as needed. Vegetation around the pond was planted in 2016 and a final inspection of the vegetation was completed last fall. Once final vegetation has been completed, erosion control will be pulled and the contract will be closed. The Commission Engineer began the Schaper Pond Effectiveness Monitoring Project last summer and presented results and recommendations at the May 2018 meeting. Additional effectiveness monitoring is being performed this summer. At the July meeting the Commission Engineer reported that over 200 carp were discovered in the pond during a recent carp survey. At the September meeting the Commission approved the Engineer's

recommendation to perform a more in-depth survey of carp including transmitters to learn where and when carp are moving through the system. At the October 2020 meeting, the Commission received a report on the carp surveys and recommendations for carp removal and management. Carp removals were performed through the Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project. Results were presented at the February 2021 meeting along with a list of options for long term carp control. Commission took action approving evaluation of the long-term options to be paid from this Schaper Pond Project. Commission and Golden Valley staff met in March 2021 to further discuss pros and cons of various options. At the September 2021 meeting, the Commission approved utilizing an adaptive management approach to carp management in the pond (\$8,000) and directed staff to discuss use of stocking panfish to predate carp eggs. Commission Engineers will survey the carp in 2022. At the April meeting, the Commission approved panfish stocking in Schaper Pond along with a scope and budget for carp removals to be implemented later in 2022 if needed. Commission staff informed lake association and city about summer activities and plans for a fall alum treatment. Approximately 1,000 bluegills were released into Schaper Pond in late May. Carp population assessments by electroshocking in Sweeney Lake and Schaper Pond were completed last summer. A report on the carp assessment was presented in January. Monitoring in Schaper Pond in 2023 and a reassessment of carp populations in 2024 were approved in early 2023. Carp box netting in 2024 is also approved, as needed. A carp survey of Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake were recently completed which found higher than expected carp numbers in Sweeney Lake. Carp Solutions completed box netting in Sweeney Lake in late September 2024. At the October meeting the Commission Engineer reported that 191 carp were removed bringing the carp density to about 31.3 kg/hectare, less than the 100 kg/hectare threshold for water quality problems. A more detailed report on carp population status and recommendations for further monitoring in Schaper Pond was presented and approved at the January 2025 meeting. Monitoring on the pond got underway last summer. Challenges during the 2025 monitoring season included heavy rains and impacts to a city manhole that house monitoring equipment which had to be removed. An amendment to the effectiveness monitoring budget was approved at the October 2025 meeting. At the February meeting, Commission Engineers presented results of the 2025 monitoring and the Commission approved a cost benefit analysis of long-term carp management with the remaining project funds. Carp surveys in Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake took place in May. Results will be reported at a future meeting. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=277>.

Original Project Budget: \$612,000; Remaining Funds: \$ 6,996

2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2) (No changes since August 2024): At their March 2015 meeting, the Commission approved the project specifications and directed the city to finalize specifications and solicit bids for the project. The contract was awarded to HAB Aquatic Solutions. The alum treatment spanned two days: May 18- 19, 2015 with 15,070 gallons being applied. Water temperatures and water pH stayed within the desired ranges for the treatment. Early transparency data from before and after the treatment indicates a change in Secchi depth from 1.2 meters before the treatment to 4.8 meters.

Water monitoring continues to determine if/when a second alum treatment is necessary. Monitoring results from 2023 were presented at the July 2024 meeting. Results show continued excellent water quality. The CIP funding remains in place for this project as a 2nd treatment may be needed in the future. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=278>.

Original Project Budget: \$163,000; Remaining Funds: \$71,962.18

2013 Four Seasons Area Water Quality Project (NL-2) (No change since April): At their meeting in December 2016, the Commission took action to contribute up to \$830,000 of Four Seasons CIP funds for stormwater management at the Agora development on the old Four Seasons Mall location. At their February 2017 meeting the Commission approved an agreement with Rock Hill Management (RHM) and an agreement with the City of Plymouth allowing the developer access to a city-owned parcel to construct a wetland restoration project and to ensure ongoing maintenance of the CIP project components. At the August 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the 90% design plans for the CIP portion of the project. At the April 2018 meeting, Commissioner Prom

notified the Commission that RHM recently disbanded its efforts to purchase the property for redevelopment. In 2019, a new potential buyer/developer (Dominium) began preparing plans for redevelopment at the site. City staff, the Commission Engineer and I have met on numerous occasions with the developer and their consulting engineers to discuss stormwater management and opportunities with “above and beyond” pollutant reductions. Concurrently, the Commission attorney has been working to draft an agreement to transfer BCWMC CIP funds for the above and beyond treatment. At their meeting in December, Dominium shared preliminary project plans and the Commission discussed the redevelopment and potential “above and beyond” stormwater management techniques. At the April 2020 meeting, the Commission conditionally approved the 90% project plans. The agreements with Dominium and the city of Plymouth to construct the project were approved May 2020 and project designers coordinated with Commission Engineers to finalize plans per conditions. In June 2021, the City of Plymouth purchased the property from Walmart. The TAC discussed a potential plan for timing of construction of the stormwater management BMPs by the city in advance of full redevelopment. At the August 2021 meeting, the Commission approved development of an agreement per TAC recommendations. The city recently demolished the mall building and removed much of the parking lot. At the December meeting the Commission approved the 90% design plans and a concept for the city to build the CIP project ahead of development and allow the future developer to take credit for the total phosphorus removal over and above 100 pounds. At the July meeting, the Commission approved an agreement with the city to design, construct, and maintain the CIP project components and allow a future developer to use pollutant removal capacity above 100 pounds of total phosphorus. A fully executed agreement is now filed. The updated 90% project plans were approved at the September 2023 meeting. Changes to those plans were needed to address permitting requirements resulted. Those changes were presented at the November 2024 meeting and were administratively approved by the Commission Engineers. Construction of the wetland restoration is complete (see photo). The Commission approved a reimbursement request at the March 2026 meeting. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=282>.

Original Project Budget: \$990,000; Remaining Funds: \$ 235,544.67 (Funds will be used to reimburse City of Plymouth upon receipt of final report and reimbursement request with appropriate documentation.)

2021 Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project (PL-7) (See Item 4D): The feasibility study for this project was approved in May 2020 with Alternative 3 being approved for the drainage improvement work. After a public hearing was held with no public in attendance, the Commission ordered the project on September 17, 2020 and entered an agreement with the city of Plymouth to implement the project in coordination with commission staff. The city collected additional chloride data in winter 2020 in order to better pinpoint the source of high chlorides loads within the subwatershed. Partners involved in the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) are interested in collaborating on this project. A proposal from Plymouth and BCWMC for the “Parkers Lake Chloride Project Facilitation Plan” was approved for \$20,750 in funding by the HCCI at their meeting in March. The project will 1) Compile available land use data and chloride concentrations, 2) Develop consensus on the chloride sources to Parkers Lake and potential projects to address these sources, and 3) Develop a recommendation for a future pilot project to reduce chloride concentrations in Parkers Lake, which may be able to be replicated in other areas of Hennepin County, and 4) help target education and training needs by landuse. A series of technical stakeholder meetings were held to develop recommendations on BMPs. A technical findings report was presented at the July 2022 meeting. At the September 2022 meeting, the Commission approved a scope and budget for a study of the feasibility of in-lake chloride reduction activities which was presented at the November 2022 meeting. The Commission directed staff to develop a scope for a holistic plan for addressing chloride runoff from the most highly contributing subwatershed. Commission and Plymouth staff continue to work on outreach and engagement with properties in the subwatershed, primarily through activities by WMWA’s coordinator position. At the March 2025 meeting the Commission approved a contract with Bolton and Menk for assessment of salt storage and other practices at 4 properties. In November 2025, the Commission approved a reimbursement agreement with Hennepin County in order to utilize grant funding for this project. A final report from Bolton & Menk was reviewed, discussed among partners, and included with Commission meeting materials in May 2026. Also in May, the Commission approved an agreement with Bolton & Menk for a second phase of this project. At this meeting, staff is seeking approval of an agreement with MPCA for future Smart Salting trainings. Project website: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/parkers-lake-drainage-improvement-project

Original Project Budget: \$485,000; Remaining Funds: \$ 231,668.38

2022 Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility (ML-12) (No change since June 2025): The feasibility study for this project was approved in June 2021 with public engagement and a project kick-off meeting in the following months. The project was officially ordered by the Commission in September 2021. The city hired Barr Engineering to develop the project designs. The BCWMC received a \$300,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR in December 2021 and the grant agreement approved in March 2022. 50% design plans were approved in February 2022 and 90% plans were approved at the May 2022 meeting. Construction began in November 2022 and winter construction was finished in late January 2023. Activities in spring 2023 included completing grading (topsoil adjustments); paving (concrete, bituminous); light pole and fixture install; benches install; site clean up and prep for restoration contractor. In late May 2023, Peterson Companies completed their construction tasks and the project transitioned to Traverse de Sioux for site restoration and planting. A small area of unexpected disturbance from construction was added to the overall area to be restored with native plants through a minor change order. Site restoration, planting, and seeding was completed in late June 2023. A final grant report was submitted to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources in late January 2025 and all grant funds were received. The Commission approved reimbursement requests from Golden Valley at their October 2024 and March 2025 meetings. The project was featured in the "Snap Shots" newsletter from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. A final reimbursement request and report will be submitted after final vegetation establishment. www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/medley-park-stormwater-treatment-facility

Original Project Budget: \$1,500,000; Remaining Funds: \$141,862.80 (Funds will be used to reimburse City of Golden Valley upon receipt of final report and reimbursement request with appropriate documentation.)

2022 SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project (BC-2, 3, 8, 10) (No change since December 2023): The feasibility study for this project was approved in June 2021. Study development included meetings with and input from city staff, Robbinsdale Area School representatives, technical stakeholders, and the public. In September 2021, a resolution was approved to officially order the project, submit levy amounts to the county, and enter an agreement with the city to design and construct the project. The city hired Barr Engineering to develop the project designs. 50% Design Plans were approved at the January 2022 meeting. A public open house was held September 2022 and 90% were approved at the October 2022 Commission meeting. Six construction bids were received in late February 2023 with several of them under engineer's estimates. The city contracted with Rachel Contracting and construction got underway in early spring 2023. By late June excavation was completed and the playground area was prepped and ready for concrete work to begin on July 5. The city hired Landbridge Ecological for restoration work in summer 2023. At the end of July 2023, utility crews lowered the watermain and installed the storm sewer diversions into the park from along Duluth Street. The hydrodynamic separator was also set (with a crane). Crews also worked on the iron-enhanced sand filter and the outlet installation, stone work on the steepened slopes, trail prep, bituminous paving, and concrete work (curb and gutter, pads, and ADA ramps). The preconstruction meeting for the restoration work was held with work to begin late August or early September 2023. The city awarded the contract for the DeCola Pond D outlet work to Bituminous Roadways Inc. in August 2023. The SEA School site construction is complete and restoration work is complete. The DeCola Pond D outlet replacement and site restoration is also now complete. Project webpage: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/sea-school-wildwood-park-flood-reduction-project.

Original Project Budget: \$1,300,000; Remaining Funds: \$1,215,950 (Funds will be used to reimburse City of Golden Valley upon receipt of final report and reimbursement request with appropriate documentation.)

Bassett Creek Restoration Project: Regent Ave. to Golden Valley Rd. (2024 CR-M), Golden Valley:

A feasibility study for this project got underway in fall 2022. A public open house was held March 1st with 30 residents attending. The draft feasibility report was presented at the April meeting. A final feasibility report was presented at the June meeting where the Commission approved the implementation of Alternative 3: to restore all high, medium, and low priority sites. A Clean Water Fund grant application for \$350,000 was recently developed and submitted to BWSR. The Commission held a public hearing on this project at its September meeting and officially ordered the project and set the final levy. An agreement with the city of Golden Valley for design and construction was approved at the November 2024 Commission meeting. The Commission (Commission Engineers) will design the project and provide engineering services. A scope of work for engineering services was approved at the March meeting. A drone survey of the entire stretch was completed in early April. A project kick-off meeting was held with city and commission staff on April 9th. Field and desktop surveys are continuing. Meetings regarding utility easements and communications planning

were recently held. A public open house on the project was held on June 5th. At the June meeting the Commission approved a scope and budget for a wetland delineation and architectural survey which are unexpected requirements for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That work is getting underway. Additionally, Administrator Jester approved a scope and budget for an archeological survey that was included in the original engineering services scope as a contingency task with approval delegated to the Administrator. Commission Engineers presented the 50% designs at the July meeting. At the August meeting, commissioners reviewed a reprioritization of eroded sites and discussed cost saving and implementation options. Commissioners approved a new project budget to accommodate repair of new and expanded erosion and vegetation restoration on public and private properties along the project corridor. A public open house was held October 30th. Letters to residents along the project were sent by Golden Valley requesting temporary easements for the project. 90% plans were approved at the November meeting. An amendment to the engineering services budget and overall project budget were approved in January. The city recently awarded a contract for construction and vegetation restoration to MNL (Minnesota Native Landscapes). Permitting is wrapping up and an easement agreement with Met Council is in development. A pre-construction meeting was held with the contractor June 10th. Construction is slated to begin this summer. At last notice, 57 of 59 easements with riparian landowners had been secured by the city. The city is developing temporary signage for the project site. Work is slated to begin later in the coming weeks. Project website: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bassett-creek-restoration-project-regent-ave-golden-valley-r>

Original Project Budget: \$1,941,000; Amended Project Budget: \$3,534,580; Remaining Funds: \$ 2,899,539

Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-14) (See Item 5A): This project was added to the CIP through a minor plan amendment as approved at the March 2023 Commission meeting with CIP funding set at \$600,000. The project involves a suite of projects totaling an estimated \$2.3M aimed improving the water quality in three ponds and Bassett Creek based on a subwatershed analysis by Three Rivers Park District (TRPD). A memorandum of understanding about the implementation process, schedules, and procedural requirements for the project was executed in April 2023 among BCWMC, TRPD, and the cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale. A feasibility study funded by TRPD was approved in September 2023. The Commission held a public hearing on this project at the same meeting and officially ordered the project and set the final levy. A cooperative agreement with TRPD and Robbinsdale was approved at the April 2024 meeting. Three Rivers Park District contracted with Barr Engineering to develop project designs. A Phase II Environmental Assessment was completed last year. Soil contamination (including PCBs) was found in some areas to be above MPCA action levels.

The following are recent (2025) updates for the project: MPCA approved the response action plan; TRPD cleared the federal environmental review requirements for the project and were issued a release of funds for the HUD grant; additional test pits were completed for soil pre-characterization, and the extent of contaminants is less than anticipated, especially with regards to PCBs; Hennepin County ERF grant for \$447,000 was awarded for remediation efforts. A technical stakeholder meeting was held in March week with permitting agencies. 50% project designs will be presented at this meeting. A public open house and required public hearing on the proposed water level drawdown is scheduled for August 10th. Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/sochacki-park-water-quality-improvement-project>.

Original Project Budget: \$600,000; Remaining Funds: 586,500.00

Plymouth Creek Restoration Project Dunkirk Lane to 38th Ave. North (2026 CR-P) (No change since June): A scope and budget for a feasibility study was approved at the October meeting. A project kick off meeting was held November 3rd and a technical stakeholder meeting was held December 5th. Field investigations and desktop analyses are complete. Site prioritization ranking criteria are being developed and concept designs are being developed. A public open house was held on March 11th. Residents who attended are in favor of the project and had questions about impacts to trees, potential construction activities in specific reaches, and buckthorn removal. The feasibility study was approved at the May meeting with Option 3a being approved for implementation. At the June meeting the Commission approved a maximum levy for 2025 that includes funding for this project which was approved by the Hennepin County Board August 6th. At its September meeting, the Commission held a public hearing on this project and approved a resolution officially ordering the project, setting the 2025 levy, and entering an agreement with the City of Plymouth for design and construction. The city will hold a public open house on this project in spring 2025 after the city contracts with an

engineering firm. A Clean Water Fund grant for \$400,000 was awarded by BWSR. The grant agreement and sub-grant agreement were approved at the April meeting. The City of Plymouth hired Moore Engineering for project designs. Commission Engineers sent requested data, surveys, and models to Moore Engineers at the request of the City of Plymouth. A public meeting will be scheduled for later this year. A pre-permitting meeting was held with permitting agencies on September 2nd. Commission Engineer's review and comments on 60% designs for Phase I were approved at the October meeting. A public open house was held on November 3rd. 90% designs were approved at the December meeting. The City of Plymouth recently awarded a construction contract to JC Hallett Construction. A pre-construction meeting was scheduled for mid-May. Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/plymouth-creek-restoration-dunkirk-lane-38th-ave-n>.

Original Project Budget: \$2,600,000; Remaining Funds: \$2,444,443.92

Double Box Culvert Repair Project (FCP-1): This project was officially ordered in September 2025 after completion of the [feasibility study](#) in June 2025. A stakeholder kick-off meeting was held on February 19th. At the meeting in March 2026, the Commission approved the 60% design plans. 90% plans were approved at the June meeting. Commission Engineers presented project plans to the Minneapolis Capital Project Task Force Committee to ensure proper coordination with other city projects. Final plans and bidding and contracting documents are currently being developed. The Commission will consider awarding a construction contract at a future meeting.

Original Project Budget: \$1,504,000 Remaining Funds: \$ 1,390,773

Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project, Minnetonka (CL-4): At the meeting in July, the Commission approved a scope and budget for the feasibility study for this project. The Commission Engineer is gathering background information. A project kick off meeting was held in September 2024. In summer 2025, water quality sampling and continuous chloride monitoring at the five pond monitoring sites was completed. Last summer, Commission Engineers compiled and analyzed the field and laboratory monitoring results and developed watershed chloride load assessment modeling, which was calibrated based on the water quality monitoring data. At the meeting last month, Commission Engineers presented the draft feasibility study. The TAC discussed possible options for source control at their meeting on June 3rd, and Commission Engineers and I met with Minnetonka staff on June 9th to gather additional feedback on possible implementation activities. The feasibility study was approved at the June 2026 meeting with direction to implement the recommended three phases. A public hearing should be set for September 17th prior to officially ordering the project and setting the final levy. Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/crane-lake-chloride-reduction-demonstration-project>.

Original Project Budget: Project not yet been officially ordered. Preliminary levy (maximum) was set at \$464,200. To date, \$115,689 has been spent.

Main Stem Bassett Creek Lagoon Dredging Project (BC-7):

The goals of the original Main Stem Lagoon Dredging project (Phase I) were to improve water quality in the creek by removing accumulated sediment from Lagoons D, E, and F to re-establish an aesthetic and function similar to the original open water design from the 1930's. The original project resulted in deepening the lagoons to 4 feet instead of the intended 6 feet. A feasibility scope and budget for a second phase of the project was approved in August 2025 and revisions were approved in March 2026 to evaluate an additional option of wetland restoration on Lagoon G. The Phase II feasibility study was approved at the June meeting with direction to implement Alternate 3 which combines some dredging in Lagoon G with wetland restoration in Lagoon G. A public hearing should be set for September 17th prior to officially ordering the project and setting the final levy Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=506>

Original Project Budget: \$2,759,000 Remaining Funds: \$ 1,057,258. Phase II has not yet been officially ordered. Additional levy of \$1,530,000 is expected.

Administrator Activities June 10 – July 8, 2026

Subject	Work Progress
CIP and Technical Projects	• <u>Main Stem Bassett Creek Restoration Project</u>: Reviewed correspondence and emailed updates; corresponded on temporary project signage • <u>Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project</u>: Discussed CIP eligibility with Commission Attorney; updated project webpage • <u>Lagoon Dredging Project</u>: Updated project webpage • <u>Medicine Lake Management</u>: Met with Plymouth staff and Commission Engineer to discuss Medicine Lake Task Force; fielded calls from residents concerned about water quality and overgrowth of plants • <u>Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project</u>: Spoke with TRPD staff re: project sequencing; reviewed/commented on 50% design materials; updated project webpage; posted open house meeting notice in online calendar • <u>Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project</u>: Met with MPCA staff to discuss Smart Salting trainings protocol and fees; corresponded with Bolton and Menk re: trainings and project status.
Education and Outreach	• Attended Watershed Equity Alliance summer retreat; learned about Owámníyomni Okhódayapi's river revitalization project near outfall of Bassett Creek and Stone Arch Bridge; responded to survey re: formalizing the group and collecting financial contributions • Delivered education materials for Adopt-a-Drain table at Utepils July 4th event • Collected CAMP samples from volunteers • Met with WMWA Educator and D. Spector re: WMWA budgeting
Administration	• Developed agenda; reviewed invoices and submitted expenses spreadsheet to Plymouth; reviewed financial report; drafted June meeting minutes; reviewed memos, reports, and documents for Commission meeting; printed and disseminated meeting information to commissioners, staff, and TAC; updated online calendar; drafted meeting follow up email; ordered catering for July Commission meeting • Participated in June pre-meeting call with Commission Engineer and Chair Cesnik • Communicated with Graffiti Mill consultants and Commission Engineers; met on-site with various agencies to discuss streambank restoration and buffer options • Continued reviewing/scoring resumes for Communications and Administrative Assistant position, coordinated and hosted 7 online interviews with two commissioners, contacted references for top two candidates; corresponded further with top candidate and coordinated with Commission Attorney on contract • Participated in chloride workgroup meeting • Submitted 2027 maximum levy documents to Hennepin County • Reviewed and posted 2025 financial audit • Reviewed/edited four water quality reports
Organizational Assessment Project	• Coordinated signatures on contract with Strategic Consulting and Coaching (SCC) • Developed agenda and participated in project kick-off meeting with Administrative Services Committee June 26th • Gathered documents requested by SCC • Arranged for regular check-in meetings with SCC
MN Watersheds	• Corresponded with colleagues re: Metro Watersheds quarterly meeting • Corresponded with colleagues and Alt. Commissioner Kennedy re: Summer Tour • Attended monthly meeting of MN Association of Watershed Administrators • Remotely attended meeting of Plumbing Board re: stormwater reuse issue