



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
Watershed Assessment and Visioning Exercise
March – June 2013

BCWMC Vision Statement:

Stewardship of water resources to protect and enhance our communities

WAVE Objectives:

To gather input from member communities to guide the development of the BCWMC 10-year Watershed Management Plan.

To gather the thoughts and ideas about issues facing BCWMC water resources from watershed residents, elected and appointed officials, city staff, state agencies, and other partners.

To understand how the Commission can improve water resources while serving the member communities effectively and efficiently.

To prioritize watershed issues to inform the development of goals and policies in the 10-year Watershed Management Plan.

WAVE Process:

1. Gather input from residents and officials through an online survey. We encourage you to take the survey! www.bassettcreekwmo.org
2. Gather thoughts and ideas at small group meetings in each member city. Meetings to be held with City Councils, City Commissions, city staff, lake associations, neighborhood associations, and other groups of residents and stakeholders.
3. Come together as a large group at the Bassett Creek Watershed Summit on June 13th 7:00 p.m. at Plymouth City Hall to review survey results and prioritize the complete list of issues gathered.

BCWMC History and Plan Background

In 1969, the Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission was formed by adoption of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the nine communities in the Bassett Creek Watershed – Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park.

In accordance with provisions of the 1982 Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act in 1982, the Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission revised its JPA and created the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC). The original mission of the BCWMC was to control flooding and to maintain and enhance the quality of the surface and ground water resources in the watershed. Since then, most of the flooding problems have been resolved by the BCWMC and member cities. Now the primary emphasis of the BCWMC is improving surface water quality in partnership with member communities.

Watershed organizations must update their Watershed Management Plans once every ten years. These Plans set the vision and guidelines for management surface water resources within the boundaries of the BCWMC. The current 10-year Plan will expire next year. An updated Plan is currently being developed, with input from residents, member communities, state agencies, and other stakeholders.

Goals from 2004 BCWMC Watershed Management Plan

- Manage the water resources of the watershed, with input from the public, so that the beneficial uses of wetlands, lakes and streams remain available to the community.
- Improve the quality of storm water runoff reaching the Mississippi River by reducing the nonpoint source pollution (including sediment) carried as storm water runoff.
- Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and maintain shoreland integrity.
- Reduce flooding along the Bassett Creek trunk system.
- Protect human life, property, and surface water systems that could be damaged by flood events.
- Regulate storm water runoff discharges and volumes to minimize flood problems, flood damages, and the future costs of storm water management systems.
- Provide leadership and assist member cities with coordination of intercommunity storm water runoff planning and design.
- Prevent erosion and sedimentation to the greatest extent possible to protect the BCWMC's water resources from increased sediment loading and associated water quality problems.
- Implement soil protection and sedimentation controls whenever necessary to maintain health, safety, and welfare.
- Implement stream restoration measures whenever necessary to maintain health, safety, and welfare.
- Maintain or enhance the natural beauty and wildlife habitat value of Bassett Creek.
- Achieve no net loss of wetlands in the BCWMC, in conformance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and associated rules.
- Protect the quantity and quality of groundwater resources.
- Manage public ditches in a manner that recognizes their current use as urban drainage systems.
- Raise awareness of the watershed's existence and the role that the BCWMC plays in protecting water quality and preserving the watershed's health and aesthetics.
- Enable the target audiences to have confidence in the BCWMC's expertise and participate in a meaningful way in the planning process and ongoing projects conducted by the BCWMC.
- Raise awareness of the impact that individuals, businesses, and organizations have upon water quality and motivate these audiences to change personal/corporate behavior that has a negative impact on water quality and the watershed.