

# Brown's Creek Watershed District

Preserving the integrity of the watershed for future generations

The Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) invites you to 'Get your Head in the Watershed!' and learn more about the unique species, natural wonders and work happening in your backyard.

## What is BCWD?

The Brown's Creek watershed is the total area that captures and drains to Brown's Creek via lakes, wetlands, and streams or tributaries. The Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) is a local unit of government dedicated to protecting, managing and improving the water resources within this watershed. The BCWD is 28 square miles and includes parts of the cities of Stillwater, Oak Park Heights, Lake Elmo, Grant, Hugo as well as Stillwater and May Townships.

## Who leads the BCWD?

BCWD is governed by a five-member Board of Managers, appointed by County Commissioners, that guides the District in carrying out its 2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan. A Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) also helps shape the work of the District by reviewing annual budgets, work plans, project and program priorities and leading a number of community outreach efforts like the fall community event and invasive species removal events.

## Watershed Facts

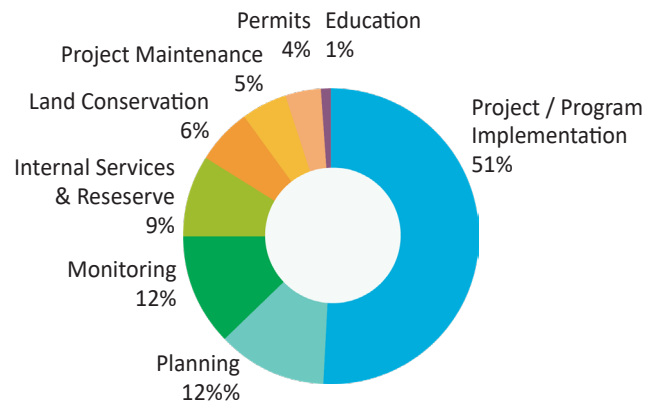
BCWD has four distinct landforms including the:

- Headwaters Region which is predominantly lakes and wetlands,
- Brown's Creek Middle Reach which is predominantly wetlands
- Long Lake Tributary which is routed to McKusick Lake
- Brown's Creek Gorge which is what you see when you travel along the Brown's Creek State Trail.

BCWD contains some of the last remaining rare and unique ecosystems in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area including Brown's Creek, a cold-water fishery as well as other groundwater dependent wetlands. These ecosystems support a variety of plants and animals.

## What does the BCWD do?

BCWD works across geographic and political boundaries to protect the health of the watershed's wetlands, lakes, streams and ultimately, the St. Croix River. Through research, planning and action, BCWD helps solve and prevent water-related problems.

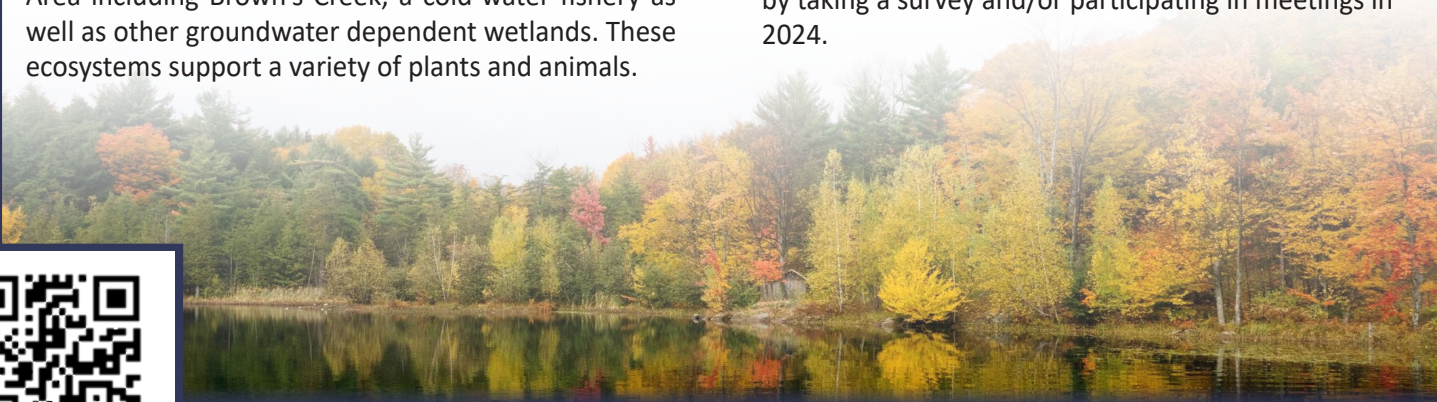


## Ways to Get Involved:

- Join a Volunteer Event
- Apply for a Stewardship Grant
- Join a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting
- Contribute to the next Watershed Master Plan Update by taking a survey and/or participating in meetings in 2024.



Visit [BCWD.org](https://www.bcwd.org) to learn more.



# Get your head, in the watershed.....

Explore some of the actions that the BCWD takes to manage the water resources within the district.

## Recreation

BCWD seeks to protect and restore the District's resources to provide recreational value to the community.

## Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control

To reduce sediment loads to the District's water resources, the BCWD works to restore riparian buffers which provide water quality treatment.

## Stream Management

BCWD has worked with community and landowners to improve Brown's Creek and its tributaries.

## Stormwater Runoff

Implements projects like the Brown's Creek Rock Crib to treat stormwater runoff before it reaches Brown's Creek and the Districts lakes and ponds.

## Wetland Management

BCWD has assigned management classifications to its wetlands, so application of the rules matches the quality and condition of the resources.

## Lake Management

BCWD has developed numerous lake management plans which engage local residents.

## Land Conservation

Brown's Creek Conservation Easement Area - 110<sup>th</sup> Street North.

## Regulations

BCWD administers a permitting program to ensure development is sustainable for water resources and downstream properties.

## Climate Change Adaptation

BCWD is using rainfall projections to evaluate how changing precipitation patterns affect water resource management decisions (i.e., flooding).

## Ecological Health

Macroinvertebrate and fish surveys of Brown's Creek. Chloride sampling in lakes and ponds.

## Education, Outreach and Stewardship

Hosting annual events like the ice cream social fall community event and open yard series to engage the community in watershed management. Partner in the East Metro Water Resources Education Program - changing behaviors to protect and restore water resources.

## Floodplain Management

By evaluating high water levels under existing and projected rainfall conditions, the BCWD can help residents and member communities prepare for the future.

## Groundwater Management

Groundwater monitoring improves the districts understanding of surface water - groundwater connections throughout the watershed.

## Monitoring & Data Collection

BCWD collects and evaluates water quantity and water quality data on Brown's Creek and the Districts major lakes.

