

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Executive Summary: 2021 Annual Report



2021 Activities & Achievements

In 2021, the BCWMC continued its work toward fulfilling its mission:
Stewardship of Water Resources to Protect and Enhance Our Communities.

Capital Improvement Program

Each year, the BCWMC implements one or more major capital improvement program (CIP) projects to protect or improve water resources. In 2021, much of the CIP work was centered on designing projects for construction in 2022. The Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project in Minneapolis is one of the more significant projects that was in the design phase in 2021.

The project will treat stormwater runoff from 45 acres of residential land that currently flows untreated into Bassett Creek. The project will be implemented within Bryn Mawr Meadows Park and will be designed and constructed in conjunction with the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board's Park improvement project and includes cooperation with the city of Minneapolis. The project is expected to reduce total phosphorus pollution by 30 pounds per year.

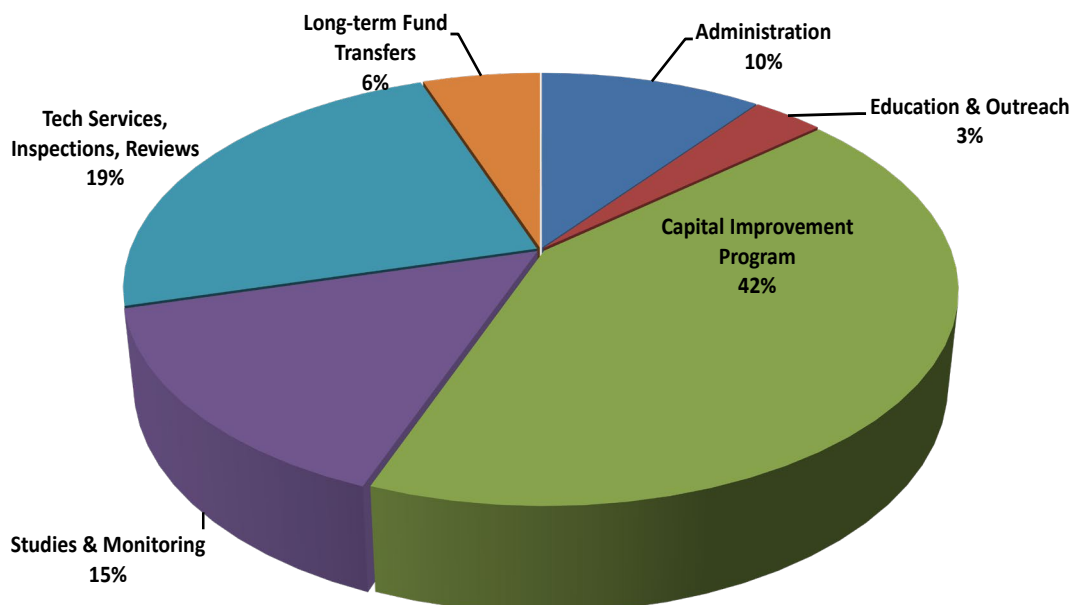
The project will be partially paid with a Minnesota Clean Water Fund grant from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. Learn about all current and past CIP projects at www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects.



Budget

In FY 2021, the BCWMC spent approximately \$665,560 on activities and programs and \$0.5 million on capital projects. BCWMC income included \$554,900 from member cities, \$297,570 in grants and reimbursements, and \$61,000 in development review fees. Another \$1.475 million was collected through a Hennepin County tax levy on watershed residents for the capital projects. For an itemization or more information on the BCWMC's 2021 expenditures, see the 2021 Operating Budget in Appendix A or the financial audit online.

2021 BCWMC Expenses



2021 Highlights

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) is governed by a board composed of representatives from each of the nine member cities: Crystal Golden Valley Medicine Lake Minneapolis Minnetonka New Hope Plymouth St. Louis Park and Robbinsdale. Representatives are appointed by their cities and serve three-year terms.

Progress on Capital Projects:

As with most major endeavors, careful planning and design are critical. Design of several projects took center stage in 2021, gearing up for construction to begin in 2022. Two large projects in Golden Valley – the SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Storage Project and Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Project were in the design phase, which included considerable public input and engagement. Similarly, design began on the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project in Theodore Wirth Park. All three projects will receive grant funding from the State of Minnesota and all are slated for construction beginning in late 2022.

Monitoring: In 2021, the BCWMC continued to assess its lakes and streams through a robust water monitoring program:

- Assessed the health of **Parkers, Westwood, and Crane Lakes** by collecting data on water quality, plankton, and aquatic plants; and partnered with Three Rivers Park District on monitoring in **Medicine Lake**.
- Completed the second year of a 2-year monitoring project on the **Sweeney Branch of Bassett Creek** including collecting data on flow, water quality, habitat, and macroinvertebrates
- Performed continuous stream flow and water quality monitoring on **Bassett Creek at the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program** station in partnership with the Met Council, and
- Coordinated **volunteers on eight lakes** to collect water samples and data through the Met Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program.



Education & Outreach: Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the BCWMC continued engaging and educating watershed residents through various avenues including:

- Began coordinating the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative, a collaborative group of watersheds and cities across the county that pooled grant funding to collectively address over salting.
- Drafted and submitted **seven articles** to the local newspaper, Sun Post, for an educational column on topics like reducing pollinator-friendly practices, climate impacts, planting rain gardens, and honoring Native American heritage.
- Created and posted five short videos on various topics similar to the columns for the Sun Post; view all the videos on the BCWMC You Tube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKrsWkEW8DI5FZbI93Fb_hg
- Continued a partnership with Metro Blooms on the **Harrison Neighborhood Project** to engage residents and businesses, train youth, and install water quality practices.
- Continued **financial support** of West Metro Water Alliance, Metro Watershed Partners, and Children's Water Festival.