



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners
 From: Administrator Jester
 Date: March 13, 2024

RE: Update on Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project

Background:

The [Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project](#) involves multiple partners including the BCWMC, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD), and the cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale. The project is located within [Sochacki Park](#) and South Halifax Park (Figure 1) and aims to improve water quality within MnDNR public waters wetlands (Grimes Pond, South Rice Pond, and North Rice Pond) and Bassett Creek by reducing chronic erosion and sedimentation, improving aquatic vegetation, enhancing buffers and wildlife habitat, and improving recreation and educational opportunities. The park is operated by TRPD in cooperation with Robbinsdale and Golden Valley through the Sochacki Park Joint Powers Agreement Board (JPB).

Due to an accelerated timeline for the project, at their meeting in April 2023, the Commission approved a [memorandum of understanding](#) among the project partners to provide clarity related to procedural requirements for the Commission’s involvement in the project, including timelines and expectations, and to establish a general roadmap for the various steps necessary for project development and implementation.

Table 7-1 Summary of Potential Improvement Benefits and Planning Level Costs by Option

The Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project Feasibility Study (which was based on a 2022 subwatershed assessment) was completed and approved by the Commission in September 2023 and lists several structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs) (see Table 7-1 from the feasibility study). After approval of the feasibility study and after a public hearing, the project was officially ordered by the Commission at the same meeting in September 2023.

BMP ID/Location	Annual TP Removal (lbs/yr)	Planning Level Capital Cost Estimate	Annualized Cost-Benefit (\$/lb TP Removed/yr)	Recommended Sequence for Implementation
Revegetate/control upland soil erosion	NA	\$10,000	NA	1a
Street sweeping in untreated subwatersheds	NA	NA	NA	1b
Clear inlet/outlet debris, remove sediment deltas and stabilize erosion	NA	\$100,000	NA	1c
Conduct pond water level drawdowns	NA	\$182,000	NA	1d
Dredge/expand existing SR-4 pond and stabilize outlet channel	38.9	\$471,000	\$1,000	2a
Construct permeable filtration system at GR-6	15.5	\$333,000	\$1,800	2b
Construct stormwater pond at NR-1	3.6	\$255,000	\$5,900	2c
Construct stormwater pond at SR-3	3.3	\$307,000	\$7,700	2d
Alum treatment of Grimes, North and South Rice Ponds	11.2	\$245,000	\$1,800	3
Total	72.5	\$1,903,000	\$2,200	

Cooperative Agreement:

The next step in the process is executing a cooperative agreement among project partners. Staff intends to bring an agreement to the April meeting for the Commission's consideration. Project partners intend for the agreement to be between BCWMC, TRPD, and the city of Robbinsdale. Golden Valley would not be party to the agreement. Although Golden Valley will continue to be involved as a partner, construction of BMPs is limited to land in Robbinsdale and long-term maintenance of the BMPs will be the responsibility of the city of Robbinsdale and/or the Sochacki JPB. TRPD is well positioned and ready to lead the project implementation.

The agreement would be drafted by the Commission Attorney. We anticipate the agreement will include the following provisions and would be very similar to cooperative agreements for other BCWMC CIP projects.

- Authorize TRPD to design and construct the project
- Require that the Commission to approve 50% and 90% design plans before construction can begin
- Require appropriate construction contract administration including development of bidding materials and awarding of contracts
- Requirements to follow all applicable laws and secure all necessary permits
- Requirements to perform all necessary environmental reviews and site investigations
- Require that ongoing maintenance of the BMPs in the park be coordinated and ensured through the Sochacki JPB
- Require that ongoing maintenance of BMPs in South Halifax Park be performed by the City of Robbinsdale
- Reimbursement of (not to exceed) \$600,000 of BCWMC CIP funds with appropriate documentation
- Require submittal of a final project report before final reimbursement

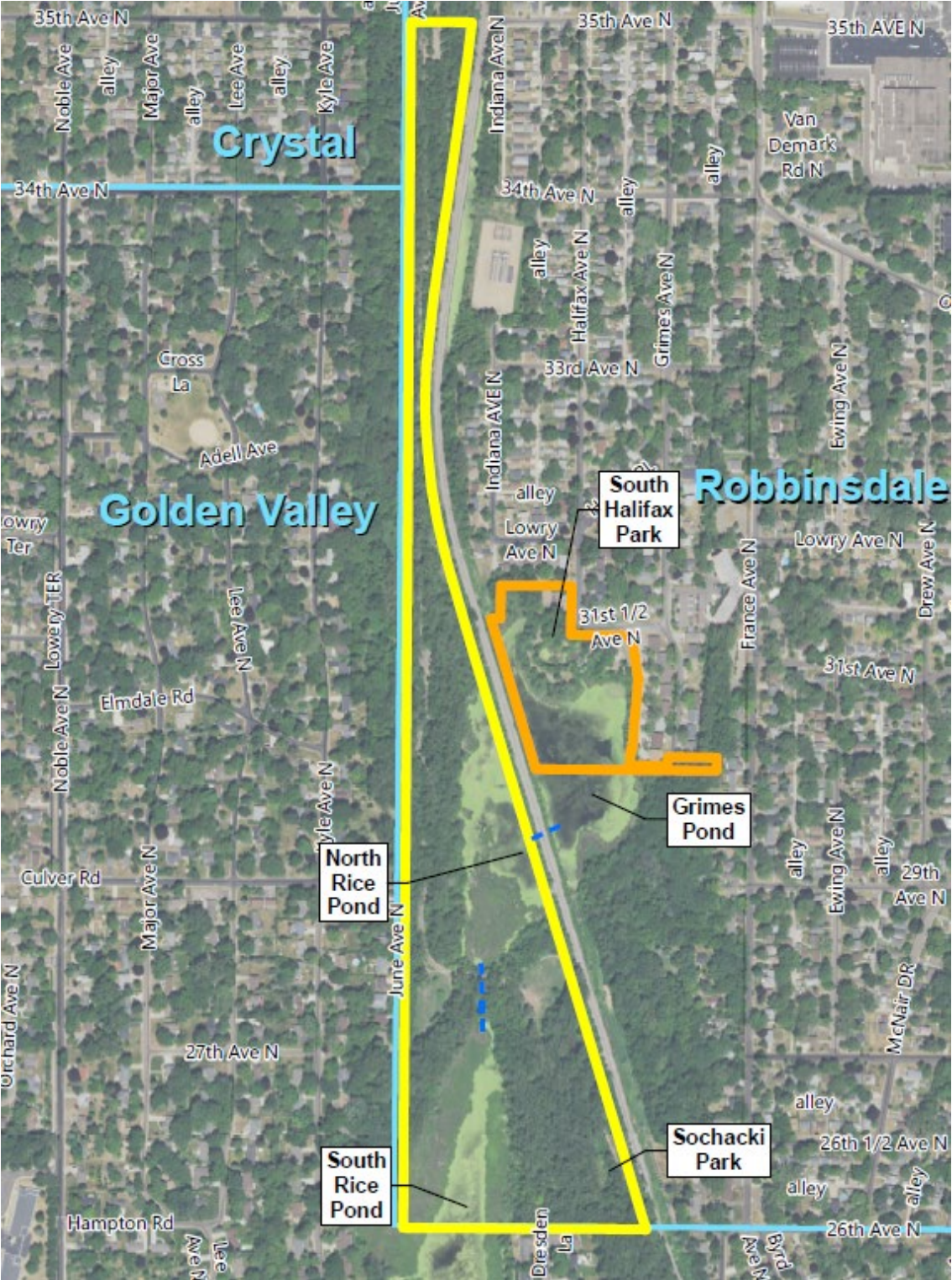
Project Design Scope and Funding:

Project partners recently requested a scope and budget for the design of the project from the Commission Engineer (Attachment A). Although design of the project wouldn't get underway until after the cooperative agreement is in place, and would be directed by TRPD, the design scope was requested now because partners considered that there may be a need to break up the project into multiple pieces due to funding availability, which would impact the scope and provisions of the agreement.

However, TRPD recently received the wonderful news that [\\$1.6M in federal congressional funding](#) (known as Community Project Funding) was awarded to this project through Representative Omar's office (passed by both chambers of congress (!) and signed into law by President Biden). Some of this funding will be used for investments in the park facilities aside from the water quality improvement project. However, it's safe to say that combined with the \$600,000 in BCWMC CIP funding, this project can proceed in its entirety.

Staff are happy to answer questions or discuss concerns.

Figure 1. Sochacki Park (yellow) and South Halifax Park (orange)



ATTACHMENT A

Memorandum

To: Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project Partners (BCWMC, TRPD, City of Robbinsdale and City of Golden Valley)
From: Karen Chandler, PE, and Greg Wilson, PE
Subject: Draft Scope and Budget for Design and Construction of Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BCWMC CIP Project BC-14)
Date: March 14, 2024

At their March 16, 2023, meeting, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) approved adding the Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-14) to their 5-year CIP for construction in 2024 – 2025, with \$600,000 of funding budgeted for the project. The proposed project improvements are located in Sochacki Park, which lies in the cities of Robbinsdale and Golden Valley, and in a Robbinsdale city park. The project would provide stormwater treatment, while improving water quality and habitat in Grimes, North Rice, and South Rice Ponds, as well as the downstream biotic integrity and water quality of Bassett Creek. Grimes, North Rice, and South Rice Ponds are classified as public water wetlands by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR). In general, this scope of work includes developing the Phase II environmental site and geotechnical assessments, developing design plans and specifications for the four proposed structural BMPs (Pond NR-1, Pond SR-3, BMP GR-6, and Pond SR-4, including stabilizing the outlet channel to South Rice Pond) and the proposed controlled water level drawdowns in Grimes Pond, North Rice Pond, and South Rice Pond, updating cost estimates, addressing permitting requirements, providing bidding assistance, and providing construction administration. Figure 1 in the Administrator's preceding memo shows the ponds and park boundaries, and Figure A-1 shows the structural BMP locations.

The following sections provide our draft scope of services, schedule, and estimated budget, based on our project understanding and our knowledge and experience working with TRPD and BCWMC. It is anticipated that TRPD would contract with Barr Engineering to provide these services after execution of the cooperative agreement for project implementation.

Scope of Services

1. Project Coordination and Project Meetings

Our scope includes one project kick-off meeting and other coordination meetings (as needed) with TRPD, BCWMC, Robbinsdale, and Golden Valley staff. As a part of project coordination, we will prepare monthly progress summaries, identify permits and requirements of governmental authorities having jurisdiction to approve the design and permitting.

- a) Project kick-off meeting with TRPD, BCWMC, Robbinsdale, and Golden Valley staff; and preparation of meeting notes.
- b) Project meeting with TRPD, BCWMC, Robbinsdale, and Golden Valley staff; and preparation of meeting notes. This meeting would take place after 50% draft plans are developed. Barr staff will compile and provide 50% BMP design drawings and other available information related to the project to the project partners prior to this meeting.

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Date: March 14, 2024
Page: 2

- c) Stakeholder/public engagement meeting. This meeting would likely take place at about 50% design, but before BCWMC Meeting #1. We envision a public open house.
- d) BCWMC Meeting #1: Commission meeting to present 50% design plans including memo
- e) TRPD public hearing for temporary pond drawdowns (exact timing not yet known)
- f) TRPD Board meeting – TRPD staff to provide informational update at Board meeting regarding 90% design plans
- g) BCWMC Meeting #2: Commission meeting to present 90% design plans including memo
- h) Other virtual coordination meetings, as needed

Meetings related to bidding and construction are incorporated under other tasks.

2. Field Investigations

- a) Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) – Based on the previous sediment sampling performed as part of the feasibility study and the recognized environmental conditions (RECs) identified in the Phase I environmental site assessment (ESA), the Phase II investigation will focus on areas of subsurface disturbance to accommodate best management practice (BMP) improvements. Recommended activities within the feasibility study involving subsurface disturbance include removing debris and sediment from two areas associated with the South Rice Pond proposed BMPs (SR-3 and SR-4) and one area associated with the proposed North Rice Pond BMP (NR-1).
 - i. Perform project coordination – develop a project-specific work plan and site safety plan; subcontract with a test excavation subcontractor and schedule an on-site utility meeting; coordinate equipment and staff for the field investigation; communications with TRPD and MPCA staff; and general project administration.
 - ii. Conduct fieldwork consisting of soil and sediment sampling – advance up to six test pits using a small excavator within upland portions of each BMP to depths up to 8 feet below grade (up to 18 test pits); collect one soil sample from each test pit for chemical analysis (volatile organic compounds (VOCs), gasoline-range organics (GRO), diesel-range organics (DRO), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), organochlorine pesticides, poly-chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 8 metals), percent moisture, and two samples to be reserved for Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) single metal and leachate analysis pending RCRA 8 metal analysis.
 - iii. Prepare a Phase II investigation summary report – develop a summary of the field investigation, summarize, and discuss the laboratory analytical results, and prepare recommendations for further actions, if necessary.
 - iv. Coordinate with MPCA regarding restrictive covenant on BMP GR-6 – communications with MPCA staff and stakeholders, enroll in the MPCA Brownfield’s program to seek

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Date: March 14, 2024
Page: 3

regulatory assurances, and prepare an investigation workplan for MPCA approval (including collection of up to three soil borings using a hand auger from within the proposed stormwater line to approximately 5 feet below the ground surface with one soil sample from each boring used for analysis of DRO, PAHs, RCRA 8 Metals, and PCBs); and prepare separate proposal for the BMP GR-6 investigation workplan implementation (if additional sampling is required).

- b) Geotechnical investigations – perform a geotechnical investigation within the Pond NR-1 and Pond SR-3 proposed project areas, specifically in locations with pond embankments and where we anticipate incorporating an outlet control structure. This will help us understand the geotechnical limitations and develop more thorough design alternative(s). The geotechnical investigations will include SPT soil borings using a hollow stem auger and standard penetration test sampling and classifying soil type every 1-foot to a total depth of 12 feet. Any groundwater or debris-laden or contaminated soil encountered will be documented.

3. Design Plans and Specifications

We will build upon the Sochacki Park feasibility study concept designs for each BMP (NR-1, SR-3, GR-6, SR-4, including stabilizing the outlet channel to South Rice Pond) and temporary pond drawdowns to develop the project design. With new information generated from the field investigations performed for this project, Barr will prepare documents to be used for bidding and construction.

- a) 50% plans, and memo and presentation for BCWMC meeting.
- b) 90% plans, and memo and presentation for BCWMC meeting.
- c) Final (100%) plans for bidding and construction. Anticipated drawings include:
 - i. Cover sheet
 - ii. Existing conditions, removals, and erosion control plan
 - iii. Site access & traffic control plan
 - iv. Grading plan (each BMP and SR-4 outlet channel stabilization)
 - v. Grading sections (each BMP and SR-4 outlet channel stabilization)
 - vi. Temporary pond drawdown plan
 - vii. Project details
 - viii. Restoration plan(s)
- d) Specifications. We will develop front-end documents (Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee® (EJCDC®)) format including instructions to bidders, bid form, contract (form of agreement), performance and payment bonds, general and supplementary conditions, prevailing

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Date: March 14, 2024
Page: 4

wages, etc.) and technical specifications for the 90% & 100% submittals. We will coordinate with the TRPD attorney regarding the front-end documents.

- e) Engineer's opinion of cost. We will prepare an engineer's opinion of probable construction costs for the 50%, 90% & final submittals, including consideration of operation and maintenance costs. We will report the opinion of costs in a unit price format.
- f) Water quality modeling updates. The scope includes additional refinements to the water quality modeling as the design components are finalized and incorporation of the constructed improvements into the model after completion of the project. We will incorporate the modeling results into the 50% & 90% design submittal memos.

4. Permitting

Based on the concepts developed and the agency meetings that were held during the feasibility study, below is a list of anticipated environmental review and permits/approvals required for construction. It is assumed that an EAW will not be required for this project. We assume we will hold one virtual meeting with MnDNR regarding permitting requirements. Except as noted below, we will assist the TRPD in obtaining these permits/approvals.

- a) Public Waters Permit from MnDNR (for temporary pond drawdowns, BMP GR-6, and possibly SR-3 and SR-4 outlet channel)
- b) Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- c) Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the MPCA
- d) Construction Stormwater General Permit from the MPCA (responsibility of the contractor)
- e) Compliance with the MPCA's guidance for managing dredged material (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/dredged-materials-management>)
- f) Compliance with the MPCA's guidance for managing contaminated material and debris containing fill (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/c-rem2-02.pdf>)
- g) Compliance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act
- h) City of Robbinsdale Stormwater Permit (responsibility of the contractor, no fee)

5. Bidding and Construction Administration

The scope includes the following bidding services:

- a) Prepare bidding documents and issue addenda (if necessary)
- b) Hold a pre-bid meeting
- c) Post the bid via QuestCDN online bidding and administer the bidding process, including responding to questions from bidders and preparing any required addenda

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 Date: March 14, 2024
 Page: 5

- d) Prepare bid tabulation, review bids and assist the TRPD with selection of Contractor, including attending TRPD Board meeting to review bids and select Contractor.

The scope includes the following construction services:

- a) Hold a pre-construction meeting.
- b) Construction observation.
- c) Construction administration.
- d) Record drawings.
- e) Environmental observation.

Schedule

We developed the following estimated schedule for the project assuming we receive a signed work order and/or notice to proceed by April 19, 2024. The schedule accounts for requirements in the Memorandum of Understanding between the TRPD and the BCWMC. *The meeting schedule may be revised based on the timing of deliverables and meeting schedules*

Task	Description	Estimated Schedule
1	Project Coordination and Project Meetings - Project kick-off meeting - Project meeting at 50% design - Public engagement meeting/open house - Present 50% design plans at BCWMC meeting - TRPD public hearing for temporary pond drawdowns (exact timing not yet known) - Informational update at TRPD Board meeting (exact timing not yet known) - assumes TRPD staff attend, Barr assists in preparing update - Present 90% design plans at BCWMC meeting	May 2024 – Project Completion - May 2024 - August 2024 - September 2024 - October 17, 2024 - November 2024? - December 19, 2024? - January 16, 2025
2	Field Investigations	April 2024 – August 2024
3a	50% Design Plans and Specifications	July 2024 – October 2024
3b	90% Design Plans and Specifications	October 2024 – January 2025

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 Date: March 14, 2024
 Page: 6

4	Permitting	August 2024 – February 2025
5	Bidding and Construction Administration	February 2025 – October 2025

Estimated Budget

We developed an estimated budget, based on our experience and judgement and the available information. *The budget amounts may change based on additional input from the project partners.*

Task	Task Description	Estimated Budget
1	Project Coordination/Meetings	\$40,000
2	Field Investigations	\$120,000
3	Design Plans and Specifications	\$170,000
4	Permitting	\$40,000
5	Bidding and Construction Administration	\$130,000
	Total	\$500,000

Figure A-1 Proposed Structural BMP Locations

