

# Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission



## 2023 Annual Report

Crystal • Golden Valley • Medicine Lake • Minneapolis  
Minnetonka • New Hope • Plymouth • Robbinsdale • St. Louis Park



April 2024

# Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission 2023 Annual Report

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Cover photo: Great blue heron surrounded by pickerel weed in wetland adjacent to Wirth Lake.  
Credit: Laura Jester -

# Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Executive Summary: 2023 Annual Report



## 2023 Activities & Achievements

In 2023, the BCWMC continued its work toward fulfilling its mission:  
*Stewardship of Water Resources to Protect and Enhance Our Communities.*

### Flood Control & Water Quality Improvements for DeCola Ponds and Bassett Creek

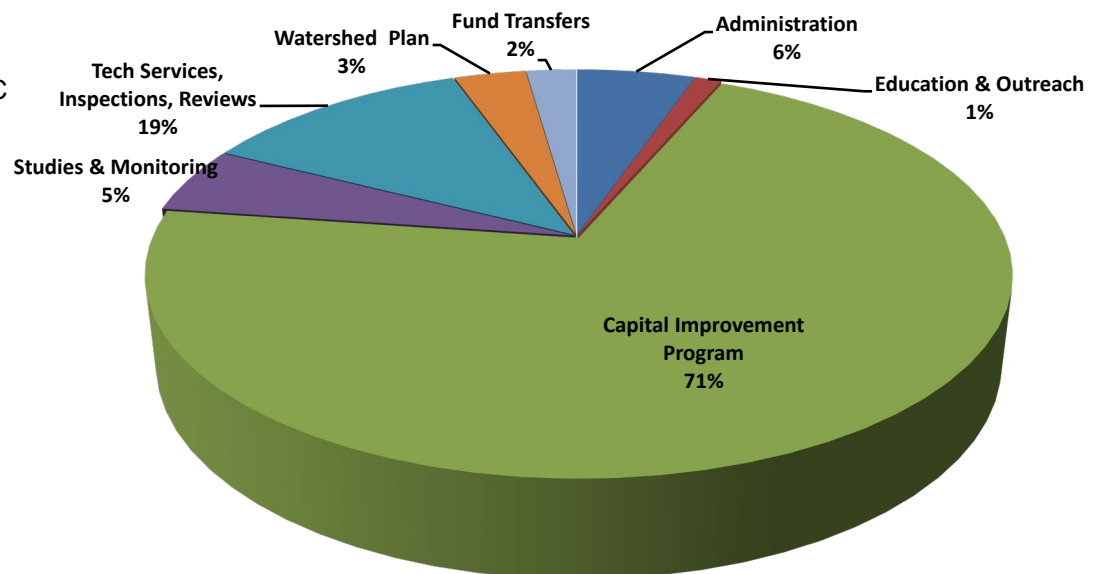
Each year, the BCWMC implements one or more major capital improvement program (CIP) projects to protect or improve water resources. In 2023, the [SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project](#) was constructed in Golden Valley. This project is working in conjunction with previously constructed projects around the DeCola Ponds to help lower flood elevations and improve water quality downstream in Bassett Creek. The project reduces the flood risk around DeCola Ponds D, E, and F by creating additional flood storage thereby removing 13 homes on DeCola Ponds D, E, and F from the 100-year flood level. Additional benefits of the project include water quality improvements and creation of 2.3 acres of wetland and prairie habitats. An intermittent stream (see photo) was built to convey flows during rain events and to add interesting aesthetics. The project also provides outdoor education opportunities for the adjacent School of Engineering and Arts and improves habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Vegetation around the site for planted and seeded in fall 2023 and will become established in 2024. Project funding came from the BCWMC CIP fund, a DNR grant to the City of Golden Valley, and city funding.



### Budget

In FY 2023, the BCWMC spent approximately \$783,300 on activities and programs and \$1.9 million on capital projects. BCWMC income included \$617,430 from member cities, about \$18,000 in grants and reimbursements, and over \$79,000 in development review fees. Another \$2.2 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 2023 expenditures, see the 2023 Operating Budget in Appendix A or the financial audit online.

2023 BCWMC Expenses





## 2023 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.*

### Watershed Plan Development and Public Open House

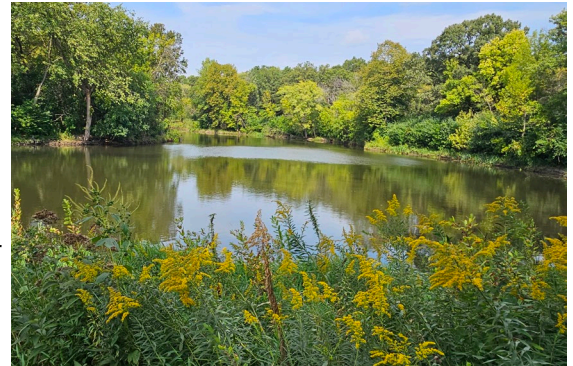
Throughout 2023, the BCWMC continued to develop its next 10-year watershed management plan. In February, the Commission held a public open house with 56 people attending including 34 residents and other stakeholders. The Commission approved a list of [prioritized issues](#) in August and began developing desired future conditions and 10-year goals to address each issue. Plan development will continue throughout 2024. All planning documents are available online at [www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update).

### Construction Wraps Up in Bryn Mawr Meadows Park & Lagoon Dredging in Theodore Wirth Park

In 2023, construction was completed on the [Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project](#) in Minneapolis. The project was built in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board and the City of Minneapolis in conjunction with the Park Board's redevelopment of the park. The BCWMC project includes diverting runoff from a 45-acre residential area to the west into new stormwater ponds within the park for a total phosphorus reduction of 30 pounds per year. A Clean Water Fund grant partially funded the BCWMC project.



Also in 2023, the BCWMC completed the [Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project](#) in Theodore Wirth Park. The project removed 25,650 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from three lagoons that are part of the creek. The lagoons were built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps and have been accumulating sediment over the past 90 years. Although the project was designed to remove even more sediment, the resulting pollution control is still impressive with 390 pounds



of total phosphorus per year being removed from the creek and downstream resources like the Mississippi River. A Clean Water Fund grant from the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources and a Hennepin Co. Opportunity Grant partially funded this project.

### Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project Highlights the Issue of Over Salting

The overuse of winter deicers is a well-documented problem across the Metro area. Chloride (salt) has harmful impacts on infrastructure, vegetation, soils, and of course, water. It only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute 5-gallons of water such that it can no longer support freshwater aquatic life. And that pollution is essentially permanent as there is no easy or affordable way to remove chloride from water. As a test to that claim of permanency, the BCWMC [studied mechanisms](#) to remove chloride from Parkers Lake in the city of Plymouth. Parkers Lake is considered impaired due to high chloride concentrations (meaning the lake does not meet State water quality standards).

The study focused on the viability of pumping chloride-laden water from the bottom of the lake and using ion exchange or reverse osmosis to remove chloride ions before returning the cleaned water back to the lake. While its feasible to remove chloride, the high capital and operation cost, intense maintenance needs, and large scale of the operation makes it infeasible for a lake. However, the BCWMC may explore these mechanisms for treating water in stormwater ponds before they discharge to a downstream waterbody.

# I. Annual Activity Report

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This annual report covers the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission’s (BCWMC) activities for fiscal year 2023 (February 1, 2023—January 31, 2024). The BCWMC Annual Report was prepared to meet the Annual Reporting Requirements as set forth in Minn. Rules Chapter 8410.0150, subparts 1, 2, & 3.

## A. 2023 Commissioners

<b>Municipality / Term Expiration</b>	<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Alternates</b>
<b>Crystal</b> February 1, 2024	Dave Anderson	Joan Hauer
<b>Golden Valley</b> February 1, 2024	Stacy Harwell (Feb 1 – Mar 16) Paula Pentel (starting Mar 21)	Paula Pentel (Feb 1 – Mar 20) Roxanne Gould (starting Oct 3)
<b>Medicine Lake</b> February 1, 2024	Clint Carlson	Shaun Kennedy
<b>Minneapolis</b> February 1, 2025	Michael Welch, Vice Chair	Jodi Polzin
<b>Minnetonka</b> February 1, 2025	Maryna Chowhan	Stacy Harwell (starting June 26)
<b>New Hope</b> February 1, 2025	Jere Gwin Lenth	Jen Leonardson
<b>Plymouth</b> February 1, 2023	Catherine Cesnik, Chair	Monika Vadali
<b>Robbinsdale</b> February 1, 2023	Wayne Sicora, Secretary/Treasurer	Bob Stamos (starting Feb 21)
<b>St. Louis Park</b> February 1, 2023	RJ Twiford (starting Apr 17)	Angela Lawrence (Feb 1 - Mar 22) David Johnston (starting Nov 20)

## B. BCWMC Staff and Consultants

### Administrator

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## C. Mission Statement, Minnesota Watersheds Membership, Watershed Management Plan, Goals

The mission statement of the BCWMC is *the stewardship of water resources to protect and enhance our communities.*

In 2019, the BCWMC became a member of the Minnesota Watersheds and continued their participation in 2023. Commissioners Twifold and Welch, and Alternate Commissioners Hauer and Kennedy attended the 2023 Minnesota Watersheds Annual Meeting where Alternate Commissioner Kennedy was elected to the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors. Administrator Jester co-coordinates the Metro Watershed Region quarterly meetings and in July was elected to the Executive Committee of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators.

The [2015 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan](#) (Plan) was adopted in September 2015. The annual implementation program (Table 5-4 in Plan), Capital Improvement Program (Table 5-3 in Plan), monitoring program (Appendix A in Plan), and education and outreach program (Appendix B in Plan) are being implemented and progress is being documented and evaluated.

The BCWMC's goals, as stated in its *2015 Watershed Management Plan*, fall under the categories of water quality, flood control, erosion and sediment control, stream restoration, wetland management, groundwater, public ditches, and public involvement and information. The list of nineteen goals can be found in Section 4 of the Watershed Management Plan.

Minor amendments to the Plan were adopted in 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2023 to revise requirements for development or redevelopment of linear projects and to update the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (Table 5-3 in Plan). The watershed management plan and explanations of all amendments are kept updated online at: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/wmp-plans>.

## D. 2023 Activities

The BCWMC implemented the following projects and programs in 2023. Work associated with review of development proposals is listed in Section E. Work related to water monitoring is found in Section F.

### 1. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The BCWMC continued to implement its capital improvement program. The complete 10-year CIP can be found in Table 5-3 in Section 5.0 of the 2015 Watershed Management Plan. Information, photos, related documents (including final reports of completed projects), and progress on projects can be found at: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects>. In 2023, progress on CIP projects included:

- FEASIBILITY STUDIES COMPLETED: Feasibility studies for the [Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration Project](#) in Plymouth and [Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project](#) in the cities of Robbinsdale and Golden Valley were completed in 2023.
- CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED: The BCWMC completed the [Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project](#) in Theodore Wirth Park. The project removed 25,650 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from three lagoons that are part of the creek. Although the project was designed to remove even more sediment, the resulting pollution control is still impressive with 390 pounds of total phosphorus per year being removed from the creek and downstream resources like the Mississippi River. A Clean Water Fund grant from the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources and a Hennepin Co. Opportunity Grant partially funded this project.
- PARKERS LAKE CHLORIDE REDUCTION PROJECT COMPLETED: The BCWMC [studied mechanisms](#) to remove chloride from the hypolimnion of Parkers Lake in the city of Plymouth. Parkers Lake is impaired due to high chloride concentrations. The project studied the viability of pumping chloride-laden water from the bottom of the lake and using ion exchange or reverse osmosis to remove chloride ions before returning the cleaned water back to the lake. While it's feasible to remove chloride, the high capital and operation cost, intense maintenance needs, and large scale of the operation makes it infeasible for a lake. However, the BCWMC may explore these mechanisms for treating water in stormwater ponds before they discharge to a downstream waterbody.
- CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED: Construction was completed on the [Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Project](#) in Minneapolis. The project was built in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board and the City of Minneapolis in conjunction with the Park Board's redevelopment of the park. The BCWMC project includes diverting runoff from a 45-acre residential area to the west into

new stormwater ponds within the park for a total phosphorus reduction of 30 pounds per year. A Clean Water Fund grant partially funded the BCWMC project.

- CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED: Construction of the [Medley Park Stormwater Facility Project](#) in Golden Valley was completed over the summer and vegetation establishment began in the fall. This project is partially funded by the Clean Water Fund Grant.
- CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED: Construction of the [SEA School-Wildwood Flood Reduction Project](#) in Golden Valley was completed in the fall and vegetation establishment got underway. This project works in conjunction with previously constructed projects around the DeCola Ponds to lower flood elevations and improve water quality downstream in Bassett Creek. The project reduces the flood risk around DeCola Ponds D, E, and F by creating an additional 8.5 acre-feet of flood storage thereby removing 13 homes on DeCola Ponds D, E, and F from the 100-year flood level. Additional benefits of the project include water quality improvements and creation of 2.3 acres of wetland and prairie habitats. Project funding came from the BCWMC CIP fund, a DNR grant to the City of Golden Valley, and city funding.
- FEASIBILITY STUDY UNDERWAY: A feasibility study for the Plymouth Creek Restoration Project: Dunkirk Lane to 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. North Project got underway in late summer with field and desktop surveys. A final report is expect spring 2024.

## 2. Grant Administration

- Submitted interim reports for Clean Water Fund grant for Medley Park Stormwater Improvement Project.
- Submitted final report for Federal 319 grant through MPCA for Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project.
- Submitted final reports for Lawns to Legumes Neighborhood Demonstration grant projects implemented through Metro Blooms.
- Submitted interim and final reports for Clean Water Fund grant for Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project.
- Submitted interim and final reports for Metro Watershed Based Implementation Funding for Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project.

## 3. Citizen Participation

The BCWMC encourages citizen participation, including providing an opportunity at each monthly BCWMC meeting for the Commission to hear citizen-input about agenda and non-agenda items. The BCWMC posts its meeting calendar, upcoming meeting agendas, meeting materials, and previous meeting minutes on its website ([www.bassettcreekwmo.org](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org)) to provide citizens an opportunity to attend BCWMC and BCWMC Committee meetings and to monitor BCWMC actions.



#### **4. Annual Report, Website and Social Media**

The BCWMC prepared the 2022 Annual Report as set forth in the Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410.0150. The report was submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and is available online at the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission website at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/annual-report-budget>.

The BCWMC regularly maintained and updated its website which features easily accessed data and information on the priority lakes and streams and BCWMC Capital Improvement Projects, along with a meeting and event calendar, interactive maps, and a document library. The BCWMC contracts with HDR, Inc. to host the website and provide technical assistance, as needed. (Appendix C includes website analytics.)

#### **5. Bassett Creek Valley (BCV)**

In 2019, the BCWMC and the City of Minneapolis collaborated on the Bassett Creek Valley Floodplain and Stormwater Management Study to assess the potential for developing a regional approach to stormwater and floodplain management. In 2023, in collaboration with Hennepin County BCWMC convened a broad group of stakeholders to learn about the potential for significant improvements in the BCV and options for moving forward collaboratively. It was acknowledged that Hennepin County could lead a Community Works Program in the BCV to convene partners and develop plans for improved floodplain and stormwater management, climate resiliency, access to the creek, and community amenities. In October, the Commission submitted a letter of support to the county regarding development of a Community Works Program for this purpose.

#### **6. Water Quantity**

The BCWMC continued its lake- and stream-gauging program. The lake-gauging program consisted of collecting lake-level readings at Medicine Lake, Sweeney Lake, Parkers Lake, Westwood Lake, Crane Lake (Ridgedale Pond), Northwood Lake and the Theodore Wirth Park storage area (upstream of the Highway 55 control structure). Lake levels were measured once per month.

The stream-gauging program consisted of periodically surveying stages or inspecting the creek during periods of high flow. The BCWMC also participated with the Metropolitan Council on the watershed outlet monitoring program (WOMP) designed to continuously monitor flow and water quality.

#### **7. Flood Control Project Inspections**

In October 2023, the BCWMC performed its annual Flood Control Project inspections. The conditions of the flood control features were inspected, and erosion, settlement, sedimentation, and structural issues were recorded, compiled into a report dated December 13, 2023, and reported to the Commission at its December 2023 meeting. The BCWMC distributed its findings and recommendations to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and staff at the BCWMC member cities.

The BCWMC double box culvert was inspected October 2019 and is next scheduled to be inspected during 2024. The BCWMC deep tunnel (3rd Ave. tunnel and 2nd St. tunnel) was inspected October 2020. The 3rd Ave tunnel and unsubmerged portions of 2nd St. tunnel are next scheduled to be inspected (non-NASSCO reporting) during 2025. The deep tunnel is scheduled to be dewatered and fully inspected (NASSCO reporting) during 2030.

## **8. XP-SWMM Modeling**

In 2017, the BCWMC completed their XP-SWMM Phase 2 hydrologic and hydraulic model by further dividing subwatersheds, incorporating upstream storage in ponds and wetlands, adding associated storm sewer data, using new soils data, incorporating Atlas 14 precipitation data, adjusting vertical datum's, performing flow monitoring, calibrating the model, and preparing a report. The 2015 Watershed Management Plan was updated to reflect the new floodplain elevations and a fact sheet was developed about the modeling project and updated floodplain elevations.

In 2018 the MnDNR used federal grant funds and entered an agreement with the BCWMC to update the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hydrologic and hydraulic modeling by leveraging the XP-SWMM Phase 2 model and creating the supporting GIS files for the Bassett Creek watershed. Updates to the XP-SWMM Phase 2 model were completed in early 2018 before beginning the FEMA modeling update. In October 2019, the Interagency Hydrology Review Committee approved the updated model. In January 2020, the BCWMC executed an amendment to their grant agreement and work scope with the MnDNR to perform additional work and extend the schedule. The project continued through March 2021, and included finalizing the modeling to reflect hydraulics comments received from MnDNR and the cities, developing a preliminary floodway model and summary of results (floodway modeling to be completed by the MnDNR), creating preliminary FEMA mapping deliverables including depth grid, mapping cross-sections, and inundation mapping, performing work in support of community meetings, and following up with the MnDNR and cities regarding modeled storage associated with the upland areas that are not part of the BCWMC trunk system. The MnDNR will develop the final FEMA mapping and associated deliverables.

Because the FEMA model will not be finalized for some time and only reflects watershed conditions through 2018, the Commission (at their August 19, 2021 meeting) directed the Commission Engineer to begin updating the BCWMC's XPSWMM model in 2021, starting with the FEMA model. In late 2021, the BCWMC requested that the member cities compile and provide construction plans/permit information related to significant projects implemented between 2018-2021 that are located along the BCWMC trunk system or within the watershed to be incorporated into the XP-SWMM model. Significant projects were incorporated into the model and the BCWMC adopted the 2021 updated XPSWMM model in August 2022.

In 2023, the BCWMC requested that the member cities compile and provide construction plans/permit information related to significant projects implemented between 2022-2023 that are located along the BCWMC trunk system or within the watershed to be incorporated into the BCWMC's XP-SWMM model. These have been filed for future model updates; however no changes have been made to the XP-SWMM model at this time.

## 9. Development Proposals

The following table shows the number of BCWMC development proposals reviewed for conformance to BCWMC policies (including applications submitted in previous years but reviewed during the current year). The BCWMC also reviewed multiple MnDNR appropriations/dewatering permit applications.

### Development Proposals Reviewed per Year

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
35	37	40	38	28	38	44	44	38	35

See Section E: Project Reviews.

## 10. Review and Adoption of Municipal Plans and Adjacent WMO Plans/Plan Amendments

In 2018 and 2019, the BCWMC reviewed and approved the local water management plans of all nine member cities, each by resolution and determined that each plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules, Parts 8410.0160 and 8410.0170, and that they contained the requirements for a local plan, and were consistent with the Commission’s water management plan. In January 2023, the BCWMC reviewed and commented on the 60-day draft of the 2023 – 2032 Shingle Creek West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan.

City	Date Approved	BCWMC Resolution No.
Crystal	12/20/18	18-10
Golden Valley	9/20/18	18-06
Minneapolis	11/14/18	18-09
Minnetonka	12/20/18	18-11
New Hope	11/14/18	18-07
Plymouth	11/14/18	18-08
Medicine Lake	2/21/19	19-05
Robbinsdale	2/21/19	19-04
St. Louis Park	3/21/19	19-08

## 11. Aquatic Plant Management and Aquatic Invasive Species

In 2023, the Commission continued to implement the approved [recommendations of the APM/AIS committee](#) and the [AIS Rapid Response Plan](#) by 1) partnering with Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) to control curly-leaf pondweed in Medicine Lake, 2) providing funds for augmented boat inspections by TRPD on Medicine Lake, and 3) monitoring waterbodies for AIS suitability parameters. In 2023, the AIS Rapid Response Plan was used to quickly respond to a new infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in Sweeney Lake. The BCWMC cooperated with multiple partners including the Sweeney Lake Association, MnDNR, and City of Golden Valley to survey and treat the EWM within 5-days after discovery. Eradication activities are on-going in 2024.

## 12. Technical Advisory Committee

Technical Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and the meeting times and dates are posted on the BCWMC’s website. The BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met seven times in 2023 to review and work on the items below. TAC members also regularly attend and participate in regular monthly Commission meetings.

- Develop the 2025 – 2029 Capital Improvement Program list using the CIP Prioritization matrix and hot spot map to target the best projects
- Provide input on a policy related to monitoring blue-green algae blooms
- Review options for adjusting requirements for linear projects
- Provide input on options for using investment income
- Review regional stormwater treatment plans in Plymouth
- Develop best practices and recommendations for future dredging projects

## 13. Impaired Waters, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Studies, and Medicine Lake TMDL Assessment Project

The following water bodies in the Bassett Creek Watershed are listed in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (MPCA) 2020 “*Inventory of Impaired Waters*”. The inventory includes listings of (1) impaired waters that require the development of a TMDL study, (2) impaired waters that have an approved TMDL study, but are not yet meeting water quality standards, and (3) impaired waters from natural causes that do not require a TMDL study. The inventory is available at the MPCA’s Impaired Waters website: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-303dlist.html>.

Water Body (Lake/River ID #)	Pollutant or Stressor (Year of Listing)
Bassett Creek from Medicine Lake to Mississippi River (07010206-538)	Fish bioassessments (2004) Fecal coliform (2008) Chloride (2010)
Plymouth Creek from Headwaters to Medicine Lake (07010206-526)	E. coli (2014) Chloride (2014)
North Branch Bassett Creek from Northwood Lake to Bassett Creek (07010206-552)	E. coli (2014)
Sweeney Lake (27-0035-01)	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological indicators (2004) Chloride (2014)
Wirth Lake (27-0037-00)	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological indicators (2002) – REMOVED from Impaired Waters List (2014) Mercury in fish tissue (1998) <sup>1</sup>



Water Body (Lake/River ID #)	Pollutant or Stressor (Year of Listing)
	Chloride (2016)
Medicine Lake (27-0104-00)	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological indicators (2004) Mercury in fish tissue (1998) <sup>1</sup>
Parkers Lake (27-0107-00)	Mercury in fish tissue (1998) <sup>1</sup> Chloride (2014)
Spring Lake (27-0654-00)	Chloride (2014)
Northwood Lake (27-0627-00)	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological indicators (2004)

<sup>1</sup> The MPCA completed a statewide mercury TMDL that was approved 2007

- Bassett Creek Fish Bioassessment Listing**—In the Final EPA-Approved MPCA 2004 CWA 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, the Main Stem of Bassett Creek, from Medicine Lake to the Mississippi River, was listed as impaired for fish (biota). In response to this listing, the MPCA completed fish sampling of the creek in 2008. The MPCA is currently reviewing the existing biota standards/listing criteria. The TMDL will be completed as part of the future watershed-wide TMDL.
- Bassett Creek Fecal Coliform Listing and E. coli listings for Plymouth Creek and North Branch, Bassett Creek** —In the 2008 Final TMDL List Inventory of all Impaired Waters, Bassett Creek, from Medicine Lake to the Mississippi River, was listed as impaired for fecal coliform. In response to this listing, the BCWMC and the MPCA cooperated in collecting and analyzing E. coli samples of Bassett Creek between July 2008 and June 2010. The samples confirmed the presence of E. coli bacteria. The Bassett Creek watershed is included in the Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL project. Additional data for the Upper Mississippi River E. coli TMDL was collected in 2010 and 2011, and identification of the likely sources of bacteria pollution began in 2011 and continued in 2013. The TMDL report was approved in 2016 and included impairments for E. coli in Plymouth Creek and North Branch, and Bassett Creek. The Upper Mississippi River E. coli TMDL project website maintained by the MPCA is at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/upper-mississippi-river-bacteria-tmdl-project>.
- Sweeney Lake TMDL Study and Delisting of Impairment** —In the Final EPA-Approved MPCA 2004 CWA 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, Sweeney Lake was listed as impaired due to excess nutrients (phosphorus). The TMDL was approved on August 10, 2011. Since then, the BCWMC, City of Golden Valley, and lake residents implemented multiple strategies to reduce nutrients in the lake including permanently turning off year-round aerators and completing the [Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project](#). That project included control of curly-leaf pondweed, carp assessment and removal, and a two-phase alum treatment. Water quality improved significantly and the lake is slated to be removed from the impaired waters list in 2024.
- Wirth Lake TMDL Study and Delisting of Impairment** —In the Final EPA-Approved MPCA 2004 CWA 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, Wirth Lake was listed as impaired due to excess nutrients. The Wirth Lake TMDL and implementation plan were approved October 25, 2010. The implementation plan identified one project—modifying the Wirth Lake outlet structure to prevent flow from Bassett Creek to Wirth Lake during flood periods. The [Wirth Lake Outlet Modification](#)

[Project](#) was completed in 2012 with partial funding from a BWSR Clean Water Fund grant. The project reduces phosphorus loading to the lake by an estimated average of 55 pounds per year. MPCA removed Wirth Lake from the Impaired Waters list in July, 2014.

- **Medicine Lake TMDL Study and Status Assessment**—In the *Final EPA-Approved MPCA 2004 CWA 303(d) List of Impaired Waters*, Medicine Lake was listed as impaired due to excess nutrients (phosphorus). The TMDL and implementation plan were approved on February 8, 2011.

In December 2023, the BCWMC approved a [study to assess the status of the Medicine Lake TMDL](#). Results of the assessment will be used to help prioritize projects and programs in the new 10-year watershed management plan.

- **Twin Cities Metro Area (TCMA) Chloride Project**—In the *2014 Draft TMDL List Inventory of all Impaired Waters*, MPCA proposed several new impairment listings for chloride in September, 2013. Following responses to comments from BCWMC, five listings (tabulated above) remained on the 2014 Proposed Impaired Waters List (updated 4/15/2014). Based on the available monitoring data for chloride, three BCWMC water bodies—Northeast drainage to Medicine Lake, the Rockford Road drainage to Medicine Lake and Medicine Lake, were placed in a category of high-risk waters, which can be viewed as a watch list for future changes. The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride TMDL and Chloride Management Plan were approved in 2016. The TCMA Chloride Management Plan is intended to balance the public safety needs for deicing with attainment of the chronic and acute water quality standards for chloride. (The BCWMC provided comments on the draft TMDL Report and Chloride Management Plan in August 2015.) The management plan includes a performance-based approach for meeting chloride TMDLs and is also intended to protect water bodies with water quality that is currently better than the standard. A winter maintenance assessment tool was developed to support TMDL implementation efforts. The Chloride TMDL and road salt/water quality project website maintained by the MPCA is at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/road-salt-and-water-quality>.

- **TMDL Implementation Reporting** Although the BCWMC is not a MS4, the Wirth Lake, Medicine Lake, and Sweeney Lake TMDLs assigned the BCWMC a role in the implementation of the TMDLs. For example, the Medicine Lake TMDL calls for the BCWMC to serve as the “convener of action for the categorical TMDL, but not as a responsible entity.” The BCWMC’s interpretation of this role is that the BCWMC should track implementation of the TMDLs, which would likely include the following tasks:

- Assisting cities with reporting on TMDL implementation activities to the MPCA. TMDL progress reports will be due one year after the MPCA issues the new MS4 permit. However, the new MS4 permit was not issued in 2012, so the BCWMC did not develop the implementation reports. The new MS4 permit became effective on August 1, 2013, which means the TMDL progress reports will be due each year after that, in June.
- Estimating and reporting progress towards achieving the assigned wasteload allocations. The BCWMC’s watershed P8 model, originally completed in 2013 and updated semi-annually, is an essential tool for estimating reductions in phosphorus loading.
- Monitoring lake water quality on an annual basis. See Section F “Water Quality Monitoring Data and Studies” regarding monitoring of these lakes in 2023.

- Tracking implementation of projects and quantifying progress towards meeting the TMDL allocations for the MS4s in the impaired watersheds.

## E. BCWMC Project Reviews

The following table includes review of development proposals, Wetland Conservation Act submittals, and other plans that were submitted to the BCWMC for review. The list does not include review of capital improvement projects, or review of MnDNR appropriations/ dewatering permits.

Application Form	Project Name	Date Submitted	City	Type
<b>2021-36</b>	<b>Peninsula Rd Street &amp; Utility Imp.</b>	<b>1/21/2022</b>	<b>ML</b>	<b>Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal</b>
2022-21	TH 55 Frontage Rd Pedestrian Tunnel	11/28/2022	GV	Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal
2022-22	650 Ottawa Ave GV Redevelopment (Tesla Dealer)	11/30/2022	GV	Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional
2022-25	Suite Living Plymouth	1/9/2023	PLY	Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional
2022-26 <sup>2</sup>	Crystal 2023 Utility Reconstruction	2/13/2023	CRY	Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal
<b>2022-27</b>	<b>BNSF Bridge Replacement</b>	<b>3/27/2023</b>	<b>MPLS</b>	<b>Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional</b>
2023-01	Honeywell Project Halas	2/21/2023	PLY	Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional
2023-02	2023 Ply CITY CTR PAVEMNT Rehab	2/27/2023	PLY	Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal
2023-03	2023 Ply STREET Rehab	3/8/2023	PLY	Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal
<b>2023-04</b>	<b>Marsh Run II-Multifamily Apts</b>	<b>5/1/2023</b>	<b>MTKA</b>	<b>Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional</b>
<b>2023-05</b>	<b>Sunset Hill School Playground Improvement</b>	<b>3/29/2023</b>	<b>PLY</b>	<b>Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal</b>
2023-06	Artessa_Golden Valley	4/10/2023	GV	Multi-residential
<b>2023-07</b>	<b>Wagner Spray Initial Phase 3B</b>	<b>4/14/2023</b>	<b>PLY</b>	<b>Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional</b>
<b>2023-08</b>	<b>Crystal Highlands Park</b>	<b>4/20/2023</b>	<b>CRY</b>	<b>Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal</b>
2023-09	Zachary Park Improvements	4/28/2023	PLY	Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal
2023-10	GVCC Reseeding and Hole 8	4/28/2023	GV	Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal

Application Form	Project Name	Date Submitted	City	Type
2023-11	Luther Genesis Dealership	4/28/2023	GV	Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional
2023-12	Sentinel GV-Multifamily+Bank Bldg	4/28/2023	GV	Multi-residential
<b>2023-13</b>	<b>1901 Thomas Ave N Townhomes</b>	<b>6/6/2023</b>	<b>MPLS</b>	<b>Multi-residential</b>
2023-14	Hennepin Co. Fiber Optic Cable	6/30/2023	GV	Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal
2023-15	Henn Co. Sheriff Headquarters	6/26/2023	PLY	Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional
2023-16	Douglas Dr Townhomes	7/28/2023	CRY	Multi-residential
<b>2023-17</b>	<b>Abath Cemetery</b>	<b>8/1/2023</b>	<b>CRY</b>	<b>Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional</b>
<b>2023-18</b>	<b>Baldwin Supply</b>	<b>8/15/2023</b>	<b>PLY</b>	<b>Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional</b>
<b>2023-19</b>	<b>Good Shepherd Catholic Church &amp; School Modifications</b>	<b>9/1/2023</b>	<b>GV</b>	<b>Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional</b>
2023-20	18035 Old Rockford Rd, Multi-Unit Res	10/4/2023	PLY	Multi-residential
2023-21	Spire Credit Union - Plymouth	9/19/2023	PLY	Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional
2023-22	Medicine Lake Lift Station Storage Compensation (also see 2022-17; 2021-36)	10/13/2023	ML	Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal
<b>2023-23</b>	<b>Hopkins Crossroads Trail Imp</b>	<b>11/3/2023</b>	<b>MTKA</b>	<b>Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal</b>
2023-24	Honeywell International Building Improvements	11/10/2023	PLY	Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional
2023-25	GV 2024 PMP	12/19/2023	GV	Street/ Hwy/ Trails/ Utility/ Municipal
2023-26	Jet 55 Industrial	1/10/2024	PLY	Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional
<b>2023-27</b>	<b>Schaal 2023 Rip Rap</b>	<b>1/10/2024</b>	<b>PLY</b>	<b>Single-family Home</b>
2023-28	Productivity Inc. Building Addition	1/25/2024	PLY	Commercial/ Industrial/ Institutional

<sup>1</sup>Projects in **bold** were presented for review and comment at a BCWMC meeting.



## Non-Fee Project Reviews

- MnDNR review: Eleven MnDNR permit applications were reviewed.
- Preliminary review: several preliminary reviews of projects prior to submittal of a formal application were performed as directed by the BCWMC administrator and city staff.
- SP 2751-59 TH 55 Bassett Creek Crossing: MnDOT requested the BCWMC to provide preliminary comments for its scoping document for a new Bassett Creek and Highway 55 culvert crossing immediately downstream of the Highway 55 control structure in Theodore Wirth Park.

## F. Water Quality Monitoring Data and Studies

The following water quality monitoring and water quality studies were performed in 2023:

- **Citizens Assisted Lake Monitoring Program (CAMP)** — The BCWMC participated with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) in its citizen-assisted lake-monitoring program (CAMP). In 2023, citizen volunteers monitored the following lakes: Twin Lake and Sweeney Lake in Golden Valley, Northwood Lake in New Hope, two sites on Medicine Lake in Medicine Lake and Plymouth, Parkers Lake, Cavanaugh Lake, and Lost Lake in Plymouth, and Westwood Lake in St. Louis Park. Reports that include CAMP monitoring results can be found on the Met Council website at: <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management/Lake-Monitoring-Analysis.aspx?source=child>
- **Bassett Creek WOMP Station** — Stream monitoring was performed in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) as part of the stream monitoring and watershed outlet monitoring program (WOMP). The BCWMC contracts with Stantec to perform monitoring activities and Barr Engineering to take flow measurements at this station. In 2023, monitoring continued at the new location on Van White Memorial Blvd. crossing but equipment was plagued by vandalism. The station equipment will be substantially secured in 2024. Also in 2023, the BCWMC partnered with the MN Department of Agriculture (MDA) (at their request) to collect pesticide samples at the WOMP station. The BCWMC contracted with Stantec for this work and was reimbursed by the MDA. <http://www.metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management/Stream-Monitoring-Assessment.aspx?source=child>
- **BCWMC Stream Monitoring** – In 2023, the Commission completed its second of two years of monitoring on Plymouth Creek. The Commission began this stream monitoring program 2018 to more fully assess the flow and water quality in its major creeks. The Commission installed seasonally-permanent monitoring equipment on Plymouth Creek in Plymouth in 2022. Both grab and composite water samples were collected and analyzed for nutrients, solids, bacteria, chlorides, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, etc.

- **Routine Lake Monitoring**—In 2023, the BCWMC monitored the water quality of Sweeney Lake and Twin Lake in the City of Golden Valley. Water samples were collected from the deepest location in each lake on six occasions from April through September 2023 and analyzed in the laboratory for total phosphorus, soluble reactive phosphorus, total nitrogen, chlorophyll *a*, and chlorides. Dissolved oxygen, temperature, specific conductance, pH, oxidation reduction potential (ORP), Secchi disc transparency (Secchi depth), and turbidity were measured in the field. On five occasions from June through September, water samples were collected and analyzed for phytoplankton (algae) and zooplankton (microscopic crustaceans). An aquatic plant survey was also performed on two occasions, in June and August. During the August plant survey, Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered.

Reports for each lake will be available on the BCWMC website later in 2024.

- **Monitoring by Partners** – In 2023, Medicine Lake in Plymouth and Wirth Lake in Golden Valley were monitored by the City of Plymouth/Three Rivers Park District and the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board, respectively.

## G. Education, Outreach, Communications

The BCWMC utilized the following outreach mechanisms to educate and provide information to the general public:

- **Improvements and Development Requirements**—The document *Requirements for Improvements and Development Proposals*, prepared by the BCWMC (updated in 2022), is posted for use and reference on the BCWMC’s website at [www.bassettcreekwmo.org/developer](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/developer).
- **Website**— The BCWMC maintained its user-friendly website in 2023 and maintained the information including contact list, meeting calendar, meeting materials, watershed plan, data, and projects. In 2023, there were approximately 8,705 total users and 7,785 engaged. A copy of the website Usage Report from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023 (Appendix C).
- **BCWMC Meeting Packet**— Each month in 2023 the BCWMC posted all meeting materials on its website, e-mailed the link to approximately 40 parties, and mailed paper copies of materials to those requesting them.
- **Publications**—The Commission published its public hearing notices in its official publication, *Finance and Commerce* as well as other publications including the Sun Post.
- **Gathering Input for 2025 Watershed Management Plan:** In 2022 and continuing in 2023, many of the outreach activities were focused on gathering input from groups and the public to help inform

the next 10-year watershed management plan. This included a public online survey that opened in June 2022 and had 165 responses by January 2023.

Engaging with and gathering feedback from diverse and underserved communities was a focus of this work and was accomplished primarily through presentations and survey feedback at meetings and events in Minneapolis neighborhoods including Jordan Area Community Council, Harrison Neighborhood Association, and Northside Resident Redevelopment Council. In December 2022, the BCWMC approved a policy to compensate individuals with \$50 Visa gift cards for providing their time, insights, and expertise to the BCWMC through interviews or small group discussions. Despite numerous attempts to gather input and provide compensation, only one Minneapolis resident provided an interview, in September 2023.

- **Bassett Creek Watershed Public Open House and Ideas Exchange Event:** February 28, 2023  
Thirty-four members of the public and BCWMC partners attended the event along with member city staff, BCWMC staff, and BCWMC commissioners and alternates. Free childcare was provided as well. The event included educational materials on water quality and best practices, native plantings, the watershed map, AIS, and BCWMC capital projects. A complete report on the open house is found [here](#).
- **Public Open Houses for Capital Projects:** The BCWMC collaborates with member cities and other partners to inform and gather input from the public on proposed capital improvement projects. In 2023, the BCWMC held three capital project open houses.
  - Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration Project, Plymouth - February 13, 2023
  - Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project, Golden Valley – March 1, 2023
  - Sochacki Park Water Quality Project, Robbinsdale – July 26, 2023
- **Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota Campaign Roll Out:** The BCWMC was one of several watersheds and cities in Hennepin County that worked with state grant funding and developed a new outreach campaign to reduce winter deicer use. The campaign’s target audience is decision makers, like boards or committees, with homeowners associations, townhome associations, and faith based communities. A professional marketing firm created multiple outreach tools for use by watershed staff, city staff, and trained volunteers.
  - Train the Trainer Event January 30, 2023
  - Campaign Tools available at [www.rpbcwd.org/low-salt-no-salt](http://www.rpbcwd.org/low-salt-no-salt)
- **Haha Wakpadan Oral History Project:** Watershed staff and Chair Cesnik participated in several events over 2022 and 2023 including project updates and partner gatherings. This included partnering in the development of the [Haha Wakpadan pronunciation video](#).
- **Bassett Creek Watershed Tour:** October 2, 2023 – This was a caravan tour primarily for BCWMC commissioners and city staff. Tour stops included Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project (Minneapolis), Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility (Golden Valley), SEA School – Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project (Golden Valley), Bassett Creek Main Stem



Restoration Project (Golden Valley), Sochacki Park Water Quality Project (Robbinsdale and Golden Valley), Bassett Creek Lagoon Dredging Project (Golden Valley), and a demonstration of the City of Plymouth's high efficiency street sweeper. The tour handout is found [here](#).

- **AIS Signage Development:** The BCWMC partnered with Hennepin County to help develop educational signs on AIS prevention. The signs were developed specifically for fishing piers (for an audience of anglers), and canoe carry in access points. They were completed at the end of 2023 and will be fabricated and installed in collaboration with member cities.
- **Watershed Map Update:** A large, folded paper map of Bassett Creek watershed has been a useful outreach tool since its initial printing in 2015. With supplies running low, in fall 2023 the BCWMC hired a map designer and starting working with its Education Committee to redesign and update the map. A new version of the map is expected summer 2024.
- **Outreach Events:** The BCWMC staff and commissioners participated in several outreach events in 2023, engaging with residents and distributing educational material. Additionally, BCWMC outreach materials were used by city staff and volunteers at other events including National Night Out in the City of Medicine Lake and New Hope Days.
  - Discover Plymouth Event, Plymouth – April 15, 2023
  - Loppet Foundation Sustainability Fair – April 29, 2023
  - Sustainability Day at the Market, Golden Valley – July 30, 2023
  - BEAM Grand Opening, Jordan Neighborhood, Minneapolis – September 28, 2023
- **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) Membership** – The BCWMC continued its participation in WMWA along with several watershed management and other water-related organizations in the west Metro area. Through WMWA, these organizations collaborated on educational campaigns including the Watershed PREP program aimed at educating 4th grade students about water resources and the impacts of stormwater. Watershed PREP has three individual lessons meeting State education standards. **Lesson 1**, *What is a Watershed and Why do We Care?* provides an overview of the watershed concept and is specific to each school's watershed. It describes threats to the watershed. **Lesson 2**, *Water Cycle - More than 2-dimensional*, describes the movement and status of water as it travels through the water cycle. In 2023, lessons in native plants and the “watershed game” were added to the Watershed PREP program.

In 2023, students from multiple schools in the Bassett Creek watershed participated in the Watershed PREP lessons including 565 students in Lesson 1, 831 students in Lesson 2, and 713 students in Native Plantings and the Watershed Game. Additionally, in May and June, the WMWA Educator worked with Robbinsdale Middle School to clean up and replant a raingarden on the school grounds. This project included students from seventh and eighth grades as well as school and city staff.

In April 2022, WMWA members worked with the member watersheds, Hennepin County and the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources to secure Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant dollars to pilot a two-year Conservation Education and Implementation position employed by and shared jointly with Hennepin County with 50% of time spent on WMWA and Richfield-



Bloomington WMO outreach and implementation, and 50% on Hennepin County outreach. Meetings from April through December 2022 refined the vision and scope for this position.

In spring 2023, Hennepin County hired Grace Barcelow with the title Conservation Specialist. Throughout 2023 Barcelow has created work plans for WBIF funded projects through WMWA, campaigns for pet waste, chloride, and Adopt-A-Drain education, updated the WMWA website, and began implementing outreach to faith-based organizations for chloride consultations. In the Bassett Creek watershed, Barcelow will the Parker’s Lake Chloride Reduction Project.

- **Metro WaterShed Partners Membership & Adopt a Drain** —The BCWMC participated as a member of the Metro WaterShed Partners as a general supporter of the program and a financial supporter of the Metro Clean Water Minnesota Media Campaign and the Adopt a Drain Program. Metro Watershed Partners maintains a listserve and a website as forums for information sharing, holds monthly meetings for members to collaborate, and coordinates the Adopt-a-Drain program. In 2023, there were 71 new participants in the Adopt-a-Drain program totaling 100 drains and over a ton of debris collected.
- **Partnership with Metro Blooms for Projects in Minneapolis Neighborhoods** – Since 2016, the BCWMC has partnered with and supported the Metro Blooms on outreach, engagement, and project installation in Near North neighborhoods in Minneapolis. The projects aim to engage residents and commercial businesses, train youth, and install water quality practices in Minneapolis’ Near North neighborhoods. The BCWMC collaborates on grant-funded projects and offers its own financial support. These programs have resulted in engagement with dozens of Minneapolis residents and more than 14 Minneapolis commercial/institutional property owners. In 2022 and 2023, Phase II of the Lawns to Legumes grant projects resulted in construction and planting of several small native gardens and boulevard swales with total stormwater volume reduction of 1.36 acre-feet/year, reductions of 77 tons of sediment and 1.6 pounds of total phosphorus per year.

## H. Professional Services Proposal

The BCWMC solicits proposals or letters of interest for legal and engineering/technical consulting services every two years - the last time in December 2022. The BCWMC will solicit proposals again in 2024.

## I. Budget and Fiscal Policies

In 2023, the BCWMC reviewed options for use of the income realized from long investments. Funds in the Commission’s long term investment accounts are from various sources including balance from State and Federal grants used to built the Bassett Creek Tunnel and Flood Control Project and CIP funds. In December, the Commission adopted this fiscal policy: *100% of the income from BCWMC long-term investments (e.g., 4M and 4MP funds) will be categorized as “unrestricted” funds and will*

*be posted to a Special Projects Fund within the BCWMC Operating Budget (similar to the Flood Control Long Term Maintenance Fund or Channel Maintenance Fund). Use of the Special Projects Fund will require approval by the Commission prior to the expenditure. Use of the Special Projects Fund will be prioritized toward studies or planning to help target capital improvement projects or BCWMC programs (e.g., subwatershed analyses). In limited and extenuating circumstances, the Special Projects Fund may be used for other purposes (e.g., closing budget gaps in regular BCWMC programs) but only with thorough evaluation, review by the TAC, a recommendation from the Budget Committee, and approval by a majority of members at a Commission meeting.*

A discussion of the fund balance is included in the BCWMC’s annual financial audit report. A copy of the annual audit report is available on the BCWMC website at:  
<http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/annual-report-budget>.

## **J. Wetland Conservation Act**

**1991 Wetland Conservation Act**—The interim program of the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act was effective through December 31, 1993. On January 1, 1994, the permanent program of the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act became effective. Each municipality was required to designate the local government unit (LGU) responsible for administrating the interim program and the permanent program of the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act. The following table indicates the LGU for each municipality.

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Permanent Program (Effective 1/1/94)</b>
Crystal	Crystal
Golden Valley	Golden Valley
Medicine Lake	BCWMC
Minneapolis	Minneapolis
Minnetonka	Minnetonka
New Hope	New Hope
Plymouth	Plymouth
Robbinsdale	BCWMC
St. Louis Park	BCWMC

In 2023, the BCWMC submitted to BWSR its WCA annual reporting form covering all 2023 WCA-related activities within the municipalities for which BCWMC is the LGU. The other municipalities were responsible for submitting the annual reporting form to BWSR for their respective municipality.

**Wetland Mitigation Policy**—The BCWMC’s wetland management policies specify a preference for wetland mitigation to be performed within the same subwatershed as the impacted wetland.

## **K. 2025 Watershed Management Plan**

In 2022, the BCWMC began work on development of its 2025 – 2035 Watershed Management Plan. A scope and budget for the Plan’s development and the Stakeholder Outreach Plan were approved 2022. Early input was gathered from member cities and State, regional, and local agencies in the spring and early summer. Public input was gathered through an online survey, a public open house, and at various events (see Section G). A report on plan development progress through March of 2023 is found [here](#).

In 2023, the BCWMC listed the [issues in the watershed and prioritized](#) them at a workshop in August.

Also in 2023, the Plan Steering Committee (comprised of several commissioners, two TAC members, and one community member) met monthly to write desired future conditions and issue statements, develop 10-year goals, and discuss other components of the plan. The Planning Technical Advisory Committee (comprised of staff from member cities, partnering organizations, and state, regional, and local governments) met in December to review draft goals to date.

A 2025 Plan webpage is regularly updated: [www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update).

## II. 2024 Projected Work Plan

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**A. Capital Improvements Program (CIP)**—The BCWMC will continue to implement its capital improvements program. In 2024, this work will include:

1. **Capital Improvement Program and Prioritization**—The BCWMC will review and update its 5-year capital improvement program, and will utilize its process of project prioritization.
2. **Progress on CIP projects:**
  - Complete construction and/or prepare final reports on SEA School-Wildwood Flood Reduction Project and the Medley Park Stormwater Facility Project, both in Golden Valley
  - Finalize feasibility study for Plymouth Creek Restoration Project
  - Begin design and construction of Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project and Main Stem Restoration Project (Golden Valley)
3. **Grant Administration:**
  - Submit interim reports for Clean Water Fund grant for Medley Park Stormwater Improvement Project
  - Submit final report on Hennepin County AIS Prevention Grant
  - Participate in Watershed Based Implementation Funding convene process; submit funding request and prepare work plan as needed

**B. Watershed Management Plan**—In 2024 the BCWMC will continue development of its 2025 Watershed Management Plan including:

- Identifying goals and strategies
- Developing policies and updating development requirements
- Developing implementation plan
- Convening Planning TAC

### C. Monitoring, Studies, and Programs

1. **Water Quantity**—The BCWMC will perform its lake- and stream-gauging program. The lake-gauging program will encompass Medicine Lake, Sweeney Lake, Parkers Lake, Westwood Lake, Crane Lake (Ridgedale Pond), Northwood Lake, Bassett Creek Park Pond and Theodore Wirth Park Storage area upstream of the TH 55 control structure. Two readings per month will be taken during the period April 1 – September 30; one reading per month will be taken outside this period.

The stream-gauging program will consist of periodically surveying stages or inspecting the creek during periods of high flow. The program also includes periodic surveys of benchmarks.

2. **Flood Control Project Inspection**—The BCWMC will perform its annual flood control project inspection program, as set forth in the Bassett Creek Flood Control Project Operations and Maintenance Manual.
3. **Municipal Plan Review**—The BCWMC will review of the member cities’ local water management plans and plan amendments, and BCWMC review of adjacent WMO plans and plan amendments, as needed. The BCWMC will also ensure that proper official controls are in place in each member city as required by the 2015 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan.
4. **Water Quality**— Proposed water quality tasks for 2024 include:
  - **Water Quality Monitoring:** The BCWMC will perform detailed water quality monitoring as laid out in its Water Monitoring Program [http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/7914/4676/6436/Appendix\\_A\\_Monitoring\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/7914/4676/6436/Appendix_A_Monitoring_Plan.pdf) In 2024, the BCWMC will monitor Parkers, Westwood, Sunset, and Medicine Lakes. The BCWMC will also continue its intensive stream monitoring program by performing the first of two years of monitoring on North Branch Bassett Creek.
  - **Citizens Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP):** The BCWMC entered into an agreement with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) to participate in this program in 2024. Volunteer citizens will monitor the following lakes in 2024: Twin Lake and Sweeney Lake in Golden Valley, two sites of Medicine Lake in the cities of Medicine Lake and Plymouth, Northwood Lake in New Hope, Westwood Lake in St. Louis Park, and Cavanaugh (Sunset) Lake, Parkers Lake and Lost Lake in Plymouth.
  - **Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP):** The BCWMC is the local sponsor of this monitoring site in cooperation and with funding support from the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) provides up to \$5,000 per year in financial support to the BCWMC for operating the station and maintaining the rating curve. The BCWMC entered into an agreement with a Stantec to ensure the monitoring equipment is in working order, conduct routine maintenance of the WOMP site and equipment, collect samples, make in-situ field measurements, and coordinate sample delivery to MCES. BCWMC staff will continue to maintain the rating curve.
5. **Development Reviews**—The BCWMC will review development and redevelopment proposals in the watershed for conformance to water quality and quantity policies.
6. **Channel Maintenance Fund**—The BCWMC will continue to fund its Creek and Streambank Trunk System Maintenance, Repair and Sediment Removal Fund (the Channel Maintenance Fund). The BCWMC collects \$25,000 annually for the fund through an assessment paid by the member cities.
7. **Flood Control Long-Term Maintenance Fund**—The BCWMC established a long-term maintenance fund to be used to repair structures associated with the BCWMC Flood Control

Project. The BCWMC collects \$35,000 annually for the fund through an assessment paid by the member cities. The fund balance is not to exceed \$1 million.

8. **XP-SWMM Modeling** – The BCWMC will continue to maintain its hydrologic/hydraulic XP-SWMM model.
9. **APM/AIS Work** – The BCWMC will implement recommendations of the APM/AIS committee including treating curly-leaf pondweed in Medicine Lake, coordinating with Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) for level II AIS inspectors for French Regional Park. It will also coordinate the Sweeney Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Eradication Project (partially funded by the Sweeney Lake Association and Hennepin County AIS Prevention Grant).
10. **Medicine Lake TMDL Status Assessment** — The BCWMC will continue this project in conjunction with partners including the City of Plymouth, other MS4s, and Three Rivers Park District.

## **D. Education and Outreach**

The BCWMC will work with West Metro Water Alliance and other partners to implement education programming. This includes coordination and use of a new education coordinator position shared with Hennepin County. Education activities will also include financial contributions and participation in the following organizations and programs: Metro WaterShed Partners, Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program, Metro Blooms, West Metro Water Alliance (includes staff participation), and the Children’s Water Festival. The plan also includes funding for Commissioner registration fees for training or programs, participation in community events. A new paper watershed map will also be finalized and printed in 2024.



## **III. Annual Financial Report**

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The 2023 fiscal year for the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) started on February 1, 2023 and ended January 31, 2024.

### **A. 2023 Approved Operating Budget**

The approved operating budget for fiscal year 2023 was \$958,640. Each member's contribution toward the annual budget is based 50 percent on the total area of the municipality within the watershed and 50 percent on the tax capacity of the area within the watershed. A copy of the 2023 operating budget, 2023 revenues, and 2023 member-city assessment table are located in Appendix A.

### **B. Report of Revenues**

See the Financial Audit Report available online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/annual-report-budget>.

### **C. Report of Expenditures**

See the Financial Audit Report available online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/annual-report-budget>.

### **D. Financial Audit Report**

The annual audit report for the year ending January 31, 2024, was performed by Malloy Montague Karnowski Radosevich & Co., P.A. A copy of the annual audit report is available online at: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/annual-report-budget>.

## **Appendix A**

### **2023 Financial Information**

- 2023 Budget and Notes
- 2023 Expected Revenues
- 2023 Member City Assessments

**BCWMC 2023 OPERATING BUDGET - Approved 8/18/22**

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>See Notes</b>
<b>ENGINEERING &amp; MONITORING</b>											
Technical Services	125,000	126,154	130,000	156,941	130,000	143,081	134,000	105,492	145,000	145,000	(A1)
Development/Project Reviews	75,000	45,070	80,000	56,420	75,000	94,267	68,000	89,507	75,000	80,000	(A)
Non-fee and Preliminary Reviews	10,000	23,073	15,000	32,937	20,000	16,851	24,000	38,406	22,000	30,000	(B)
Commission and TAC Meetings	12,000	10,575	12,000	13,207	12,000	10,478	12,000	10,961	14,000	15,000	(C)
Surveys and Studies	12,000	-	20,000	16,316	10,000	3,745	9,000	7,683	10,000	15,000	(D)
Water Quality / Monitoring	80,700	120,728	78,000	76,754	102,600	119,397	129,000	132,432	110,000	105,000	(E)
Water Quantity	6,300	5,678	10,000	9,998	6,500	6,229	7,000	7,205	8,000	9,000	(F)
Annual Flood Control Project Inspections	48,000	20,279	48,000	26,744	12,000	69,149	12,000	14,999	12,000	15,000	(G)
Municipal Plan Review	8,000	26,779	4,000	5,406	2,000	1,548	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	(H)
Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program	20,500	18,145	20,500	19,530	20,500	20,837	23,000	18,257	28,500	27,000	(I)
Annual XP-SWMM Model Updates/Reviews	10,000	8,918	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	5,000	3,000	(J)
APM/AIS Work	32,000	35,977	32,000	21,246	30,000	11,634	14,000	13,533	13,000	40,000	(K)
<b>Subtotal Engineering &amp; Monitoring</b>	<b>\$439,500</b>	<b>\$441,376</b>	<b>\$449,500</b>	<b>\$435,499</b>	<b>\$420,600</b>	<b>\$497,215</b>	<b>\$434,000</b>	<b>\$438,475</b>	<b>\$444,500</b>	<b>\$486,000</b>	
<b>PLANNING</b>											
Next Generation Plan Development			12,000	12,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	10,001	18,000	53,250	(L)
<b>Subtotal Planning</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$10,001</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$53,250</b>	

Continued next page

Item	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	See Notes
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>											
Administrator	67,200	59,955	69,200	64,926	69,200	64,764	67,400	67,481	70,848	78,750	(M)
MAWD Dues					500	500	3,750	3,750	7,500	7,500	(N)
Legal	17,000	13,313	17,000	14,428	15,000	20,996	15,000	16,280	17,000	17,000	(O)
Financial Management	3,200	3,200	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	4,000	10,600	13,500	14,540	(P)
Audit, Insurance & Bond	15,500	17,648	18,000	15,892	18,000	18,684	18,000	14,949	18,700	18,700	(Q)
Meeting Catering	1,600	1,295	1,500	1,341	1,500	317	1,300	-	1,300	2,400	(R)
Administrative Services	15,000	14,240	15,000	12,992	15,000	11,887	8,000	5,960	8,000	7,240	(S)
<b>Subtotal Administration</b>	<b>\$119,500</b>	<b>\$109,651</b>	<b>\$124,200</b>	<b>\$113,079</b>	<b>\$122,700</b>	<b>\$120,648</b>	<b>\$117,450</b>	<b>\$119,020</b>	<b>\$136,848</b>	<b>\$146,130</b>	
<b>OUTREACH &amp; EDUCATION</b>											
Publications / Annual Report	1,500	937	1,300	1,263	1,300	1,069	1,300	375	1,300	1,000	(T)
Website	4,200	443	3,000	1,617	1,000	1,264	1,800	544	1,800	1,600	(U)
Watershed Education Partnerships	13,850	13,454	15,850	13,810	15,850	16,535	17,350	13,080	18,350	18,350	(V)
Education and Public Outreach	22,000	18,585	25,000	23,588	22,000	38,321	26,000	23,073	28,000	28,000	(W)
Public Communications	2,500	563	1,000	878	1,000	1,113	1,000	1,028	1,100	1,100	(X)
<b>Subtotal Outreach &amp; Education</b>	<b>\$44,050</b>	<b>\$33,982</b>	<b>\$46,150</b>	<b>\$41,156</b>	<b>\$41,150</b>	<b>\$58,302</b>	<b>\$47,450</b>	<b>\$38,100</b>	<b>\$50,550</b>	<b>\$50,050</b>	
<b>MAINTENANCE FUNDS</b>											
Channel Maintenance Fund	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	20,000	\$20,000	25,000	25,000	(Y)
Flood Control Project Long-Term Maint.	25,000	4,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	35,000	(Z)
<b>Subtotal Maintenance Funds</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	
<b>TMDL WORK</b>											
TMDL Implementation Reporting	10,000	4,668	10,000	215	10,000	263	7,000	6,989	7,000	-	(AA)
<b>Subtotal TMDL Work</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,668</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$263</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>6,989</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$663,050</b>	<b>\$618,677</b>	<b>\$691,850</b>	<b>\$661,734</b>	<b>\$662,450</b>	<b>\$744,428</b>	<b>\$668,900</b>	<b>\$657,585</b>	<b>\$706,898</b>	<b>\$795,430</b>	

<b>2023 Revenues</b>	
Assessments to cities	\$ 617,430
Use of fund balance	\$ 20,000
Use of Watershed Plan Fund balance	\$ 9,000
CIP Administrative Funds (2.0% of est. requested levy of \$2.2M)	\$ 44,000
Project review fees	\$ 80,000
Transfer from Long-term Maint Fund for Flood Control Proj Inspections	\$ 15,000
WOMP reimbursement	\$ 5,000
TRPD reimbursement	\$ 5,000
AIS Grant	\$ -
Interest income in 2023	\$ -
	\$ 795,430
Total operating expenses	\$ 795,430
<b>Fund Balance Details</b>	
Est. Beginning Fund Balance (Jan 31, 2023)	\$ 439,199
Use of Fund Balance	\$ 20,000
Est. Remaining Fund Balance (Jan 31, 2024)	\$ 419,199

<b>City Assessments</b>													
Community	For Taxes Payable in 2022	2022 Percent of	Area Watershed	Percent of	Average	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Net Tax Capacity	Valuation	in Acres	of Area	Percent	\$490,345	\$500,000	\$515,050	\$529,850	\$550,450	\$554,900	\$565,998	\$ 617,430
Crystal	\$11,365,763	5.91	1,264	5.09	5.50	\$25,771	\$25,704	\$26,904	\$27,877	\$29,062	\$29,898	\$30,206	\$33,952
Golden Valley	\$49,753,021	25.87	6,615	26.63	26.25	\$127,675	\$131,270	\$134,649	\$138,553	\$144,693	\$145,228	\$148,477	\$162,068
Medicine Lake	\$1,158,211	0.60	199	0.80	0.70	\$3,600	\$3,561	\$3,783	\$3,846	\$3,975	\$3,928	\$3,988	\$4,332
Minneapolis	\$14,409,438	7.49	1,690	6.80	7.15	\$32,885	\$33,609	\$34,763	\$35,805	\$37,631	\$37,983	\$39,103	\$44,132
Minnetonka	\$11,914,796	6.20	1,108	4.46	5.33	\$27,536	\$28,199	\$28,053	\$28,989	\$29,967	\$29,622	\$30,437	\$32,895
New Hope	\$10,938,349	5.69	1,252	5.04	5.36	\$25,627	\$25,917	\$26,740	\$27,987	\$28,987	\$29,464	\$30,087	\$33,117
Plymouth	\$80,146,545	41.67	11,618	46.77	44.22	\$220,974	\$224,531	\$231,682	\$237,986	\$245,942	\$247,860	\$252,307	\$273,027
Robbinsdale	\$3,752,175	1.95	345	1.39	1.67	\$7,843	\$7,747	\$8,189	\$8,523	\$8,937	\$9,299	\$9,288	\$10,310
St. Louis Park	\$8,878,224	4.62	752	3.03	3.82	\$18,433	\$19,463	\$20,287	\$20,284	\$21,257	\$21,618	\$22,105	\$23,597
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$192,316,522</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>24,843</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>\$490,345</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$515,050</b>	<b>\$529,850</b>	<b>\$550,450</b>	<b>\$554,900</b>	<b>\$565,998</b>	<b>\$ 617,430</b>

## NOTES

(A1) General technical services by Barr Engineering; 2021 budget based on actual expenditures in 2019 and 2020. 2023 Budget same as 2022.

(A) Partially funded by application fees; with the creation of the preliminary and non-fee budget category, most of the review costs will be covered by application fees. Budget based on recent actual expenses and projected number of projects submitted for review. New review fees effective Aug 1, 2022.

(B) This was a new line item in 2015 used to cover reviews for which either we do not receive an application fee or it's too early in the process for us to have received an application fee. Includes DNR application reviews, MnDOT project reviews, and other prelim reviews requested by administrator and member cities. Reviews for large projects such as SWLRT reviews and North Loop Green Project have been partially or fully reimbursed to Commission.

(C) Includes attendance at BCWMC meetings, TAC meetings and other committee meetings, as needed. 2017 budget increased to allow for additional BCWMC Engineer staff to attend Commission/TAC meetings (total of 3 assumed). 2018 - 2020 budgets were reduced from 2017 and assumed 12 BCWMC meetings and 5 other meetings (TAC, etc.). 2021 budget also assumes 17 meetings including BCWMC meetings (12), TAC meetings (3), Administrative Services Committee meetings (1), Budget Committee meetings and other meetings (1). 2022 and 2023 budgets increased to reflect return to in-person meetings, plus additional staff attendance at meetings

(D) For Commission-directed surveys and studies not identified in other categories - e.g., past work has included watershed tours, Medicine Lake outlet work, Flood Control Project Maintenance and Responsibilities, Sweeney Lake sediment monitoring, stream monitoring equipment purchase. 2018 budget was reduced from previous years for overall budget savings. 2019 budget is more in line with previous years and gives Commission flexibility to investigate or tackle unforeseen issues that arise. Lowered again in 2020, 2021, and 2022 for budget savings. Among other surveys and studies, in 2023 this budget may be used to review and develop agreements with Minneapolis related to tunnel roles and responsibilities.

(E) Routine lake and stream monitoring. See details on next page.

(F) Water Quantity (lake level) monitoring. 2018 budget lowered for budget savings and resulted in fewer data points. 2019 budget back to earlier budget levels. 2020 budget lowered again for budget savings. 2022 and 2023 budget increase allows for additional measurements and benchmark checks, beyond the once/month lake level measurements to assist with proper maintenance of hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and climate resiliency preparations

(G) 2022 budget includes annual typical inspection of Flood Control Project (FCP) features without tunnel inspections but does not include follow-up work on the deep tunnel inspection, such as developing cost estimates for recommended repair work, and the box culvert repairs, such as development of plans and specifications. 2023 budget includes annual regular inspections at newly updated cost estimate. Actual costs of inspection will be reimbursed to operating budget from long term FCP account. [Last double box inspection was 2019, next one due 2024; last deep tunnel inspection was 2020, next one due 2030. Unsubmerged deep tunnel inspection in 2025.]

[http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/4514/9637/1815/2016\\_FCP\\_Policies.pdf](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/4514/9637/1815/2016_FCP_Policies.pdf)

(H) Municipal plan approvals completed in 2019; however, this task has also included review of adjacent WMO plan amendments, and review of city ordinances; \$2,000 budget recommended annually.

(I) Monitoring at the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) site in Minneapolis through an agreement with Met Council (MCES). Commission is reimbursed \$5,000 from Met Council. Met Council pays for equipment, maintenance, power, cell service, and lab analyses. Monitoring protocol changed in 2017 with collection of bi-monthly samples (up from once-per-month sampling). Both Barr and Stantec (previously Wenck) have tasked related to WOMP activities. Barr's 2020 & 2021 budget = \$4,500. Actual spent in 2020 = \$4,265. Station was moved in late 2020. In 2022, Barr portion was set at \$10,000 because MCES requested additional high flow measurements (doubling from about 6 to 12), due to the new station location. Stantec portion was similar to previous years at \$18,500 due to similar sampling regime. In 2023, Barr work proposed at \$7,500, for flow measurements. In 2023 Stantec portion assumes 5% increase over 2022 due to staffing cost increases; \$19,500.

(J) This item is used to make updates to the XP-SWMM model, coordinate with P8 model updates, and assist cities with model use. No XP-SWMM updates were performed 2019 - 2021 due to work on the grant funded FEMA modeling project. 2022 budget includes finalizing updates to the Commission's official model and flood elevations to match the "FEMA model" (this work was started in 2021 using "Surveys and Studies" budget). 2023 budget assumes Barr will request, compile, and review information provided by the cities and flag those that are large enough/significant enough to incorporate into the XP-SWMM and P8 model updates. As this covers both XP-SWMM and P8, we assumed \$0 for the TMDL Implementation Reporting (P8 model update) budget. Based on the request from 2018-2021, we had about 60 items to review and about 40 were significant enough to incorporate into the models. The 2023 budget assumes about 15 developments to review in one year.



**Notes (continued)**

(K) Funds to implement recommendations of Aquatic Plant Management/Aquatic Invasive Species Committee likely including curly-leaf pondweed control in Medicine Lake and small grant program for launch inspectors, education/outreach, etc. by other organizations including TRPD, AMLAC, others. TRPD shares cost (17%) of treatments. In 2021, recieved \$5,000 DNR grant. In 2022, recieved \$10,000 DNR grant. In 2022 and for a few years thereafter, treatment costs are expected to be significantly due to permission from DNR to expand treatment area to implement Lake Vegetation Management Plan.

(L) The scope and budget for development of the 2025 Watershed Plan was approved in February 2022. \$38,000 has already been set aside 2019 - 2022 in a long term account for Plan development, of which \$11,000 will be needed to cover work in 2022. In 2023, Barr estimates spending \$42,000 and Administrator estimates spending \$11,250 on Plan development (total = \$53,250). Revenue includes transfer from plan development long term account to help offset costs.

(M) Amended Administrator contract approved March 2022 includes 87.5 hours per month at \$75/hour starting in FY23 for total of \$78,750.

(N) MN Association of Watershed District Annual dues. New budget item. 2019 and 2020 dues were \$500 because WMOs were newly allowed to join the organization. 2021 dues \$3,750. Starting in 2022 dues went to the max of \$7,500 similar to other Metro watersheds.

(O) For Commission attorney. 2022 budget included 3% hourly rate increase over 2021 + more work expected. Legal costs for some CIP projects will be charged to specific CIP budgets, as warranted.

(P) In 2021, Commission began contractoing with Redpath for accounting services. 2023 rates are expected to increase. Budget includes \$1,070 per month + up to 10 hours audit assistance at \$170/hr

(Q) Insurance and audit costs have risen considerably in the last few years.

(R) Assumes 12 in-person meetings @ \$200 per meeting

(S) Recording Secretary \$40/hr rate \* 8 hrs/mo for 12 months for minutes (\$3,840 total) + \$250/mo meeting packet printing/mailing + \$400 supplies (envelopes, stamps, etc).

(T) Budget was decreased in last few years to be more in line with actual expenses. Costs associated with Commission Engineer assistance with annual report

(U) Based on agreement with HDR for website hosting and maintenance activities.

(V) Includes CAMP (\$7,000), River Watch (\$2,000), Metro Watershed Partners (\$3,500), Metro Blooms Workshops (\$1,500; a decrease from previous years), Children's Water Festival (\$350), Metro Blooms resident engagement in Minneapolis neighborhoods (\$4,000).

(W) Includes funding for West Metro Water Alliance at \$13,000 and \$15,000 for work by educational contractors + supplies and materials including educational signage, display materials, Commissioner training, etc.

(X) Public Communications covers required public notices for public hearings, etc.

(Y) Will be transferred to Channel Maintenance Fund for use by cities with smaller projects along main streams.

(Z) Will be transferred to Long-Term Maintenance Fund. Budget increased to be more in line with expected costs.

(AA) This task is meant for updating the P8 pollution model and will be done in conjunction with the work in budget line J with XP-SWMM model updates.

BCWMC 2023 Water Quality Monitoring Budgets - by item		
Item	Budget	Notes
Reporting on 2022 monitoring:		
Northwood Lake & Lost Lake	\$14,000	
2023 monitoring:		
Year 2 of Plymouth Creek stream flow and quality monitoring	\$24,000	TRPD (under contract w/City of Plymouth) will complete all flow and water quality monitoring monitoring, except for continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring and quarterly monitoring for metals and hardness, which Barr will complete. Barr flow monitoring will be limited to collection of some flow data for the IP1 rating curve; the data will be incorporated into the rating curve and the rating curve adjusted as needed per the 2023 data. Barr will complete the continuous dissolved oxygen measurements and quarterly metals and harness monitoring at IP2. Barr will perform QA/QC on all data collected (Barr and TRPD). Assumes TRPD also performs QA/QC on their data prior to giving the data to Barr. Barr will summarize all data collected by Barr and TRPD into tables and graphs. Barr will prepare the flow data collected at IP1, the continuous dissolved oxygen data collected at IP2, and the quarterly metals and hardness data collected from IP2 for EQuIS submittal and will submit the data to the MPCA EQuIS database. TRPD will submit all data collected by TRPD to the MPCA EQuIS database. Budget assumes TRPD/BCWMC makes all significant monitoring equipment purchases in 2022 and no significant monitoring equipment purchases are needed in 2023. Budget does not include report and presentation to Commission, which will occur in 2024 (and be included in 2024 budget).
Sweeney Lake (Priority 1 Deep lake) & Twin Lake (Priority 1 Deep lake)	\$57,000	Detailed lake monitoring includes monitoring two locations on Sweeney Lake and one location at Twin Lake on six occasions for selected parameters (total phosphorus at 4 depths; dissolved phosphorus, total nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl nitrogen, nitrate + nitrite nitrogen, and chlorophyll a from 0-2 meter depth, and chloride at two depths; temperature, pH, DO, and and specific conductance measurements at one meter intervals from surface to bottom; and measurement of Secchi disc depth), plus parameters associated with AIS vulnerability (calcium, alkalinity, hardness, sodium, and magnesium from 0-2 meter depth), and phytoplankton (0-2 meter depth) and zooplankton (bottom to surface tow) collection and analyses. Plant surveys will be completed in June and August by Endangered Resource Services. Data will be summarized and analyzed including calculation of aquatic plant IBIs and AIS Suitability, trend analyses, creation of temperature, DO, and specific conductance isopleths, and preparation of total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, Secchi disc chloride, phytoplankton and zooplankton graphs. Budget does not include report and presentation to Commission, which will occur in 2024 (and be included in 2024 budget). In 2023, we plan to switch from PACE to RMB Environmental Laboratories (RMB). If all goes well, we anticipate saving BCWMC about \$2,000 - \$3,000 in laboratory expenses. We did not adjust the budget down in case we run into problems with the changeover and need to go back to using PACE for the laboratory analyses.
<i>No biological monitoring - Main Stem &amp; North Branch at same time in 2024</i>		
General water quality tasks (responding to data review and inquiries, reviewing impaired waters lists, corresponding with Met Council and MPCA on data and monitoring plans)	\$10,000	
<b>Total Water Quality Monitoring</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	

**Appendix B**  
**2023 Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION 23-01**

Member Gwin-Lenth introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR  
BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION FUNDS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission of the Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park that the following are named as depositories for funds, subject to the furnishing of collateral for funds on deposit as provided in the Laws of the State of Minnesota: **RBC Dain Rauscher; Wells Fargo; 4M Fund; U.S. Bank**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a sweep account will be used for nightly balances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following signatories or alternates are authorized to be signatories on checks drawn on funds deposited:

General Checking:


Chair or Vice Chair and Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer

Each check shall require two signatures.

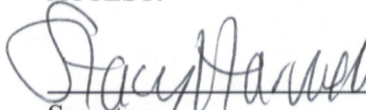
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following shall be authorized to make investments of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission and shall be authorized to deposit the principal of said investments in the above named depositories as necessary and beneficial to the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission: Deputy Treasurer of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, or Financial Firm contracted by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission.

The Deputy Treasurer shall supply each of the depositories with certified copies of this resolution along with such signature documentation as is required by the depository and the authorizations set forth above.

Adopted by the Board of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission this 16th day of February 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Feb 16, 2023

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary Date Feb 16, 2023

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Member Welch and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: 8 members, and the following voted against the same: 0 members whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### RESOLUTION NO. 23-02

Member Gwin-Lentz introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 2.0% OF THE TAX LEVY REQUEST TO HENNEPIN COUNTY FOR COLLECTION IN 2022, FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) PROJECTS AND APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF THE FUNDS FROM THE CIP ACCOUNT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission of the Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park that:

1. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) will be reimbursed \$34,000, which is 2.0% of the BCWMC's September 2021 tax request in the amount of \$1,700,000 to Hennepin County for collection in 2022, for administrative expenses for Capital Improvement Projects.
2. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission directs its Deputy Treasurer or Contracted Financial Firm to transfer the reimbursed funds from the Commission's CIP Account to its Administrative Account.

[Signature] Feb 16, 2023  
Chair Date

Attest

[Signature] Feb 16, 2023  
Secretary Date

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Member Welch and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: 8 members, and the following voted against the same: 0 members whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.





## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### RESOLUTION NO. 23-03

Member Gwin-leath introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

#### A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION FUNDS FROM LONG TERM ACCOUNTS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission of the Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park that:

1. \$27,149.85 will be transferred from the TMDL Studies Long Term Account to the Administrative Fund in accordance with the approved 2022 Operating Budget. This action will close the TMDL Studies Long Term Account.
2. \$11,000 will be transferred from the Next Generation Plan Development Long Term Account to partially reimburse the Administrative Fund for 2022 expenses related to Watershed Plan Development.
3. \$21,290 will be transferred from the Flood Control Long Term Maintenance Account to reimburse the Administrative Fund for 2022 expenses related to Flood Control Project inspections and reporting.

*[Signature]* Feb 16, 2023  
Chair Date

Attest

*[Signature]* Feb 16, 2023  
Secretary Date

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Member Welch and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: 8 members, and the following voted against the same: 0 members whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.





## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

RESOLUTION NO. 23-04

Member Gwin-Welch introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION FUNDS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNT TO THE EROSION/SEDIMENT (CHANNEL MAINTENANCE) ACCOUNT AND THE FLOOD CONTROL LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission by the Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park that:

1. \$25,000 will be transferred from the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's Administrative Account
2. to the Erosion/Sediment (Channel Maintenance Fund) account.
3. \$25,000 will be transferred from the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's Administrative Account to the Flood Control Long-Term Maintenance account.

Chair [Signature] Date Feb 16, 2023

Attest:

Secretary [Signature] Date Feb 16, 2023

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Member Welch and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: 8 members, and the following voted against the same: 0 members, whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION NO. 23-05

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF WAIVER FORM RELATING TO TORT  
LIMITS FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE AND NOT WAIVING SUCH TORT LIMITS

WHEREAS, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (“Commission”) is a joint powers watershed management organization established by the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.211; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is insured for tort liability matters by the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (“LMCIT”); and

WHEREAS, as part of its liability insurance coverage with LMCIT, the Commission is required to elect annually whether to waive the statutory tort liability limits stated in Minn. Stat. § 466.04; and

WHEREAS, staff has recommended that the Commission not waive the tort cap limits in order to mitigate the Commission’s tort liability as permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, a decision to not waive the tort cap limits reasonably protects the Commission and limits its potential liability while allowing an individual claimant to recover damages as provided by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission that the Commission Administrator is authorized to execute the LMCIT Liability Coverage Waiver Form on behalf of the Commission by indicating that the Commission elects not to waive the statutory limitation on tort liability.

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION NO. 23-06

A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE 2024 IMPROVEMENTS,  
DESIGNATING ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSTRUCTION,  
MAKING FINDINGS PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION  
103B.251, CERTIFYING COSTS TO HENNEPIN COUNTY, AND APPROVING  
AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PONDEROSA WOODS STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2015, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (“Commission”) adopted the *Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Water Management Plan, September 2015* (the “Plan”);

WHEREAS, the Plan, as amended since its adoption, includes a capital improvement program (“CIP”) listing capital projects in Table 5-3 of the Plan;

WHEREAS, the CIP includes the following capital projects for the year 2024 (collectively, the “2024 Projects”):

- a) Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project - Regent Ave to Golden Valley Rd (2024-CRM);
- b) Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration Project (ML-22);
- c) Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-14); and
- d) Cost Share Purchase of High Efficiency Street Sweeper (BC-12)

WHEREAS, the Plan specifies a county tax levy under Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251 as a source of funding for said 2024 Projects and two previously ordered 2021 projects, SEA School – Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project (BC-2, 3, 8, 10) and Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility (ML-12);

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2023, following published and mailed notice in accordance with the Commission’s Joint Power Agreement and Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251, the Commission conducted a public hearing on the 2024 Projects; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Projects will be conducive to the public health, promote the general welfare and is in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, sections 103B.205 to 103B.255 (the “Act”) and the Plan, as adopted and amended in accordance with the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission as follows:

1. The 2024 Projects are hereby ordered.
2. The total estimated cost of the Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project - Regent Ave to Golden Valley Rd project is \$2,241,000. Of this amount, \$434,000 will be paid from funds received from a county tax levy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251 levied in 2023 for collection in 2024. Additional funds of up to \$1,307,000 will be paid from funds received from county tax levies pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251, levied in years 2024 and 2025 for collection in 2025 and 2026, respectively. Another \$200,000 will come from the BCWMC Closed Project Account. The City of Golden Valley will contribute up to \$300,000 toward the project.


3. The total estimated cost of the Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration Project is \$352,000. This amount will be paid from funds received from a county tax levy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251 levied in 2023 for collection in 2024.
4. The total estimated cost of the Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project is \$2,300,000. Of this amount, \$300,000 will be paid from funds received from a county tax levy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251 levied in 2023 for collection in 2024. Additional funds of up to Three Hundred Thousand Dollars \$300,000 will be paid from funds received from county tax levies pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251, levied in 2024 for collection in 2025. Additional funds will be sought from local partners and grants.
5. The total estimated cost of the Cost Share Purchase of High Efficiency Street Sweeper is \$150,000. Of this amount, \$100,000 will be paid from funds received from a county tax levy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251 levied in 2023 for collection in 2024. Additional funds of up to Fifty Thousand Dollars \$50,000 will be paid from funds received from county tax levies pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251, levied in 2024 for collection in 2025.
6. The cost of the Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility Project was partially paid from county tax levies collected in 2022 and 2023 totaling \$550,000. Another \$300,000 will come from grants. Additional funds of up to \$500,000 will come from the City of Golden Valley. The remaining estimated cost of the project is \$800,000, which will be paid from funds received from a county tax levy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251 levied in 2023 for collection in 2024.
7. The cost of the SEA School – Wildwood Flood Reduction Project was partially paid from county tax levies collected in 2022 and 2023 totaling \$1,048,000. Another \$1,300,000 will come from grants. Additional funds of up to \$500,000 will come from the City of Golden Valley. The remaining estimated cost of the project is \$252,000, which will be paid from funds received from a county tax levy pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251 levied in 2023 for collection in 2024.
8. In light of the above, the total amount certified to Hennepin County for the 2024 Projects and the two 2021 projects referenced above is \$2,238,000 for payment by the County in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251, subdivision 6.
9. The Commission has received, accepted, and approved the feasibility reports for the 2024 Projects.
10. The costs of the aforementioned projects will be paid by the Commission up to the amounts specified above from proceeds received from Hennepin County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.251 and grant funding, if awarded. Additional costs may be paid by the public entities constructing the particular project, but no additional costs will be charged to the Commission or other members of the Commission.
11. The City of Golden Valley is designated as the member responsible for contracting for the construction of the Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project - Regent Ave to Golden Valley Rd. The engineer designated for preparation of plans and specifications is the Golden Valley City Engineer, other engineers selected and retained by the City of Golden Valley, or the Commission Engineer. Contracts for construction shall be let in accordance with the requirements of law applicable to the City of Golden Valley.



12. The City of Plymouth is designated as the member responsible for contracting for the construction of the Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration Project, and the engineer designated for preparation of plans and specifications is the Plymouth City Engineer, or other engineers selected and retained by the City of Plymouth. Contracts for construction shall be let in accordance with the requirements of law applicable to the City of Plymouth. The Cooperative Agreement with the City of Plymouth for the construction of the Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration Project presented to the Commission on the date of this Resolution is approved, and the Chair and Secretary are authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the Commission.
13. The City of Golden Valley is the member responsible for the implementation of the Cost Share Purchase of High Efficiency Street Sweeper. Contracts for purchase of the street sweeper shall be let in accordance with the requirements of law applicable to the City of Golden Valley.
14. Three Rivers Park District is designated as the entity responsible for contracting for the construction of the Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project. The engineer designated for preparation of plans and specifications are engineers selected and retained by Three Rivers Park District. Contracts for construction shall be let in accordance with the requirements of law applicable to Three Rivers Park District.

Adopted by the Board of Commission of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**Appendix C**  
**2023 Website Usage Report**





# BCWMC Website Traffic Summary \*New analytics version as of July 1, 2022

Total users  
**8,705**

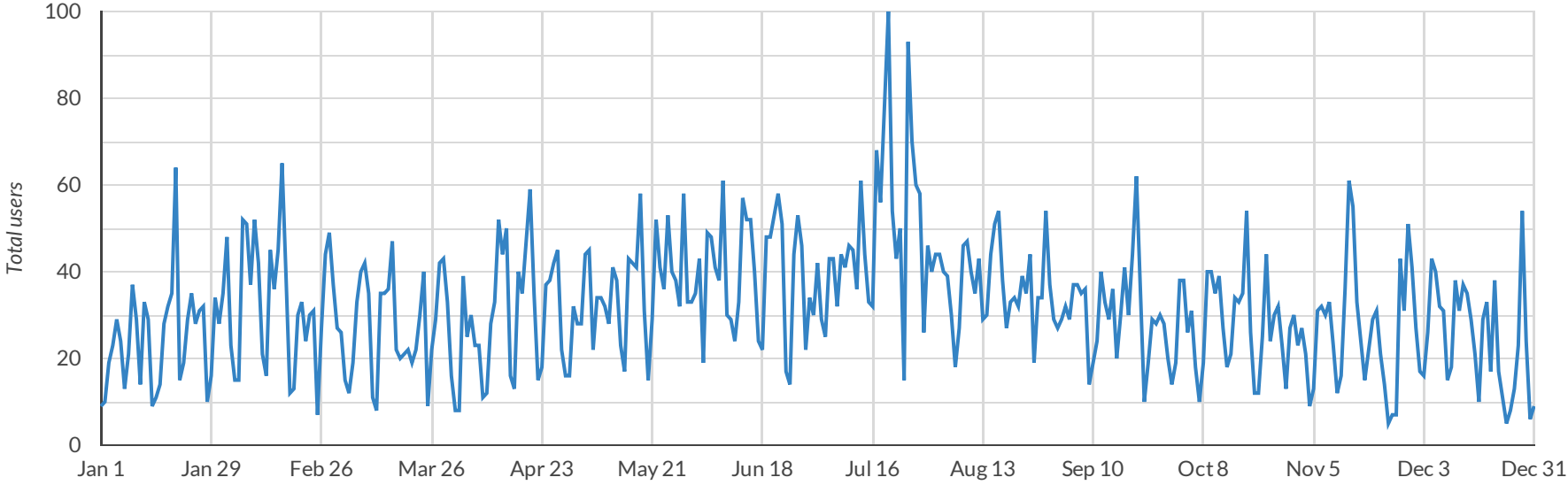
New users  
**8,659**

Engaged sessions  
**7,885**

Views  
**30,695**

Average session duration  
**00:01:15**

## Users per Day



## Referrals & Social Media Sources

	Session source	Engaged sessions
1.	loppet.org	139
2.	threeriversparks.org	75
3.	goldenvalleymn.gov	47
4.	cityofmedicinelake.com	25
5.	discoverstlouispark.com	22
6.	m.facebook.com	22
7.	l.facebook.com	20

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## Sessions by Regional Cities (MN)

	City	Engaged se...	Total users
1.	Minneapolis	1,280	1,508
2.	Eden Prairie	465	98
3.	Golden Valley	456	327
4.	Plymouth	449	309
5.	Saint Paul	369	326
6.	Edina	177	73
7.	Minnetonka	169	156
8.	Shakopee	158	18
9.	Maple Grove	121	150
10.	Bloomington	104	90
11.	Crystal	89	109
12.	Brooklyn Park	88	79
13.	St. Louis Park	75	79
14.	Lakeville	68	29
15.	Orono	67	11
16.	Eagan	66	36
17.	Burnsville	59	32

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## Sessions by Acquisition Type

