Collaborating to Achieve Multiple Benefits of Water Resource and Transit Investments
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Stewardship of water resources to protect and enhance our communities

- Minneapolis
- Golden Valley
- Plymouth
- Crystal
- New Hope
- Robbinsdale
- St. Louis Park
- Minnetonka
- Medicine Lake
Implementation thru Collaboration

- Monitoring and Planning
- Education
- Development Requirements
- Capital Improvement Projects
Bassett Creek Valley
Bassett Creek Flooding
Basset Creek Tunnel Construction

Photo from Minnesota Historical Society
Bassett Creek Tunnels

Third Ave. Tunnel 1990

Second Street Tunnel 1978

Double Box Culvert 1992
Old & New Bassett Creek Tunnels
Main Stem Erosion Repair Project

- Irving Avenue to Dupont Avenue/2nd Avenue N Reach
- Fruen Mill Reach
- Cedar Lake Road to Irving Avenue Reach
Bryn Mawr Water Quality Improvement

- New Adult Fitness Circuit
- New Bicycle Training Track
- Stormwater Improvements
- Relocated Parking
- Relocated Basketball
- New Berms/Screening
- Potential New Park Building
- Relocated Broomball Rink
- New Open Lawn / Open Skate (Winter)
- New Shelters + Picnic Area
- New Bicycle Training Track
- Relocated Cricket Field
- Relocated Batting Cages
- New Play Area
- New Nature Play
- Improved Multi-Use Fields + Diamonds

With the addition of the potential new park building, this facility would become an indoor play area.
Basset Creek Tunnel Construction

- Historical context
- Relatively shallow
- City built around and historically sometimes over
- Upstream development led to higher flows ... And flooding

Photo from Minnesota Historical Society
Basset Creek Valley Flood Predictions

Legend
- Current FEMA / CPED 100-year Regulatory Floodplain
- SWS Model Results 100-year Flood

Old Tunnel
New Tunnel
Development Drivers
Development Priorities

Legend
- Current FEMA / CPED 100-year Regulatory Floodplain
- SWS Model Results 100-year Flood

Phase I
Future Development
Houston Flooding 2017

- Minneapolis’s City-wide flood models and data help
  - Inform City-led and private development projects
  - Ensure future infrastructure & land use does not exacerbate flood problems in Minneapolis

Photo Source: ProPublica & Ars Technica
Floodplain and Stormwater Study

• Led by BCWMC and City in coordination with MPRB
• To maximize redevelopment and recreation by developing a regional floodplain and stormwater management plan
• Use water quality and flood models to determine areas suited for floodplain storage and stormwater treatment
• Assume land use called for in City’s 2040 Comp Plan
Study Area
Citizen Engagement – CPED

• Active community engagement
• Neighborhood coordination for all development proposals seeking grants/entitlements
• Bassett Creek Valley is special area given large areas owned and operated by the City
Citizen Engagement – PW/SWS

• City capital budget requests are vetted through the citizen-led Capital Long Range Improvement Committee (CLIC)
  • Includes stormwater management and flood mitigation projects
  • Includes projects that change City infrastructure
• Once CLIC approves capital projects, Public Works will lead community engagement for individual projects
Bridging the Gap

Serving People and Improving Water Quality in Bassett Creek Valley
Mapping Resilience: Ash Trees + Habitat
Mapping Resilience: Environmental Risk

Proximity to Superfund Site

Cancer Risk

- 80 - 90 Percentile by block group
- 90 - 95 Percentile by block group
- 95 - 100 Percentile by block group
Mapping Resilience: Marginalized Communities

People of Color > 45%

Households in Poverty
Environmental Justice

- **Chronic Stressors**: brownfields, floodplains, high unemployment, homelessness, climate change, transitions in leadership, competing interests, access to Bassett Creek

- **Acute Shocks**: loss of tree canopy, pollution, development

- **Minneapolis Promise Zone**: encompasses much of Bassett Creek Valley. High unemployment, gun violence, housing blight, and poor educational outcomes
Northside Neighborhoods Clean Water Initiatives

- Collaboration
- Community Led
- Building Trust + Leadership
- Responsive
Engagement: Blooming Boulevards
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Engagement: Blooming Boulevards

- 37 properties
- 21 ash trees removed
- 10,825 sq ft habitat
- 416 pounds sediment
- 507,210 gallons runoff
- 2 pounds TP annually
Career Pathways: Youth
Career Pathways: Local Contractors
**Equitable Development**

**WATER QUALITY**
Is the project part of a larger stormwater treatment system?

Size of watershed captured.
TOTAL WQ: /44 Points

**EQUITY: complete with neighborhood and members of the community**

Is the property owner/manager involved in the community?

Does the site advance community goals, priorities, and criteria for growth/investment?
TOTAL EQ: /28 Points

**SUSTAINABILITY: Is the existing site well maintained?**
TOTAL SUS: /28 Points

WQ Score + EQ Score + SUS Score = /100
Renter Engagement

Improving quality of life through outdoor spaces
Lessons Learned

• Project design influences who benefits from project investments
• Outreach and education should reach all watershed stakeholders, not just property owners
• Community engagement is critical to success
• What is the focus? How you frame the work you are doing is key
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