

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

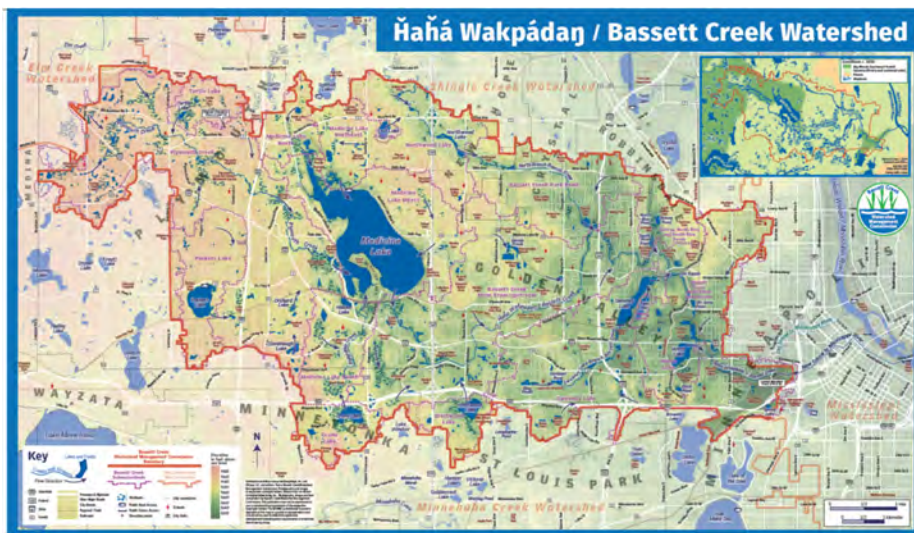
Executive Summary: 2024 Annual Report



2024 Activities & Achievements

Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ / Bassett Creek – New Watershed Map Features Indigenous History & Culture

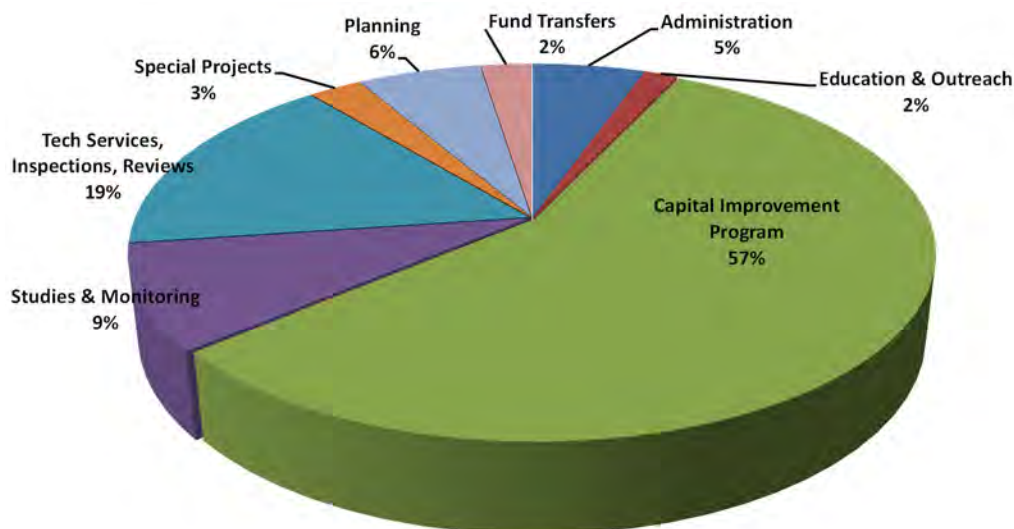
The BCWMC's printed watershed map has been a key part of the Commissions educational material since 2015, but a lot has changed in the last 10 years! The BCWMC Education Committee and Indigenous cultural advisors updated and redesigned the map with an emphasis on topography, water flow, Indigenous history and culture, and Dakota place names. Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ means "creek to the river of the falls" - the original name for the creek. Long before Europeans arrived, the Dakota people were caretakers of the creek and surrounding forests and wetlands. The [watershed map](#) and a companion [webpage](#) represent a beginning in learning Indigenous knowledge and convey some foundational information.



Budget

In FY 2024, the BCWMC spent approximately \$1.05 million on activities and programs and \$1.4 million on capital projects. BCWMC income included \$622,500 from member cities, about \$292,000 in grants and reimbursements, and \$77,000 in development review fees. Another \$2.2 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 2024 expenditures, see the 2024 Operating Budget in Appendix A or the financial audit online.

2024 BCWMC Expenses



2024 Highlights

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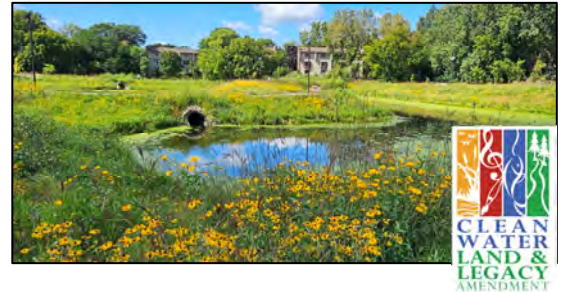
The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) is governed by a board composed of representatives from each of the nine member cities: Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, St. Louis Park, and Robbinsdale. Representatives are appointed by their cities and serve three-year terms.

Medley Park Stormwater Improvement Project Completed

Each year, the BCWMC implements one or more major capital improvement program (CIP) projects to protect or improve water resources.



In 2024, the [Medley Park Stormwater Improvement Project](#) was constructed in Golden Valley. This project expanded an existing storm water pond and added two new ponds to increase water storage, protecting infrastructure and homes from flooding and improving water quality in Medicine Lake downstream from this park. The project also created 1.2 acres of native prairie and wetland fringe around the ponds. The project is in an area of Medley Park once covered by turf grass and a ballfield that was difficult to maintain due to challenging soils and drainage issues.



The total project cost was approximately \$2 million. The BCWMC received a \$300,000 Clean Water Fund grant from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources for this project and implemented the project in collaboration with the City of Golden Valley.

Watershed Management Plan Under Development

Throughout 2024, the BCWMC continued to develop its next 10-year watershed management plan including identifying 10-year goals, and the programs, projects, and activities that could be implemented to meet the goals. Plan development is continuing into 2025 with an opportunity to receive feedback on the draft plan from interested groups or parties and through a formal 60-day review period. Find planning documents online at www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update.

Eurasian Watermilfoil Discovery & Control on Sweeney Lake

In August 2024, an aquatic vegetation plant survey conducted by the BCWMC discovered a small patch of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in the southwest corner of Sweeney Lake. The BCWMC, the City of Golden Valley, the Minnesota DNR, and the Sweeney Lake Association moved quickly to address issue and the EWM bed was treated with herbicide five days after discovery. Unfortunately, later that year an additional area of EWM was discovered near the boat launch but it was too late in the year to treat that area.

In spring 2024, Sweeney Lake residents waited patiently for a second herbicide treatment. Despite a beautiful early spring they residents stayed completely off the lake, closed the access points, and were diligent about keeping visiting watercraft off the lake until after the EWM treatment. Thanks to a Hennepin County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Grant, local funding from the Sweeney Lake Association, and funding from BCWMC, 2.6 acres of EWM were treated in May 2024 and no EWM was found in the lake in a follow up survey in July. Further, Twin Lake and ponds in the area that are connected to Sweeney Lake were also surveyed and none were found to have EWM. An AIS early detection training session for lake residents will be held this summer with hopes of preventing a full-scale AIS threat in the future. Additional plant surveys will also be conducted in 2025 with the hope reporting EWM eradication from the lake – a rare feat! Time will tell....