

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Executive Summary: 2020 Annual Report



2020 Activities & Achievements

In 2020, the BCWMC continued its work toward fulfilling its mission:
Stewardship of Water Resources to Protect and Enhance Our Communities.

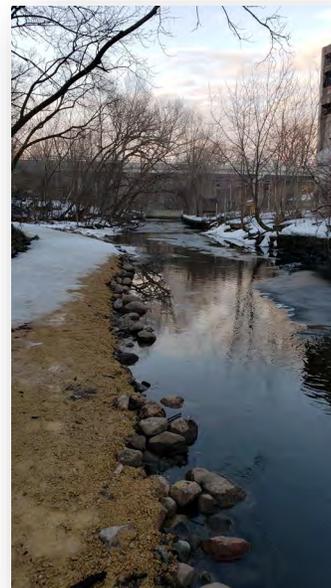
Major Project (Capital Improvement Program)

DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project: Construction of this project in Golden Valley was completed and plants, trees and shrubs will be established in 2021. The project created 24 acre-feet of flood storage to alleviate flooding of adjacent properties and on Medicine Lake Rd. It also improves water quality and restored upland and wetland habitats.



Main Stem Erosion Repair Project: This project stabilized streambanks (and a popular walking path) along Bassett Creek near the Fruen Mill in Minneapolis and between Cedar Lake Rd. and the entrance to the Bassett Creek Tunnel. The project will reduce sediment and nutrient pollution in the creek and downstream in the Mississippi River.

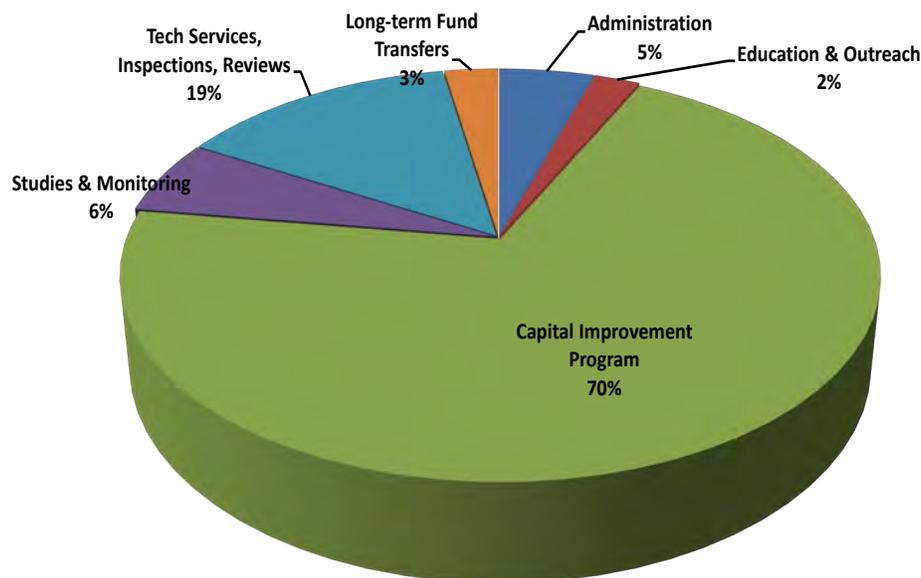
Crane Lake Improvement Project: This project in Minnetonka was completed 2020 in conjunction with the reconstruction of Ridgedale Drive. The project treats runoff from 13.3 acres of urban land that previously flowed untreated into Crane Lake. The project removes an estimated 9 lbs of total phosphorus and 3,500 lbs of total suspended solids from the runoff each year.



Learn more about BCWMC's capital projects: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects

Budget

In FY 2020, the BCWMC spent approximately \$744,421 on activities and programs and \$1.75 million on capital projects. BCWMC income included \$550,450 from member cities, \$178,383 in grants and reimbursements, and \$65,000 in development review fees. Another \$1.5 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 2020 expenditures, see the 2020 Operating Budget in Appendix A or the financial audit online.



2020 BCWMC Expenses

2020 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.

Sweeney Lake Water Quality

Improvement Project: This project was awarded a federal 319 grant through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to treat curly-leaf pondweed, manage and remove carp, and perform an alum treatment on Sweeney Lake to reduce internal phosphorus levels. Work began in 2020 with a survey and herbicide treatment of curly-leaf pondweed. Carp capture and removal occurred throughout the summer with 452 carp removed from Sweeney Lake and 152 carp removed from Schaper Pond. A whole-lake alum treatment was performed in late October and a second alum treatment is planned for 2022.



Monitoring: In 2020, the BCWMC continued to assess its lakes and streams through a robust water monitoring program:

- Assessed the health of **Sweeney and Twin Lakes** by collecting data on water quality, plankton, and aquatic plants; and partnered with Three Rivers Park District on monitoring in **Medicine Lake**
- Completed the first year of a 2-year monitoring project on the **Sweeney 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 eight lakes** to collect water samples and data through the Met Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program.

Education & Outreach: Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the BCWMC continued engaging and educating watershed residents through various avenues including:

- Drafted and submitted **monthly articles** to the local newspaper, Sun Post, for an educational column on topics like reducing chlorides, raingardens, pollinator-friendly practices, precipitation changes, and AIS
- Created and posted 8 short videos on various topics similar to the columns for the Sun Post; view all the videos on the BCWMC You Tube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKrsWkEW8DI5FZbl93Fb_hg
- Continued a partnership with Metro Blooms on the **Harrison Neighborhood Project** to engage residents and businesses, train youth, and install water quality practices.
- Continued **financial support** of West Metro Water Alliance, Metro Watershed Partners, Children's Water Festival, and Hennepin County River Watch.