



Water and Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge that the waterways of the H̄āh̄a Wakpadaŋ, located in Mnisota Makoĉe, the homeland of the Dakota peoples, are living waters which are part of a larger living ecosystem.

Historically, the H̄āh̄a Wakpadaŋ provided material, nutritional, and spiritual sustenance to the Dakota peoples. We acknowledge the forced removal of the Dakota from the lands and waterways that nurtured them as relatives. And we recognize the environmental degradation that continues in the watershed today.

The living waters of H̄āh̄a Wakpadaŋ remains significant to the Dakota and other Native peoples, including many who presently live in the watershed. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission seeks to identify and integrate Native wisdom by collaborating with Indigenous peoples and communities to reduce the impacts of climate change and improve the ecosystem health for all living beings in the watershed.

Acknowledging the complex past and present traumas and triumphs is a step toward healing for the land, watershed and peoples who live in the watershed today.