

2023 Annual Report

January 25, 2024



Annual Reporting & Evaluation Requirements

MN Statute §103D.351

- 103D.351(a) The managers must prepare a yearly report of the financial conditions of the watershed district, the status of all projects, the business transacted by the watershed district, other matters affecting the interests of the watershed district, and a discussion of the managers' plans for the succeeding year.

MN Rules 8410.0150

- Within 120 days of the end of the calendar year (4/30/2024)
- List board members, officers, and county represented
- Contact information of person capable of answering questions – postal and electronic address and telephone
- Assessment of prior years work plan – activities completed and expenditures relative to budget UNLESS INCLUDED IN AUDIT
- Workplan and budget for current year
- Biannual review of goals and implementation
- Summary of significant trends in data
- A copy of annual communications
- Biennial solicitation of professional services
- Evaluation of status of local plan adoption
- Status of locally adopted ordinances
- Summary of permits, variances, and violations

Reporting Requirements

Contacts and Members

List board members, officers, and county represented

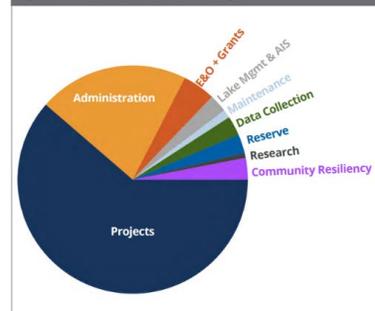
TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



Projects and programs 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 2023 levy was \$3.8 million, and the [board-approved 2023 budget](#), including funds from previous levies, was \$7.3 million. The funds were used for projects, as well as administration, maintenance, 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.

Figure 1. Distribution of 2023 budget.



GOVERNANCE

The District is governed by a five-person board of managers. Two independent committees, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), provide advice

The 2023 RPBCWD Board of Managers				
Name	Appointed by	Position	Term ends	City of Residence
David Ziegler	Hennepin County	President	7/31/2025	Eden Prairie
Tom Duevel	Hennepin County	Vice President	7/31/2025	Minnnetonka
Dorothy Pedersen	Hennepin County	Secretary	7/31/2026	Shorewood
Jill Crafton	Hennepin County	Treasurer	7/31/2024	Bloomington
Larry Koch	Carver County	Member	7/31/2024	Chanhassen

Photos of managers (left to right): Tom Duevel, Jill Crafton, Dorothy Pedersen, David Ziegler, and Larry Koch.



Contact of person capable of answering questions

STAFF

In 2023, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District had ten permanent staff plus two interns and one GreenCorps member. A list of permanent staff is below.

Terry Jeffery
District Administrator
tjeffery@rpbcwd.org

Eleanor Mahon
Community Engagement Coordinator
emahon@rpbcwd.org

Amy Bakkum
Office Manager
abakkum@rpbcwd.org

Dylan Monahan
Administrative Assistant
dmonahan@rpbcwd.org

Zach Dickhausen
Natural Resources Coordinator
zdickhausen@rpbcwd.org

Josh Maxwell
Water Resources & Fisheries Manager
jmaxwell@rpbcwd.org

Liz Forbes
Communications Manager
lforbes@rpbcwd.org

Mat Nicklay
Natural Resources Technician
mnicklay@rpbcwd.org

Andrew Hartmann
Water Resources Technician
ahartmann@rpbcwd.org

Alaina Portoghese
Communications Assistant
aportoghese@rpbcwd.org

RPBCWD Contact Info

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

ADMINISTRATION & PLANNING

10-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District's current Watershed Management Plan was adopted in 2018. The plan guides all the District's activities monitoring to water quality projects, over a 10-year period. The plan can be found at rpbcwd.org/10yearplan. If you cannot access it online, contact District staff to obtain a copy.

Each year, a district workplan is developed to guide implementation of the 10-Year Watershed Management Plan. The workplan can be viewed in the next section of this report.

COMPONENTS OF THE 10-YEAR PLAN

Click item/chapter name to open URL.

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Executive Summary

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[Chapter 2 | Watershed Issue Identification and Assessment](#)

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[Chapter 6 | Bluff Creek Watershed](#)

[Chapter 7 | Purgatory Creek Watershed](#)

[Chapter 8 | Riley Creek Watershed](#)

[Chapter 9 | Implementation - The Next 10 Years](#)

[Chapter 10 | Evaluation](#)

[Chapter 11 | References](#)

Chapter 9 of 10-Year Plan

Workplan and Budget 2023

Assessment of Prior Year's Workplan...

Status of Capital Improvement Projects Identified in Chapter 9 of the 10-year Plan.

Capital Improvement Project Name	Anticipated Substantial Completion	Status at end of 2022
BLUFF CREEK		
Bluff Creek Tributary	2020	Substantially complete; ongoing vegetation establishment
Bluff Creek Reach 5	2024	Feasibility study complete. Headwater wetland restoration added and completed. 30% design of Galpin Blvd crossing.
Chanhasen High School	Completed 2019	Closed out in 2020 and operations turned over to ISD 112.
Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Trail	2022	Substantial completion in July of 2022. On-going vegetation establishment and maintenance.
RILEY CREEK		
Like Riley Alum Treatment (second)	Completed 2020	Post-treatment monitoring including vegetation response.
Lake Susan Water Quality Improvement Phase 1	Completed 2019	Completed
Rice Marsh Lake In-lake Phosphorus Load Control	First dose completed 2018	Second dose scheduled for 2025.
Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality Improvement Phase 2	2022	Substantial completion in August of 2022. On-going vegetation establishment and maintenance. Monitoring of BMPs. Intake modifications and SCADA installation scheduled for 2024.
Riley Creek Restoration (Reach E and D3)	2020	Project closed out in fall of 2023. Management turned over to City of Eden Prairie.
Lake Riley and Rice Marsh Lake Subwatershed Assessment	Completed 2021	Assessment completed
Upper Riley Creek Stabilization	Construction 2024/2025	90% design complete; permitting finished; bid solicitation in spring of 2024 with construction in fall of 2024.
Middle Riley Creek Restoration	2022	Substantial completion in August of 2022; ongoing vegetation establishment and maintenance as well as E&O.
St. Hubert Water Quality Project	2021	Substantially completion Sept of 2021; ongoing vegetation establishment; development of education curriculum.
PURGATORY CREEK		
Lotus Lake Kerber Pond Ravine	2020	Feasibility complete
Purgatory Creek Recreation Area - Berm/Retention Area feasibility and design	2022	Design 90% complete; collaborating with City of Eden Prairie; construction postponed indefinitely.
Lotus Lake In-lake phosphorus Load Control	First dose completed 2018	Monitoring; second dose scheduled in 2024.
Silver Lake Water Quality Improvement Project	2022	Substantially complete in November 2021; ongoing vegetation establishment. Anticipated close out in fall of 2024.
Scenic Heights	2020	Completed. Maintenance turned over to Minnetonka Public Schools and City of Minnetonka.
Hyland Lake In-lake phosphorus Load Control	First dose completed 2019	Completed; turned over lead to Three Rivers Parks; still partnering as requested.
Mitchell Lake Subwatershed Assessment	Completed 2021	Assessment completed
Duck Lake Watershed Load	2021	Substantially complete; ongoing vegetation establishment
Lotus Lake Watershed Load - LL_1, LL_3, LL_7, & LL_8	2026	Draft feasibility report to be completed in February 2024. Project ordering in late spring of 2024 with construction to follow.

and expenditures v. budget

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS					
Item	Tasks	Done?	Goals	2023 Budget	Actual spent (Nov 2023)
District Wide					
10-Year Management Plan Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and evaluate regulatory program for improved efficiency Review and evaluate project prioritization metrics Facilitate meetings for IAC, CAC, and other stakeholders Develop Ecological Health Action Plan (EHAP) 	✓	Plan 1, Plan 2	\$135,000	\$132,808.97
AIS Inspection and early response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with municipalities and counties to provide watercraft inspections at launches Provide capacity and mechanics for rapid response to newly discovered aquatic invasive plant populations 	✓	Wqual 1, Wqual 3	\$68,000	\$6,440.54
Cost-Share/Stewardship Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide financial incentive to private landowners to implement best management practices on their properties Provide financial assistance to municipalities to implement and incorporate best management practices into facilities management and capital projects Provide technical assistance to landowners concerning erosion prevention, sediment control, and surface water management 	✓	EO 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 3	\$280,000	\$93,844.95
Data Collection and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect hydraulic, hydrologic, and water quality data on District lakes and streams Monitor and assess near-bank scour and escarpment erosion Maintenance of Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) stations Monitor flow rates and volumes as well as water quality parameters in areas identified as potential locations for BMPs Monitor installed best management practices to assess efficacy and to guide future projects Assist lake associations and municipalities in the development of lake management plans 	✓	DC 1, Wqual 1	\$233,300	\$194,103.56
Community Resiliency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop high resolution hydraulic and hydrologic model throughout the District Develop flood risk mapping for various climate change impact scenarios Partner with municipalities and local road authorities to identify and address community resiliency practices and projects 	✓	Plan 1, Plan 2	\$260,000	\$14,833.84
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local schools and other youth organizations to provide educational programs and curriculum pertaining to surface water management Develop and disseminate information through written formats, website development, social media platforms, etc Recruit, engage, and supervise volunteer groups Engage in partnerships such as the Minnesota Water Steward program and the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative Partner with municipalities to fulfill their MSA requirements 	✓	EO1, Plan 1	\$110,000	\$31,496.03
Plant Restoration - U of M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with faculty and students at the University of Minnesota to gather data on aquatic vegetation management and restoration. 	✓	Wqual 1, Wqual 3, DC 1	\$54,000	\$32,577.04
Repair and Maintenance Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of best management practices initiated by the District 	✓	Admin 1, Plan 1	\$100,000	\$25,040.59
Wetland Management*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all wetlands within the District utilizing the MN Rapid Assessment Methodology Perform Floristic Quality Assessments on all District wetlands Develop metrics for the assessment of functions and values that can be improved or restored throughout the District for water quality, erosion prevention, sediment control, habitat provision, biodiversity, community resilience. Develop and maintain CE database of wetland function and values 	✓	Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wquan 1, Plan 2	\$140,000	\$7,654.02

Chapter 9 of 10-Year Plan

Workplan and Budget 2024

Revenue and Administration

2024 ADOPTED BUDGET & WORKPLAN

The District adopted its 2024 Annual Budget in September 2023 and was shared with county assessors in December 2023. A table of 2024 revenue and expenditures, including tasks and goals, is below. Values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

REVENUE	
Item	2024 Budget
Levy for Plan Implementation	\$4,047,281
Permit Fees	\$114,000
Grant Income	\$209,000
Investment Income	\$200,000

REVENUE (continued)	
Item	2024 Budget
Past Levies (Carry-over)	\$4,400,000
Partner Funds	\$666,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$9,636,281

EXPENDITURES			
ADMINISTRATION			
Budget item	Tasks	Goals	2024 Budget
Audit Services	• Coordinate with auditor for development of annual audit report	Admin 1	\$18,025
Accounting Services	• Coordinate with accountants for development of financial reports	Admin 1	\$56,694
Advisory Committees	• Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee on water conservation, chloride management and emerging topics. • Engage with the Citizen Advisory Committee on water conservation, annual budget, and emerging topics	Admin 1, Plan 1	\$5,150
Insurance and Bonds	• Purchase insurance for general liability, public official liability, property, and workers compensation.	Admin 1	\$30,900
Engineering Services	• Work with engineering consultant for oversight of all District Engineering activities. Includes engineer attendance at District meetings, mini case studies, assistance with District water management planning activities and other matters requiring District Engineer, and assistance for the District Administrator as needed.	Admin 1, Reg 1	\$149,350
Legal Services	• Work with legal consultant to prepare and review legal documentation	Admin 1	\$111,240

Capital Examples

Item	Tasks	Goals	2024 Budget
Purgatory Creek			
Purgatory Creek Rec Area - Berm	• Partnership with Eden Prairie to repair of berm for flood control, water treatment, and recreational access.	Wqual 1, Wqual 3, Plan 2	\$135,000
Lotus Lake in-lake phosphorus load control	• Dosing calculations for future alum treatment; will carry over to next year	Wqual 1, Wqual 3	\$240,000
Silver Lake Water Quality BMP	• Final vegetation establishment and punch list items for project that installed iron enhanced sand filter ditch checks and channel stabilization	Wqual 1	\$4,700
Duck Lake Road Partnership	• Partnership with Eden Prairie to reconnect fragmented Duck Lake, protect lacustrian wetland areas and provide flood storage.	Wqual 1, Plan 1, Plan 2	\$235,000
Lotus Lake Watershed Improvement Project	• Design and feasibility of multiple regional stormwater treatment practices throughout the Lotus Lake watershed in concert with Chanhassen	Wqual 1, DC 1, Plan 1	\$315,000
Kerber Ravine	• Partner with City of Chanhassen to stabilize tributary to Lotus Lake	Wqual 1, Plan 1	\$75,000
SUBTOTAL			\$1,004,700
RESERVE			\$453,645
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			\$6,554,652

*Denotes multi-year-project.

Biennial Requirements

Biennial Reviews

**PRAP Performed in 2022 –
Will need to do review in 2024**

**Solicitations done in 2023 – Will
need for 2025**

Annual Communications

Newsletter

Appendix B



District Update

December 2023

As we wrap up another active year at the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD), we reflect on what we've accomplished. Our monitoring program continues to collect a wealth of data used to track the health of our lakes, streams, and wetlands. This data informs prioritization of projects selected to improve the health of the watershed. Projects such as the Upper Riley Ecological Enhancement Project, planned to begin construction in 2024, will improve watershed health by stabilizing erosion, reestablishing native vegetation, and restoring floodplains.

District staff continue to regulate activities that impact the watershed through our permitting program. In addition to reviewing permit applications, staff inspect construction sites to ensure appropriate measures are taken to protect our waterbodies. Staff also mailed postcards to nearly 600 lakeshore owners to provide information about shoreline permit requirements and who to contact with questions.

October brought the District's first ever Creek Week with activities for all. A Build Your Own Rain Barrel workshop hosted at the RPBCWD office had participants convert retired wine barrels into rain barrels to capture roof runoff. Residents could also pick up a tree sapling reserved earlier in the year; the trees spent the summer growing strong roots in gravel beds at our office, giving them a strong start when planted in fall. Creek Week wrapped up with the annual Cycle the Creek - a staff-guided bicycle tour along Riley Creek. Beginning with Creek Week, and lasting all month long, the Passport Adventure encouraged people to get out to explore the watershed district by offering a prize pack to determined explorers.

In 2023, our Stewardship Grant program awarded almost \$170,000 to residents, homeowner associations, cities and others committed to implementing natural shoreline restorations, habitat restorations, waterbody native vegetation buffers, and stormwater management projects. Some projects were also awarded funds to help pay for professional maintenance during the first three years, which is a critical time to establish native vegetation.

RPBCWD welcomed three new staff to our team this year: Dylan Monahan as Administrative Assistant, Alaina Portoghesi as Communications Specialist and Andrew Hartmann as Water Resources Technician. We were also excited to welcome a new GreenCorps member, Rachel Whittington, this fall.

We at the district look forward to 2024, where we will continue our work to develop our Ecosystem Health Action Plan (EHAP for short). This collaborative effort includes contributions from many partners to inform, through an ecosystem lens, development of the 10-year management plan update. Learn more about this effort at [rpbcwd.org/ehap](#).

Sincerely,

Terry Jeffery
District Administrator



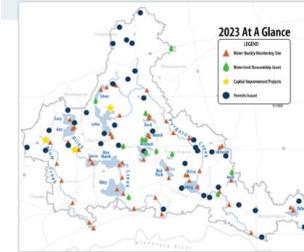
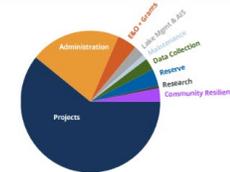
55 Years of Watershed Protection

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District is a special form of local government with a boundary based on the watersheds of Riley, Purgatory, and Bluff creeks. It was established on July 31, 1969, following a petition by local property owners to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. The purpose of RPBCWD is to protect and improve the water resources of our communities. RPBCWD partners with local communities to identify top priorities and plan, implement, and manage efforts which protect and improve local water resources. In addition, the District works to educate and engage community members regarding the protection of the District's water resources.

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 2023 levy was \$3.8 million, and the board-approved 2023 budget, including funds from previous levies, was \$7.3 million. The funds were used for projects, as well as administration, maintenance, 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.



Photos in the 2024 calendar were submitted by community members through our 2023 Photo Contest.

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.



Tom Duvel (Vice President), Jill Crafton (President), Dorothy Pedersen (Secretary), David Ziegler (President), Larry Koch (Member/Chairman)

Ecosystem Health Action Plan

RPBCWD has worked for decades to protect its natural waterbodies through directing management of stormwater runoff from hard surfaces. We are now developing an Ecosystem Health Action Plan to expand this mission to directly address green space runoff to take the next step to protect and restore water resources and reach towards a healthy urban ecosystem. The purpose of this plan has been to identify strategies, programs, and projects that can be undertaken to initiate ecosystem recovery to protect and restore water resources. Learn more at [rpbcwd.org/EHAP](#).

Check out our Annual Reports

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](#).

Regulatory Program

Permits, Variances, and Violations

Appendix D



Mat Nicklay, Natural Resources Technician

rpbcd.org/permits

OVERVIEW

Regulation plays an important role in preventing and mitigating water resource issues. The regulatory program sets standards that must be met by entities that develop or otherwise disturb land within the District. The regulatory program is intended to provide for consistent application of resource protection from impacts related to land use change throughout the watershed.

The District's Board of Managers adopted the regulatory program on November 5, 2014, and implementation of the regulatory program went into effect in January 2015. In response to stakeholder comments, the District modified the regulatory program in 2018 and 2019. The regulatory program includes thirteen rules, A - N, (rule I was eliminated in 2018 revisions). The rules and summary of modifications are available on the District's website at rpbcd.org/permits.

In 2023,
the District was responsible for administration of regulations throughout the District as no municipalities adopted ordinances equally protective of the resources.

2023 Regulatory Program Update

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PERMITTING

The District Regulatory Program requires individuals and entities desiring to take certain actions to obtain a permit from the District before commencing any work covered by District Rules. Since the District reinstated its regulatory program in 2015, 651 permit applications have been submitted to the District, including 80 for the 2023 calendar year. In 2021 District staff began using MS4Front permit management software and database which allows staff to easily view and track permits, escrows, fees, inspections, and violations.

In 2023, there were 24 permit applications that were approved by the Board of Managers. In addition, another 32 were approved administratively as set forth in District policy. These included 13 permits for work on existing single-family lots of record, 14 issued to municipalities or local road authorities, and five to commercial properties.

VARIANCES

In 2023, four requests for variances from District rules were submitted and approved by the Board of Managers:

- One variance request was for the floodplain management and drainage alterations rule (Rule B) for the Xcel Service Center project (Permit Number 2022-074). The request pertained to the provision of compensatory storage criteria.
- One variance request was for the wetland and creek buffers rule (Rule D) for the Chanhassen Trail Improvements project (Permit Number 2023-044). The request pertained to the buffer widths criteria.
- One variance request was for the wetland and creek buffers (Rule D) for the Corvius Parking Improvements project (Permit Number 2023-022). The request pertained to the buffer widths criteria.

- One variance request was for the wetland and creek buffers rule (Rule D) and the stormwater management rule (Rule J). The request pertained to the buffer widths criteria of Rule D and the rate control criteria of Rule J.

PERMIT VIOLATIONS

During 2023 there were three locations where work was conducted without a permit from RPBWD. The district continues to work with the property owners to rectify these conditions and as such the Board of Managers has not pursued formal violation notices or enforcement action as indicated in Rule N.

BENEFITS TO WATER RESOURCES

The District Regulatory Program sets standards to regulate the management of stormwater runoff to limit the runoff quality and rate on receiving waterbodies. The intent of these standards is to improve water quality to support environmental health and recreational usability of waterbodies within the District. In pursuit of these goals, the District requires that permittees limit the rate and volume of stormwater leaving their site, as well as managing stormwater runoff for total phosphorus (TP) and total suspended solids (TSS).

For every year for which data is available (2018-2023) permitted sites within the district have met or exceeded the 60% TP and 90% TSS removal goals. Additionally, for every year except 2019, the 1.1" volume abstraction goal has been met or exceeded. In 2023, implementation of the District's regulatory program resulted in the removal of 378 pounds of phosphorus and 116,120 pounds of sediment from the stormwater that will be discharged annually from permitted sites. From 2018 through 2023, 747 pounds of total phosphorus and 226,121 pounds of sediment were removed from stormwater discharge. Without the standards set by the District's Regulatory Program these pollutants would have reached our lakes and streams.



Each year, erosion control measures required by the Regulatory Program prevents an estimated FOUR DUMP TRUCKS of SEDIMENT from ending up in our lakes and streams.

This number grows each year.

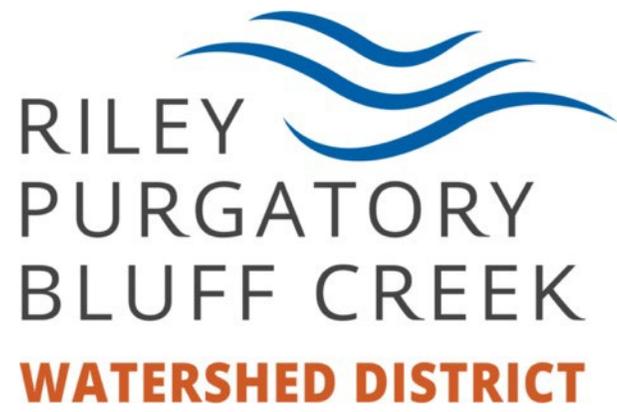


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Local Water Management Plans

Local Plans and Local Controls

Will need to be added to the annual report. All municipalities have deferred the RPBCWD regulatory program to the RPBCWD.



Thank You

Questions?

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