

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Executive Summary: 2019 Annual Report



2019: Celebrating 50 Years!

In 2019, the BCWMC celebrated 50 years of working to fulfill its mission:
Stewardship of Water Resources to Protect and Enhance Our Communities.

The Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission was established in 1969 to address major flooding along the creek and to improve the 1920's era Bassett Creek Tunnel under Minneapolis. Between 1976 and 1992, the "new" Bassett Creek Tunnel was constructed through an award-winning partnership of local, state, and federal agencies.



The change to the "Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission" coincided with a new focus on improving water quality in lakes and streams in addition to continuing to address localized flooding. In 2004, the BCWMC began its capital improvement program (CIP), installing 33 projects in the last 15 years with some impressive outcomes:



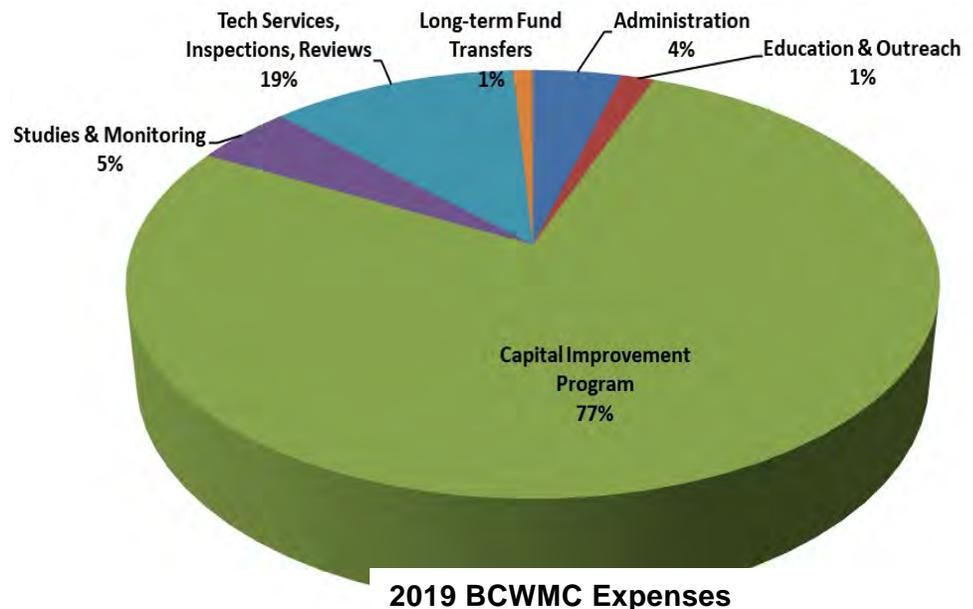
- ❖ \$15.6M levied for projects
- ❖ \$2.4M grant dollars leveraged
- ❖ 1,900 lbs of phosphorus reduced annually
- ❖ 644 tons of sediment reduced annually
- ❖ 5.7 miles of streambanks restored
- ❖ 1 lake removed from impaired waters list



Read more about BCWMC's history at: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/about/our-history

Budget

In FY 2019, the BCWMC spent approximately \$615,000 on activities and programs and \$2.05 million on capital projects. BCWMC income included \$529,850 from member cities, \$118,000 in grants and reimbursements, and \$50,000 in development review fees. Another \$1.436 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 2019 expenditures, see the 2019 Operating Budget in Appendix A or the financial audit online.



2019 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.

Major Projects: The BCWMC continued to implement its capital improvements program and received critical grant funds for several projects. Information on all BCWMC projects (completed, on-going, and proposed) can be found at www.bassettcreekwmo.org.



- **DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project.** Construction of this project was largely completed in 2019 including creation of a new pond and expansion of two existing ponds to alleviate flooding in Golden Valley and to improve water quality in Bassett Creek. The project received Clean Water Funds from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources.
- **Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project.** The feasibility study was completed and this project was officially ordered. The project will reduce phosphorus by 30 lbs. per year by treating runoff from 41 acres of residential areas in Minneapolis. The project will be constructed in conjunction with the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board's redevelopment of Bryn Mawr Meadows Park. The project received a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources.
- **Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project.** This project in Golden Valley was officially ordered in 2019 and will vastly improve the water quality in the lake through carp management and an alum treatment slated for 2020. In 2019, this project received federal grant funding of \$330,000 through the MN Pollution Control Agency.

Monitoring: The BCWMC continued to assess its lakes and streams through a robust water monitoring program and completed a thorough review of its water monitoring program including reviewing goals, objectives, activities, and expenses. In 2019, the BCWMC

- Assessed the health of **Northwood and Cavanaugh Lakes** by collecting data on water quality, plankton, and aquatic plants (Appendix B),
- Completed the second year of a 2-year monitoring project on the **North Branch of Bassett Creek** including collecting data on flow, water quality, habitat, and macroinvertebrates,
- Performed continuous stream flow and water quality monitoring on **Bassett Creek at the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program** station in partnership with the Met Council, and
- Coordinated **volunteers on seven lakes** to collect water samples and data through the Met Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program.

Education & Outreach: The BCWMC continued engaging and educating watershed residents through various avenues including:

- Hosted a 50th **anniversary event and watershed tour** with 74 participants, a keynote address by Mark Seeley, and presentation of the BCWMC's history by long time Commission engineer, Len Kremer.
- Drafted and submitted **monthly articles** to the local newspaper, Sun Post, for an educational column on topics like reducing chlorides, planting natives, local water management, adopt-a-drain, and BCWMC history.
- Continued a partnership with Metro Blooms on the **Harrison Neighborhood Project** to engage residents, train youth, and install water quality practices.
- Engaged residents and distributed educational materials at the **Golden Valley Arts & Music Festival**.
- Continued **financial support** of West Metro Water Alliance, Metro Watershed Partners, Children's Water Festival, and Hennepin County River Watch.