



Item 7C.  
BCWMC 7-21-16

## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

June 29, 2016

Ms. Danette Parr  
City of Plymouth  
3400 Plymouth Blvd.  
Plymouth, MN 55447

Dear Ms. Parr,

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) fully supports the City of Plymouth's application to the Metropolitan Council's Livable Communities Demonstration Account for the Four Seasons Mall Redevelopment Project.

The proposed project lies in a key location within the Bassett Creek watershed and represents a wonderful opportunity to create a community destination with innovative features that also improve water quality in downstream Northwood Lake and the North Branch of Bassett Creek. The project also offers the chance to educate residents on water resources and water quality goals through the use of educational signage located near the stormwater management features. The BCWMC could be a partner in this redevelopment project due to the developer's expressed interest to include innovative stormwater management practices that go above and beyond existing requirements for water quality improvement.

The BCWMC has a history of working to improve water quality in this same location. The BCWMC previously planned a major project through its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to restore a large stream section tributary to the Four Seasons Mall. The project goals included reducing the amount of total phosphorus and sediment flowing into Northwood Lake which is on the State's list of impaired waterbodies due to high levels of phosphorus. Unfortunately, the restoration project has not been constructed to date due to residents' concerns about tree loss. The BCWMC CIP fund still includes over \$800,000 for a project in this area that would improve the water quality of Northwood Lake. It's possible some of the stormwater management features in the proposed project could be part of a revised CIP project.

Northwood Lake and the North Branch of Bassett Creek are important natural resources in the area and the BCWMC has classified them as high priority (Priority 1) waterbodies in its Watershed Management Plan. While the BCWMC works to implement projects that improve water quality throughout the watershed, the work of protecting and improving the creek cannot rest with one organization or group. It takes the collaborative effort of multiple groups, businesses, and residents to improve water quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the BCWMC's support of the grant application. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the City on projects that improve water quality, educate residents, and improve communities. If you have questions or would like to discuss BCWMC's involvement further, please contact BCWMC Administrator, Laura Jester at 952-270-1990 or [laura.jester@keystonewaters.com](mailto:laura.jester@keystonewaters.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim de Lambert".

Jim de Lambert, Chair

**Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission**

7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | [www.bassettcreekwmo.org](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org) | Established 1968

Crystal | Golden Valley | Medicine Lake | Minneapolis | Minnetonka | New Hope | Plymouth | Robbinsdale | St. Louis Park