

Recommendation to approve the amendment to the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's Watershed Management Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the county board of staff's review and recommendation to approve a proposed minor plan amendment to the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's Watershed Management Plan.

Staff review and recommendations

Staff reviewed the proposed minor plan amendment and found it to be consistent with Minnesota Statutes, §103B, the Surface Water Management section of the Hennepin County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, the Hennepin County Natural Resources Strategic Plan, and the Hennepin County Climate Action Plan.

The commission held a public hearing regarding the proposed minor plan amendment at its regular meeting on May 18, 2023 and received no comments from the public related to the proposed plan amendment.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed minor amendment to the watershed management plan.

Background

The Bassett Creek Watershed is in the east-central part of the county and includes all or part of the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park.

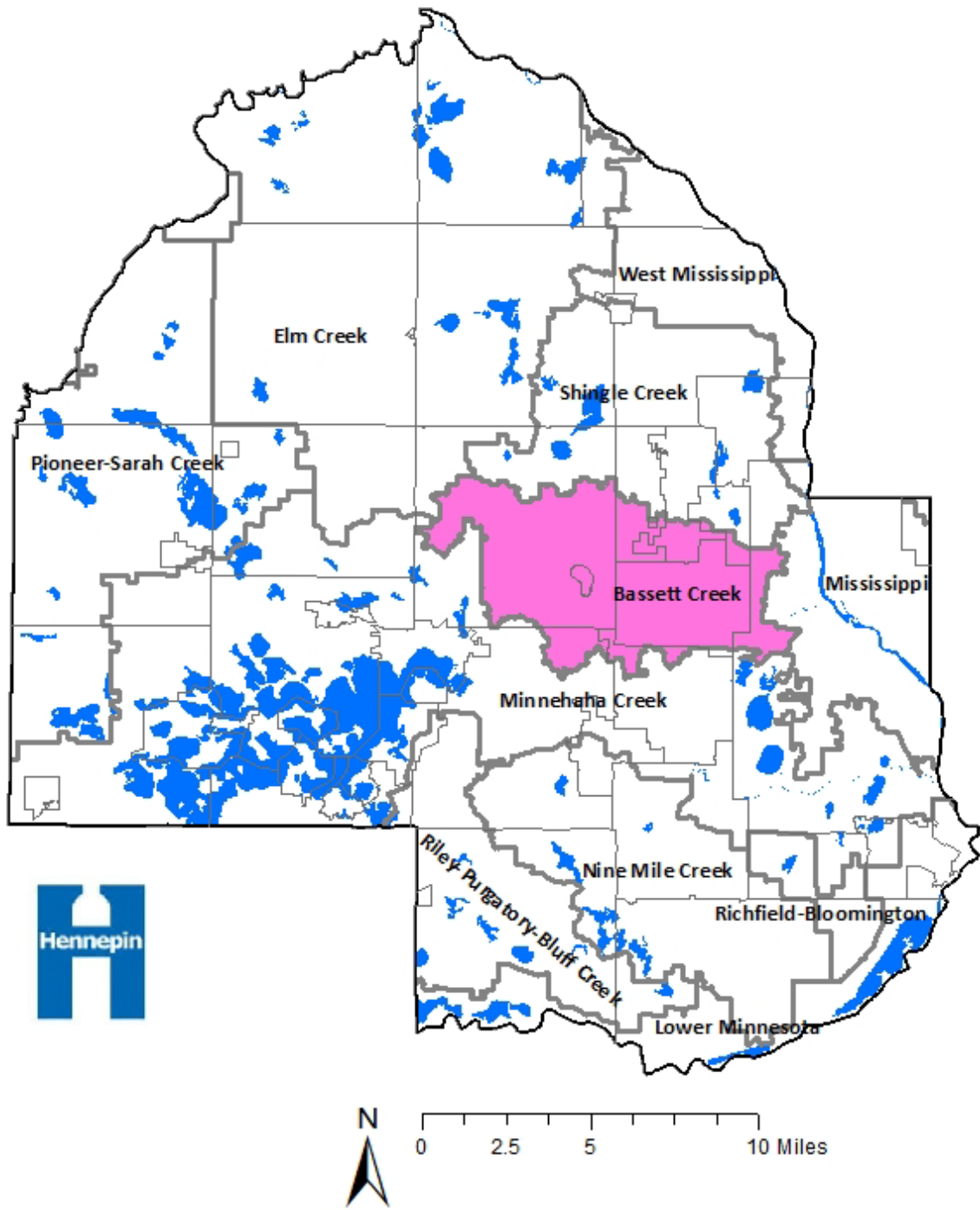
The commission has proposed a minor plan amendment to its Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §103B.231, subd. 7, the proposed amendment was forwarded to the county for review and action. Once projects are added to the Watershed Management Plan's CIP, the commission may request that the county certify an ad valorem levy to implement the water quality and quantity projects under Minnesota Statutes §103B.251.

The amendment adds one project to the CIP.

New project

Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (Robbinsdale and Golden Valley) will add several stormwater best management practices within Sochacki Park, operated by the Three Rivers Park District. The project will prevent an estimated 67 pounds of phosphorus from reaching Bassett Creek each year by improving water quality in Grimes, North Rice, and South Rice ponds. It will also reduce chronic erosion and sedimentation, improve habitat, and improve recreation and educational opportunities within Sochacki Park. This project will benefit a diverse and often underserved community of park users and surrounding neighborhoods in Minneapolis and Robbinsdale. The total cost of the project will be \$2.3 million. The commission will contribute \$600,000 to the project.

Bassett Creek Watershed



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