

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Executive Summary: 2018 Annual Report



2018 Activities & Achievements

The BCWMC worked on the following activities in 2018 in order to fulfill its mission:
Stewardship of Water Resources to Protect and Enhance Our Communities.

Major Projects (Capital Improvement Program)

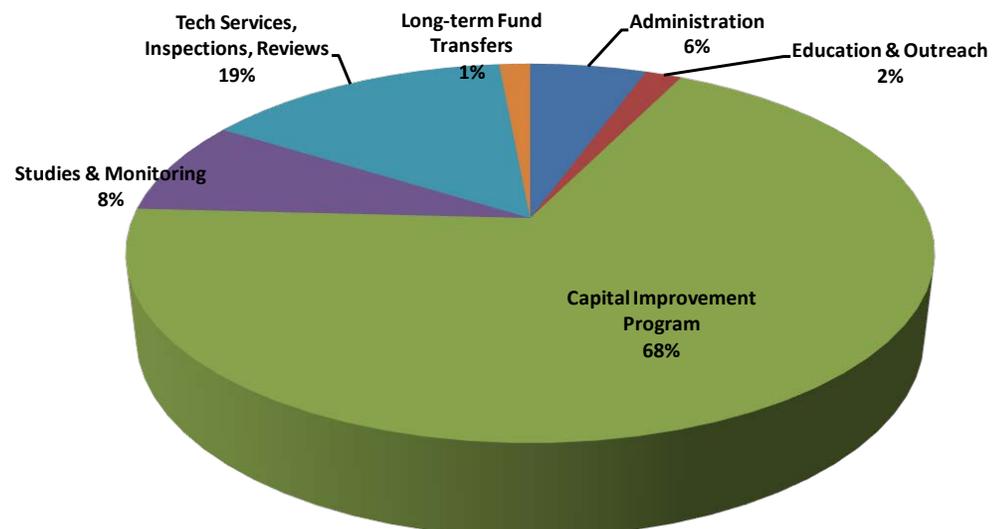
The BCWMC continued to implement its capital improvements program. Information on all BCWMC projects (completed, on-going, and proposed) can be found at www.bassettcreekwmo.org.



- **Plymouth Creek Restoration Project in Plymouth.** Construction of this project was completed in 2018 including the repair of eroding streambanks and establishment vegetation along Plymouth Creek in Plymouth Creek Park and downstream of Fernbrook Ave. The project received grant funds from Hennepin County and a Clean Water Fund Grant from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources.
- **Winnetka Pond Dredging Project in Crystal.** Project designs were completed for this project that will remove of 18,400 cubic yards of sediment from the pond, increase flood storage, reduce sediment and phosphorus entering the North Branch of Bassett Creek (estimated 51.7 lbs of total phosphorus and 1,823 lbs of total suspended solids annually), and will improve habitat for wildlife and pollinators with a native buffer and goose management. Construction was completed in early 2019 and the vegetated buffer will be established throughout the 2019 growing season.
- **Westwood Lake Improvement Project in St. Louis Park.** Project designs for this project were completed in 2018. This project is part of a much larger reconstruction of the Westwood Hills Nature Center, a 160-acre park located in St. Louis Park. As part of the city's reconstruction project, the BCWMC will install a linear water feature that captures and treats roof runoff, will design and install an educational sign, and incorporate additional educational features.

Budget

In FY 2018, the BCWMC spent approximately \$618,670 on activities and programs and \$1.66 million on capital projects. BCWMC income included \$515,050 from member cities, \$125,000 in grants and reimbursements, and \$53,000 in development review fees. Another \$1.346 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 2018 expenditures, see the Year End Financial Report in Appendix A or the financial audit online.



2018 BCWMC Expenditures

Water Monitoring Activities

The BCWMC assessed the health of its lakes and streams through various monitoring activities including:

- Assessed the health of Parkers and Westwood Lakes by collecting data on water quality, plankton, and aquatic plants (Appendix B)
- Participated in Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) for seven lakes with the help of volunteers
- Performed continuous stream monitoring on Bassett Creek at the Watershed Outlet Monitoring program coordinated by the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Find information about all the major BCWMC lakes & streams at:
www.bassetcreekwmo.org

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.



Education & Outreach Activities

- Continued partnering with Metro Blooms on the Harrison Neighborhood Project to engage residents, train youth, and install water quality practices in Minneapolis' Near North neighborhood. Completed the initial project funded by a Met Council grant and continued with Clean Water grant funded project.
- Participated with the West Metro Water Alliance, a consortium of watershed organizations and other partners that collaborate on education programming including programs in 4th grade classrooms, and promotion of the "Pledge to Plant" campaign.
- Provided watershed education to the public at the Golden Valley Arts and Music Festival.
- Provided watershed map, salt dispenser cups, and dog waste bag dispensers at watershed education events.
- Provided financial support to Metro Watershed Partners for their "Clean Water MN" media campaign, and the Children's Water Festival.
- Provided funding for Commissioner education for conference registrations.
- Provided funding for the Hennepin County's River Watch - a program for high school students to collect benthic invertebrates to determine stream health.
- Hosted "Level I Winter Maintenance for Roads Workshop" for fifteen city staff, private applicators, and parks district staff. Most participants took an exam to become certified in level one "smart salting."
- Designed, had fabricated and installed Bassett Creek signs at creek crossings in Golden Valley.
- Received Hennepin County AIS Prevention Grant and partnered with Three Rivers Park District to purchase decontamination unit for Medicine Lake to prevent the spread of zebra mussels.
- Engaged local leaders from five lake groups in a facilitated conversation about options for organizing and collaborating.