



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Wirth Lake Room, Brookview

Attendees:

Erick Francis, St. Louis Park
Rikita Patel, Golden Valley
Nick Macklen, New Hope
Rachael Crabb, MPRB

Commissioner Paula Pentel
Commission Engineer Johnson
Commission Administrator Jester

In absence of the chair, TAC member Francis called the meeting to order at approximately 10:40 a.m.

1. Review Options for Streambank Monitoring

The group was reminded that at the TAC meeting in April, the group discussed one of the activities listed in Table 4-5 of the 2026 Watershed Management Plan: Activity MM-7 Streambank Monitoring - Biennially assess the condition of streambanks along BCWMC priority streams, evaluate downstream impacts, and prioritize areas for action.

They reviewed the discussion from April which included the following comments:

- Plymouth Creek is not surveyed; city staff rely on anecdotal information; residents may not appreciate staff walking through backyards.
- Golden Valley staff used to regularly survey all stream banks, but there was some uncertainty about current practice; may be a lower priority for the city as more stream reaches are repaired.
- Crystal does not currently do this; noted it would be good practice to survey streams every 2 or 3 years to prioritize restoration needs rather than rely on residents and complaints.
- Surveys can identify needs and stressors, monitor erosion, prioritize future projects; may be considered similar to asset management.
- A checklist could be developed for city staff to perform surveys; but some cities may not have staff available and surveys may not be performed uniformly among different cities.

At this September meeting, the group continued reviewing current practices:

- Golden Valley has been surveying for erosion and obstructions and inspecting MS4 outfalls; information is uploaded to a mapping program but unclear how it's used.
- MPRB looks for obstructions that could cause erosion or impoundments and following up with preventative work. Noted access can be tricky, so some areas get inspected less frequently than others and using interns is challenging to get reliable, consistent data.
- St. Louis Park does not perform surveys; relies on Minnehaha Creek WD.
- New Hope staff walk North Branch Bassett Creek every 2 – 3 years to look for flow impedance including trees or overgrowth of cattails; doesn't usually find erosion issues.

Ideas for moving forward included using a checklist for uniform inspections, using a condition rating system, doing initial survey along the whole creek to set a baseline, providing photos and scores to cities for future/ongoing assessments, and the potential use of drones.

Also at this meeting, the group reviewed information from the Commission Engineer on routine stream inspection programs used by the Valley Branch Watershed District and Riley-Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (see slides below).

Discussion included the following points:

- Inspections and data can be good for public communication perspective
- Inspections could be considered similar to annual Flood Control Project inspections (performed by Commission Engineer with invitations for cities to assist; noted that reporting is the most costly part of that program)
- MS4 permit requires outfall inspection every 5 years; BCWMC should avoid duplication with city operations
- Creating baseline for FEMA flood damage grants may be another good reason for surveys

2. **Appoint Representatives to WBIF Convene Meetings**

Administrator Jester will email a “call for city representatives” to the WBIF convene meetings.

3. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Streambank Monitoring

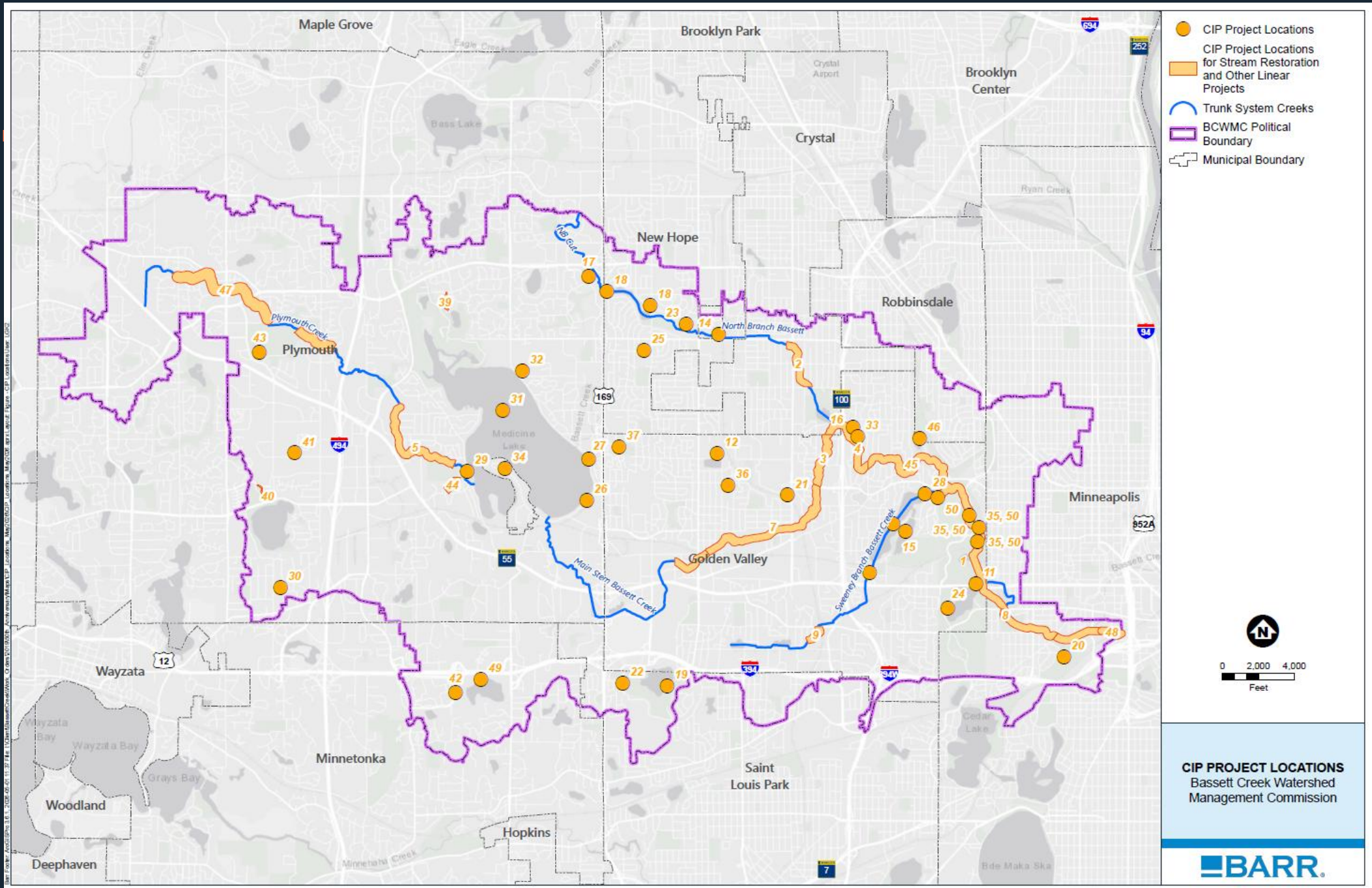


September 2, 2026
BCWMC TAC Meeting



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Tool	Activity ID (<u>underlined</u> = new)	Activity Name (<u>underlined</u> = new)	Activity Description	Most Relevant Goals	Estimated Costs (presented in 2025 dollars)						
					2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Monitoring and Modeling	MM-1	Water Quality Monitoring	Perform annual water quality monitoring activities as described and planned in the BCWMC Monitoring Plan (see link - TBD). Monitoring includes: - Lake water quality and biological monitoring, including vegetation surveys - Stream water quality and flow monitoring - Stream biotic index monitoring	PRG1-2, WQ1-9, AIST, CHL1-2	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000
	MM-2	Water Quantity Monitoring	Perform annual water level and quantity monitoring activities as described and planned in the BCWMC Monitoring Plan (see link - TBD).	PRG1-2, FLD1, FLD4	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
	MM-3	Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program	Support the watershed outlet monitoring on Bassett Creek performed in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council.	PRG1-2, WQ1-9, CHL1-2	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500
	MM-4	Water Quality Model Updates	Update the P8 water quality model.	PRG1-2, WQ1-9, CHL1-2	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
	MM-5	Hydrologic and Hydraulic Model Updates	Update the hydrologic and hydraulic model and map areas of higher risk and identify potential flood risk reduction project locations.	PRG1-2, FLD1, FLD4	\$ 4,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
	MM-7	<u>Streambank Monitoring</u>	Biennially assess the condition of streambanks along BCWMC priority streams, evaluate downstream impacts, and prioritize areas for action.	STRM1, STRM2	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -
	Monitoring and Modeling Subtotal				\$ 211,500	\$ 362,500	\$ 211,500	\$ 216,500	\$ 211,500	\$ 216,500	\$ 211,500



Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Creek Restoration Action Strategy (CRAS)



“The District developed CRAS to prioritize creek reaches, sub-reaches, or sites, in need of stabilization and/or restoration.”

Prioritization Metrics	
Tier I (Measurable Variables) *	Tier II (Socio-economic Variables)
1. Infrastructure risk	1. Project cost / lb P / foot
2. Erosion and channel stability	2. Partnership opportunities
3. Ecological benefits	3. Watershed benefits
4. Water quality	4. Public education

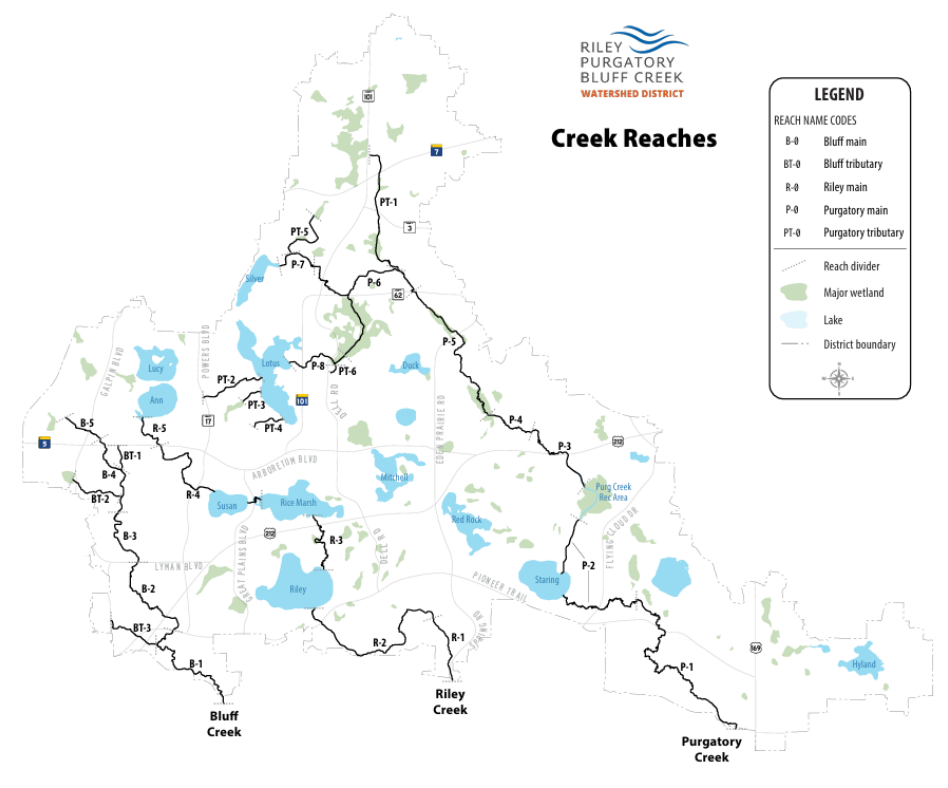
** A combination of field inspection and water quality monitoring data is evaluated to determine Tier 1 scores.*

How does it work?



Approach:

- Stream reaches broken up into assessment units.
- Rotate through the District creek-by-creek; generally, assessing each creek once every 3-years.
- May also prioritize a specific area for inspection in a given year, if know something's coming up (e.g., upcoming city CIP).
- *Restored and non-restored reaches inspected at the same frequency.*



1. Infrastructure risk	Based on assessment by District / Barr staff	(1: No threat to infrastructure - 7: short term threat)
2. Erosion and channel stability	Assessed using Modified Pfankuch Channel Stability Rating, by Rosgen Stream Type	(1: Very stable - 7: Unstable)
3. Ecological benefits	Scored using MPCA's MSHA; reaches with opportunities to improve the MSHA get a higher score	(1: Excellent habitat quality – 7: Poor habitat quality)
4. Water quality	Based on WQ monitoring results from past 5-years	(1: No impairments & well under standards – 7: Impaired & consistently poor WQ)

How does it work? (cont.)

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Who?:

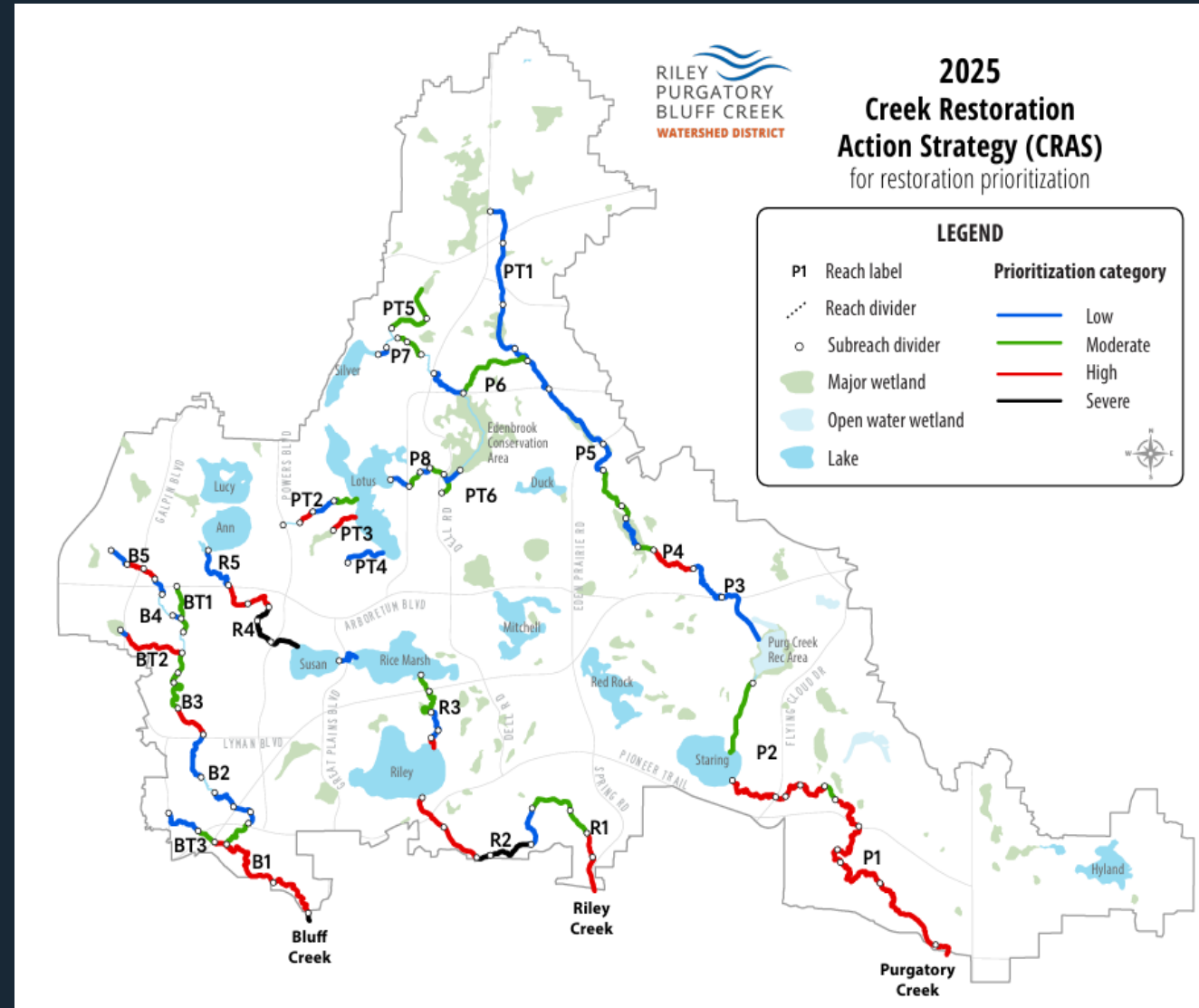
- Barr worked w/ District staff to develop program (2014/15), Barr supported with initial inspections, then trained District staff.
- Currently: work performed by District staff. No city involvement in inspections.

How the information is used:

- Information used for District CIP planning, project prioritization, coordination with cities, grants, and communicating with the public.

Publish results annually:

- [CRAS - Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District](#)



Valley Branch Watershed District

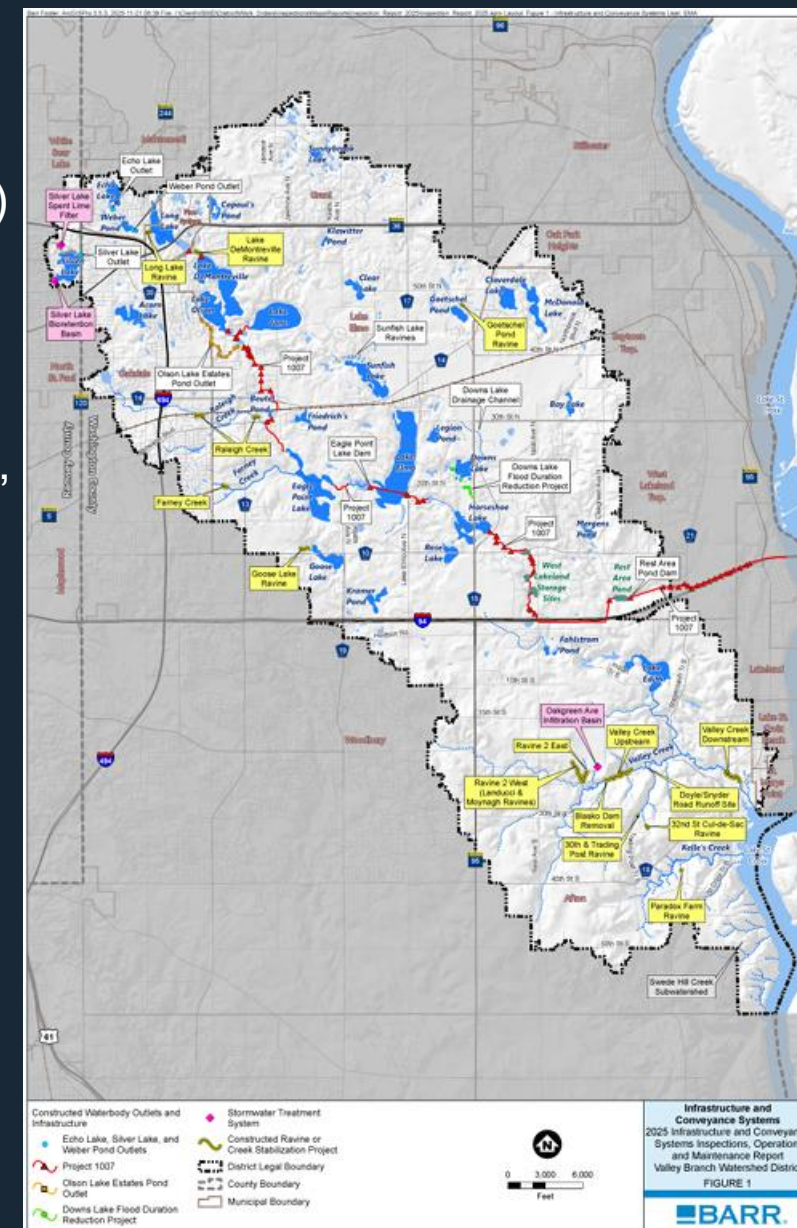


Inspect natural conveyance systems as part of ongoing (asset management) inspection and maintenance program.

Goal: ensure proper functionality of conveyance system, identifying any problem areas or maintenance issues, checking in on areas of concern (e.g., actively eroding areas), and inspecting restored areas.

Approach:

- Stream corridors divided up and rotate so inspect all priority stream corridors once / 4 years.
- Severe and significant erosion sites get inspected annually.
- Typically inspect 2-4 miles of stream corridor / year.



How does it work?



- Identify / document obstructions and other maintenance items (log/debris jams, damage / blockage of culverts, etc.); identify and categorize erosion areas by severity: minor, moderate, significant, or severe.
- Prioritize necessary repairs by level of severity.

Who?:

- Barr staff perform inspections as part of annual program.

How the information is used:

- Information used to identify problem areas that need attention.
- Used for District CIP planning, project prioritization, coordination with other agencies, grants, and communicating with the public.

Publish results annually:

- [VBWD Systems Inspections and Maintenance](#)

[barr.com](#)

