Memorandum

To: Laura Jester, Administrator, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
From: Barr Engineering Co. (Jessica Olson, P.E., Veronica Parsell)
Subject: Scope and Budget for Archaeological Reconnaissance and Reporting for the Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project, Regent Avenue to Golden Valley Road (CR-M 2024)
Date: June 27, 2025
Project: 23272114

Administrative approval June 27, 2025

Background

Project Background:

The Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project, Regent Avenue to Golden Valley Road (CR-M 2024) (Project) is a stream restoration project in City of Golden Valley. At their March 20, 2025 meeting, the Commission approved the scope and budget for the Commission Engineer to prepare final design, develop plans and specifications, and provide permitting assistance, bidding assistance and construction services for the Project. As part of the approved Project scope, the Commission Engineer planned to update the cultural resources literature review from the feasibility study and noted that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) may require a Phase I archaeological reconnaissance and technical report for the Project. The Project scope identified a contingency budget of $15,000 for the Phase I archaeological reconnaissance and technical report that can be authorized by the Commission administrator. Based on communications with USACE, archaeological reconnaissance is required for the Project. The remainder of this memorandum summarizes why an archaeological reconnaissance is required, and the scope, budget, and schedule of the archaeological reconnaissance and report.

Section 106: National Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36CFR Part 800 (Section 106) requires that federal agencies assess the effects of their projects on cultural resources eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Section 106 applies to any federal agency undertaking that has the potential to affect NRHP-eligible or listed cultural resources, should they be present. Cultural resources include above-ground (i.e., historic architectural) and below-ground (i.e., archaeological) resources. The Project will seek permitting from the USACE, thereby constituting an undertaking subject to Section 106. As a result, the Commission Engineer will complete a cultural resources literature review (part of the original Project scope) and the proposed Phase I archaeological reconnaissance to evaluate whether the project's area of potential effects (APE) contains archaeological resources eligible for or listed in the NRHP. A Phase I historic architectural reconnaissance is also being completed under a separate scope, to determine whether the project's area of potential effects (APE) contains historic architectural resources eligible for or listed in the NRHP. For the purposes of this proposal, the Commission Engineer assumes the APE for archaeological resources consists of the proposed stream restoration project area footprint, consisting of 67 project areas in the upland along either side of the creek, which total approximately four acres of land.

Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance and Reporting

Following completion of the literature review (covered in original work scope) and preceding Phase 1 archaeological reconnaissance, the Commission Engineer will prepare, submit, and obtain a license from the Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) for work on non-federal public land (including City of Golden Valley and Three Rivers Park District), per state requirements. Once the license is obtained from OSA, the Commission Engineer will complete a Phase I archaeological reconnaissance for the project to identify archaeological sites located in the APE (Figure 1). The APE consists primarily of wooded vegetation with some residential development including houses, sidewalks and roadways; therefore, the Commission Engineer assumes that average ground surface visibility will be less than 25 percent. As a result, shovel test excavation will be required, except in areas of previous ground disturbance. Shovel tests will be excavated according to Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) guidelines, which require shovel tests to be excavated every 50 feet (15 meters). We will perform shovel tests on both sides along the stream corridor in areas where project construction would occur, with at least one shovel test in each of the 67 proposed project areas. Areas in which the corridor crosses previously disturbed soils (i.e. soils that were removed or turned up as part of some sort of development such as the installation of utilities) and areas within the creek will not be tested, as there would be no potential for intact cultural resources in these locations.

We will prepare a technical report detailing the results of the Phase I archaeology survey. The report will include sections, as appropriate, outlining the purpose of the survey, a description of the environmental setting, the cultural context for the project area, results of the background research, details of methods used, and survey results including descriptions of any identified resources. The report will also include the Commission Engineer's recommendations for the project to proceed as planned or for any additional archaeological work that may be needed prior to project construction.

Assumptions

- The Commission Engineer will work with the Commission Administrator and Golden Valley staff to notify property owners prior to initiating the archaeological survey. Golden Valley staff will send out notification letters.
- Weather conditions are conducive to fieldwork, i.e., no heavy rain, snow, or frozen ground.
- Up to four acres, consisting of 67 separate project areas, will be investigated for archaeological resources.
- Most of the project area has a high probability to contain archaeological resources; therefore, shovel test unit excavation will be completed at 15-meter intervals along each side of the proposed 7,000-foot stream corridor in areas of proposed ground disturbance.
- Gopher State One Calls will be completed by the Commission Engineer for the project area prior to shovel test unit excavation.
- Up to 80 shovel tests will be excavated.
- Shovel test excavation will not exceed 60 centimeters below surface. Archaeological deep testing and/or augering is not included in this scope of services.

- If any archaeological sites are encountered, the Commission Engineer may request a change order to complete the required site delineation, artifact processing, OSA site form preparation and submission, and additional reporting requirements.
- Phase II evaluation to further investigate sites to determine their NRHP eligibility will not be performed as part of this proposal.
- If historic or precontact cemeteries or burial grounds are identified in the project area, the Commission Engineer can provide a separate scope and budget to proceed with the steps necessary to adhere to relevant rules and regulations.
- No NRHP-eligible archaeological sites will be identified within the APE. NRHP eligible properties require additional documentation and reporting requirements.
- The Commission Engineer will complete up to one round of report edits following Commission Administrator's review.

Schedule

The Commission Engineer developed the proposed schedule shown below given the assumptions identified in this scope of work.

Table 1. Proposed Project Schedule

Task	Timeline
Fieldwork	July-August 2025
Reporting	August-September 2025

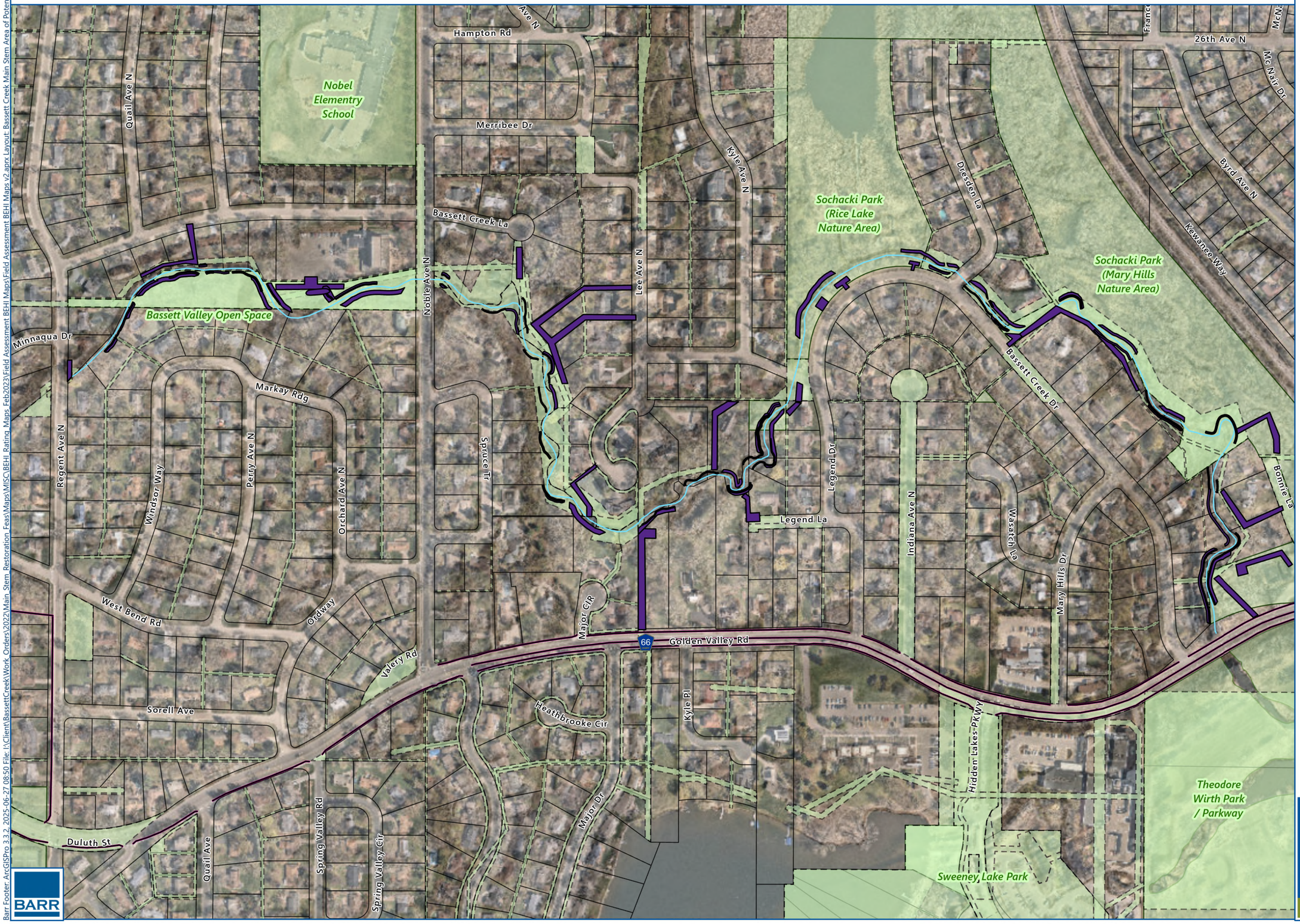
Budget

The Commission Engineer proposes to complete the scope of work described above for a total cost of up to **$15,000** on a time and materials basis.

Task	Cost Estimate
Archaeological Reconnaissance (Fieldwork)	$7,500
Reporting and Project Management	$7,500
Total	**$15,000**

These services will be performed by our cultural resources team, including Veronica Parsell and Allison Hawley; they are registered professional archaeologists with more than 21 years of combined experience.

BASSETT CREEK MAIN STEM AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT



Bassett Creek

Bike and Pedestrian Trail System

Private Parcel

Public Parcel

Easement

Area of Potential Effect

N

0 300

Feet

Imagery: NearMap (May 2022)

Area of Potential Effect
Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration

Golden Valley, MN

FIGURE 1

BARR

Barr Footer: ArcGISPro 3.3.2, 2025-06-27 08:50 File: I:\Client\BassettCreek\Work_Orders\2022\Main_Stem_Restoration_Feas\Maps\MISC\BEHI_Ratings_Maps_Feb2023\Field Assessment BEHI Maps\Field Assessment BEHI Maps v2.aprx Layout: Bassett Creek Main Stem Area of Potential Effects