

## Implementation Programs

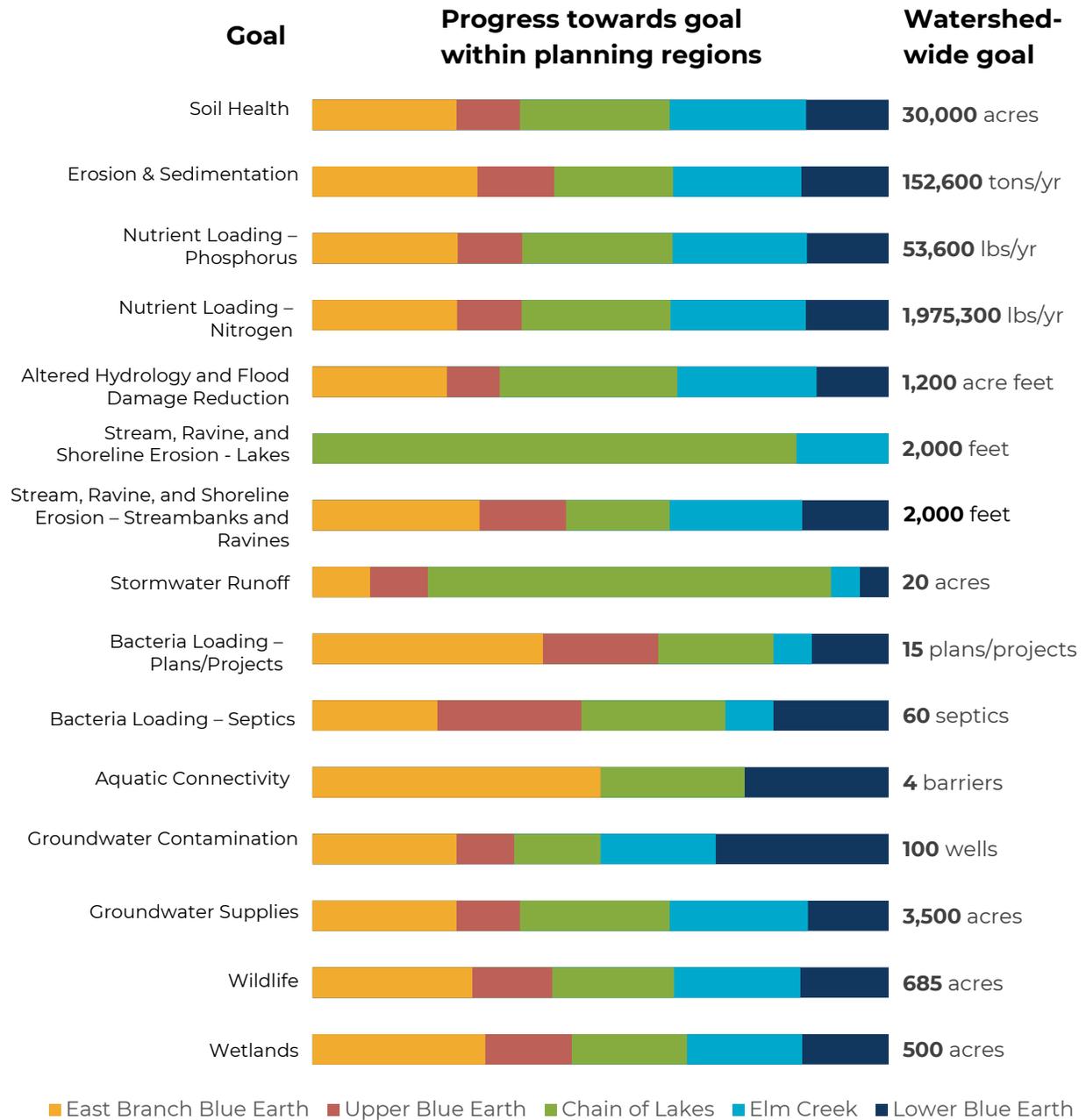
Each action belongs to one of five programs: Projects and Practices, Public Participation and Engagement, Capital Improvements, Research and Data Gaps, and Local Controls (**Figure 5-1**). Public Participation and Engagement, Capital Improvements, and Research and Data Gaps actions have separate watershed-wide tables. Each planning region has a Projects and Practices action table and these are also summarized at the watershed scale.



**Figure 5-1: Implementation Programs in the BERW**

## Targeting Work

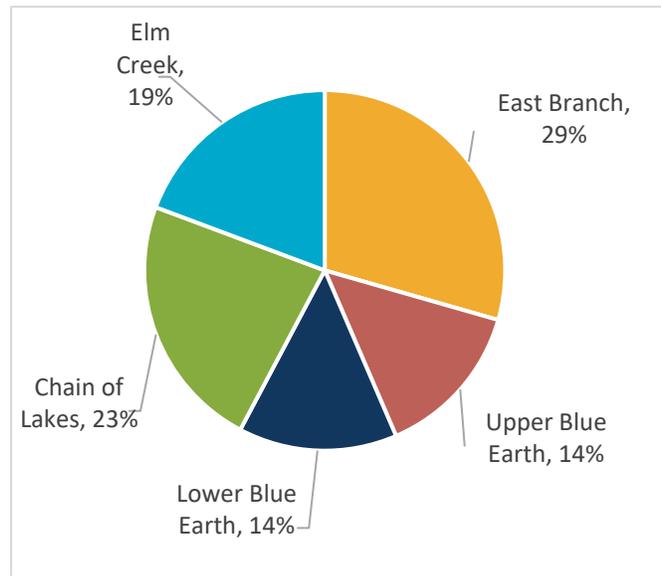
At over 750,000 acres, it is important to target work to priority areas in the watershed. The focus areas in **Section 4—Measurable Goals** summarize the subwatersheds to target for each goal. **Figure 5-2** visually summarizes how work towards each goal is split amongst planning regions. This milestone chart shows the watershed-wide goal on the right, with each bar demonstrating the extent to which progress will be made in a given planning region. The exceptions are the AIS, Protection of Surface Water Drinking Sources, and Drainage System goals, which are not relevant to watershed metrics.



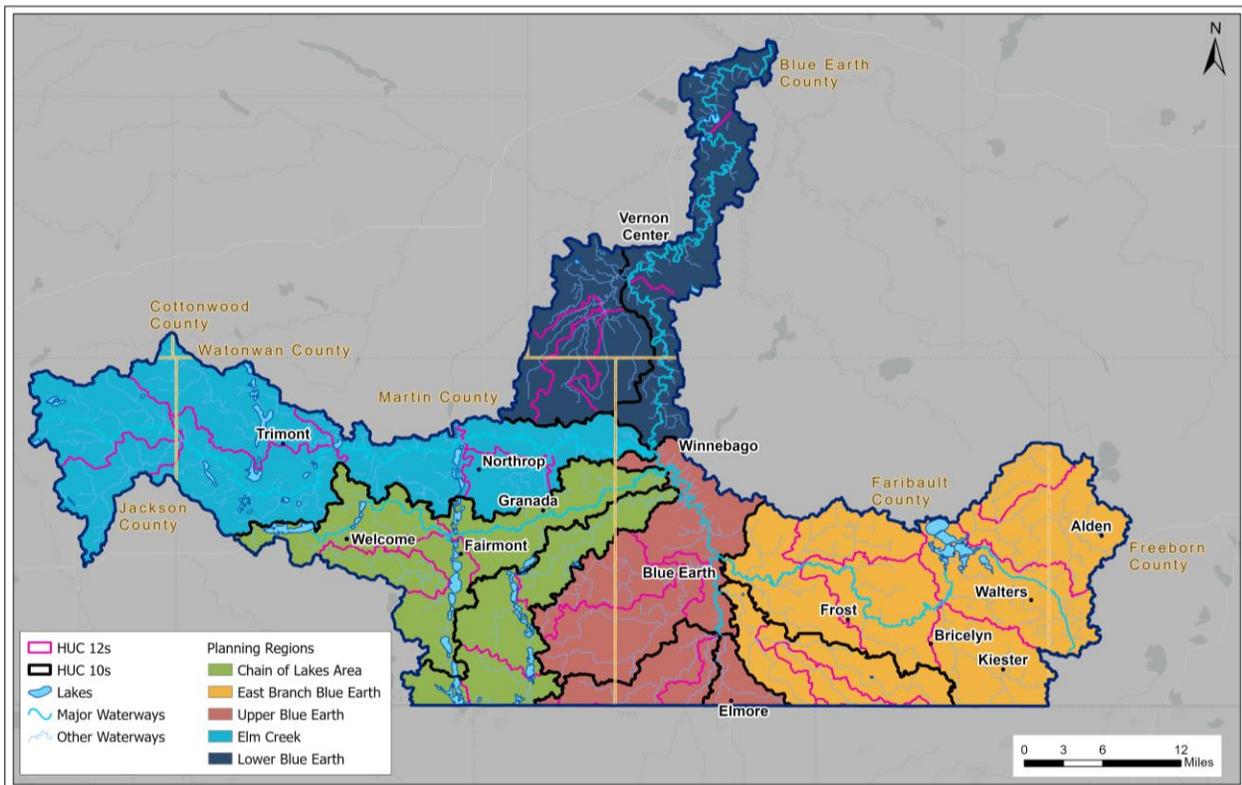
**Figure 5-2. Summary of progress towards goals by planning region.**

## Targeting Resources

As shown in the **Section 4—Measurable Goals** focus area maps, progress towards measurable goals is divided amongst planning regions. This results in an implementation plan that directs the most funding to areas that most benefit priority issues. **Figure 5-2** shows how actions will be distributed between planning regions, and **Figure 5-3** shows the total cost of implementing these actions in each planning region. The most money is expected to be spent in the East Branch Blue Earth River Planning Region, followed by the Chain of Lakes and Elm Creek Planning Regions. The remaining 28% of the Projects and Practices budget is planned to be split between the Upper Blue Earth and Lower Blue Earth Planning Regions.



**Figure 5-3. Estimated Projects & Practices budget in each planning region (sum of local and partner planning region action table costs)**



**Figure 5-4. Blue Earth River Watershed Planning Regions.**

## Projects and Practices: Watershed-Wide

This table aggregates each of the actions in the planning region tables included later in this plan section.

Action Description	Focus Areas	10-Year Output	Progress Toward Goals*				Responsible Entity (Bold = Lead)	Timeline					Local 10-Year Costs	Partner / Federal 10-Year Costs
			Surface Water	Surface/ Groundwater	Water Quantity /Hydrology	Land Use and Habitat		2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031	2032-2033	2034-2035		
<b>WW-1: Multi-Benefit Agricultural Best Management Practices</b> e.g., grassed waterways, WASCOBs, riparian buffers, filter strips, alternative side inlets, drainage water management, two-stage ditches	Erosion and Soil Health; Nutrient Loading; Altered Hydrology and FDR	14,000 acres 1,200 ac-ft storage 538,900 lbs/yr TN 15,300 lbs/yr TP 32,200 tons/yr sediment	<b>Nutrient Loading, Erosion and Sedimentation</b>	Surface Drinking Water Sources	<b>Altered Hydrology and Flood Damage Reduction</b>		<b>SWCD, NRCS, BWSR, MDA, DNR</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$3,195,400</b>	N/A
<b>WW-2: Soil Health and Recharge Conservation Practices</b> e.g., cover crops, nutrient and manure management, strip-till, no-till	Erosion and Soil Health; Groundwater Supplies Focus Areas	30,000 acres 1,436,400 lbs/yr TN 38,300 lbs/yr TP 120,400 tons/yr sediment	<b>Nutrient Loading, Erosion and Sedimentation</b>	<b>Groundwater Supplies, Surface Drinking Water Sources</b>	Altered Hydrology and Flood Damage Reduction	<b>Soil Health</b>	<b>SWCD, NRCS, BWSR, MDA</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$4,505,900</b>	N/A
<b>WW-3: Ravine or Streambank Stabilization</b> Small-scale vegetation enhancement and/or engineered management efforts to reduce erosion, with a preference for natural vegetative management where possible	Watershed-Wide	2,000 feet	<b>Stream, Ravine, and Shoreline Erosion, Nutrient Loading</b>	Surface Drinking Water Sources			<b>SWCD, DNR, NRCS, BWSR, MDA</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$200,000</b>	N/A
<b>WW-4: Shoreline Stabilization</b> Stabilization, enhancement, and / or engineering management efforts to stabilize priority lake shoreline	Priority Lakes	2,000 feet	<b>Stream, Ravine, and Shoreline Erosion, Nutrient Loading</b>	Surface Drinking Water Sources			<b>SWCD, DNR, NRCS, BWSR, MDA</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$200,000</b>	N/A
<b>WW-5: Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices</b> e.g., stormwater detention ponds, sediment basins, raingardens, retrofits	Municipalities	20 acres treated	<b>Stormwater Runoff, Nutrient Loading</b>	Surface Drinking Water Sources			<b>SWCD, Cities, NRCS, BWSR, MPCA, Counties, Townships</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$192,000</b>	N/A
<b>WW-6: Bacteria Management</b> Manure management plans and projects such as limited grazing near riparian zones, feedlot BMPs, and alternative intakes	Bacteria Loading Focus Areas	15 plans / projects	<b>Bacteria Loading, Nutrient Loading</b>	Groundwater Contamination, Surface Drinking Water Sources			<b>SWCD, MPCA, Counties, NRCS, BWSR, MDA</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$112,500</b>	N/A
<b>WW-7: Address Non-Compliant Septic Systems</b> Cost share or incentivize replacing non-compliant systems	Watershed-Wide	60 systems cost share / incentivized; 100 addressed otherwise	<b>Nutrient Loading, Bacteria Loading</b>	Surface Drinking Water Sources, Groundwater Contamination			<b>Counties, MPCA</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$600,000</b>	<i>\$1,000,000</i>
<b>WW-8: Address Aquatic Connectivity Barriers</b> Convey floodwaters, minimize flooding impacts, maintain flows, and allow for wildlife and sediment passage.	Aquatic Connectivity Focus Area	4 barriers			<b>Aquatic Connectivity</b>		<b>DNR, MPCA, SWCD, County Highway Departments</b>		✓	✓	✓		<b>\$120,000</b>	<i>\$800,000</i>
<b>WW-9: Seal Unused or Abandoned Wells</b> Cost share to well owners	Watershed-Wide; DWSMAs	100 wells		<b>Groundwater Contamination</b>			<b>Counties, SWCD, Cities, MDH, BWSR</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$150,000</b>	N/A
<b>WW-10: Land Protection</b> Provide incentives or cost-share to enroll land in temporary or permanent easements such as RIM, CRP, CREP, etc. as setbacks or for wildlife benefits	Bacteria Loading; Wildlife and Wetlands Focus Area	685 acres cost share / incentivized	<b>Erosion and Sedimentation</b>	Groundwater Supplies, Surface Drinking Water Sources		<b>Wildlife Habitat</b>	<b>SWCD, NRCS, BWSR, DNR</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$685,000</b>	<i>\$1,712,500</i>
<b>WW-11: Wetland Restoration</b> Provide incentives or cost-share for wetland or oxbow restoration or restoring floodplain connectivity	Wildlife and Wetlands Focus Area	500 acres cost share/ incentivized		Groundwater Supplies, Surface Drinking Water Sources	<b>Wetlands, Altered Hydrology and Flood Damage Reduction</b>	<b>Wildlife Habitat</b>	<b>DNR, Counties, SWCD, Conservation Clubs</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$100,000</b>	<i>\$20,000,000</i>
<b>Total</b>												<b>\$10,060,800</b>	<b>\$23,512,500</b>	

\*bold = direct progress made toward goal, unbolded = indirect progress made toward goal. Pink = addresses high priority issue, green = addresses medium priority issue

**Public Participation and Engagement: Watershed-wide**

ID	Action Description	Focus Areas	10-Year Output	Progress Towards Goals*				Responsible Entity ( <b>Bold = Lead</b> )	Timeline					Local 10-Year Costs
				Surface Water	Surface/Ground-water	Water Quantity /Hydrology	Land Use and Habitat		2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031	2032-2033	2034-2035	
PPE-1	Continue and expand watershed education and outreach through existing efforts and new programming (e.g., canoe events) in each jurisdictional area	Watershed-Wide	Annual meeting if needed	All	All	All	All	<b>SWCD, Counties,</b> NRCS, BWSR, MDA, MPCA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$1,095,000</b>
PPE-2	In addition to baseline outreach services, conduct education and outreach (e.g., field days, demonstration sites) geared to landowners about agricultural BMPs, manure management, and soil health practices	Erosion and Soil Health Focus Areas	25 events	Erosion and Sedimentation, Nutrient Loading	Groundwater Contamination, Surface Drinking Water Sources		Soil Health	<b>SWCD, Counties,</b> NRCS, BWSR, MDA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$200,000</b>
PPE-3	Partner with drainage inspectors to gain a deeper understanding of drainage system condition and operations and identify opportunities for multi-benefit solutions as part of repair or improvement proceedings	Watershed-Wide	10 meetings			Drainage Systems, Altered Hydrology and Flood Damage Reduction		<b>Counties, SWCD,</b> DNR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$5,000</b>
PPE-4	Develop an outreach campaign directed at shoreline and urban property owners to stabilize / enhance shorelines, provide education on impacts of wake boats, and provide education on stormwater runoff	Priority Lakes, Stormwater Focus Areas	1 media campaign or event	Nutrient Loading, Stream, Ravine, and Shoreline Erosion, Bacteria Loading, Stormwater Runoff	Surface Drinking Water Sources			<b>SWCD, Counties,</b> Cities, DNR		✓				<b>\$15,000</b>
PPE-5	Connect with landscape companies for education and implementation opportunities of best practices	Watershed-Wide	1 meeting	Stream, Ravine, and Shoreline Erosion, Nutrient Loading	Groundwater Contamination, Surface Drinking Water Sources			<b>Cities, Counties,</b> SWCD	✓					<b>\$5,000</b>
PPE-6	Educate landowners on septic systems and maintenance	Bacteria Focus Areas	1 mailing distributed to landowners	Nutrient Loading, Bacteria Loading	Groundwater Contamination, Surface Drinking Water Sources			<b>Counties, SWCD,</b> MPCA			✓			<b>\$10,000</b>
PPE-7	Hold AIS detector workshops and continue annual boat inspections as part of County local services	Aquatic Invasive Species Focus Areas	5 workshops	<b>Aquatic Invasive Species</b>				<b>County, DNR,</b> SWCD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$20,000</b>
PPE-8	Inform private well owners of local drinking water quality and educate them on well testing. Host a well testing clinic or outreach event for: • Arsenic, lead and manganese • Nitrate • Coliform Bacteria	Watershed-wide	4 events, clinics, or media/educational campaigns		Groundwater Contamination			<b>Counties, MDH,</b> SWCD, MPCA		✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$10,000</b>
PPE-9	Inform residents of water conservation practices for homes or businesses.	Watershed-wide	1 mailing distributed to landowners		Groundwater Supplies			<b>SWCD, County,</b> MDH, DNR, Cities		✓				<b>\$10,000</b>
PPE-10	Hold school events or field days for youth education on surface water quality, groundwater conservation, and wetland restoration	Watershed-Wide	10 events		Groundwater Supplies, Surface Drinking Water Sources	Wetlands, Altered Hydrology and Flood Damage Reduction		<b>SWCD, MDH,</b> MPCA, Cities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$50,000</b>
PPE-11	Hold stormwater education days that could include tours of facilities and flows, what a separate storm system is, BMP benefits, and education on salt usage	Stormwater Focus Areas	5 education days	Stormwater Runoff	Groundwater Contamination, Surface Drinking Water Sources			<b>Cities, SWCD,</b> DNR, MPCA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>\$50,000</b>
PPE-12	Build or expand existing partnerships and promote enrollment in land protection programs (CREP, RIM)	Wildlife Habitat and Wetlands Focus Areas	1 mailing distributed to landowners		Groundwater Contamination, Surface Drinking Water Sources		Wildlife Habitat	<b>SWCD, Counties,</b> BWSR, DNR	✓					<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Total Local 10-Year Cost</b>													<b>\$1,480,000</b>	

\*bold = direct progress made toward goal, unbolded = indirect progress made toward goal. Pink = addresses high priority issue, green = addresses medium priority issue

## Research and Data Gaps: Watershed-wide

ID	Action	Focus Area	10-Year Output	Progress Toward Goals*				Responsible Entity (Bold = Lead)	Timeline					Local 10-Year Cost
				Surface Water	Surface/Ground-water	Water Quantity /Hydrology	Land Use and Habitat		2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031	2032-2033	2034-2035	
RDG-1	Continue and expand surface water monitoring efforts to understand water quality, trends, emerging contaminants (e.g., PFAS), and impacts of conservation action	Watershed-wide	Annual Coordination meeting if needed	Nutrient Loading, Bacteria Loading, Aquatic Invasive Species	Surface Drinking Water Sources			Counties, MPCA, SWCD, DNR, MDH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$270,000
RDG-2	Complete feasibility analyses for potential storage projects	Altered Hydrology Focus Areas	1 feasibility study completed			Altered Hydrology		Counties, SWCD, DNR				✓		\$50,000
RDG-3	Conduct multi-purpose drainage management planning	Altered Hydrology Focus Areas	Plans completed for 5 ditches			Drainage Systems		Counties, SWCD, DNR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$60,000
RDG-4	Complete microbial source assessment to better understand source of bacteria impairments	Bacteria Focus Areas	1 source assessment completed	Bacteria Loading				MPCA, Counties			✓			\$20,000
RDG-5	Complete geologic atlas for counties without the data to better inform land use and management decisions	Counties	Geologic Atlas completed		Groundwater Contamination			DNR, University of Minnesota, Counties, SWCD, MDH	✓					Partner funded
RDG-6	Conduct an inventory of unsealed wells, considering factors such as vacant lots and contamination susceptibility	Watershed-wide	Inventory completed		Groundwater Contamination			Counties, SWCD, MDH		✓				\$40,000
RDG-7	Review options for conservation easements and identify gaps that existing programs and partners are not offering landowners	Watershed-wide	Gaps identified				Wildlife Habitat	SWCD, NRCS, BWSR, DNR				✓		\$10,000
RDG-8	Identify available funding and willing landowners for prioritizing wetland restorations	Wetland Focus Areas	1 funding source and 10 landowners identified			Wetlands, Altered Hydrology		DNR, Counties, SWCD				✓		\$10,000
RDG-9	Complete feasibility analyses for enhanced street sweeping	Cities	1 feasibility study completed	Nutrient Loading, Stormwater	Surface Drinking Water Sources			Cities, MPCA			✓			\$50,000
									<b>Total Local 10-Year Cost</b>					<b>\$510,000</b>

\*Pink = addresses high priority issue, green = addresses medium priority issue

## Capital Improvement Projects: Watershed-Wide

The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Action Table summarizes the actions pertaining to the construction, repair, retrofit, or increased utility or function of physical facilities, infrastructure, or environmental features. CIPs require external funding. They will be implemented through the CIP Implementation Program, described further in [Section 6—Implementation Programs](#). Where eligible, the planning partners intend to use approximately \$25,000/year to support implementation of these projects, likely sourcing from WBIF.

As referenced in the previously in this plan, with the anticipated removal of the Rapidan Dam, the Lower Blue Earth Planning Region will have a key resource impacted: Rapidan Lake. The long-term impact of the June 2024 weather event downstream of the dam is not fully known at the time of plan writing. Potential capital improvements in the river corridor, which align with the goals of this plan, may be pursued outside of WBIF funding by the appropriate lead jurisdiction once projects are identified. Entities will partner with MnDOT where applicable.

Project Title	Focus Area	Description	Lead Entity	Information Source	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031	2032-2033	2034-2035	Status	Cost
<b>Cedar Creek Streambank Restoration</b>	Chain of Lakes Planning Region	Streambank restoration within a City Park	City of Fairmont	Committee Feedback				✓	✓	Preliminary	\$800,000
<b>Streambank Stabilization</b>	Lower Blue Earth River Planning Region	Streambank stabilization efforts to reduce sediment contributions to the Blue Earth River	All	Committee Feedback				✓	✓	Preliminary	\$1,000,000
<b>Urban Stormwater Filtration in Fairmont</b>	Chain of Lakes Planning Region	Manage stormwater runoff (e.g., iron filters, retrofits) to minimize adverse impacts to the Fairmont lakes	City of Fairmont	Fairmont CIP, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)	✓	✓				Preliminary	\$1,000,000
<b>Fairmont Street Sweeper</b>	Chain of Lakes Planning Region	Implement stormwater best management practices on city owned property, such as purchasing a street sweeper	City of Fairmont	Fairmont CIP, SWPPP	✓					Preliminary	\$300,000
<b>George Lake Dam Conversion Project</b>	Chain of Lakes Planning Region	Converting the George Lake Dam to a series of rock arches/rapids	City of Fairmont	City of Fairmont				✓	✓	Preliminary	\$1,000,000
<b>Wetland Rehabilitation</b>	Altered Hydrology and Flood Damage Reduction Focus Areas	Removal of excess sediment in wetlands and restoration of wetland functionality	Martin SWCD	Committee Feedback		✓	✓			Preliminary	\$250,000
<b>Large Scale Water Storage</b>	Altered Hydrology and Flood Damage Reduction Focus Areas	Installation of large water storage/ treatment projects, primarily as part of drainage systems	All	Committee Feedback	✓					Preliminary	\$1,000,000
<b>JD 4 Wetland Restoration</b>	Upper Blue Earth River Planning Region	Wetland restoration on DNR property within the JD4 watershed	Faribault Co. SWCD	Faribault Co Drainage	✓					Planning	\$300,000
<b>Dutch Creek Channel Restoration</b>	Chain of Lakes Planning Region	Redesign the lower stream channel so that it is narrow, meandering, and more connected to the floodplain, resulting in increased in-channel water velocity to promote effective sediment transport while also re-establishment of riffles and pools for instream fish and wildlife habitat	City of Fairmont	DNR Permitting Letter				✓	✓	Preliminary	\$1,000,000
<b>Faribault CD46 Water Storage</b>	East Branch Blue Earth River Planning Region	Create water storage as part of a repair to the CD46 system	Faribault SWCD / Faribault County Drainage	Faribault County Drainage	✓	✓	✓			Preliminary	\$400,000
<b>Faribault CD72</b>	East Branch Blue Earth River Planning Region	An in-channel grade control structure exists in the centerline of the CD72 Main Trunk open ditch that is a barrier to fish passage. There is an opportunity to replace this in-ditch grade control structure with an alternative design that allows for fish passage.	Faribault SWCD / Faribault County Drainage	Faribault County Drainage	✓	✓				Preliminary	\$250,000