


RILEY
PURGATORY
BLUFF CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
Protect. Manage. Restore.

Annual
Communication
2022

Message from the Administrator

Another busy year at RPBCWD and, in many ways, a normal year following the contortions needed to deal with the pandemic years. We have returned to bringing water resource science back into classrooms and at tabling events. We have held Technical Advisory Committee meetings in person. Most importantly, staff have been able to work collaboratively on various projects and programs.

The Watershed Stewardship Grant provided more than a quarter million dollars to residents, associations, and cities to implement projects that protect and enhance water quality. The district was part of the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative, which developed a toolbox to assist property managers, homeowner associations, communities of faith, and other organizations with large campuses in their efforts to reduce winter salt use. We also collaborated with several agencies as part of the Lower MN River Chloride Reduction Grant program to provide cost-share dollars to companies and government agencies to purchase equipment or implement practices to reduce winter salt use.

Of course, we have also put projects into the ground. The completed Silver Lake Water Quality Improvement Project stabilized an eroded channel and added iron-enhanced sand filtration to treat runoff from Pleasantview Road before entering Silver Lake. The Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality Improvement Project was also completed. This project included installation of two manufactured treatment devices known as Kraken, which use filter cartridges to treat runoff, and restored portions of the park into a pollinator garden and native prairie. The other major capital project completed in 2022 was a creek restoration and flood mitigation project along Middle Riley Creek performed collaboratively with the Bearpath Creek Golf and Country Club and Bearpath Homeowners Association.

The data collection program continues to monitor lake levels, stream levels, and bio-chemical parameters. Sediment sampling is being used to evaluate the efficacy of prior alum treatments on various lakes and to define a schedule and dosing rate for future applications. The aerator will once again be used on Rice Marsh Lake to minimize winterkill of the panfish population to help control carp populations in the Riley chain of lakes.

The district looks forward to 2023, the partnerships we can foster, and the work we can all do collectively to protect, preserve, and restore our water resources for today and future generations.

Sincerely,



Terry Jeffery
District Administrator



Board of Managers

The District is governed by a five-person board of managers. Four managers are appointed by the Hennepin County Commissioners and one by the Carver County Commissioners. They serve three-year terms.



Beginning 2023
Regular Meetings
First Wednesday of
the month at 7 p.m.*
Workshops
Third Thursday of
the month at 7 p.m.*

* Schedule changes
posted on website
rpbcwd.org/calendar

Due to COVID, meetings held virtually until further notice.

Board of Managers: *Name, title, city of residence, term expiration date*



Larry Koch
Vice President
Chanhassen
July 2024

Jill Crafton
Treasurer
Bloomington
July 2024

Tom Duevel
Member
Minnetonka
July 2025

Dorothy Pedersen
Secretary
Shorewood
July 2023

David Ziegler
President
Eden Prairie
July 2025

Staff

Terry Jeffery
District Administrator
tjeffery@rpbcwd.org

Josh Maxwell
Water Resources Coordinator
jmaxwell@rpbcwd.org

Liz Forbes
Communications Manager
lforbes@rpbcwd.org

Amy Bakkum
Office Administrator
abakkum@rpbcwd.org

Zach Dickhausen
Natural Resources Coordinator
zdickhausen@rpbcwd.org

Eleanor Mahon
Education & Outreach Coordinator
emahon@rpbcwd.org

Mat Nicklay
Natural Resources Technician
mnicklay@rpbcwd.org

Contact RPBCWD

18681 Lake Drive East
Chanhassen, MN 55317
info@rpbcwd.org
952-607-6512

2022 AT A GLANCE

- ★ Projects
- 💧 Watershed Stewardship Grants
- 🌿 Water Quality Monitoring Site
- 🌱 Workshop/Event/Outreach
- 🔴 Permits Issued



Monitoring Sites



Grants Awarded



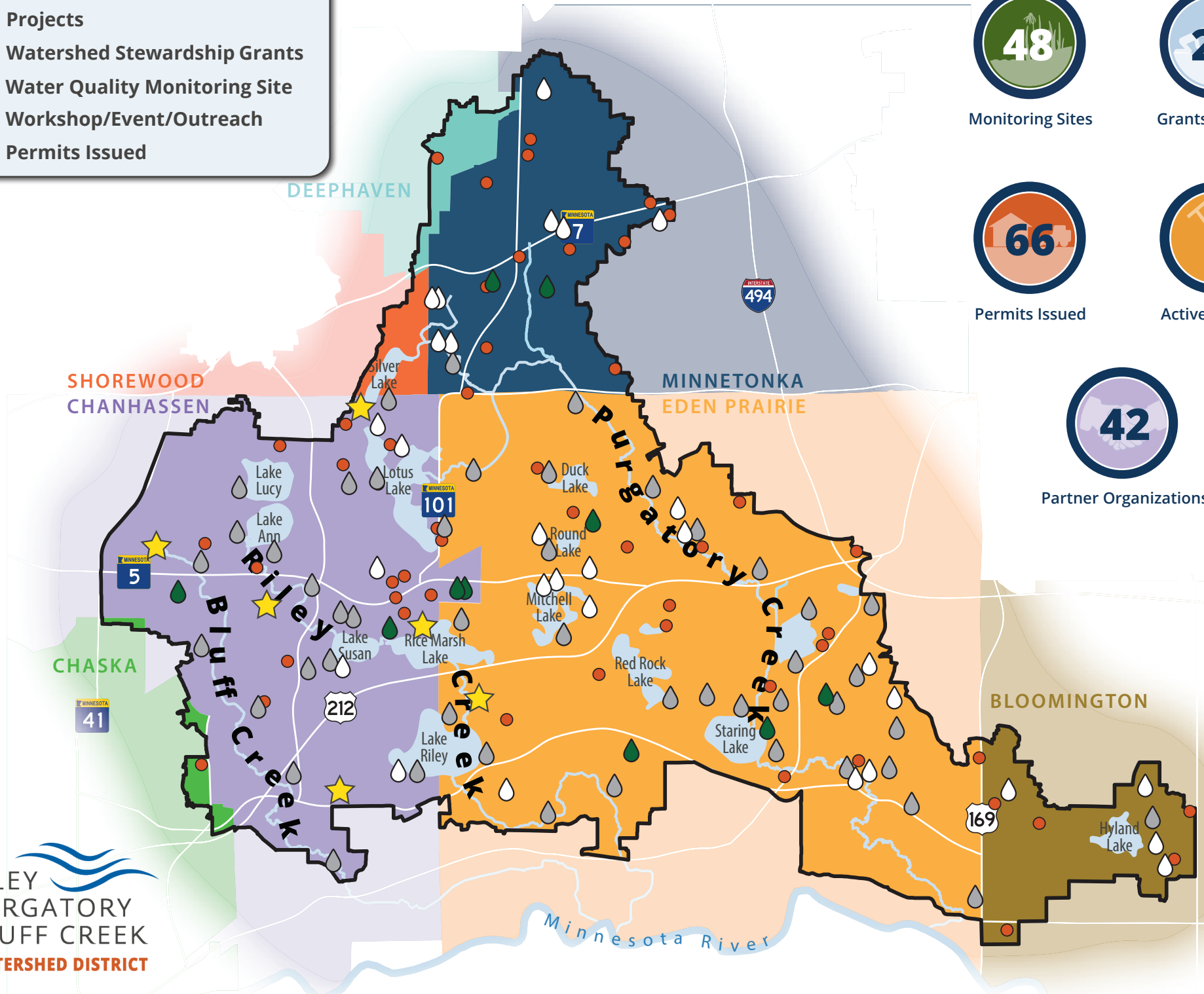
Permits Issued



Active Projects



Partner Organizations



**RILEY
PURGATORY
BLUFF CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

Treating runoff to Rice Marsh Lake



Kraken® filters were installed in Nov '21

The Use Attainability Assessment (UAA) undertaken by the District and the City of Chanhassen in 2016 found that the majority of pollutant loading to Rice Marsh Lake is due to runoff within the watershed (44%), with internal loading accounting for an additional 35%, and the remaining load from upstream water bodies or atmospheric deposition. The UAA concluded that Rice Marsh Lake Subwatershed RM-12A was the largest contributor to external pollutant loading to Rice Marsh Lake. In the fall of 2018, Rice Marsh Lake was treated with Aluminum Sulfate (alum) to treat the internal loading. The Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality Improvement Project was undertaken to address the external load from subwatershed RM-12A.

Two filters were installed in series in November 2021. In spring 2022, another raingarden was installed, and 15,000 square feet of park area maintained as lawn had the soils amended and was planted with either pollinator plants or native prairie. These practices will result in the removal of approximately 1/3 of the load from the watershed - around 90 pounds of total phosphorus per year. There will be three years of ongoing vegetation management.

Stabilizing Riley Creek

The Middle Riley Creek Stabilization Project stabilized 970 feet of Riley Creek at two separate locations within the Bearpath Golf and Country Club. The goal of the project was to create an ecologically diverse stream corridor and significantly reduce streambank erosion and sediment deposition into Riley Creek. In conjunction, the project needed to maintain the aesthetics and playability of the original Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course.

In 2021, the channel was realigned, all stabilization practices such as riffles, root wads, and vegetated reinforced soil slope (VRSS) were installed, and the flood plain area has been temporarily stabilized. The spring of 2022 saw the remainder of the buffer areas planted into native vegetation. There is three years of on-going maintenance left to complete.

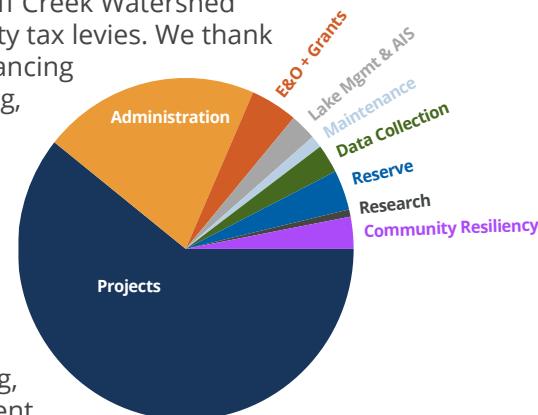


Re-meandering and bank stabilization of Riley Creek within Bearpath Golf and Country Club in Nov '21.

District tax dollars at work

Activities of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District are funded through property tax levies. We thank our community for their part in financing our mission of protecting, managing, and restoring our water resources!

The 2022 levy was \$3.6 million, and the complete 2022 budget, including funds from previous levies, was \$7.2 million. The funds were used for projects, as well as administration, maintenance, research, lake and creek monitoring, aquatic invasive species management (AIS), education and outreach (E&O) and grant funding, community resiliency, and a reserve fund for emergencies.



Hennepin County Chloride Initiative

The District is the fiscal agent and project lead partnering with area water management organizations for the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI). The program targets chloride pollution and is supported by a Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grant from the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR).

The first phase of the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) gathered input from applicators to understand barriers and needs from the industry. The second phase was the development of winter maintenance site management plan templates.

The final phase occurred in 2021-22. HCCI worked with a marketing firm to develop chloride reduction messaging and branding for an initiative called Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota. Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota includes a webpage, hosted by RPBCWD, with a wealth of tools and resources to assist LGUs in their local chloride pollution reduction efforts.



Hello, 2023!

In the new year we look forward to wrapping up projects and beginning new ones, welcoming back seasonal staff, expanding our education and outreach programs, and continued collaboration with community partners.

Submit a photo

Next year, our Annual Communication will take the form of a calendar, and we want to feature YOUR photos! Submit your entries at rpbcwd.org/photo-contest.



Read our full 2022 Annual Report

The watershed district's annual report is a summary of what happened the past year. It includes more information on watershed finances, projects, and plans for the upcoming year. Read the full report online at rpbcwd.org/annualreport.

Follow along with us!

Subscribe to our newsletter at rpbcwd.org/subscribe, or find us on social media @rpbcwd.



DISTRICT OFFICE:

18681 Lake Drive East
Chanhassen, MN 55317

CONTACT INFO:

952-607-6512
info@rpbcwd.org
www.rpbcwd.org

