



Planning Together to Improve & Protect Our Waters 2025 - 2035

April 2022

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) is embarking on the development of its next Watershed Management Plan that will guide programs and projects to address challenges and meet measurable goals from 2025 to 2035 (see page 2 for process). Development of a 10-year plan is a great opportunity to take a step back and assess where the organization has been and where it's going; to evaluate what's been working well and where are challenges remain. Your input is needed to help us understand the issues so that appropriate goals and priorities can be developed over the next few years.

WHAT

Right now, BCWMC is in the initial stages of gathering input on

- How watershed stakeholders view the condition of our lakes and streams
- How they use or enjoy lakes, streams, and natural resources in their community
- What concerns they have or what challenges or opportunities they see regarding lakes, streams, and other natural resources

WHO

Input is being sought from a variety of stakeholders including

- City staff
- Elected officials
- Appointed officials
- Residents
- Lake & Environmental groups
- Neighborhood and community groups
- Historically underserved communities
- Ethnic and minority groups
- Park districts and boards
- Users of lakes, streams, natural areas

HOW

Input from stakeholders will be gathered in different ways throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2022. There's no wrong way to give us your thoughts. Watch for information in city communications, local news outlets and at www.bassettcreekwmo.org. Some input opportunities will include:

- Presentations and discussions at meetings like city council meetings, city commission meetings, community group meetings, etc.
- Community events and farmers markets
- Online survey
- Public meetings

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission is a local unit of government formed in 1969 to address flooding along Bassett Creek. It now operates under the 1982 Surface Water Management Act and is also focused on improving and protecting the water quality of Bassett Creek, Plymouth Creek, Medicine Lake, and the other lakes and streams throughout the watershed. The BCWMC is a joint powers organization among nine member cities: Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park and is governed by a Board of Commissioners with one commissioner appointed from each city. Funding for BCWMC programs and studies comes directly from cities while funding for large capital projects comes from property taxes levied by Hennepin County on behalf of the BCWMC. Learn more at www.bassettcreekwmo.org.

Plan Development Process

APRIL – DECEMBER 2022

Gather Initial Stakeholder Input

- Hear about issues and concerns from cities
- Get input from agencies, Hennepin County, and technical partners
- Collect input from residents and communities through events and surveys
- Prioritize issues

APRIL 2022 – APRIL 2023

Analyze More Challenging Issues

- Perform gaps analysis
- Gather data and options to address challenging issues

MAY 2023 – DECEMBER 2024

Develop Plan Content

- Define issues and priority resources
- Develop measurable 10-year goals
- Craft targeted policies, programs, and standards
- Develop 10-year implementation schedule and budget

JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2025

Gather Feedback and Finalize Plan

- Submit draft plan for official 60-day review
- Gather feedback and respond to all comments
- Hold public hearing
- Submit plan for final agency review
- Adopt final plan – **TARGET: September 2025**



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City Input
April and May 2022

The BCWMC seeks perspectives from city staff and elected and appointed officials on water resources in their community and the role of the Commission. Please concentrate your answers specifically to those areas and resources in the Bassett Creek Watershed portion of your city. You may submit multiple responses to the questions below, or aggregated responses into a single form.

City: _____

What is your position at the city? (If aggregated responses, list the group or individuals who provided input)

1. With regard to BCWMC **programs and services** (e.g., water quality monitoring, hydraulic and pollutant load modeling, development reviews, capital improvement program, Flood Control Project inspections, technical assistance):
 - a. How would you rate the overall level of service and quality of programs provided by the BCWMC?
Excellent Good Just Adequate Subpar Needs Significant Improvement
 - b. Which services are the most helpful or useful to your city? (What's working well?)
 - c. What programs or services could be improved? (What's not working well?)
 - d. Overall, would you prefer the BCWMC provide more and broader programs and services, or smaller/fewer programs and services?
 - e. Which programs or services should be expanded, or which should be reduced?
2. Are there **practices or programs** implemented by other watershed management organizations/watershed districts that you think should be implemented in the BCWMC?

3. What **education and public engagement activities** performed by the BCWMC are the most beneficial? What additional or expanded education or public engagement services would you like to see the BCWMC perform?

4. What and where are the city's primary concerns regarding **water quality**, such as:
 - a. Water quality of specific water bodies

 - b. Specific pollutants of concern

 - c. Pollutant loading hot spots

5. What and where are the city's primary concerns regarding **water quantity or flooding**, such as:
 - a. Flooding at specific locations

 - b. Excessive flow rates and/or erosion

 - c. High or low water levels

 - d. Structures in the floodplain

6. What and where are your city's primary concerns regarding **wetlands, habitat, or natural areas**? What role, if any, would you like to see the BCWMC assume in managing, protecting, or restoring these resources?

7. What are your city's primary concerns regarding **stormwater management**, such as:
 - a. Inspection, maintenance, and repair of your stormwater system

 - b. Future capacity issues resulting from growth or climate change

 - c. Implementation or enforcement of local stormwater controls

 - d. Stormwater utility and/or other funding mechanisms

 - e. Regulatory compliance (e.g., MS4 permit)

8. What are your organization's primary concerns regarding **groundwater resources**, such as:
 - a. High or low groundwater levels

 - b. Adequacy for drinking water supply (if applicable)

 - c. Groundwater/surface water interaction issues

- d. Well-head protection and groundwater quality
- e. Effects of infiltration practices on groundwater

9. How would you characterize your city’s working relationship with the BCWMC?

- a. What barriers limit the effectiveness of this relationship?

- b. What changes would you recommend to improve the working relationship between the BCWMC and your city?

10. There are several significant and/or new challenges the BCWMC may consider taking a role in addressing in the future. In the table below, please select 1) How concerned are you about the following issues in your city? and 2) How involved should the BCWMC be in addressing them? Please add specific details to the issue column, as needed. (Please circle a response in both rows for each issue – one row for level of concern and one row for desired level of BCWMC involvement in the issue.)

| Issue (Please provide additional detail as needed) | Level of concern about the issue in your city AND desired level of BCWMC involvement in addressing the issue (Circle a response in each row.) | | |
|---|--|--------------------|---------------|
| A. Pollution from winter deicers (chlorides) and potential need for additional regulations | Very Concerned | Somewhat Concerned | Not Concerned |
| | Very Involved | Somewhat Involved | Not Involved |
| B. Addressing and incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion principals | Very Concerned | Somewhat Concerned | Not Concerned |
| | Very Involved | Somewhat Involved | Not Involved |
| C. Adequacy of current performance standards for linear projects to protect and improve water quality | Very Concerned | Somewhat Concerned | Not Concerned |
| | Very Involved | Somewhat Involved | Not Involved |
| D. Current process for identifying projects or implementing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) | Very Concerned | Somewhat Concerned | Not Concerned |
| | Very Involved | Somewhat Involved | Not Involved |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| E. Stormwater management (flooding and water quality) in the Bassett Creek Valley and implementation of the Bassett Creek Valley plan to create regional flood | Very Concerned | Somewhat Concerned | Not Concerned |
| | Very Involved | Somewhat Involved | Not Involved |
| F. Carbon footprint or climate impact of BCWMC projects and programs | Very Concerned | Somewhat Concerned | Not Concerned |
| | Very Involved | Somewhat Involved | Not Involved |

11. Is there anything else you would like to share with the BCWMC or would like the BCWMC to consider during the planning process?