



Partnerships & Volunteers

Caring for local waters is a big task, and we can't do it alone. It is only through partnerships with other organizations, and the support of community volunteers that together we can protect and improve water quality.



Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District

18681 Lake Drive East | Chanhassen | 55317
952-607-6481 | info@rpbcd.org | rpbcd.org



PLANNING FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

July 11, 2018

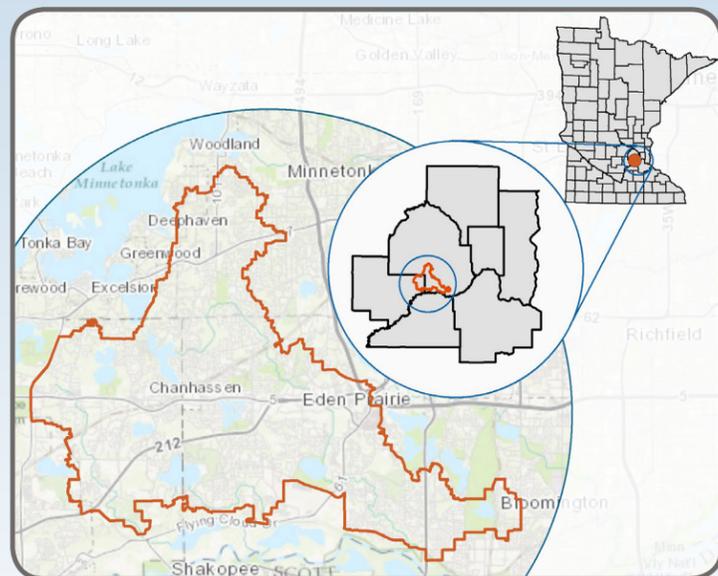
COVER GRAPHIC:

The word cloud on the front cover was created using all of the comments from the six public input meetings. The larger the word, the more often it appeared in the comments. Prepositions, conjunctions, etc were omitted. Words with fewer than three occurrences were omitted.

WANT TO LEARN MORE about the Watershed District? Check out Section 1 of our plan!

About us

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) is a local unit of government tasked with protecting, managing and restoring the water resources within its boundaries. The District was established on July 31, 1969 and is one of 65 Minnesota watershed management organizations. It is located in the southwestern portion of the Twin Cities metropolitan area in a largely developed urban landscape, which encompasses portions of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Chaska, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka and Shorewood.



RPBCWD is located in the southwestern portion of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The District is led by district residents and water professionals who focus on managing local water resources. The District partners with local communities to identify top priorities and plan, implement, and manage efforts to protect, manage, and restore our water resources. We educate and engage residents and the efforts they undertake benefit the quality and quantity of water in local and downstream watersheds and communities.

Plan Purpose



The purpose of this watershed management plan is to guide how the District will manage activities in the watershed between 2018 and 2028. The plan also meets Minnesota Statutes 103B and 103D, and Minnesota Rules 8410 requirements which governs our actions.

The Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District protects, manages, and restores water resources within its boundaries. The District views all the following elements as essential for achieving its mission:

- Effective administration and judicious use of public resources
- Data collection and analysis to ensure decisions are based on sound science
- Planning to achieve District goals in a strategic and equitable manner
- Education and outreach to promote watershed stewardship
- Regulation to protect District natural resources from degradation
- Projects and programs addressing both surface water and groundwater quality and quantity, and related habitat

This plan presents a summary of the District's goals, strategies, and activities necessary to accomplish the District's mission during the life of this Plan. The plan also describes the District's resource management framework and funding approach for projects and programs.

Education and Outreach



Community scale problems require community scale actions — water quality affects and belongs to everyone. Education and outreach leverages the power of an engaged community to effect positive change to help improve our waters. Through increasing awareness, growing stewardship and building capacity, education and outreach empowers each of us to do our part in making our waters healthy.



The District offers a cost-share program, which provides funding and technical assistance for projects that protect and conserve water resources, and increases public awareness of the vulnerability of these resources and solutions to improve them.

Regulatory

Regulation plays an important role in protecting water resources from the impacts of development and redevelopment. The District's permitting program includes rules that cover topics like buffers, stormwater, streambanks and shorelines, among others.

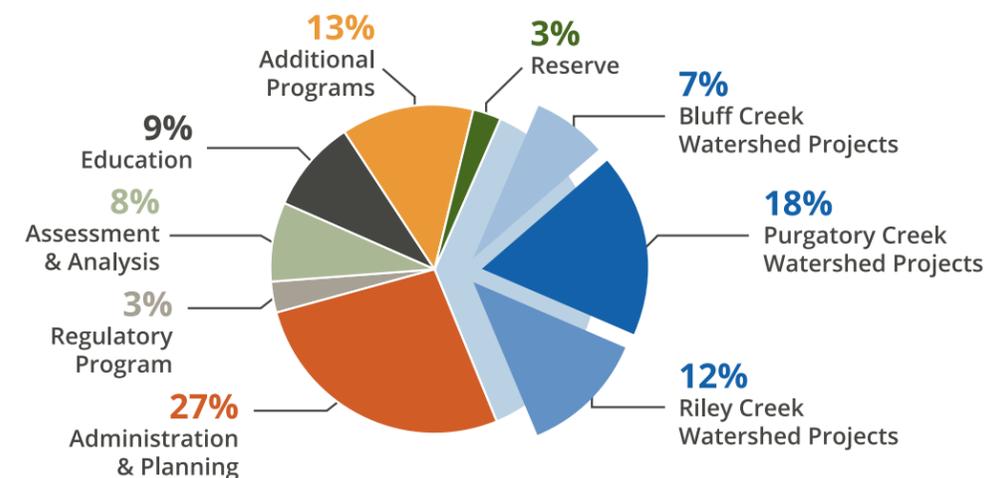


In 2016, the District's permitting program resulted in projects that removed an estimated 48,000 lbs of Total Suspended Solids (sediment) and 130 lbs of Total Phosphorus (nutrient) from site runoff.

260,000 cubic feet of runoff from each rainfall event can be retained through infiltration, retention ponds and rainwater reuse systems; 20 projects included buffers.

Finance (the next 10 years)

Where will the funds go? This pie chart explains the District's planned expenditures for 2018-2028.



A Closer Look

Adaptive Management and Prioritization

The District has conducted numerous assessments to help its work to protect, manage and restore our waters using an adaptive management approach. Adaptive management begins with the collection and interpretation of data to understand current conditions. The District then identifies solutions to improve water quality based on the best available science. Projects are then prioritized and implemented.



As part of this plan, the District worked with stakeholders to develop a prioritization tool. The tool identified several criteria to help the District prioritize, including:

- How many district goals are met
- How much habitat is restored
- Whether there are partners
- How much pollutant is removed
- Accessibility of the site
- How much shoreline/streambank is stabilized
- Sustainability of the project
- How much volume is infiltrated
- What is the reach of the benefits

Decision Tree

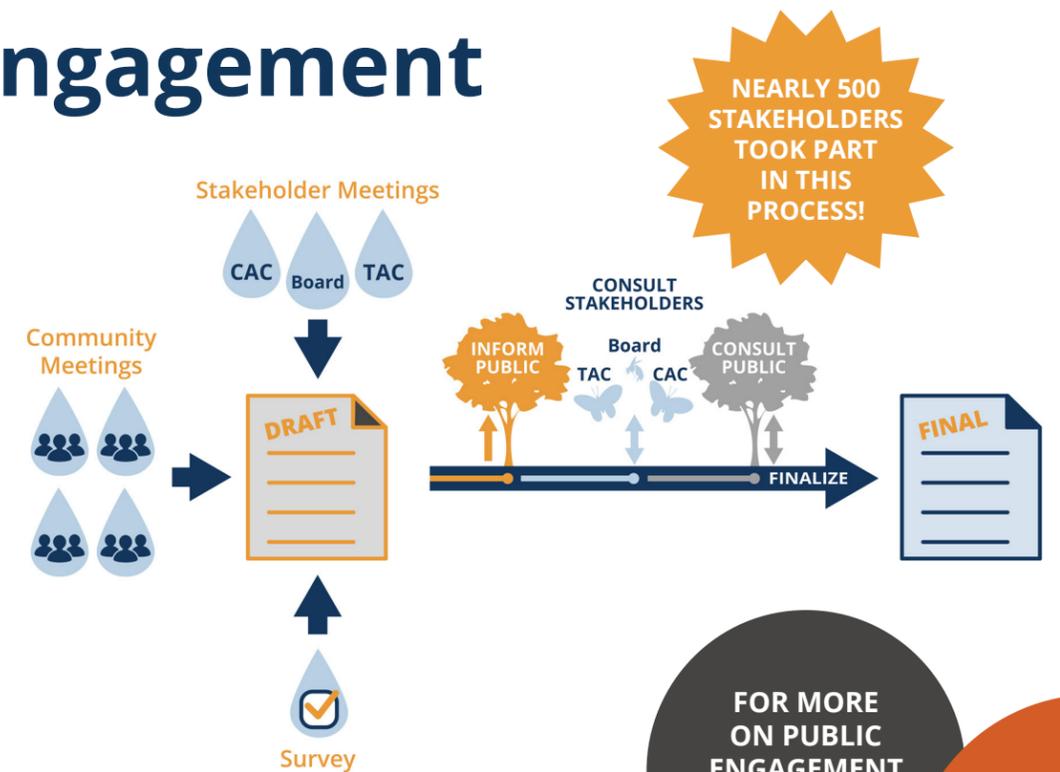
With nearly 50 years of experience managing our water resources, the District has extensive resource knowledge. Combining this knowledge with the adaptive management techniques the District was able to develop management decisions trees for lake, creek, wetland, and groundwater resources. The decision trees are instrumental in guiding the District to ensure our actions protect, manage and restore the resources.

TO LEARN MORE, GO TO SECTION 9

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRIORITIZATION TOOL check out Section 4

Public Engagement Process

Understanding that public support is critical for the efficient and effective operation of any government organization, the District emphasized public engagement and outreach throughout the development of this plan. As a result, the issues identified and emphasized in this plan are a direct result of stakeholders input.

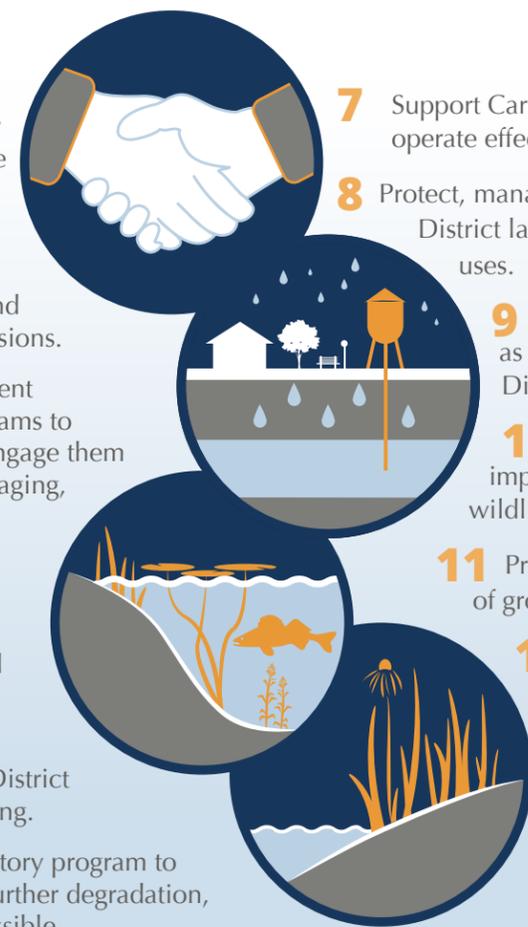


OUR GOALS? Find out more in Section 3

Goals Identified

Through our public input process, the following goals were identified:

- 1 Operate in a manner that uses District resources and capacity efficiently and effectively while advancing the District's vision and goals.
- 2 Collect data and use the best available science to recommend and support management decisions.
- 3 Design, maintain, and implement Education and Outreach programs to educate the community and engage them in the work of protecting, managing, and restoring water resources.
- 4 Plan and conduct the District's implementation program to most effectively accomplish its vision with consideration for all stakeholders and resources.
- 5 Include sustainability and the impacts of climate change in District projects, programs, and planning.
- 6 Implement the District's regulatory program to protect water resources from further degradation, enhancing resources when possible.
- 7 Support Carver and Hennepin County to operate effectively as Ditch Authorities.
- 8 Protect, manage, and restore water quality of District lakes and creeks to maintain designated uses.
- 9 Preserve and enhance the quantity, as well as the function and value of District wetlands.
- 10 Preserve and enhance habitat important to fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife.
- 11 Promote the sustainable management of groundwater resources.
- 12 Protect and enhance the ecological function of District floodplains to minimize adverse impacts.
- 13 Limit the impact of stormwater runoff on receiving waterbodies.



AT A GLANCE: The Next 10 Years

Where will we go?

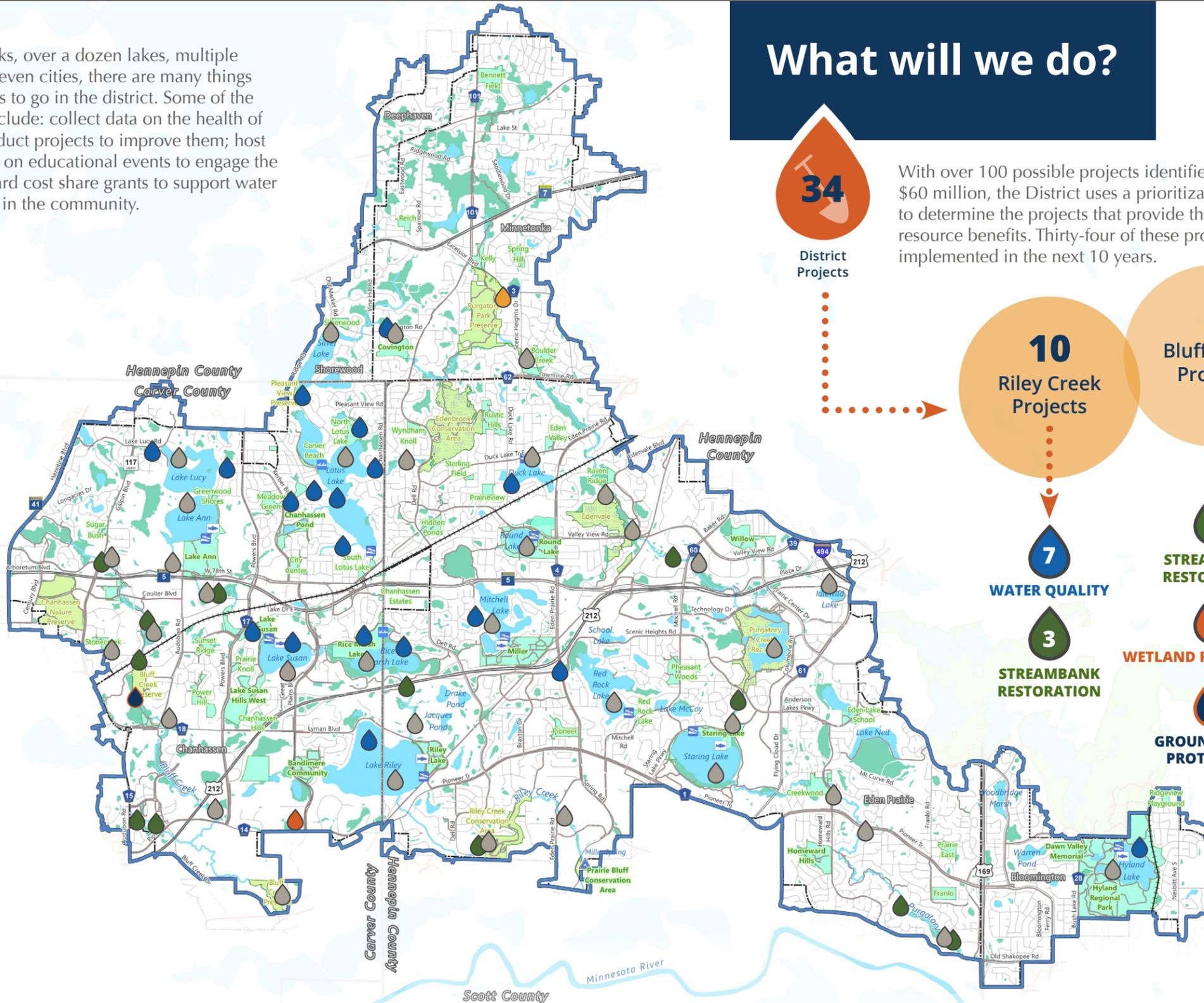
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Long-Term Monitoring Sites

With three creeks, over a dozen lakes, multiple wetlands, and seven cities, there are many things to do and places to go in the district. Some of the things we do include: collect data on the health of the waters; conduct projects to improve them; host and collaborate on educational events to engage the public; and award cost share grants to support water quality projects in the community.

Assessment and Analysis

Assessment and analysis of our water resources is the foundation for RPBCWD's work. Regular, detailed water quality monitoring provides the District with scientifically reliable information that is needed to decide if water improvement projects are needed. The District then conducts studies to identify potential projects that would help protect or restore our water resources. Finally, after implementation, the District not only assesses these projects to see how effective they are in the watershed, but also if further actions are needed. Check the map to see where we monitor!



What will we do?

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District Projects

With over 100 possible projects identified costing nearly \$60 million, the District uses a prioritization process (see next page) to determine the projects that provide the most comprehensive resource benefits. Thirty-four of these projects are planned to be implemented in the next 10 years.



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS?

Check out Section 9

RESEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS: Our environment is always changing and so are the tools that help us understand it. Over the next 10 years, the District will continue to study its waters to find solutions to protect and restore them. Learn more by visiting our website: rpbcwd.org