



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### BCWMC Capital Improvement Program Prioritization Committee

Monday November 5, 2018

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Council Conference Room, Golden Valley City Hall

Committee Members: Commissioners Welch, Prom, Harwell, Carlson; Alternate Commissioners Monk, McDonald Black; TAC Members Scharenbroich and Eckman

#### AGENDA:

1. Review/Approve Notes from 7/31/18 Committee Meeting – attached
2. Discuss Staff Recommendation Regarding CIP Focus Areas and Scheduling Process

After reviewing the information and discussions from the last meeting and taking another look at the watershed maps, staff recommends the following two step process to develop the CIP list each year.

- A. **STEP 1: Use maps and data to find “focus” areas** in the watershed that appear in need of best practices due to multiple factors. CIP projects would be sought only from these focus areas. Staff used the maps listed below (and attached) to delineate four focus areas (shown on each map) for the committee’s consideration.

**Focus area #1** is tributary to Medicine Lake (impaired for high nutrients), and modeling indicates it contributes a high pollutant load - mainly due to a high amount of impervious surface. This area is also prone to flooding during a 100-year flood event according to the BCWMC hydrologic model and chloride monitoring indicates a moderate level of chloride concentration flowing from this subwatershed. Projects in this area - particularly those that reduce impervious surfaces - could reduce flooding risk, reduce pollutant loading to Medicine Lake, and reduce chlorides.

**Focus area #2** has a similar story in that it’s tributary to the impaired Northwood Lake and modeling indicates a high potential for pollutant loading. Although flooding doesn’t appear to be an issue in this area, chloride monitoring did indicate moderate concentrations flowing from this subwatershed.

**Focus area #3** was chosen because it’s proximity to the creek and moderate pollutant loading potential, but mostly because it is also slated for redevelopment according to the city of Golden Valley. There’s also an indication of some flood potential in this area.

**Focus area #4** is addressing internal pollutant loading within Sweeney Lake. This may mean carp management and/or an alum treatment. Staff believes the timing is right for placing these projects on the 5-year CIP.

Maps attached:

- Figure 1 – WATERSHEDS TRIBUTARY TO NUTRIENT IMPAIRMENTS
- Figure 2 – TOTAL PHOSPHORUS LOADING (P8 MODEL)
- Figure 3 – TOTAL PHOSPHORUS LOADING (P8) AND REDEVELOPMENT/LAND USE STUDY AREAS
- Figure 4 – CHLORIDE CONCENTRATIONS AND HIGH DENSITY LAND USE
- Figure 5 – ATLAS 14 FLOODPLAIN

- B. **STEP 2: Seek input from and collaborate with TAC members** on possible CIP projects within the focus areas. Hear the TAC's ideas and recommendations for projects in these areas based on needs and opportunities. This could happen at a collaborative workshop setting with TAC members and Commissioners together discussing the merits of various projects under consideration.

This two-step process combines a focus on priority areas with flexibility and the ability to take advantage of opportunities such as aligning with city schedules and projects or redevelopment happening in the area. It uses data to zero in on priority areas along with input from the TAC and Commissioners to implement the best project in the best location at the best time.

Further, this process leaves open the door to engage private developers within these focus areas and encourages city staff to be at the table as their planning departments discuss development or redevelopment proposals in these areas.

3. Discuss Starting Opportunity Grant Fund

A grant program could be considered to further improve cooperation with private landowners and to offer further flexibility so really good "opportunity" projects outside the focus areas wouldn't be lost. Shingle Creek WMO and Mississippi WMO (among many other watershed districts) implement grant programs to incentivize public or private landowners or developers to install best practices that go above and beyond required stormwater management. The Commission could consider starting a similar program. Staff will bring additional information to the meeting.

4. Set next meeting and adjourn

Possible future agenda items: Should CIP maintenance be considered for CIP funding?



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### BCWMC Capital Improvement Program Prioritization Committee

#### Meeting Notes

Tuesday July 31, 2018

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Lower Conference Room, Golden Valley City Hall

Committee Members and other present: Commissioners Prom and Welch; Alternate Commissioners Monk and McDonald Black; TAC Members Asche and Eckman; Commission Engineers Chandler and Williams; Administrator Jester

1. Approve Notes from 6/7/18 Committee Meeting – There was consensus that the notes from the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were appropriate.
2. Review Highlights from 6/7/18 Presentation by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (full presentation found here):  
[http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/4415/2940/9433/MCWD\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/4415/2940/9433/MCWD_Presentation.pdf)

Administrator Jester provided highlights of the presentation by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) from the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting noting that MCWD had moved from a regulatory approach to a partnership-based approach to implementing projects. Mr. Asche added that MCWD provides leadership by choosing subwatersheds in which to focus and within which to prioritize and then implement projects.

Commissioner Welch noted that MCWD has a 7-member board of managers that meet twice per month plus participation on committees. He also noted many of the managers have been on the board for many years and that the board is set up much better to function as a policy board. He noted managers set the direction which is carried out by staff. Commissioner Welch remarked that the BCWMC should provide more direction in order to prioritize and choose CIP projects to make strides towards fulfilling broad policy goals.

Mr. Asche reminded committee members that MCWD also has “opportunity funds” to help implement CIP projects that arise outside of the prioritized subwatershed but which present a significant opportunity to improve conditions. He also noted that the Commission should maintain flexibility in implementing its CIP due to many moving parts. He noted the MCWD model is extremely labor intensive. Alt. Commissioner McDonald Black agreed the CIP cannot be static and must remain flexible.

Mr. Asche pointed out that while cities strive to balance proactive with reactive activities, they typically end up being reactive, while watershed organizations have the ability to be proactive. However, it was also noted that the Commission’s CIP gatekeeper criteria and tends to remain reactive.

Commission Engineer Chandler reminded the committee that 15 years ago the Commission performed subwatershed studies in order to find opportunities for BMPs/CIP projects. She noted that most of the projects that were identified were completed through implementation of the BCWMC 2004 Plan.

The group acknowledged that many future projects will need to be implemented through partnerships with private entities and that the Commission can and should build its CIP less on city needs and more on the best projects in the best place at the best time. Again, it was acknowledged that this may take more time and effort than current Commission staff has available in the budget.

It was noted that the Commission could start engaging city planning commissions and city planners. It was also noted that in some cities (Golden Valley for example), water resources or environmental staff sit in on planning meetings and stay in tuned with larger projects being proposed in their cities.

3. Commission staff will present various watershed maps to be used in discussions. Maps can be found here:

[http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/6415/3252/9220/BCWMC\\_CIP\\_Prioritization\\_Maps\\_07242018\\_small\\_file.pdf](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/6415/3252/9220/BCWMC_CIP_Prioritization_Maps_07242018_small_file.pdf)

- i. Figure 1 – BCWMC Trunk System
- ii. Figure 2 – Watersheds Tributary to Priority Waterbodies
- iii. Figure 3 – Watersheds Tributary to Waters with TMDLs (Nutrients, Chloride, and Bacteria)
- iv. Figure 3A – Watersheds Tributary to Waters with Nutrient TMDLs
- v. Figure 3B – Watersheds Tributary to Waters with Bacteria TMDLs
- vi. Figure 3C – Watersheds Tributary to Waters with Chloride TMDLs
- vii. Figure 4 – BCWMC Floodplain
- viii. Figure 5 – Total Phosphorus Loading by Subwatershed (P8 Model Results)
- ix. Figure 6 – Total Phosphorus Loading (P8) and Redevelopment Areas (Golden Valley) and Land Use Study Areas (Plymouth)
- x. Figure 7 – Total Phosphorus Loading (P8) and Land Use Changes (Golden Valley) and Land Use Study Areas (Plymouth)
- xi. Figure 8 – Chloride Loading and High Density Land Uses
- xii. Figure 9 – BCWMC CIP Locations

Committee members briefly reviewed the maps and continued to discuss how to prioritize projects. Some of the issues/comments included:

- Bacteria TMDL – low priority because there is not much that can be done about it, other than buffers
- Atlas 14 – higher priority; discussed looking at the depth of flooding, vulnerable infrastructure/emergency routes, etc., setting flood reduction goal (e.g., reducing impervious surface by 10%); the group noted there is tension between the BCWMC needing to know from the cities where flooding is really a problem and the BCWMC needing to “drive the bus.”
- TP loading – no priority, but discussed how it’s important to protect good water quality, too.
- Chloride – discussed how this might need to be a higher priority; CIP possibilities include impervious surface retrofits, equipment retrofits or upgrades

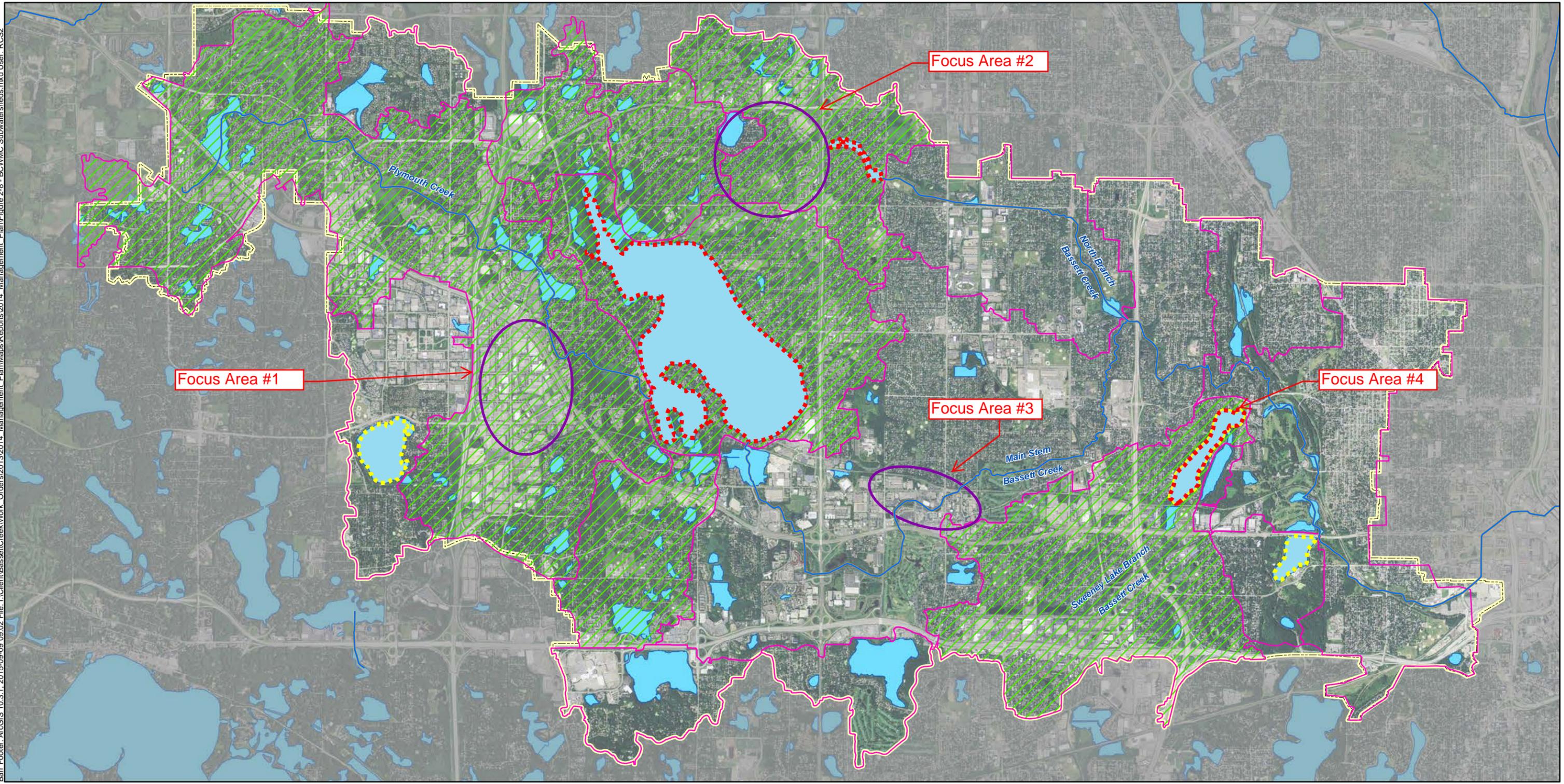
It was noted that Commission goals are ambiguous and without timelines. Mr. Asche remarked that TMDLs are good examples of plans with specific goals and timelines. Again, it was noted that the Commission needs a way to determine what's important because it won't be able to address all pollutants everywhere. Commission Engineer Williams suggested using the maps to determine where there is overlap among issues/priorities. It was also noted that some priorities are addressed outside of the CIP through education, regulation, etc. It was reiterated that there should be a combination of implementing proactive priority projects and reactive projects (i.e., some funding dedicated to both). It was suggested that reactive projects could be funded with a grant program.

There was some discussion about the possibility of increasing CIP funding in order to implement the right projects. Administrator Jester noted that a larger capital improvement program would also result in the need for more staff time to implement the CIP. There was also discussion about whether or not to try to address chlorides through the CIP and how the Commission should decide what NOT to focus on. It was suggested that all the issues first be listed to then determine where priorities lie - the long list of issues could be whittled down to a manageable 5 priorities. These priorities could be the focus of the CIP for the next 5 years until the next watershed plan is developed.

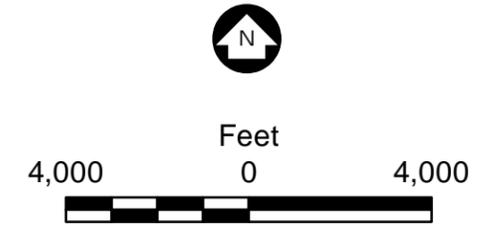
It was suggested to look at the resources first and then determine the issues facing those resources. The committee decided to pick up the conversation there at the next meeting.

4. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.3.1, 2015-09-09 09:02 File: I:\Client\BassettCreek\Work\_Orders\2013\2014\_Management\_Plan\Map\BassettCreek\Management\_Plan\Figure 2-8 - BCWMC Subwatersheds.mxd User: RCS2



-  BCWMC Political Boundary
-  Subwatersheds tributary to Nutrient Impairment
-  Major Subwatersheds (2015 Plan)
-  Impaired Lakes (Nutrients)
-  Impaired Lakes (Chloride)
-  Draft CIP Focus Areas



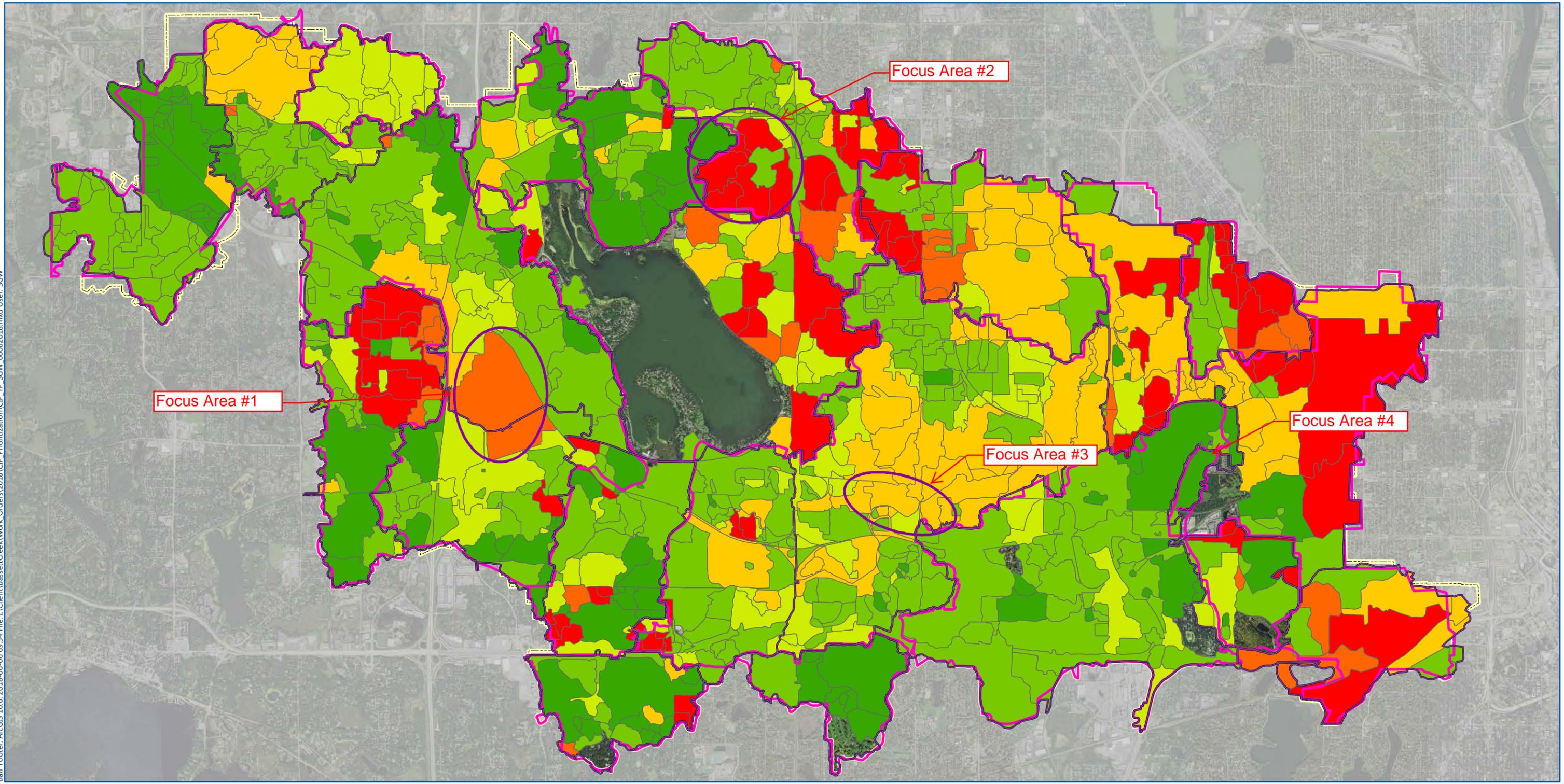
Watersheds are highlighted only if the first downstream waterbody pond or lake has an approved TMDL. Note that all watersheds are ultimately tributary to Bassett Creek, which is included in the Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL and Twin Cities Metro Area Chloride TMDL.

**Figure 1**  
**CIP PRIORITIZATION**

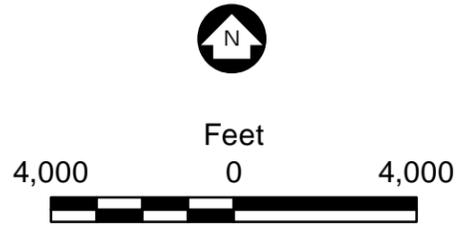
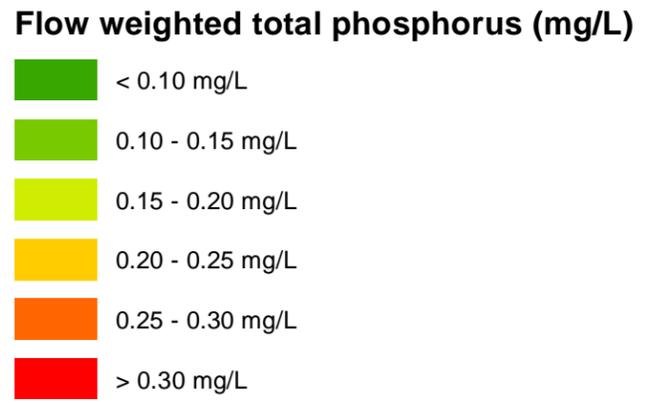
WATERSHEDS TRIBUTARY TO  
NUTRIENT IMPAIRMENTS  
Bassett Creek Watershed  
Management Commission

**Bassett Creek Watershed  
Management Commission**

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- BCWMC Political Boundary
- Major Subwatersheds (2015 Plan)
- P8 Major Watersheds (2015)
- Draft CIP Focus Areas

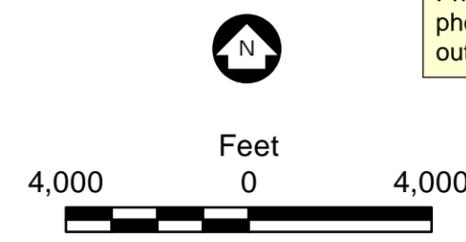
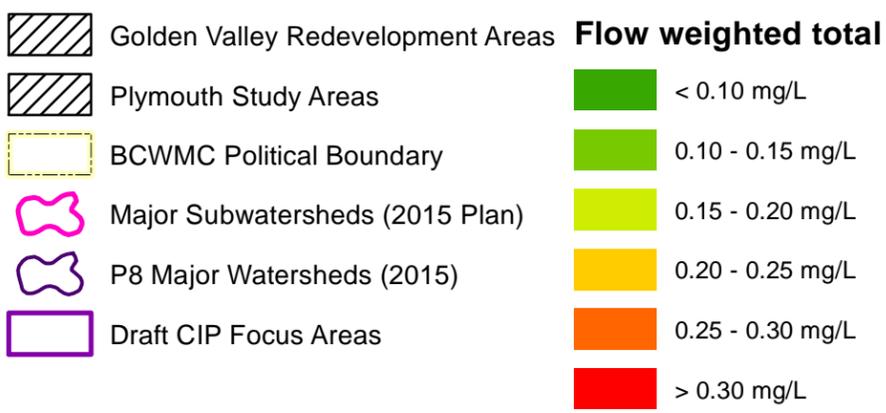
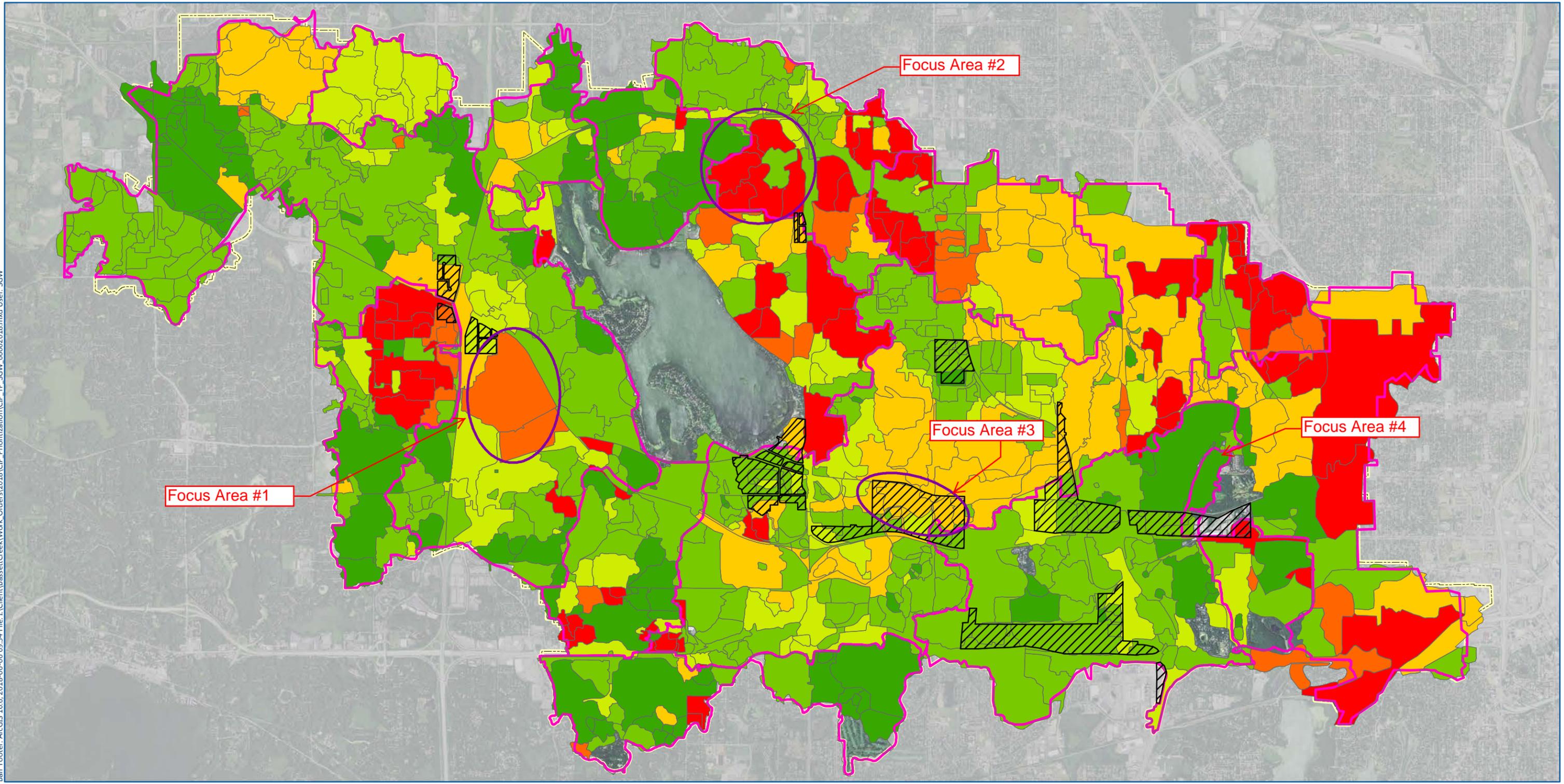


Phosphorus data reflect flow weighted total phosphorus concentrations at subwatershed outlet and include treatment from existing BMPs.

Figure 2  
CIP PRIORITIZATION  
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS LOADING  
FROM P8 MODEL  
Bassett Creek Watershed  
Management Commission

**Bassett Creek Watershed  
Management Commission**

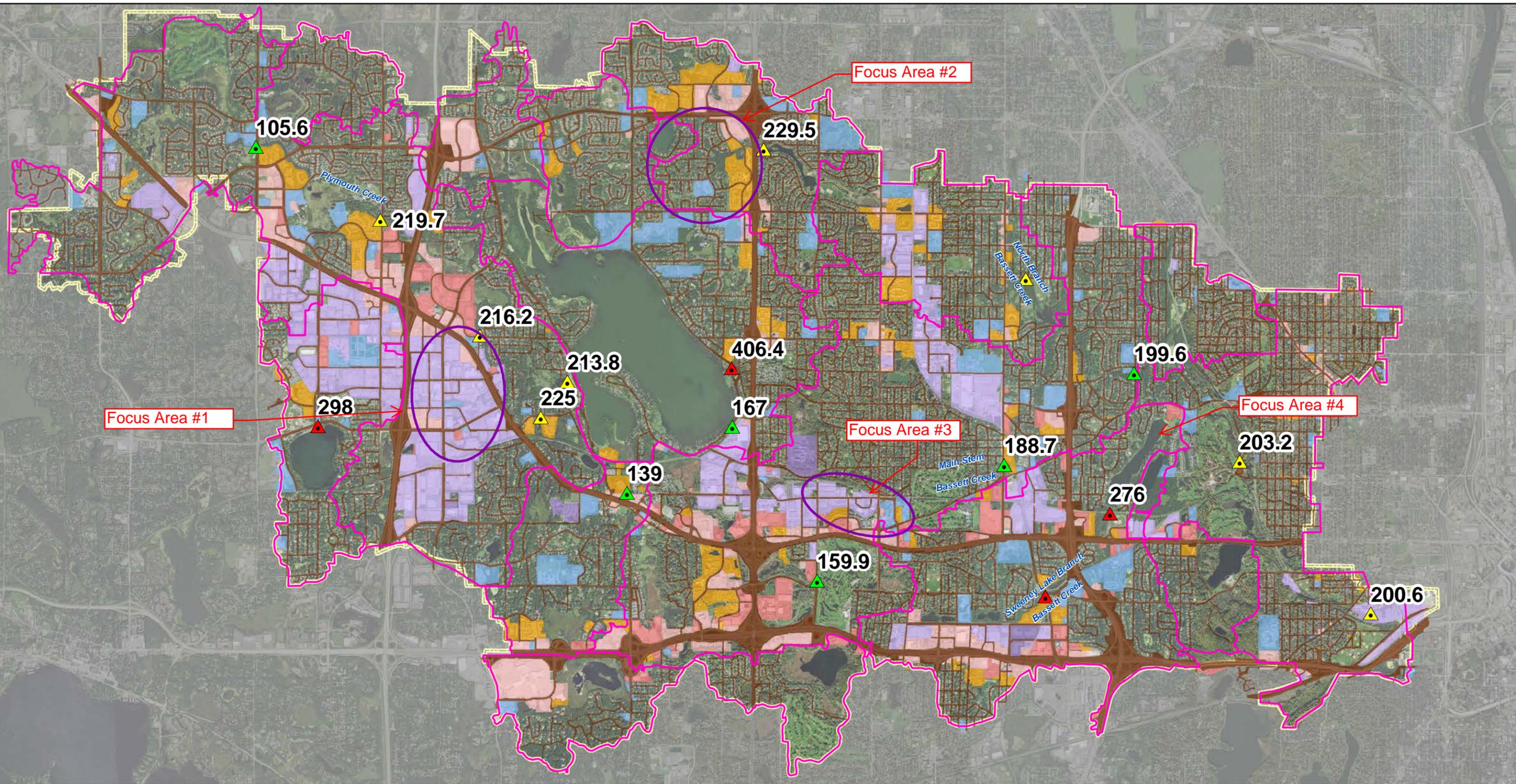
Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.6, 2018-06-06 09:34 File: I:\Client\BassettCreek\Work\_Orders\2018\CIP\_Prioritization\CIP\_TP\_SGW\_06062018.mxd User: SGW



Phosphorus data reflect flow weighted total phosphorus concentrations at subwatershed outlet and include treatment from existing BMPs.

Figure 3  
CIP PRIORITIZATION  
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS LOADING (P8) AND  
REDEVELOPMENT/LAND USE STUDY AREAS  
Bassett Creek Watershed  
Management Commission

Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.3.1, 2015-09-09 09:02 File: I:\Client\BassettCreek\Work\_Orders\2013\2014\_Management\_Plan\Map\BassettCreek\Work\_Orders\2013\2014\_Management\_Plan\Figure 2-8 - BCWMC Subwatersheds.mxd User: RCS2



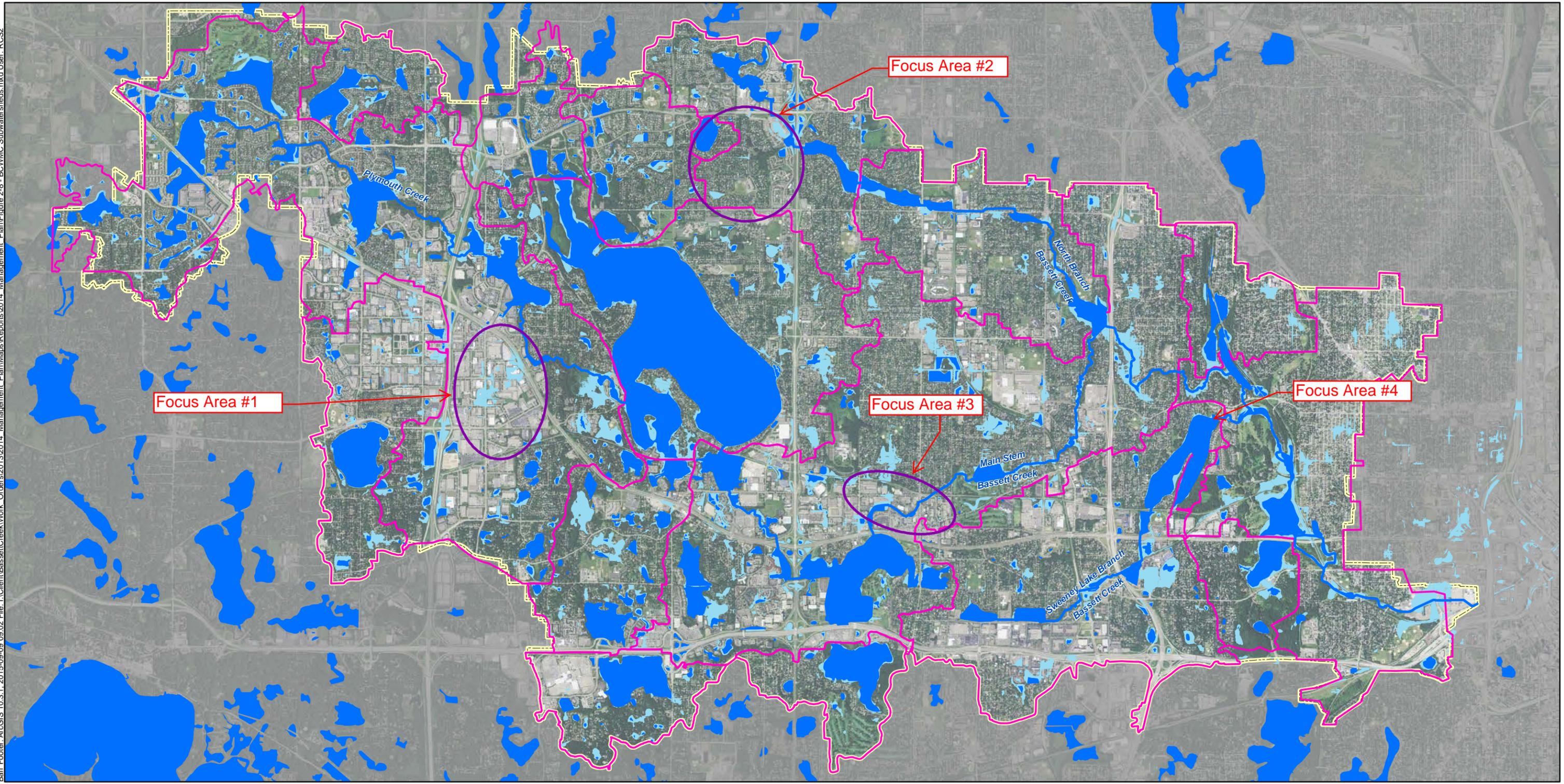
	BCWMC Political Boundary		Major Subwatersheds (2015 Plan)		Mixed Use Commercial and Other
	Draft CIP Focus Areas	<b>Land Use (MetCouncil, 2010)</b>			Mixed Use Industrial
<b>Chloride Sample Points</b>			Multifamily		Industrial and Utility
	<200 mg/L		Retail and Other Commercial		Institutional
	200 - 250 mg/L		Office		Transportation Right-of-Way
	>250 mg/L				

Figure 4  
CIP PRIORITIZATION

CHLORIDE CONCENTRATIONS  
AND HIGH DENSITY LAND USE  
Bassett Creek Watershed  
Management Commission

**Bassett Creek Watershed  
Management Commission**

Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.3.1, 2015-09-09 09:02 File: I:\Client\BassettCreek\Work\_Orders\2013\2014\_Management\_Plan\Maps\Reports\2014\_Management\_Plan\Figure 2-8 - BCWMC Subwatersheds.mxd User: RCS2



-  BCWMC Political Boundary
-  Trunk System Creeks
-  Major Subwatersheds (2015 Plan)
-  Lakes and Ponds (including Trunk System basins)
-  100-Year Flood Inundation Area
-  Draft CIP Focus Areas

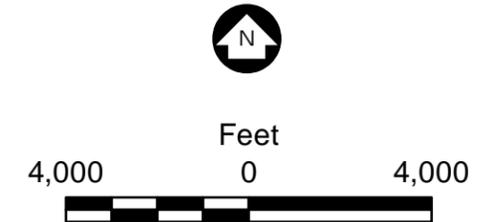


Figure 5  
CIP PRIORITIZATION

ATLAS 14 FLOODPLAIN  
Bassett Creek Watershed  
Management Commission

**Bassett Creek Watershed  
Management Commission**