

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)



Executive Summary: 2014 Annual Report

BCWMC's 2014 Activities & Achievements

The Executive Summary highlights the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's work and accomplishments during its fiscal year 2014 (February 1, 2014 - January 31, 2015) in the following areas: capital improvements program, water quality activities, education activities, and the Next Generation Watershed Management Plan, which is being developed for approval and adoption in 2015. The BCWMC's activities and projects are guided by its *Watershed Management Plan (Plan)*. The most recent version of its *Plan* was approved by BWSR and adopted by the BCWMC in 2004.

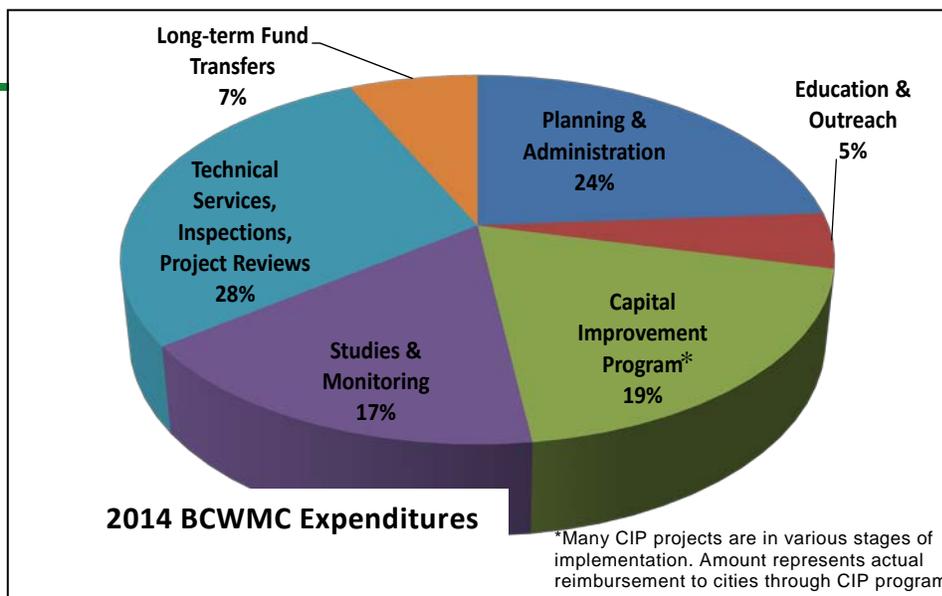
Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

The BCWMC continued to implement its capital improvements program. The 2014 achievements included:

- Restoration of the Bassett Creek Main Stem from Golden Valley Rd. to Irving Avenue N. (Cedar Lake Rd.) in Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis and Golden Valley. This project is partially funded by a Clean Water Land & Legacy Funds through a MN Board of Water & Soil Resources grant. Work included development of restoration plans and work along the creek to stabilize banks, reduce erosion, and improve habitat.
- Construction of the Briarwood/Dawnview Water Quality Improvement Project in Golden Valley. This project included construction of a stormwater pond to capture runoff from 184 acres of residential properties. Project plans were developed and approved in 2014 and construction began in January 2015.
- Planning for the Schaper Pond Diversion Project in Golden Valley. This project will modify Schaper Pond, immediately upstream of Sweeney Lake to improve the pond's ability to remove phosphorus and help meet the Sweeney Lake TMDL. In 2014, the BCWMC and the city of Golden Valley worked with the MN Department of Natural Resources and the MN Pollution Control Agency to determine permitting needs and other requirements. Initial project plans were approved in December 2014 and the project will be constructed in 2015.
- Initial planning for the Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project from 10th Avenue to Duluth Street in Golden Valley. The project will restore approximately 1.8 miles streambanks to reduce erosion and improve stream habitat.

Budget

In FY 2014, the BCWMC spent approximately \$580,000 on activities and programs. Another \$138,000 was spent on projects implemented through its capital improvement program (CIP). (As noted above, many CIP projects are in various stages of implementation. This amount was reimbursed to cities through CIP program.) For an itemization or more information on the BCWMC's 2014 expenditures, see the Financial Information in Appendix A of the annual report.



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 on the board.



Water Quality Activities

In 2014, the BCWMC implemented the following water quality activities:

- Monitored Sweeney Lake and Twin Lake for water quality, plankton, and aquatic plants
- Participated in Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) for six lakes
- Performed continuous stream monitoring on Bassett Creek, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
- Provided funding for the Hennepin County's River Watch program which educates and uses high school students to collect benthic invertebrates, indicators of stream health, from various site along Bassett Creek



Education Activities

In 2014, the BCWMC implemented the following education-related activities:

- Collaborated with the West Metro Water Alliance, a consortium of several watershed organizations, Hennepin County, the Freshwater Society, Three Rivers Park District, and several cities that collaborate on education efforts.
- Designed and printed a map of the Bassett Creek watershed that includes educational information such as watershed facts and best practices.
- Provided watershed education to the public at the following events - Plymouth Yard/Garden Expo and Golden Valley Arts and Music Festival.
- Provided native plant seed packets at watershed education events and at displays in member city halls.
- Provided financial support and participated in the Non-point Education for Municipal Officials program (NEMO) for west metro officials including a series of 3 workshops.
- Partnered with Metro Blooms, local programs that educate homeowners on ways to reduce runoff from home yardscapes including installing raingardens.
- Provided financial support to Metro WaterShed Partners for their "Let's Keep Them Clean" media campaign and the Children's Water Festival.

"Next Generation" Watershed Plan Development

- Continued to develop policies, requirements for developments, and implementation actions/projects for the 2015 Watershed Management Plan through monthly meetings of the Plan Steering Committee and workshops with the full Commission, state review agencies, and partnering organizations.
- Submitted the draft Plan for a 60-day comment period in November 2014.
- Final plan approval and adoption is expected later summer 2015.