

Spotlight projects

2018 projects included invasive plant management, water quality improvements, and creek restoration.

SAND FILTER AT LAKE SUSAN PARK POND



RPBCWD teamed up with the city of Chanhassen to construct an iron-enhanced sand filter at the edge of Lake Susan Park Pond. The filter traps phosphorus in the pond water before it flows into Lake Susan. Phosphorus is food for algae, the aquatic organisms responsible for turning lakes green. Less phosphorus means less potential for algae blooms, which is better for swimmers and wildlife alike! The project also includes a system to reuse stormwater from the pond on nearby park athletic fields.

ALUM IN LOTUS & RICE MARSH LAKE



In September, Lotus Lake and Rice Marsh Lake were treated with a compound called aluminum sulfate (alum). Alum is applied underwater, where it sinks to the lake bottom and forms a thin "blanket." There, it binds with phosphorus in the sediment and prevents algae from using that phosphorus to grow. Continued monitoring will track long-term performance of the alum, and the second half of this split-dose treatment will be applied in 3-5 years.

LOOKING AHEAD

STRETCH OF RILEY CREEK TO BE RESTORED

The Lower Riley Creek Restoration is a multi-year project to stabilize the streambanks of Riley Creek, and to reconnect the creek to its floodplain. It will reduce erosion, improve water quality, and increase habitat in and along the creek. It will prevent an estimated 1,230 lbs of phosphorus, and 2,139,730 lbs of sediment from polluting the water each year. The project is a partnership with the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District and City of Eden Prairie, and is scheduled to start in 2019.



Board of managers

CHANGES AT THE DISTRICT

In 2018, we bid farewell to two members of the Board of Managers and welcomed two. Our Board President, and two-term board member Leslie Yetka, and board manager Richard Chadwick served their last meetings this summer. We are grateful for their leadership and wish them the best in their future endeavors. In August, we welcomed newly appointed David Ziegler of Eden Prairie, and Larry Koch of Chanhassen. They represent Hennepin and Carver Counties, respectively, and will help us implement the district's goals and policies.



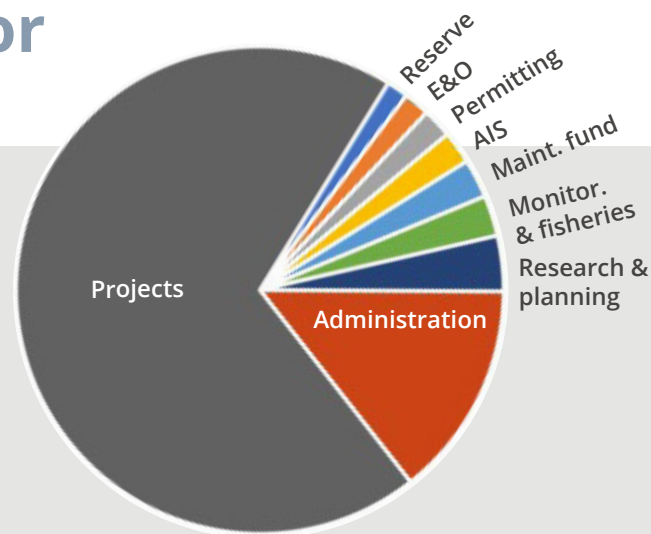
2018 BOARD (left to right)

Larry Koch	612-210-5001	Member
David Ziegler	952-905-1889	Secretary
Dorothy Pedersen	952-933-2141	Vice Pres.
Dick Ward	612-759-9150	President
Jill Crafton	612-816-9971	Treasurer

Your tax dollars at work for clean water

The watershed district is funded through property tax levies. That means, if you live within RPBCWD you are helping make the work of protecting clean water possible.

The 2019 levy is \$3,602,500. The budget for 2019, which includes funds from previous levies, is \$6,917,492. Where will those dollars go? To projects like those highlighted above, administration, research & planning, monitoring & fisheries, a maintenance fund, aquatic invasive species, permitting, education & outreach (E&O), and a reserve fund in case of an emergency.



2018 ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

It's been an exciting year for the watershed!

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District's (RPBCWD) 4th generation 10-Year Management Plan was approved by the Board of Water & Soil Resources. We welcomed two new managers, one new staff member and many new volunteers, all with a desire for protecting and restoring our waters. This is the same passion that led 70 residents from the Riley and Purgatory Creek watersheds to petition the State to create a watershed district 50 years ago. On July 31st, 1969, the Riley-Purgatory Creek Watershed District was formed. Later in 1984 Bluff Creek would be added to the district. In 2019, RPBCWD will be hosting a series of events throughout the watershed to commemorate 50 years of watershed protection. I hope that you can come explore and celebrate our water resources.

Sincerely,
Claire Bleser
District Administrator

Who are we?

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. It is funded through property tax levies.

RPBCWD is led by a five-member board of managers. The managers meet the first Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., at the district office. Changes to the schedule are posted to the RPBCWD website: rpbcd.org.

Contact us

rpbcd.org
info@rpbcd.org
 952-607-6481

2018 Where have we been?

With three creeks, over a dozen lakes, and seven cities, there are many things to do and places to be in the watershed. Explore the map to discover where we've been this year.

-  Projects
-  Cost Share Grants
-  Water Quality Monitoring
-  Workshops, Events, Outreach

What have we done?

In each of its three watersheds, RPBCWD uses a One-Water management strategy. Rather than focus on a single water body at a time, the strategy looks at the watershed as a whole. It begins with collecting data on the health of the waters, followed by identifying solutions, and finally prioritizing & implementing projects, working together in partnerships whenever possible. We host and collaborate on educational events to engage the public, and award cost share grants to support water quality projects in the community. RPBCWD's permit program also plays an important role by reviewing projects from other entities to make sure they do not degrade our waters.

One of the biggest projects of 2018 was finalizing our 4th-generation watershed management plan. You can read the plan on our website: rpbcd.org.



Engaging our community

Caring for local waters is a big task, and we can't do it alone. It is only through working with our community that together we can protect clean water.

