

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Executive Summary: 2022 Annual Report

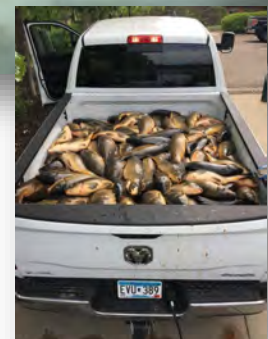


2022 Activities & Achievements

In 2022, the BCWMC continued its work toward fulfilling its mission:
Stewardship of Water Resources to Protect and Enhance Our Communities.

Significant Improvements in Sweeney Lake

Each year, the BCWMC implements one or more major capital improvement program (CIP) projects to protect or improve water resources. In 2022, the [Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project](#) was completed. The project was partially funded by a Federal 319 grant from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and resulted in a significant improvement in the lake's clarity and water quality. In fact, the lake will be removed from the list of impaired waters in 2024!

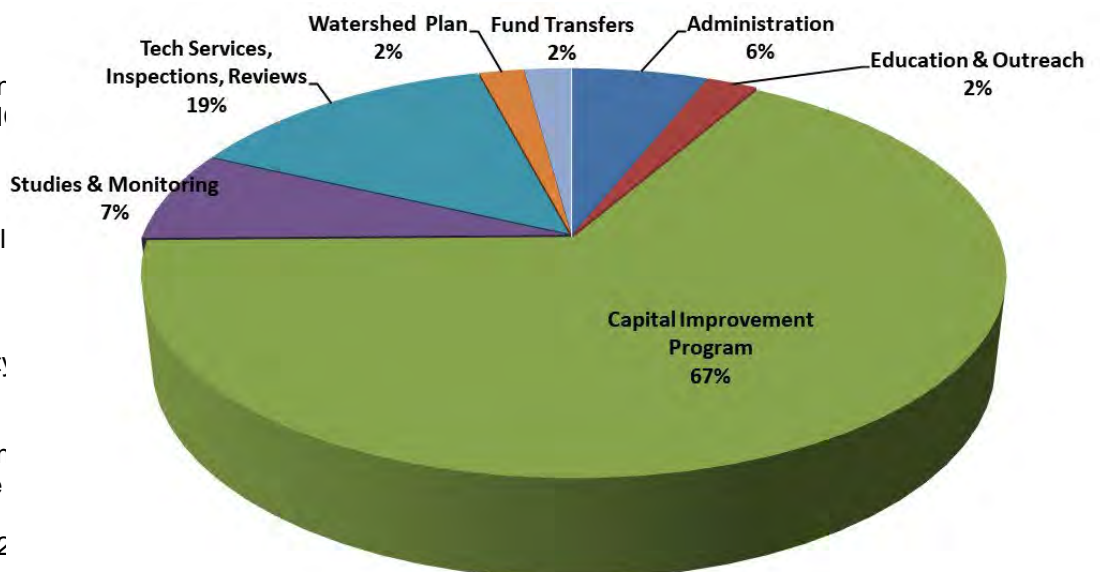


The Sweeney Lake project was a multi-pronged approach that included controlling curly-leaf pondweed, removing over 600 carp from the lake and Schaper Pond immediately upstream, and performing a two-phase alum treatment to lock nutrients in the lakebed. Homeowners around the lake and the City of Golden Valley also contributed to water quality improvements by permanently turning off aerators that resuspended nutrients, and implementing stormwater improvements in the lake subwatershed.

Budget

In FY 2022, the BCWMC spent approximately \$847,000 on activities and programs and \$1.58 million on capital projects. BCWMC income included \$566,000 from member cities, over \$100,000 in grants and reimbursements, and nearly \$90,000 in development review fees. Another \$1.7 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 2022 expenditures, see the 2022 Operating Budget in Appendix A or the financial audit online.

2022 BCWMC Expenses



2022 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.

Construction Progress in Bryn Mawr Meadows Park

In 2022, project designs were completed and construction began on the [Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project](#) in Minneapolis. This project is 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 west of the park into new stormwater ponds within the park for a total phosphorus reduction of 30 pounds per year. A Clean Water Fund grant is partially funding the BCWMC project.



Monitoring: In 2022, the BCWMC continued to assess its lakes and streams through a robust water monitoring program:

- Assessed the health of **Northwood and Lost Lakes** by collecting data on water quality, plankton, and aquatic plants. Final reports are expected summer 2023.
- Performed the first year of a 2-year monitoring project on **Plymouth Creek** including collecting data on flow, water quality, habitat, and macroinvertebrates. The BCWMC partnered with the City of Plymouth and Three Rivers Park District on that work.
- Performed continuous stream flow and water quality monitoring on **Bassett Creek at the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program** station in partnership with the Met Council
- Coordinated **volunteers on eight lakes** to collect water samples and data through the Met Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program.

• Hennepin County Chloride Initiative & Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota Campaign

The BCWMC continued its focus on chloride reduction and over salting in 2022 by working with other partners concerned about over salting.

The BCWMC started coordinating the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) in 2021 and led the development of the Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota marketing campaign (LSNS). The LSNS campaign was finalized in 2022 and includes multiple tools for use by watersheds and cities to engage with and educate targeted audiences and properties. Through market-based research, a professional marketing firm developed a campaign title, logo, tagline, presentation, outreach materials, and professionally produced videos. The program is slated to be used by LGUs and the MPCA. www.low-salt-no-salt-mn.org.

HCCI is a partnership of all eleven watershed organizations in Hennepin County, the County, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and many cities from across the county. HCCI's goal was to reduce the amount of chloride entering our waterways from the overuse of winter deicing materials. HCCI used Clean Water Funds through a state grant to collectively address over salting by pooling ideas and resources and promoting common messages and strategies. The HCCI won the Minnesota Watershed's Program of the Year Award in December 2022.

