

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Executive Summary: 2025 Annual Report



2025 Activities & Achievements

Completion of New Watershed Management Plan

The BCWMC began development of its new 10-year watershed management plan in 2022 by gathering input from member cities, state agencies, partners, and the public. The BCWMC Plan Steering Committee and Board of Commissioners used the input to prioritize issues, develop goals, and plan projects and programs to meet the goals.

High priorities in the plan include improving water quality (particularly in Medicine, Northwood, and Lost Lakes), lowering chloride pollution coming from winter deicers, reducing flood risk, improving ecology in streams and lakes, collaborating on regional improvements in the Bassett Creek Valley, and assessing the organization's structure, staffing, and funding mechanisms.

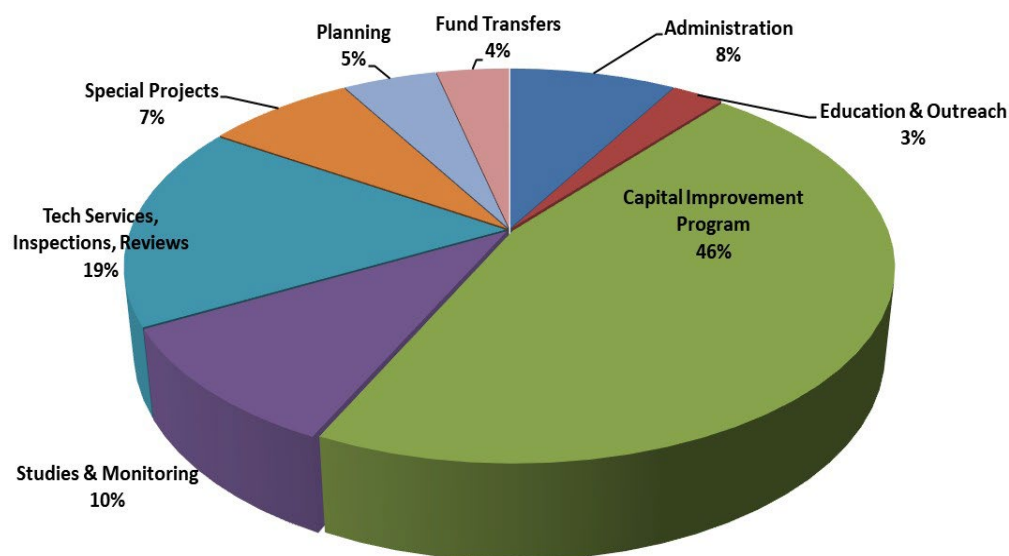


The [new plan](#) was approved by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources in early 2026 and adopted by the BCWMC in April 2026.

Budget

In 2025, the BCWMC adjusted its fiscal year to align with a calendar year resulting in an 11-month fiscal year. In FY 2025, the BCWMC spent about \$880,000 on activities and programs and \$750,700 on capital projects. BCWMC income included \$663,000 from member cities, about \$8,000 in grants and reimbursements, and \$53,000 in development review fees. Another \$377,700 was earned from investments and \$2.23 million was collected through a Hennepin County tax levy on watershed residents for the capital projects. more information on the BCWMC's 2025 expenditures, see the 2025 Operating Budget in Appendix A or the financial audit online.

2025 BCWMC Expenses
11-month fiscal year



2025 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.

Where and When to Sweep the Streets: A Prioritization Project

Each year the BCWMC sets aside income from investments into a Special Project Fund used to perform studies that help develop and target programs and projects for the most beneficial and cost-effective outcomes. In 2025, Special Project funds were used to evaluate where, when, and under what conditions street sweeping is most effective at reducing water pollution.

Street sweeping is a critical practice used by cities to maintain road surfaces, improve public safety, and improve water quality by removing dirt, leaves, grass clippings, road salt, and trash before this pollution reaches a storm sewer and flows into a lake or stream. Not surprisingly, street sweeping in the fall in areas with a lot of tree cover is the most cost effective for pollution reduction. The study also prioritized areas across the watershed where additional sweeping or sweeping on a different schedule would most benefit downstream waters when compared to the city's current sweeping program.



Photo by Karen Chandler

Cities in the BCWMC can use the results to improve the effectiveness of their sweeping program. The BCWMC will use the results to adjust its policies on cost sharing sweeping equipment and when determining practices needed to improve specific lakes or streams.

Update on Eurasian watermilfoil in Sweeney Lake

Last year we reported that in August 2023 a small patch of the aquatic invasive species (AIS), Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), was discovered in Sweeney Lake. The BCWMC, the City of Golden Valley, the Minnesota DNR, and the Sweeney Lake Association partnered to treat the area quickly five days later. Another patch of EWM was treated early in 2024 with grant funds from Hennepin County.

Vegetation surveys later in 2024 and throughout 2025 continued to find no trace of EWM in the lake which may indicate that the invasive species was actually eradicated. Eradication of AIS is a rare occurrence! In this case, it's clear that early detection of the infestation, partnerships among various organizations, county grant funds, and lake association funding and restricted lake activities resulted in success. In July 2025, Sweeney Lake residents completed a training course, funded by Hennepin County, to identify EWM and other AIS before they get a foothold in the lake.

