

Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant Program



This Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant Application Form is available at:

<http://www.hennepin.us/residents/environment/natural-resources-funding>

Guidelines for Submitting Natural Resource “Opportunity” Grants

Please **email** your application to Randy Anhorn at randy.anhorn@hennepin.us or send to :

U.S. Postal Mailing Address:

Hennepin County
Environment and Energy
Attn: Randy Anhorn
701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1842

Find out more at <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/environment/natural-resources-funding>

About the Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant Program

In an effort to work with partners to preserve, establish and restore our natural resources, reduce erosion and protect and improve water quality, Hennepin County Environment and Energy Department has initiated the *Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant* program. Through the *Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant* program, Hennepin County provides funds to potential partners to implement projects that address an identified natural resource management problem or need and/or undertake assessments that directly lead to the identification siting of projects that meet common natural resource management goals.

Questions & technical assistance

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the project managers for assistance, including feedback on ideas, suggestions for activities, help with the application or any general questions and concerns.

Hennepin County Project Managers:

Randy Anhorn	612-348-2027	randy.anhorn@hennepin.us
James Kujawa	612-348-7338	james.kujawa@hennepin.us
Tony Brough	612-348-4378	tony.brough@hennepin.us

Selection criteria

The Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant review committee will evaluate the application based on the following criteria to determine if the project sufficiently meets the threshold for partial funding of the project, assessment and/or project grant application:

- The primary purpose of the proposed must address a natural resource problem or need including:
 - Improving water quality
 - Preserve, establish or restore the County’s natural resources (including critical habitats, natural resource corridors and greenways, and designated open spaces.
 - Reduce erosion and sedimentation
- Special consideration is given to applications that are able to leverage resources (e.g., Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment funds (CWL&L) or other funding sources)
- The proposed meets the goals, objectives and strategies of the Hennepin County Environment and Energy Department Strategic Plan
- Severity of the natural resource problem or need:

- Relates directly to a TMDL impairment load reduction.
- Addresses loading to a water resource on the States 303d list of impaired waters
- Is identified as a priority in the potential partners plan(s) (i.e., watershed management plan, comprehensive plan CIPs, etc...).
- Demonstration projects/assessment that following completion may lead to future leverage of funds (identifies future projects that likely would leverage funds).
- Long-term sustainability
- Environmental importance and scientific feasibility:
 - For natural areas: lack of fragmentation, connectivity of important systems such as to regional parks, high quality natural systems.
 - Addresses a identified high quality natural resource (e.g., not-yet-impaired waters)
 - Aligns with priorities of county and local agencies (e.g., County’s natural resources strategic plan, municipal open space and natural resource plans).
- Need for county role
 - Project that include multiple jurisdictions and would benefit from higher level coordination.
 - Project unlikely to happen without county resources.
 - Project is on County property

All contracts recommended by the Hennepin County Environment and Energy Department are subject to approval by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

Program guidelines and requirements

ELIGIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The project must be located in Hennepin County ● Eligible organizations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Local, State or regional governmental units. – Non-profit organization ● Landowners
FUNDING	Funding is available to share the costs with eligible applicants to implement water quality projects, to preserve, establish and restore urban, suburban and rural natural resources and to meet common natural resource management goals. Special consideration is given to applications that are able to leverage resources (e.g., Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment funds (CWL&L))
AWARD AMOUNT	Up to \$100,000, per the discretion of the <i>Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant</i> review committee and Hennepin County Administration.
TIMELINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant</i> requests are non-competitive and applications can be submitted year round, with funds being allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis. ● Each application is ranked against a set of criteria and must meet a minimal score in order to be funded. ● Funding reimbursement cannot occur before contract approval by Hennepin County. ● Semi-annual project progress/summary reports as determined through contract agreement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report within 2 months after project completion.
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDED PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work plan and budget. • Project design and specifications • All invoices for consultant and/or contractor work. • Approval of in-kind contributions prior to work. • Certification that the project was installed according to the approved plans and specifications • Operation and maintenance plans covering the life of the practice.
ACCEPTABLE EXPENSES	Grant funds may be used for materials, supplies, and labor.
PROJECT AGREEMENT	Each project recipient must formally enter into a project agreement with the county. The agreement will address the conditions of the award, including implementation of the project and a final report. The agreement is a legal, binding document. Project recipients are expected to keep accurate financial records of the project which includes documentation of all expenses.
PAYMENTS	Final payment will be provided after the final report is approved by the county project manager. Interim payments can be made on a project by project basis as documented in the project agreement. Interim payments will be based on documentation of expenditures and project stage of completion.

Application Instructions

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Application

The Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant application is to be used by local, state or regional governmental units, landowners, and other organizations to seek Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant program funds from the County. Please complete all required sections of the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

Part 1 of the application requests background information on the applicant, the project area, project type, and funding request. Part 2 of the application requests detailed information on the project, natural resources problem or need being addressed, scope of work, and project budget.

Application Resources

An overview of all Hennepin County Natural Resource funding opportunities, programs, guidelines, and applications can be found at <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/environment/natural-resources-funding>

Hennepin County Environment and Energy Department staff are available to provide clarification and answer questions regarding the funding program, process, and requirements.



Part 1

Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant Application

Application No. _____

Place the cursor in the gray box at question 1, fill in the answer, and then use the F11 function key to navigate through the remaining questions in the application.

1. PROJECT TITLE:

Plymouth Creek Restoration Project

2. APPLICANT NAME:

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

3. APPLICANT SIGNATORY: *(The person whose name is listed here must sign Part 1 -Box 14 of this application)*

Name: Laura Jester

Title: Administrator

Telephone Number: 952-270-1990

Fax Number: NA

E-Mail Address:

laura.jester@keystonewaters.com

Mailing Address

Agency: BCWMC c/o Keystone Waters LLC

Address: 16145 Hillcrest Lane

City: Eden Prairie State: MN Zip Code: 55346

4. PROJECT DURATION:

Estimated Start Date: January 2017

Estimated Completion Date: August 2018

PROJECT Length: 20 months

Part 1

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5. PROJECT TYPE:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Water quality project <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Wetland Restoration <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Habitat Restoration/Protection <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Assessment Identifying Future Projects <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other:

6. FUNDING REQUEST: <i>(Provide the amount of funding requested to complete your project.)</i>	
Check for consistency with costs provided in Part 2, Question 2.	Project Amount:
Total PROJECT Cost This amount represents the full cost of the PROJECT.	<u>\$863,500</u>
Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant Request	<u>\$50,000</u>
Other Match Funds in PROJECT Identify secured source(s) of funds: Funding Source <u>BCWMC CIP Funds – 2017 levy</u> Funding Source <u>BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant</u> Funding Source _____ Funding Source _____	<u>\$580,930</u> <u>\$400,000</u> \$ _____ \$ _____
Describe the status of the matching funds: CWF grant application submitted August 2016. If grant funds are not secured, BCWMC CIP funds will be used for total project costs. Any grant funds received will reduce use of CIP funds/County levy funds.	

7. APPLICATION CERTIFICATION:	
I CERTIFY TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I AM THE LEGALLY AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OR DESIGNEE FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF <u>THIS INFORMATION ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT.</u>	
Printed Name	Signature
Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator	
Title	Date

Part 1
Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant Application

THIS CONCLUDES PART 1

Part 2

Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant Program

This is the rated portion of the application with a total of 200 possible points.

Each question identifies the proportion of available points. Applicants should provide clear and concise information and answers. The Scoring Guide (below each scored question) provides information on what reviewers will look for in a successful application.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (0 points)

Summarize the overall project and associated water quality problem and how the project will address or solve the problem. (limit your answer to 250 words or less).

This project will improve water quality in Plymouth Creek and Medicine Lake by reducing erosion and stabilizing and restoring streambanks along both sides of Plymouth Creek for a total of 2,800 feet including 1,700 feet within Plymouth Creek Park (including through an active disc golf course) and 1,100 feet between Fernbrook Lane and Annapolis Lane in the City of Plymouth. The BCMWC’s March 2016 feasibility study estimated the project will reduce total phosphorus and suspended sediment loading to the creek by 52.2 and 90,800 lbs per year, respectively. Plymouth Creek is tributary to Medicine Lake, a regionally significant lake impaired for nutrients with a nutrient TMDL completed in 2010.

The study identified 21 areas within three reaches where stabilization and restoration is needed. Techniques proposed to be used include re-meandering the stream channel; restoring the vegetative buffer; re-connecting the stream with its floodplain; installing a variety of stream stabilization measures, including riprap, root wads and toe wood, vegetated reinforced soil stabilization (VRSS), rock or log vanes, and stone toe protection; and removing large woody debris. Many of these techniques including vegetation establishment and log or rock vanes will also improve in-stream and near stream habitat along Plymouth Creek. Finally, educational signage in Plymouth Creek Park will inform residents and disc golf players about the project and its goals along with information on general water quality and best practices.

1. SCOPE OF WORK (up to 50 points)

Scoring Guide	Total 50 points
Clear and concise project description	Up to 10 points
Clear description of project tasks	Up to 10 points
Project deliverables are clearly defined	Up to 10 points
Clearly defined timeline for the project	Up to 10 points
The purpose meets defined shared goals	Up to 10 points

Reviewers award points for a clear, complete, and well thought-out scope that directly address the natural resource management problem/need. The scope demonstrates an understanding of the work required to fully implement and complete the project.

Using the area below, please provide:

- A detailed scope of work for the project that includes clearly defined tasks, deliverables, timelines, and purpose.

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- Describe the intended results (what is the benefit?).
 - Be specific, clear and concise.
- Describe the project area and provide supporting map(s) and relevant diagrams and or/pictures.

PROJECT AREA:

The Plymouth Creek Restoration Project area comprises a total of 2,800 feet of streambanks including 1,700 feet within Plymouth Creek Park (including through an active disc golf course) and 1,100 feet between Fernbrook Lane and Annapolis Lane in the City of Plymouth (see Figure 2-1). This project will improve water quality in Plymouth Creek and downstream in Medicine Lake, both high priority waterbodies for the BCWMC. The most upstream areas of the Bassett Creek watershed drain approximately eight square miles from large portions of south and central Plymouth and flow into Plymouth Creek. Plymouth Creek flows in a narrow channel through a suburban landscape generally east and south until it reaches the southwest bay of Medicine Lake. Medicine Lake is a regionally significant waterbody over 900 acres in size. It is a major recreational resource for the area with opportunities for swimming, fishing, boating, birding, and biking or walking on adjacent trails and is also an important resource for wildlife.

WORK TASKS:

The project includes four tasks: 1) project administration/management/engineering review, 2) development of a feasibility study, 3) development of project designs, and 4) project construction. The BCWMC will enter an agreement with the City of Plymouth to design and construct the project with review and oversight by the BCWMC Engineers, Administrator, and Commissioners.

1. Project administration/management/engineering review: BCWMC staff (administrator, engineers, legal counsel) will provide project coordination, review of engineering designs, grant administration, grant reporting, and development/review of binding agreements.
Deliverables: Design review memos, grant reports, legal documents and agreements
Timeline: January 2017 – August 2018
2. Feasibility study: The feasibility study for this project was completed in March 2016 by the BCWMC. Total project costs include the cost of the study.
Deliverables: Complete feasibility study
Timeline: Completed March 2016
3. Project design: The City of Plymouth will contract with a reputable engineering firm to design the various aspects of the project, using the results of the BCWMC's feasibility study. When project designs are 50% complete they will be reviewed by the Commission Engineer. The Commission Engineer will provide comments and recommendations to the BCWM Commissioners at a regular Commission meeting. Design cannot continue until the 50% plans are approved by the Commission. At the 90% design level, the Commission Engineer again reviews the plans and provides recommendations to the Commission. Final designs cannot be developed until the Commission has approved the 90% plans at a regular Commission meeting. Completed plans are reviewed and approved administratively by the Commission Engineer.
Deliverables: Complete set of design plans
Timeline: January 2017 – September 2017
4. Project Construction: They City of Plymouth and their consultant will prepare bid documents based on the final design plans and will contract with the construction company of their choosing. Construction oversight will be done by city staff and their consultants, with Commission staff and engineers closely following the progress of the construction.
Deliverables: Completely constructed project
Timeline: September 2017 – August 2018

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PROJECT RESULTS:

This project will address the root cause of pollution along this stretch of creek: erosion of streambanks due to human influences, such as foot traffic within the park and historical widening or straightening of the channel, and natural causes due to natural channel migration through the landscape. The project will stabilize and restore streambanks on Plymouth Creek which will reduce the amount of total phosphorus and suspended solids entering the creek and Medicine Lake. Streambank restoration projects are a common way to reduce pollution in waterbodies. Streambank restoration on Plymouth Creek is specifically listed in the Medicine Lake TMDL as an effective pollution reducing method.

A feasibility study for this project was completed in March 2016 by the BCWMC Engineer, Barr Engineering. (Find the report and appendices on the project webpage [here](#).) To estimate pollution reductions, the existing stream bank erosion rate (in units of feet per year) for each stabilization site was estimated based on a field assessment method known as the Bank Assessment for Non-Point Source Consequences of Sediment (BANCS) model. The report estimates the project will reduce total phosphorus and suspended sediment loading to the creek by 52.2 and 90,800 lbs per year, respectively.

In addition to reducing pollution, the project will improve in-stream and near stream habitat. Rock vanes, log vanes, and toe wood will add structure into the streambed and streambanks, improving habitats for macroinvertebrates and other aquatic life. The BCWMC monitors Plymouth Creek for biological integrity at a site well downstream of this project area. At that location, the stream does not meet State standards for macroinvertebrates due to a lack of habitat diversity and high levels of streambank erosion and embeddedness. These unfavorable conditions also exist within the project area but are expected to be vastly improved through implementation of the project.

Further, the project will include the establishment of native vegetation along streambanks, including flowering plants where sunlight is available, that will benefit pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Where active erosion is minimal at some locations in the project area, the project will prevent erosion by installing preemptive measures to protect existing stream banks.

Finally, educational signage will be installed in Plymouth Creek Park adjacent to the project area to inform park users about the benefits of the project and ways in which they can help protect and improve water quality in their community.

2. PROPOSED BUDGET *(up to 30 points)*

Scoring Guide	Total 30 points
Complete project budget is consistent with the scope of work and estimates are clear and reasonable.	Up to 5 points
Project attempts to leverage other resources.	Up to 15 points
The project budget represents a good value for the work and natural resource benefit achieved.	Up to 10 points

Reviewers award points to the cost-effective projects with accurate cost estimates. Points are awarded for a complete, reasonable budget that is consistent with the tasks described in the scope of work.

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(e.g., operation and maintenance, long-term follow-up, natural resources management), and/or identifies additional projects to address specific problems area(s).	
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Reviewers award points for addressing severe natural resource problems and needs, documentation of those problems and needs, and expected protection and/or improvements achieved by the proposed. Projects with measurable improvements receive more points than those with unclear or vague benefits. Reviewers will consider the actual benefit, the level of implementation, and the severity of the problem. Reviewers will consider only changes that can be achieved by the proposed scope of work.

Using the area below, please provide:

- A detailed description of the severity of the problem or need to be addressed by the project.
 - Include how the problem has been documented in a plan or assessment (e.g., TMDL, Capital Implementation Plan, presence on 303 (d) impairment list).
 - Describe how the problem will be addressed by the project and how success will be measured.

THE PROBLEM:

In March 2016, the BCWMC Engineer (Barr Engineering) completed a feasibility study for the proposed project (Feasibility Report for the Plymouth Creek Restoration Project; report and appendices found [here](#)) and identified three distinct reaches with a total of 21 specific sites where stabilization and restoration are needed including areas with bank erosion, scour, and/or bank failure. The study included an investigation of the surrounding land use, stream characteristics, and historic channel alignment. The investigation included a geomorphic assessment and a determination of root causes of erosion. The causes of erosion are a combination of human influences, such as foot traffic attributed to the current land use within the park and evidence that the channel may have been historically over-widened and straightened; and natural causes due to natural channel migration through the landscape.

DOCUMENTED NEED:

The 2015 BCWMC Watershed Management Plan includes the proposed project (“2017CR-P”) in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (Section 5, Table 5-3, pg 5-31) http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/5914/4676/6436/BCWMC_Section_5.pdf. The proposed project fully accomplishes the referenced CIP project. The BCWMC CIP was developed to address pollutant sources throughout the watershed including a continuation of stream restoration projects from the 2004 BCWMC Plan. The BCWMC has restored 7.5 miles of streambanks in the watershed to-date, including 1.3 miles along Plymouth Creek downstream from the proposed project. Upon completion of the proposed project, 9,700 feet of Plymouth Creek streambank will be restored, or 89% of the banks in need of restoration.

The 2010 Medicine Lake Excess Nutrients Total Maximum Daily Load Study set a watershed total phosphorus reduction goal (wasteload allocation) of 28% or 1,287 lbs per year.

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-iw8-19c.pdf> The TMDL study used the P8 Urban Catchment Model and the BATHTUB lake model to develop load reductions scenarios. The 2011 Medicine Lake TMDL Implementation Plan includes the proposed project (part of the larger Plymouth Creek restoration). This project complements other projects listed in the Implementation Plan completed by the City of Plymouth including the West Medicine Lake Park Pond project (funding provided by BCWMC and others), three restoration projects for creeks

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directly tributary to Medicine Lake, and an erosion repair project.

ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM:

The Plymouth Creek Restoration Project is estimated to remove 52.2 lbs per year of total phosphorus. Although a reduction goal for total suspended solids has not been set, this project is estimated to remove 90,800 lbs per year of total suspended solids. Recommended stabilization methods include root wads, log vanes, rock vanes, floodplain excavation, toe wood, and channel re-meandering. To estimate pollution reductions, the existing stream bank erosion rate (in units of feet per year) for each stabilization site was estimated based on a field assessment method known as the Bank Assessment for Non-Point Source Consequences of Sediment (BANCS) model.

The project will improve in-stream and near stream habitat. Rock vanes, log vanes, and toe wood will add structure into the streambed and streambanks, improving habitats for macroinvertebrates and other aquatic life.

The project will educate the public through educational signage installed in Plymouth Creek Park to inform park users and local residents about the benefits of the project and ways in which they can help protect and improve water quality in Plymouth Creek and elsewhere in their community.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

The BCWMC will enter an agreement with the City of Plymouth to design, construct, and maintain the project. The City will contract with a reputable engineering firm with experience in stream restoration projects to design the project and assist with construction oversight. The project design plans will be reviewed by the BCWMC Engineer and the BCWM Commissioners at the 50% and 90% design levels. Review of final designs will be done by the BCWMC Engineer. Construction cannot begin until designs are approved by the Commission.

Results of the project will be assessed by city and BCWMC staff through field inspections of stabilization techniques and structures. This includes visual inspections, including areas within the disc golf course where foot traffic may hamper vegetation establishment. Various methods to reduce or eliminate foot traffic will be employed as needed. Ultimately, changes in water quality data measured through the BCWMC’s [routine monitoring program](#) on Plymouth Creek at Industrial Blvd. (downstream of the project) and in Medicine Lake will also be a measurement of success.

4. PROJECT TEAM *(up to 10 points)*

Scoring Guide	Total 10 points
Team members’ roles and responsibilities are well defined and expected contributions to the project are adequate for the scope of work.	Up to 5 points
Team members’ qualifications and past experiences are relevant.	Up to 5 points

Reviewers will award points based on skills, qualifications, and experience of the project team members.

Using the area below, please provide:

- List contact information for the partners, staff and volunteers who will implement the project

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- Briefly describe their relevant skills, qualifications and past experiences, and expected contributions in the project (*do NOT submit resumes*).

1. BCWMC Administrator: Project coordination, communication among partners, project implementation tracking, grant reporting and management, fiscal management of project funds [Laura Jester, Administrator; laura.jester@keystonewaters.com; 952-270-1990]

Ms. Jester has managed several grants and projects during her tenure with the BCWMC and with previous employers including grants from State agencies (PCA, DNR, BWSR), the Met Council, and the National Park Service. She has managed large projects that required coordination with public stakeholders and multiple partners including cities, counties, state agencies, Federal agencies.

2. BCWMC Engineer (Barr Engineering): Project design review and comment, assistance with technical questions or issues, as needed. [Karen Chandler, Vice President and Senior Water Resources Engineer with Barr Engineering; kchandler@barr.com; 952-832-2813]

Ms. Chandler has worked with the BCWMC since 1999 and has been the BCWMC primary engineer and technical advisor since 2010. She has assisted with the implementation of several large CIP projects, including streambank restoration projects, in the Bassett Creek watershed and in cities around the Metro area. On behalf of the BCWMC she coordinates work among several engineers and water resource specialists at Barr Engineering Co., who span a large range of expertise and experience.

3. BCWMC Commissioners: Review and approval of design plans, input on design features, liaison with public and residents. [Jim de Lambert, BCWMC Chair; jim.delambert@terracon.com; 763-489-3150]

Mr. de Lambert has been on the BCWMC since 2009 and has been chair of the Commission since 2014. He effectively guides the Commission and Commission staff, providing direction when needed. Outside of his duties with the Commission, Mr. de Lambert works in the natural resources field and routinely oversees studies and projects.

4. City of Plymouth Staff including Water Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation staff: Develop request for proposals for project design and contract with chosen firm; develop bid documents, handle construction bidding process, enter and manage contract with construction firm; coordinate closure of park areas, as needed; provide construction oversight; submit requests for reimbursement to BCWMC; develop final project report for BCWMC; maintain completed project during its expected lifespan. [Derek Asche, Water Resources Manager, City of Plymouth; dasche@plymouthmn.gov; 763-509-5526]

Mr. Asche oversees the water resources program for the City of Plymouth including stormwater management, water monitoring program, and project coordination/oversight. In 2012, he successfully managed and implemented the BCWMC’s streambank restoration project on Plymouth Creek downstream from the proposed project.

5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS/ LOCAL COMMITMENT *(up to 30 points)*

Scoring Guide	Total 30 Points
A comprehensive decision making process was used to arrive at the proposed project.	Up to 10 pts.
The level of local support and commitments from project	Up to 10 pts.

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partners is documented.	
A collaborative process will be implemented to execute the project.	Up to 10 pts.

Reviewers award points based on project development and implementation efforts and commitments from project partners. Provide documentation as appropriate.

Using the area below, please provide:

- Describe the decision making process used to select project (why was this project chosen over other solutions)
- List where the proposed project is identified as a priority by a local, State, or Federal unit of government that manages natural resources (e.g., state approved watershed management plan).
- Describe how you have involved and fostered local, regional, and statewide partnerships for the success of the project.

MULTI-FACETED SELECTION PROCESS:

This project is part of a watershed wide strategy to improve and protect lakes, streams, and wetlands by:

- reducing pollution from nonpoint sources,
- addressing water quality impairments,
- improving habitat,
- reducing flooding, and
- engaging residents and businesses

In 2004, the City of Plymouth completed an inventory of erosion sites and sedimentation sites along Plymouth Creek in need of restoration. The BCWMC used the inventory to identify projects for inclusion in the CIP.

The BCWMC went through a rigorous process to prioritize its waterbodies during development of its 2015 Watershed Management Plan (Plan). The BCWMC identified 14 priority waterbodies and divided them into four classes. Priority 1 streams include MDNR public waters watercourses, including Plymouth Creek. MDNR public waters lakes of at least 10 acres in size were classified as Priority 1 or 2 lakes. The BCWMC classified priority lakes with public access or adjacent to public land as Priority 1 lakes, and those without public access or adjacent public land as Priority 2 lakes. The BCWMC further subdivided these lakes based on the MPCA’s “deep” or “shallow” classifications. Medicine Lake is classified as a Priority 1, deep lake. The BCWMC adopted water quality standards for priority lakes and streams that are consistent with MPCA water quality standards published in MN Rules 7050.

The BCWMC’s 2015 Watershed Management Plan lays out goals and policies and a Capital Improvement Program that includes this project. The BCWMC implements a robust Capital Improvement Program (CIP) through a strong partnership with its member cities. Each year, the BCWMC reviews the list of CIP projects for the upcoming five years and adjusts as needed according to opportunity and project readiness. The feasibility of the project slated for the following year is then studied and the BCWMC certifies a tax levy through Hennepin County under Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.251 for the project. The BCWMC then orders the project and enters into an agreement with the city where the project is located to design and construct the project.

The 2015 BCWMC Plan includes the proposed project (“2017CR-P”) in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (Section 5, Table 5-3, pg 5-31). The proposed project fully accomplishes the referenced CIP project. The BCWMC CIP was developed to address pollutant sources throughout the watershed including a continuation of stream restoration projects from the 2004 BCWMC Plan. The BCWMC has restored 7.5 miles of streambanks in the watershed to-date, including 1.3 miles along Plymouth Creek downstream from the proposed project. Upon

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completion of the proposed project, 9,700 feet of Plymouth Creek streambank will be restored, or 89% of the banks in need of restoration.

BCWMC 2015 Watershed Management Plan, Section 5: Implementation

http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/5914/4676/6436/BCWMC_Section_5.pdf

The 2011 Medicine Lake TMDL Implementation Plan also includes the proposed project (part of the larger Plymouth Creek restoration). The City of Plymouth completed other projects in the Implementation Plan including the West Medicine Lake Park Pond project (funding provided by BCWMC and others), three restoration projects for creeks directly tributary to Medicine Lake, and an erosion repair project.

Medicine Lake Excess Nutrients Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan, 2011

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-iw8-19c.pdf>

LOCAL SUPPORT and COMMITMENT of PARTNERS:

The BCWMC sought input from residents near and adjacent to the project area by holding a public open house in October 2015, before the feasibility study began. Residents from eight different properties attended the open house. No residents raised major concerns about the project. Residents were in support of restoration in the project area, even if some trees are removed in the process.

During development of the feasibility study, staff with permitting agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) toured the project area in October 2015. The tour provided an opportunity to review the project site and discuss options, considering both ideal restoration scenarios and practical aspects of maintaining existing uses within Plymouth Creek Park. The USACE and MDNR expressed their preference for bioengineering techniques whenever possible. The City described the use and popularity of the disc golf course adjacent to the creek. The City noted it will consider realigning holes on the course to minimize disturbance along the creek or to temporarily close holes to help re-establish vegetation on the banks.

On September 15, 2016, the BCWMC will hold a public hearing on the proposed project. Residents in the project area were informed about the hearing by a letter from the BCWMC. The BCWMC is slated to officially order the project, and enter into an agreement with the City of Plymouth to design and construct the project after the public hearing at their September meeting. Additionally, the BCWMC will certify to Hennepin County a 2017 tax levy for this project in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.251, Subd. 4 to provide the local match required to complete the project. At their meeting on June 28, 2016, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a 2017 maximum levy amount for the BCWMC for its 2017 projects, including the project proposed here.

6. **READINESS TO PROCEED** *(up to 25 points)*

Scoring Guide	Total 25 Points
Project elements are in place for the project to proceed and documentation is provided (e.g. planning, design, permits).	Up to 25 pts.

Reviewers will award points based on how soon a project can begin construction.

Using the area below, please provide:

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- Describe the steps you have taken to proceed immediately with the project. Provide information and documentation on project elements such as status of designs, permits, inter-local agreements, landowner agreements, easements, other secured funding, staff, or agency approvals.

STEPS COMPLETED TO DATE:

BCWMC identified and listed the project in its CIP Program (in the both [10-year CIP in 2015 Watershed Plan](#), and the [5-year CIP](#) approved in March 2016.)

BCWMC developed project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=284>.

BCWMC engaged residents and held a public open house (October 2015).

BCWMC met with City of Plymouth and State and Federal permitting agencies (October 2015).

BCWMC completed the project feasibility study (report and appendices found at: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=284>.) The investigation included a geomorphic assessment, a Phase I Environmental Assessment, and analysis of wetland impacts.

BCWMC submitted a maximum 2017 tax levy request to Hennepin County for this project in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.251, Subd. 4 to provide the local match required to complete the project. At their meeting on June 28, 2016, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a 2017 maximum levy amount for the BCWMC for its 2017 projects.

BCWMC will hold a public hearing on the project to receive comments and testimony from residents during their regular meeting on September 15, 2016.

BCWMC is slated to certify a final levy request, will order the project, and enter an agreement with the City of Plymouth to design and construct the project at their regular meeting on September 15, 2016.

Project will be designed in early 2017 with construction planned for later 2017/early 2018.

Part 2

Natural Resources “Opportunity” Grant Program

THIS CONCLUDES PART 2



- Non-Reach Creek
- Reach 3
- Reach 2
- Reach 1



Figure 2-1

PLYMOUTH CREEK STUDY PROJECT AREA
 Plymouth Creek Feasibility Study
 Bassett Creek Watershed
 Management Commission