

Leading on water quality in the region

Item 7D.
BCWMC 4-18-19

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - WATER RESOURCES SECTION OVERVIEW

OUR VISION

Our region's waters fully support public and ecosystem health, economic growth, and all recreational uses for current and future generations.

OUR PURPOSE

Provide leadership and information to empower Council and local actions that ensure clean, healthy and sustainable water resources for the region.

"The Council's monitoring station at the outlet of Bassett Creek has provided us with a significant amount of important data over many decades. Without it, we could not do the water quality and hydrological modeling that is foundational to our success in understanding and ultimately improving water quality in our urban watershed and the Mississippi River."

- Laura Jester, Administrator, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization



WHAT WE DO

Partnerships

- We collaborate with regional partners to collect and assess valuable information on the condition of lakes, rivers and streams in the region.
- We develop programs to assess, protect and improve water quality, with input of communities and watersheds.
- We provide technical assistance to watersheds and local governments as they develop their required local water plans.
- We maintain a regional water resources database for others to use to inform local actions.

Stewardship

- We monitor and assess water quality in the region's three major rivers to quantify the impacts of point- and nonpoint-source pollution, and to measure the effectiveness of our regional wastewater treatment system at protecting water quality in the rivers.
- We support long-term water planning in collaboration with our partners, customers and other water quality advocates to advance the most cost-effective solutions to the issues identified.
- We make grants to local governments to support effective stormwater management practices.

Sustainability

- We support the state and regional goals of fishable, swimmable and drinkable waters.
- We work with regional partners to develop and update the Council's Regional Water Resources Policy Plan. The policies and strategies in the plan drive all our programs.
- We provide clear regional guidance on ways to improve and protect water quality, quantity and ecosystem health.



USING LIMITED RESOURCES WISELY TO PROTECT THE REGION'S WATERWAYS

The 2019 operating budget for the Water Resources Section of Environmental Services is \$2.7 million (exclusive of pass-through grants), less than 1% of the total Environmental Services budget. In turn, the Environmental Services budget constitutes 28% of the Council's total 2019 operating budget.

OUR IMPACT

"The stormwater reuse project at Water's Edge Community Association in Hugo is a great success. In the project's first three months of operation in 2018, approximately 4.1 million gallons of stormwater were recaptured and used to irrigate common areas. The Council grant was critical to make the project happen and encouraged other funding partners to participate."

- Phil Belfiori, Administrator, Rice Creek Watershed District

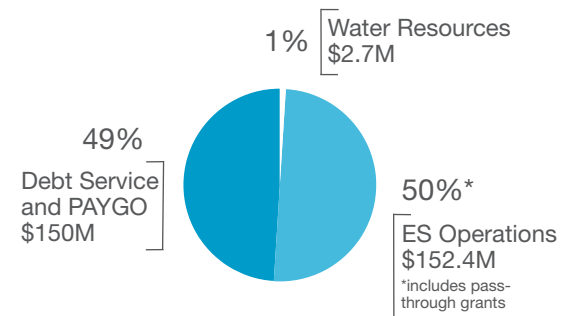
"The Council, through its river monitoring program, is a key partner of the National Park Service Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network. The Council's water quality trend analysis work is crucial for fulfilling our long-term water quality monitoring objectives at the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area."

- Richard Damstra, Aquatic Ecologist, National Park Service Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network

"We have several CAMP (Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program) volunteers in our watershed. This Council program not only supports the collection of valuable lake data, it also engages citizen scientists and develops leadership for water quality advocacy. We would not run a program like this without Met Council's support."

- Laura Jester, Administrator, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization

2019 ES BUDGET



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management.aspx> to learn more about our water quality programs.

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