

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Executive Summary: 2015 Annual Report



2015 Activities & Achievements

The BCWMC worked on the following activities Feb 2015 – Jan 2016 in order to fulfill its mission:
Stewardship of Water Resources to Protect and Enhance Our Communities.

Major Projects (Capital Improvement Program)

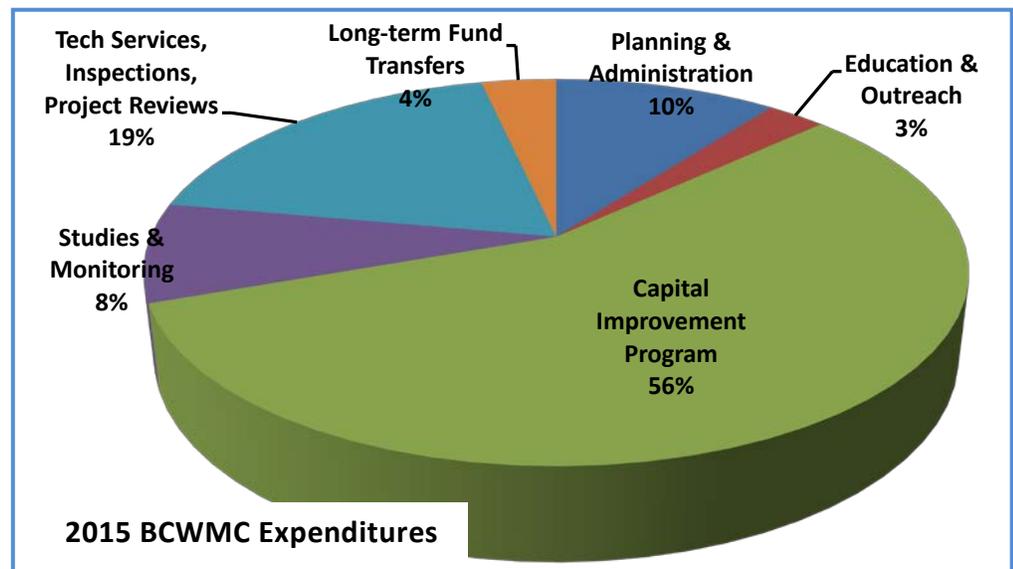
The BCWMC continued to implement its capital improvements program. Information on all BCWMC projects (completed, on-going and proposed) can be found at www.bassettcreekwmo.org.

- **COMPLETED:** Restoration of the Bassett Creek Main Stem through Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis and Golden Valley (pictured). This project was partially funded by a Clean Water Land & Legacy Funds through a MN Board of Water & Soil Resources grant. Work included streambank stabilization and restoration of buffers to reduce erosion and improve habitats.
- **COMPLETED:** Construction of a water quality treatment pond the Briarwood/Dawnview area of Golden Valley. This new pond will capture and treat runoff from 184 acres of residential properties.
- **COMPLETED:** The Schaper Pond Diversion Project in Golden Valley is expected significantly improve the water quality of Sweeney Lake, just downstream. This project modified Schaper Pond by installing a floating baffle that redirects flow through the pond and to increase its ability to remove phosphorus.
- **COMPLETED:** Twin Lake in Golden Valley was treated with alum to reduce the amount of phosphorus available for algae and to maintain excellent water clarity in the lake. Although another alum dose may be needed in the next couple years to fully complete the intended project, excellent water quality should continue in the lake.



Budget

In FY 2015, the BCWMC spent approximately \$621,500 on activities and programs. Another \$805,000 was spent capital projects. BCWMC income included \$490,300 from member cities, \$1M from Hennepin County tax levy on watershed residents, \$80,000 in State grants, and \$55,700 in development review fees. For an itemization or more information on the BCWMC's 2015 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 Monitoring Activities

- Assessed the health of Westwood Lake by collecting data on water quality, plankton, and aquatic plants
- Assessed the health of Plymouth Creek, North Branch and Sweeney Branch of Bassett Creek and the Main Stem of Bassett Creek by analyzing the macroinvertebrates (bugs) and habitat in the streams.
- 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
- Participated in Metropolitan Council Environmental Services’ Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) for six lakes

WATER QUALITY DATA AND REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE AT www.bassettcreekwmo.org

2015 Watershed Management Plan

In September the BCWMC finalized and adopted its 2015 – 2025 Watershed Management Plan. The plan includes goals and policies for the organization and its member cities that will guide the organization’s work over the next ten years! It includes a re-prioritization of their lakes and streams, new requirements for development and redevelopment (the Minimal Impact Design Standards), requirements for buffers along some streams and wetlands, and a list of capital projects.

Education & Outreach Activities

- Participated with the West Metro Water Alliance, a consortium of watershed organizations and other partners that collaborate on education programming.
- Provided watershed education to the public at the 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.
- Participated in the Non-point Education for Municipal Officials program (NEMO) – workshops for west metro local officials.
- Provided financial support to Metro Watershed Partners for their “Clean Water MN” media campaign, the Children’s Water Festival, and the Freshwater Society.
- Provided funding for Commissioner education for conference registrations.
- Held public meetings and presentations to gather input on 2017 capital projects.
- Designed new website with better access to information on waterbodies, projects, meetings and events, etc.

Check it out at: www.bassettcreekwmo.org

