

Bassett Creek Water Management Water and Land Acknowledgement Statement
(03/24/24Draft)

We acknowledge that the waterways of the Hâhâ Wakpadaŋ, located in Mnisota Makoçe, the homeland of the Dakota peoples, are living waters which are part of a larger living ecosystem.

Historically, the Hâhâ Wakpadaŋ provided material, nutritional, and spiritual sustenance to the Dakota peoples. We acknowledge the forced removal of the Dakota from the lands and waterways that nurtured them as relatives and recognize the environmental degradation that continues in the watershed today.

The living waters of Hâhâ Wakpadaŋ remains significant to the Dakota and other Native peoples, including many who presently live in the watershed. The Bassett Creek Water Management Commission (BCWMC) seeks to identify and integrate Native wisdom by collaborating with Indigenous peoples and communities to reduce the impacts of climate change and improve the ecosystem health for all living beings in the watershed.

Acknowledging the complex past and present traumas and triumphs is a step toward healing for the land, watershed and peoples who live in the watershed today.