



Sunrise at Staring Lake Alyssa Essig.

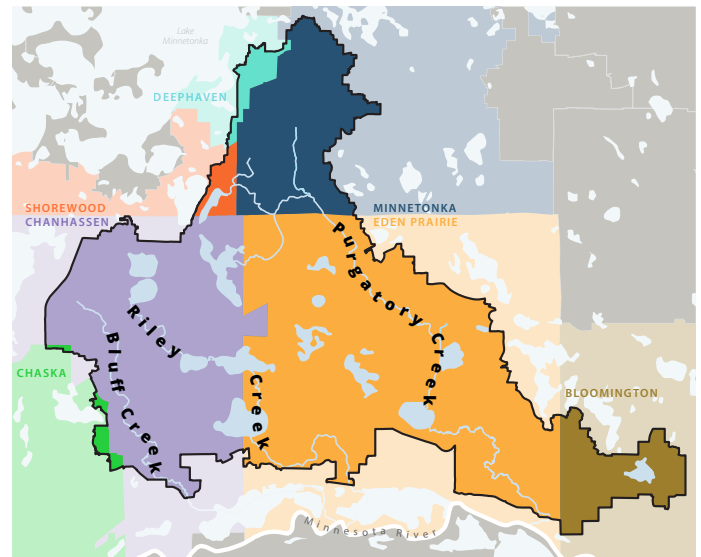
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INTRODUCTION

The annual report is a summary of what happened within a year. It provides an overview of the district including contact info, budget, and project status. In the appendix you'll find program reports including water quality updates.

The annual report meets requirements set forth in [Minnesota Statute Chapter 103D.351](#), which requires watershed districts to file an annual report with the Board of Soil and Water Resources and others. Minnesota Regulation [MR 8410.0150](#) requires the report to contain certain information.



DISTRICT OVERVIEW

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD or the District) is a local government unit established on July 31, 1969, to protect, manage, and restore water resources. It encompasses some 50 square miles of land that drains into any of the three creeks in its name. The District includes parts of seven cities (Bloomington, Chanhassen, Chaska, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and Shorewood) and two counties (Carver and Hennepin).

The District is led by five managers (four appointed by the Hennepin County Commissioners and one by Carver) each serving three-year terms directing District activities. The District partners with these local communities and residents to identify issues affecting the water resources and to prioritize projects and regulations to address these issues. In addition, the District works to educate and engage community members regarding the protection of the District's water resources.

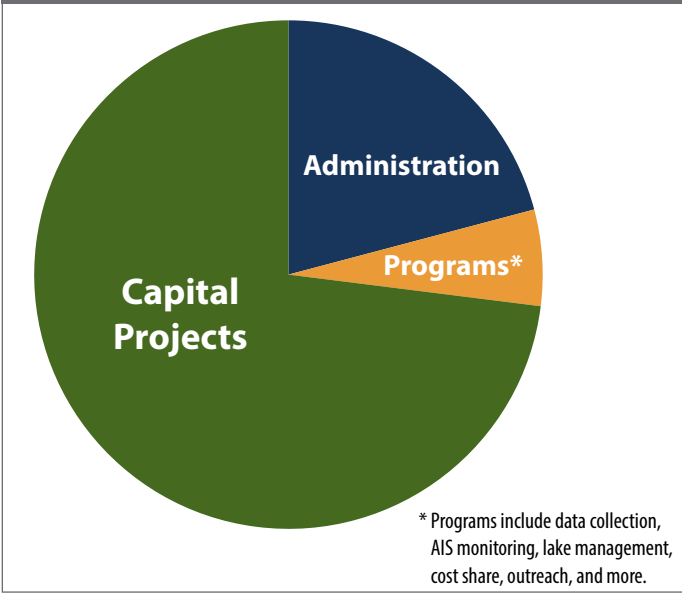
TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



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 2025 levy was \$4.25 million, and the board-approved 2025 budget, including funds from previous levies, was \$8.6 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), cost share funding, community resiliency, and a reserve fund for emergencies. View current and past budgets at rpbcwd.org/budget.

Figure 1. Distribution of 2025 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 and comment to the Board as required by [Minnesota Statute 103D.331](#). Daily operations are carried out by a team of employees and consultants led by the District's administrator.

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Four managers are appointed by the Hennepin County Commissioners and one by the Carver County Commissioners. Managers serve three-year terms. Appointments are made in July. One manager (Leslie Stovring) was newly appointed in 2025 and replaced David Ziegler. One manager was re-appointed (Tom Duevel) in 2025. One position will be up for appointment in July 2026. The table on this page shows the list of managers, their county of appointment, positions, term end date, and city of residence.

The RPBOWD Board of Managers (as of July 31, 2025)				
Name	Appointed by	Position	Term ends	City of Residence
Dorothy Pedersen	Hennepin County	President	7/31/2026	Shorewood
Bonnie Nelson	Carver County	Vice President	7/31/2027	Chanhassen
Tom Duevel	Hennepin County	Treasurer	7/31/2028	Minnetonka
Jill Crafton	Hennepin County	Secretary	7/31/2027	Bloomington
Leslie Stovring	Hennepin County	Member	7/31/2028	Eden Prairie

Photos of managers (left to right): Dorothy Pedersen, Tom Duevel, Jill Crafton, Bonnie Nelson, and Leslie Stovring.



ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The District has two advisory committees. The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) is a group of community volunteers that advise the Board of citizen interests. The CAC usually meets monthly. At the end of 2025, there were eight CAC members. More information can be found at rpbcwd.org/Citizen-Advisory-Committee.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) includes representatives of cities, counties, and government agencies. The TAC provides technical advice to the District about projects and programs. The board of managers annually appoints members to the TAC. Staff from agencies or local government units are welcome to join us at these meetings. For a current list of TAC members, visit rpbcwd.org/advisors.

STAFF

In 2025, RPBCWD had 10 permanent staff and multiple seasonal technicians. A list of permanent staff is below.

Terry Jeffery

District

Administrator

tjeffery@rpbcd.org

Dylan Monahan

Office

Administrator

dmonahan@rpbcd.org

Zach Dickhausen

Natural Resources

Coordinator

zdickhausen@rpbcd.org

Liz Forbes

Communications

Manager

lforbes@rpbcd.org

Andrew Hartmann

Regulatory Program

Coordinator

ahartmann@rpbcd.org

Eleanor Mahon

Community Engagement

Coordinator

emahon@rpbcd.org

Josh Maxwell

Water Resources &

Fisheries Manager

jmaxwell@rpbcd.org

Kayleigh Hein

Water Resources

Technician

khein@rpbcd.org

Skye Slater

GIS Communications

Specialist

aportoghese@rpbcd.org

Rachel Whittington

Natural Resources

Technician

rwhittington@rpbcd.org

RPBCWD Contact Info



Administrator Terry Jeffery



info@rpbcd.org



18681 Lake Drive East
Chanhassen, MN 55317



952-607-6512

ADMINISTRATION & PLANNING

10-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

The District's current Watershed Management Plan was adopted in 2018. The plan guides all the District's actions, from monitoring to water quality projects, over a 10-year period. The plan can be found at rpbcd.org/10-year-plan. 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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[Chapter 2 | Watershed Issue Identification and Assessment](#)

[Chapter 3 | Goals and Strategies](#)

[Chapter 4 | Project Prioritization Process](#)

[Chapter 5 | Land and Water Resource Inventory](#)

[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](#)

Appendices

[Appendix A: Public and Stakeholder Participation](#)

[Appendix B: Education and Outreach Plan](#)

[Appendix C: Goals and Strategies Tied to Stakeholder Input](#)

[Appendix D: Envision Credits and Criteria](#)

[Appendix E: Capital Improvements Implementation Process](#)

[Appendix F: Example Water Resources Report](#)

[Appendix G: Draft Report Card](#)

[Appendix H: BWSR Approval and RPBCWD Adoption](#)

Amendments

[Cost-share amendment \(3-6-19\)](#)

[St Hubert Catholic School Opportunity Project \(10-2-19\)](#)

[Spring Road Conservation Project \(11-16-23\); Resolution 23-064](#)

CONSULTANTS



DISTRICT ENGINEER

Barr Engineering Co.

Attn: Scott Sobiech, CFM, PE

4300 Market Pointe Drive, Suite 200, Edina, MN 55435



LEGAL

Smith Partners PLLP

Attn: Louis Smith

250 S Marquette Ave, Ste 250, Minneapolis, MN 55401



ACCOUNTING

Redpath and Company, Ltd.

Attn: Bonnie Burns

4810 White Bear Parkway, White Bear Lake, MN 55110



AUDITING

Abdo

Attn: Justin Nilson

5201 Eden Avenue Ste 250, Edina, MN 55436

LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION & IMPLEMENTATION

The District has received and approved Local Surface Water Management Plans for all cities within the District as required under the District's regulatory program. The District will continue to administer its regulatory program in all municipalities until such time as a city adopts local controls deemed to be equally protective.

FINANCIAL STATUS

The District's fund balance and financial status are included in the District's Annual Audit. The Annual Audit is included as Appendix D to this report. The District's audited financial report was prepared by Abdo, a certified public accounting firm. As required by [Minnesota Rules §8410.0150, subp. 2](#), the Audited Financial Report includes classification and reporting of revenues and expenditures, a balance sheet, an analysis of changes in final balances, and all additional statements necessary for full financial disclosures.

2025 FINANCE REPORT

Upon completion in late spring of 2026, the [2025 Annual Financial Report](#) will be available at rpbcwd.org/yearly-finance-reports and will be distributed as required by statute.

BIENNIAL SOLICITATION OF INTEREST PROPOSALS

Under [Minnesota Statute §103B.227](#), subd. 5, the District must issue a biennial solicitation for professional services. In early 2023, the District solicited for engineering, legal, accounting, and auditing services through local newspapers, the District website, and professional organization websites. The District selected Barr Engineering for engineering services, Smith Partner for legal services, Redpath and Company for accounting services, and Abdo for auditing services.

Monarch on Swamp Milkweed by Yoko Yamasaki.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we are on ancestral and contemporary Ojibwe land that was stolen from the Wahpékhute Dakota tribe in the 1851 Treaty of Mendota. We recognize these tribal nations as the original stewards of the land, water, and natural resources within the District, and we honor the importance of protecting the culturally significant resources of this land.

OVERVIEW OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Our water monitoring program supports our management plan's goal to remove waterbodies from the MPCA Impaired Waters list. We regularly monitor thirteen lakes, three creeks, and two wetlands in the district. Collected data allows tracking of water quality trends over time and to determine if a waterbody is meeting standards.

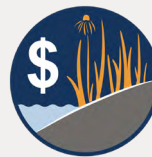
rpbcwd.org/water-resources-program



PERMITTING

State law requires us to have water protection standards. We run a permitting program to help meet those standards. Anyone planning a project that triggers District rules must obtain a permit from the District before beginning work.

rpbcwd.org/permits



STEWARDSHIP COST SHARE

The Stewardship Grant program offers financial support for clean water projects to property owners in the watershed district. Project examples include habitat restorations, shoreline restorations, rain gardens, and tree trenches. Residents can earn up to \$5,000 for a project! Non-profits can earn up to \$20,000!

rpbcwd.org/grants



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There are many ways volunteers can help protect water. RPBCWD fosters an engaged community through an aquatic invasive species monitoring program, support of the Minnesota Water Steward program, working with our Citizen Advisory Committee, and offering events and workshops.

rpbcwd.org/volunteer



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Our capital improvement program identifies large-scale solutions and control measures to attain the District's water resource goals. Over the past 50 years, the District has implemented many projects, none of which would have been possible without our many community partners.

rpbcwd.org/projects

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

To update the District's [10-year Watershed Management Plan](#), the District worked in 2018 to evaluate and prioritize its capital improvement projects. Of the 175 projects identified, the District, with input from partners, identified 34 projects to be implemented during the next 10 years beginning in 2018. One new project, Lake Riley Alum Treatment, was identified and added later. The table below provides a summary of the status of the District's Capital Improvement Program as of the end of 2025.

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 2024
BLUFF CREEK		
Bluff Creek Tributary	Completed 2024	Project closed out in Spring of 2024
Bluff Creek Reach 5	2028 or later	Due to budget constraints and impending plan update, this project has been pushed out until after the project prioritization metric is updated with the next 10-year plan.
Chanhassen High School	Completed 2019	Closed out in 2020 and operations turned over to ISD 112.
Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Trail	Completed 2022	Substantial completion in July of 2022. Initial vegetation establishment and maintenance completed. Beginning 5-year monitoring and maintenance plan.
RILEY CREEK		
Like Riley Alum Treatment (second)	Completed 2020	Post-treatment monitoring continues including vegetation response. Additional corings and sediment release rate analysis in 2025.
Lake Susan Water Quality Improvement Phase 1	Completed 2019	Completed. Ongoing maintenance and data collection.
Rice Marsh Lake In-lake Phosphorus Load Control	Second dose fall 2025	Sediment analysis performed in 2024. 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. Information to be used for holistic subwatershed management plans begun in 2024.
Upper Riley Creek Stabilization	Winter 2027/2028	100% design complete; permitting finished.
Middle Riley Creek Restoration	Completed 2022	Substantial completion in August of 2022; ongoing vegetation establishment and maintenance as well as E&O.
St. Hubert Water Quality Project	Completed 2021	Substantially completion Sept of 2021; ongoing vegetation establishment; development of education curriculum.
PURGATORY CREEK		
Lotus Lake Kerber Pond Ravine	Completed 2026	The City of Chanhassen completed the stabilization of Kerber Pond Ravine with their 2026 road project.
Purgatory Creek Recreation Area - Berm/Retention Area feasibility and design	Feasibility completed 2022	Design 90% complete; collaborating with City of Eden Prairie; construction likely to occur in 2027.
Lotus Lake In-lake phosphorus Load Control	Second dose completed 2024	Monitoring; second dose applied in fall of 2024. Study translocation of sediments and alum resulting from wake boat usage in 2025.
Silver Lake Water Quality Improvement Project	Completed 2024	Project closed out in Spring of 2025.
Scenic Heights	Completed 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	2028	Partnering with City of Chanhassen to turn LL1 (North Lotus Lake Stormwater Park) into a regional system that the city can rely on for credits for their programmed road projects. Anticipate plan completion in 2026 with construction in 2027.
Round Lake In-lake Phosphorus Load Control	First dose completed 2025	Partnership with City of Eden Prairie. Coring completed in 2024. Plan amendment in 2025. First dose completed fall of 2025.

2025 FINAL BUDGET & WORKPLAN

The District adopted its 2025 annual budget in September 2024 and shared it with county assessors in December 2024. See the appendix for the [2025 Annual Financial Report](#). The full 2025 Annual Financial Report is also available on the website: rpbcwd.org/yearly-financial-reports. The district workplan is below.

2025 District Workplan			
ADMINISTRATION			
Item	Tasks	Done?	Goals
Board administration	• Compensate managers for time and expense for official duties	X	Admin 1
Employees/staff	• Fund staff benefits such as salary and health insurance	X	Admin 1
General office	• Pay for office space, utilities, and supplies	X	Admin 1
Dues/insurance	• Purchase insurance for general liability, public official liability, property, and workers compensation • Purchase professional dues and publication subscriptions	X	Admin 1
Professional services	• Coordinate with auditor for development of annual audit report • Coordinate with accountants for development of financial reports • 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. • Work with legal consultant to prepare and review legal documentation • Collect fees for permit application reviews and project inspections • Maintain databases for permitting and cost share programs • Engage professional services for information technology, professional coach, human resources, banking, etc. • Hire professional recorder to take minutes for board meetings	X	Admin 1, EO1, Reg 1
Advisory committee	• Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee on water conservation, chloride management, regulatory program, and emerging topics. • Engage with the Citizen Advisory Committee on water resources, regulatory program, grant program, E&O program, annual budget, and emerging topics	X	Admin 1, Plan 1
Fleet maintenance	• Maintain and repair vehicles for staff use	X	Admin 1
LAK lawsuit legal fees	• Legal costs associated with lawsuit brought against the RPBCWD by Larry Koch	X	Admin 1
DISTRICT WIDE			
Item	Tasks	Done?	Goals
10-year management plan	• Review and evaluate regulatory program for improved efficiency • Review and evaluate project prioritization metrics • Facilitate meetings for TAC, CAC, and other stakeholders • Develop Ecological Health Action Plan (EHAP)	X	Plan1, Plan 2
AIS detection and response	• 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	X	Wqual 1, Wqual 3
Cost-share/stewardship	• 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	X	EO 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 3
Data collection and monitoring	• 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	X	DC 1, Wqual 1

DISTRICT WIDE (continued)

Item	Tasks	Done?	Goals
District groundwater assessment	• Work with cities to develop programs aimed at reduction of potable water supply use • Collect data and employ modeling to understand groundwater / surface water interaction		Ground 1, Plan 1
Community resilience	• 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 resilience practices and projects	X	Plan1, Plan 2
Education and outreach	• 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 MS4 requirements	X	EO1, Plan 1
Repair and maintenance	• Maintenance of best management practices initiated by the District	X	Admin 1, Plan 1
Wetland management	• 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 GIS database of wetland function and values	X	Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wquan 1, Plan 2
Lake vegetation management	• Perform point intercept surveys • Perform aquatic invasive species surveys • Perform turion counts	X	Wqual 1, Wqual 3, Data 1
Aquatic vegetation and shoreland plan	• Evaluation of current shoreline conditions and identification of resource areas of concern for mitigative purpose		DC 1, Plan 1, Plan 2, WQual 1
Fisheries plan	• Compilation of fisheries data on district lakes and reference lakes		DC1, WQual 3

CAPITAL PROGRAM

Item	Tasks	Done?	Goals
BLUFF CREEK			
Upper Bluff Creek	• Feasibility and design of creek restoration in upper Bluff Creek near headwaters • Evaluation of headwater wetland for restoration, flood storage, and habitat restoration	X	Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wqual 3, Wquan 1, Plan 2, EO 1
Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Trail	• Removal of three homes from floodplain of large wetland complex • Restoration of seven acres of hydrologically altered wetland. • Flood storage, rate control, and stream protection for Bluff Creek • Work with volunteer organizations and local government to develop and provide for educational opportunities	X	Plan 2, Wquan 1
RILEY CREEK			
Spring Road Conservation Project	• Acquisition, preservation, and restoration of 27 acres of prairie, woodland, wetland, and shrub savanna adjacent to Riley Creek and tributary to MN River for water resource protection, education, and scientific research	X	Plan 1, Plan 2, DC 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wqual 3
Upper Riley Creek Stabilization	• Feasibility, design, and construction of upper Riley Creek from TH 5 to Lake Susan.	X	Wqual 1, Wqual 3
RML 12A: Rice Marsh Lake water quality improvement project	• Installation of two inline manufactured treatment devices • Construction of bio-infiltration practice • Restoration of prairie area as well as soils correction for infiltration and for data collection of efficacy as treatment practice	X	Wqual 1, DC 1
Rice Marsh and Round in-lake phosphorus (P) control	• Sediment coring	X	Wqual 1, DC 1

CAPITAL PROGRAM (continued)

Item	Tasks	Done?	Goals
Lake Riley in-lake phosphorus (P) control	Continue monitoring of Lake Riley to determine future actions	X	Wqual 1, DC 1
St. Hubert water quality project	- Work with school staff to develop educational curriculum and opportunities for students at St Hubert's and elsewhere - Final plant establishment and punch list item completion for stabilization of St. Hubert Water Quality Project	X	EO 1, Wqual 1
Lucy, Ann and Susan watershed study	- Development of holistic plan evaluating pollutant loading, floodplain storage, resilience, priority resources, and source identification - Work continues in 2026		Plan 1, Plan 2, DC 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wqual 3
Lake Susan Preserve internal phosphorus (P) load	Data collection of sediment cores for phosphorous release and loading to Lake Susan	X	DC 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 3
PURGATORY CREEK			
Purgatory Creek Rec Area berm repair	- Partnership with Eden Prairie to repair of berm for flood control, water treatment, and recreational access. - Work continues in 2026		Wqual 1, Wqual 3, Plan 2
Lotus Lake in-lake phosphorus (P) control	Dosing calculations for future alum treatment; will carry over to next year	X	Wqual 1, Wqual 3
North Lotus Lake Stormwater Park	- Design and feasibility of stormwater treatment practice in concert with Chanhassen - Work continues in 2026		Wqual 1, DC 1, Plan 1
Mitchell and Red Rock watershed study	- Development of holistic plan evaluating pollutant loading, floodplain storage, resilience, priority resources, and source identification. - To be completed in 2026		Plan 1, Plan 2, DC 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wqual 3
Kerber Pond ravine - Lotus Lake	Partner with City of Chanhassen to stabilize tributary to Lotus Lake		Wqual 1, Plan 1
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	X	Wqual 1
Duck Lake Road Partnership	Partnership with Eden Prairie to reconnect fragmented Duck Lake, protect lacustrian wetland areas and provide flood storage.	X	Wqual 1, Plan 1, Plan 2

2026 ADOPTED BUDGET & WORKPLAN

REVENUE

Item	2026 budget
Levy for plan implementation	\$ 4,245,208
Permit fees	\$ 100,000
Grant income	\$ 0
Investment income	\$ 250,000
Partner funds	\$ 0
Reimbursements	\$ 0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 4,595,208

The District adopted its 2026 Annual Budget in September 2025 and was shared with county assessors in December 2025. A table of 2026 revenue and expenditures, including tasks and goals, is below. Values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

2026 budget: Carry over and expendable funds

Item	Amount
Past levies (carry over)	\$ 5,287,397
Expendable funds	\$ 9,882,605

EXPENDITURES

ADMINISTRATION

Item	Tasks	Goals	2026 budget
Board administration	• Compensate managers for time and expense for official duties	Admin 1	\$ 37,500
Employees/staff	• Fund staff benefits such as salary and health insurance	Admin 1	\$ 1,176,840
General office	• Pay for office space, utilities, and supplies	Admin 1	\$ 201,350
Dues/insurance	• Purchase insurance for general liability, public official liability, property, and workers compensation. • Purchase professional dues and publication subscriptions	Admin 1	\$ 53,000
Professional services	• Coordinate with auditor for development of annual audit report • Coordinate with accountants for development of financial reports • 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. • Work with legal consultant to prepare and review legal documentation • Collect fees for permit application reviews and project inspections • Maintain databases for permitting and cost share programs • Engage professional services for information technology, professional coach, human resources, banking, etc. • Hire professional recorder to take minutes for board meetings	Admin 1, E01, Reg 1	\$ 622,500
Advisory committee	• Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee on water conservation, chloride management, regulatory program, and emerging topics. • Engage with the Citizen Advisory Committee on water resources, regulatory program, grant program, E&O program, annual budget, and emerging topics	Admin 1, Plan 1	\$ 5,500
Fleet maintenance	• Maintain and repair vehicles for staff use	Admin 1	\$ 12,500
SUBTOTAL - ADMINISTRATION			\$ 2,109,190

DISTRICT WIDE

Item	Tasks	Goals	2026 budget
10-year management plan	- Review and evaluate regulatory program for improved efficiency - Review and evaluate project prioritization metrics - Facilitate meetings for TAC, CAC, and other stakeholders - Develop Ecological Health Action Plan (EHAP)	Plan 1, Plan 2	\$ 230,000
AIS detection and response	- 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	\$ 75,000
Cost-share/stewardship	- 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	\$ 275,000
Data collection and monitoring	- 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	\$ 200,000
District groundwater assessment*	- Work with cities to develop programs aimed at reduction of potable water supply use. - Collect data and employ modeling to understand groundwater / surface water interaction	Ground 1, Plan 1	\$ 175,000
Community resilience	- 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 resilience practices and projects	Plan 1, Plan 2	\$ 200,000
Education and outreach	- 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 MS4 requirements	EO1, Plan 1	\$ 105,000
Repair and maintenance	Maintenance of best management practices initiated by the District	Admin 1, Plan 1	\$ 105,000
Wetland management*	- 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 GIS database of wetland function and values	Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wquan 1, Plan 2	\$ 70,000
Lake vegetation management	- Perform point intercept surveys - Perform aquatic invasive species surveys - Perform turion counts	Wqual 1, Wqual 3, Data 1	\$ 125,000
SUBTOTAL - DISTRICT WIDE			\$ 1,560,000

CAPITAL PROGRAM

Item	Tasks	Goals	2026 budget
BLUFF CREEK			
Upper Bluff Creek	- Feasibility and design of creek restoration in upper Bluff Creek near headwaters - Evaluation of headwater wetland for restoration, flood storage, and habitat restoration.	Wqual 21, Wqual 2, Wqual 3, Wquan 1, Plan 2, EO 1	\$ 680,000
Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Trail*	- Removal of three homes from floodplain of large wetland complex - Restoration of seven acres of hydrologically altered wetland. - Flood storage, rate control, and stream protection for Bluff Creek - Work with volunteer organizations and local government to develop and provide for educational opportunities	Plan 2, Wquan 1	\$ 17,100
RILEY CREEK			
Spring Road Conservation Project	Acquisition, preservation, and restoration of 27 acres of prairie, woodland, wetland, and shrub savanna adjacent to Riley Creek and tributary to MN River for water resource protection, education, and scientific research.	Plan 1, Plan 2, DC 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wqual 3	\$ 590,000
Upper Riley Creek Stabilization	Feasibility, design, and construction of upper Riley Creek from TH 5 to Lake Susan.	Wqual 1, Wqual 3	\$ 1,342,500
RML 12A: Rice Marsh Lake water quality improvement project	- Installation of two inline manufactured treatment devices - Construction of bio-infiltration practice - Restoration of prairie area as well as soils correction for infiltration and for data collection of efficacy as treatment practice	Wqual 1, DC 1	\$ 0
St. Hubert water quality project	- Work with school staff to develop educational curriculum and opportunities for students at St Hubert's and elsewhere - Final plant establishment and punch list item completion for stabilization of St. Hubert Water Quality Project	EO 1, Wqual 1	\$ 11,000
Lucy, Ann and Susan watershed study	Development of holistic plan evaluating pollutant loading, floodplain storage, resilience, priority resources, and source identification.	Plan 1, Plan 2, DC 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wqual 3	\$ 10,000
Lake Susan Preserve internal phosphorus (P) load	Data collection of sediment cores for phosphorous release and loading to Lake Susan	DC 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 3	\$ 100,000
PURGATORY CREEK			
Purgatory Creek Rec Area berm repair	Partnership with Eden Prairie to repair of berm for flood control, water treatment, and recreational access.	Wqual 1, Wqual 3, Plan 2	\$ 150,000
Lotus Lake in-lake phosphorus (P) control	Dosing calculations for future alum treatment; will carry over to next year	Wqual 1, Wqual 3	\$ 5,000
North Lotus Lake Stormwater Park	Design and feasibility of stormwater treatment practice in concert with Chanhassen	Wqual 1, DC 1, Plan 1	\$ 350,000
Mitchell and Red Rock watershed study	Development of holistic plan evaluating pollutant loading, floodplain storage, resilience, priority resources, and source identification.	Plan 1, Plan 2, DC 1, Wqual 1, Wqual 2, Wqual 3	\$ 10,000
Kerber Pond ravine - Lotus Lake	Partner with City of Chanhassen to stabilize tributary to Lotus Lake	Wqual 1, Plan 1	\$ 0
SUBTOTAL - CAPITAL PROGRAM			\$ 3,265,600

TOTAL — 2026 ALL EXPENDITURES \$ 6,934,790

APPENDICES

Appendices may be found at: rpbcwd.org/annual-report

A. 2025 Annual Financial Report

B. Acronyms

C. Annual Communication

D. Water Resources Summary & Water Quality Factsheets

E. Wetland Program Report

F. Projects Report

G. Regulatory Program Report

H. Soil Health Program Report

I. Cost Share Program Report

J. Education and Outreach Report

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
CHANHASSEN, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2025

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Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Annual Financial Report
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For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

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INTRODUCTORY SECTION

RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
CHANHASSEN, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2025

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Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Board of Managers and Appointed Officials
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Name	Title	Term Expires
Dorothy Pederson	President	07/31/26
Bonnie Nelson	Vice President	07/31/27
Tom Duevel	Treasurer	07/31/28
Jill Crafton	Secretary	07/31/27
Leslie Stovring	Manager	07/31/28

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Terry Jeffrey	District Administrator
Smith Partners PLLP	District Council
Barr Engineering	District Engineer

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FINANCIAL SECTION

RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
CHANHASSEN, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2025

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Managers
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District, Chanhassen, Minnesota (the District), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and major fund of the District as of December 31, 2025 and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited the District's 2024 financial statements, and we expressed unmodified opinions on the respective financial statements in our report dated June 13, 2025. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein for the respective financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, is consistent, in all material respects, with audited financial statements from which it had been derived.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis starting on page 15 and the budgetary comparison schedules and related note disclosures, Schedules of Employer's Share of the Net Pension Liability and the Schedules of Employer's Contributions and related notes starting on page 52 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.



Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory section but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.



Abdo
Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 2, 2026



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Management’s Discussion and Analysis

As management of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (the District), Chanhassen, Minnesota, we offer readers of the District’s financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the District for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the financial statements which follow this section.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the District’s basic financial statements. The District’s basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplemental information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves. The following chart shows how the various parts of this annual report are arranged and related to one another:

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules that further explains and supports the information in the financial statements. Figure 1 shows how the required parts of this annual report are arranged and relate to one another.

Figure 1
Required Components of the
District’s Annual Financial Report

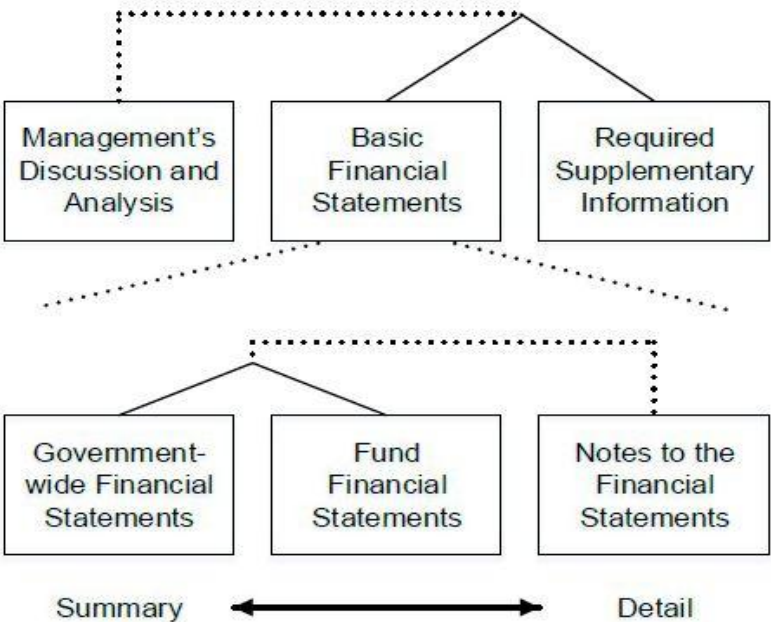


Figure 2 summarizes the major features of the District's financial statements, including the portion of the District they cover and the types of information they contain. The remainder of this overview section of management's discussion and analysis explains the structure and contents of each of the statements.

Figure 2
Major Features of the Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

	Fund Financial Statements	
	Government-wide Statements	Governmental Funds
Scope	Entire District	The activities of the District
Required financial statements	- Statement of Net Position - Statement of Activities	- Balance Sheet - Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Accounting Basis and measurement focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Modified accrual accounting and current financial resources focus
Type of asset/liability information	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term	Only assets expected to be used up and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets included
Type of deferred outflows/inflows of resources information	All deferred outflows/inflows of resources, regardless of when cash is received or paid	Only deferred outflows of resources expected to be used up and deferred inflows of resources that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets included
Type of inflow/out flow information	All revenues and expenses during year, regardless of when cash is received or paid	Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures when goods or services have been received and payment is due during the year or soon thereafter

Government-wide Financial Statements. The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the District's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all of the District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, with the difference between them reported as *net position*. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the District is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the District's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, *regardless of the timing of related cash flows*. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., grants).

The governmental activities of the District include general government, program costs and project costs. The government-wide financial statements start on page 24 of this report.

Fund Financial Statements. A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The District currently maintains one governmental fund.

Governmental Funds. *Governmental funds* are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on *near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources*, as well as on *balances of spendable resources* available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact by the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheets and the governmental fund statements of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

The basic governmental fund financial statements start on page 28 of this report.

Notes to the Financial Statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements start on page 33 of this report.

Supplementary Information. This report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning the budgetary comparison schedule and progress in funding its obligation to provide pensions to its employees. Required supplementary information can be found starting on page 52 of this report.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the District, assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

By far, the largest portion of the District's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, lease assets, equipment, vehicles, and intangibles), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding. The District uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District's Summary of Net Position

	December 31,		Increase (Decrease)
	2025	2024	
Assets			
Current	\$ 9,780,083	\$ 9,677,207	\$ 102,876
Capital assets, net	6,247,027	6,310,795	(63,768)
Total Assets	16,027,110	15,988,002	39,108
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Deferred pension resources	103,084	87,774	15,310
Liabilities			
Current	1,015,004	1,279,110	(264,106)
Noncurrent	3,428,629	5,671,347	(2,242,718)
Total Liabilities	4,443,633	6,950,457	(2,506,824)
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Deferred pension resources	154,692	177,121	(22,429)
Net Position			
Net investment in capital assets	3,421,688	963,396	2,458,292
Unrestricted	8,110,181	7,984,802	125,379
Total Net Position	\$ 11,531,869	\$ 8,948,198	\$ 2,583,671
Net Position as a Percent of Total			
Net investment in capital assets	29.7 %	10.8 %	
Unrestricted	70.3	89.2	
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %	

An additional portion of the District's net position represents *unrestricted net position* that may be used to meet the District's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. At the end of the current fiscal year, the District is able to report positive balances in all categories of net position.

Governmental Activities. Governmental activities increased the District's net position as shown below.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District's Changes in Net Position

	December 31,		Increase (Decrease)
	2025	2024	
Revenues			
Program			
Charges for services	\$ 76,709	\$ 156,115	\$ (79,406)
Operating grants and contributions	12,779	42,550	(29,771)
Capital grants and contribution	1,967,000	1,279	1,965,721
General			
Property taxes	4,223,039	4,032,617	190,422
Unrestricted investment earnings	416,078	434,645	(18,567)
Grants and contributions not restricted	(556)	12,631	(13,187)
Total Revenues	<u>6,695,049</u>	<u>4,679,837</u>	<u>2,015,212</u>
Expenses			
General government	1,846,286	1,820,402	25,884
Program costs	629,721	343,298	286,423
Project costs	1,291,809	1,630,197	(338,388)
Interest on long-term debt	343,562	133,481	210,081
Total Expenses	<u>4,111,378</u>	<u>3,927,378</u>	<u>184,000</u>
Change in Net Position	2,583,671	752,459	1,831,212
Net Position, January 1	<u>8,948,198</u>	<u>8,195,739</u>	<u>752,459</u>
Net Position, December 31	<u><u>\$ 11,531,869</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,948,198</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,583,671</u></u>

Key elements of this increase are as follows:

- Increases in capital grant and contribution revenues
- Increase in property taxes
- Decreases in expenses related to district projects

Increases in capital grant and contribution revenues

Capital grants received from the State of Minnesota in 2025 for the purchase of property completed in 2024.

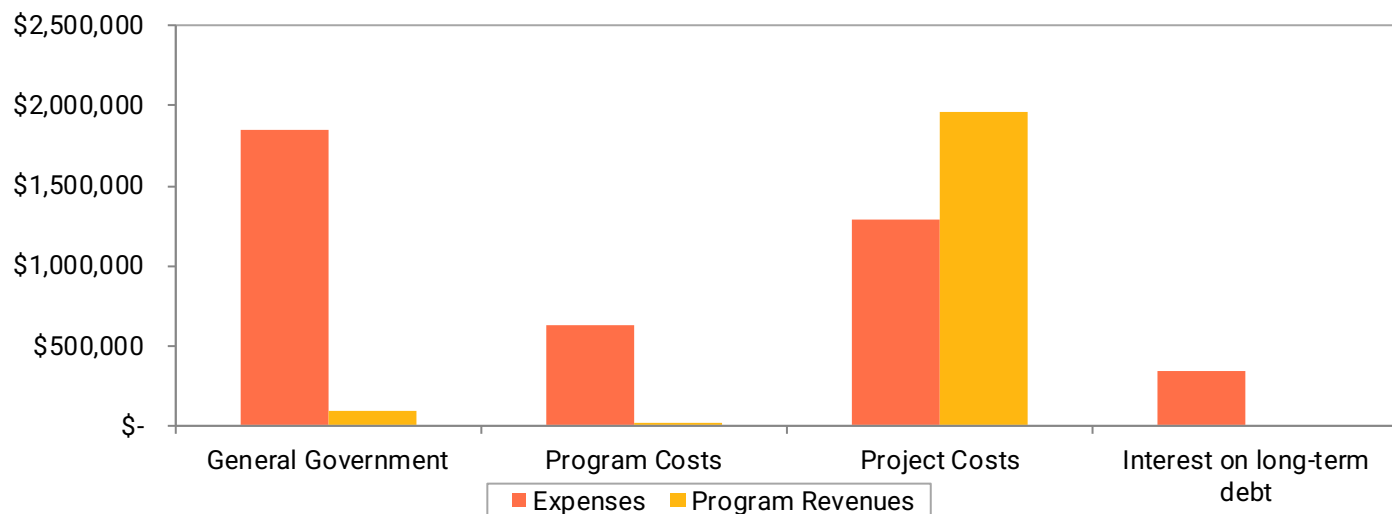
Growth in property tax revenues

Increase in property taxes from both Hennepin and Carver County.

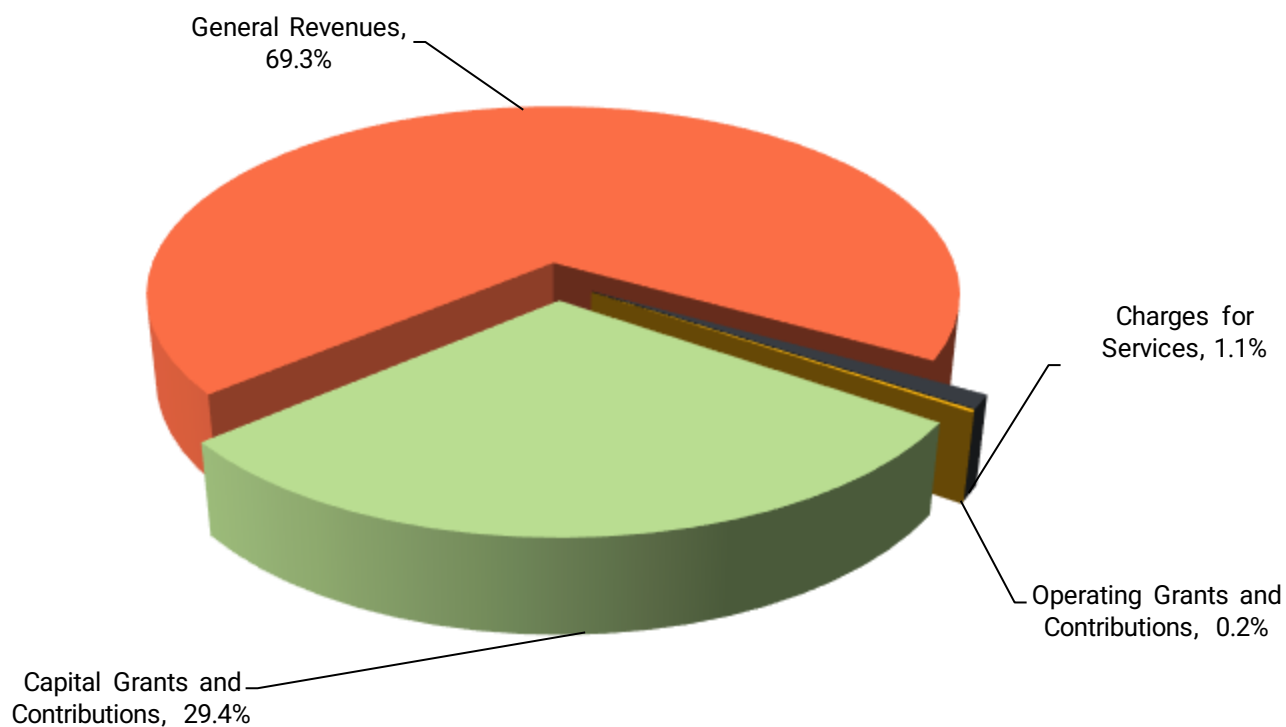
Decreases in expenses related to district projects

Decrease in engineering and real estate expenses in comparison to the prior year for multi-year budgeted projects.

The following graph depicts various governmental activities and shows the revenue and expenses directly related to those activities.



Revenues by Source - Governmental Activities



Financial Analysis of the Governmental Fund

As noted earlier, the District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds. The focus of the District's *governmental fund* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing the District's financing requirements. In particular, *unreserved fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year. The table below outlines the governmental fund balances for the year ending December 31, 2025.

	Fund Balance		Increase/ (Decrease)
	2025	2024	
509 Implementation Fund Balances			
Nonspendable	\$ 46,559	\$ 38,017	\$ 8,542
Committed	7,484,006	7,530,207	(46,201)
Assigned	1,241,276	890,031	351,245
Total 509 Implementation Fund Balance	<u>\$ 8,771,841</u>	<u>\$ 8,458,255</u>	<u>\$ 313,586</u>
509 Implementation fund expenditures	\$ 9,411,130	\$ 9,248,668	
Total Fund Balance as a percent of expenditures	93.2%	91.5%	

The fund balance of the District's Implementation fund increased during the current fiscal year as shown in the table above. The increase in fund balance was due to current year resources for property taxes and grant revenues in excess of current year expenses. Grants received during the year were received for capital expenses in the prior year.

Capital Assets

The District's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2025 (net of accumulated depreciation) is outlined below. This net investment in capital assets includes land, lease building, and equipment and vehicles, and intangibles.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District's Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation/Amortization)

	December 31,		Increase (Decrease)
	2025	2024	
Land	\$ 6,054,316	\$ 6,027,043	\$ 27,273
Lease Building (Intangible Right to Use)	84,691	148,210	(63,519)
Equipment and Vehicles	106,290	130,355	(24,065)
Intangibles	1,730	5,187	(3,457)
Total	<u>\$ 6,247,027</u>	<u>\$ 6,310,795</u>	<u>\$ (63,768)</u>
Percent Increase/(Decrease)			-1.0%

Additional information on the District's capital assets can be found in Note 3B on page 41 of this report.

Long-term Debt

The District's outstanding debt consists of a lease payable, contracts payable and special assessments payable. Balances as of December 31, 2025 are outlined below.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District's Long-term Debt

	December 31,		Increase (Decrease)
	2025	2024	
Lease Payable	\$ 90,339	\$ 155,524	\$ (65,185)
Bonds Payable	2,735,000	-	2,735,000
Bond Premium	250,301	-	250,301
Contract for Deed	-	4,875,821	(4,875,821)
Special Assessment Payable	-	274,179	(274,179)
Total	<u>\$ 3,075,640</u>	<u>\$ 5,305,524</u>	<u>\$ (2,229,884)</u>
Percent Increase/(Decrease)			-42.0%

Total long-term debt decreased during the year due to paying off the contract for deed and long-term special assessments payable offset with bonds issued.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets

In 2025, the RPBCWD's levy remained aligned with the proposed budget outlined in the 2018 10-Year Watershed Management Plan. The RPBCWD's approved budget for 2026 increased by 1.9% from 2025 to accommodate a COLA of 3.5% and anticipated increases in materials and operation costs. The RPBCWD is finishing the remaining capital projects from their 10-Year Watershed Management Plan and will begin work on the Spring Road Conservation Project within the 2026 fiscal cycle. Funds were levied for the ongoing projects in preceding years. This, coupled with accessing the reserves allowed for no increase in the levy in 2026.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the District's finances for all those with an interest in the District's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, MN 55317.

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GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
CHANHASSEN, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2025

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2025

	Governmental Activities
Assets	
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 7,676,143
Receivables	
Accounts	115
Accrued interest	25,615
Taxes	49,651
Due from other governments	1,982,000
Prepaid items	46,559
Capital assets	
Nondepreciable assets	6,054,316
Depreciable assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization	192,711
Total Assets	<u>16,027,110</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	
Deferred pension resources	<u>103,084</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	260,770
Accrued salaries payable	34,632
Deposits payable	587,377
Unearned revenue	98,597
Accrued interest	33,628
Noncurrent liabilities	
Due within one year	
Long-term liabilities	226,307
Due in more than one year	
Long-term liabilities	2,956,001
Net pension liability	246,321
Total Liabilities	<u>4,443,633</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Deferred pension resources	<u>154,692</u>
Net Position	
Net investment in capital assets	3,421,688
Unrestricted	<u>8,110,181</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 11,531,869</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District

Chanhassen, Minnesota

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities					
General government	\$ 1,846,286	\$ 76,709	\$ 11,279	\$ -	\$ (1,758,298)
Program costs	629,721	-	1,500	-	(628,221)
Project costs	1,291,809	-	-	1,967,000	675,191
Interest on long-term debt	343,562	-	-	-	(343,562)
Total	<u>\$ 4,111,378</u>	<u>\$ 76,709</u>	<u>\$ 12,779</u>	<u>\$ 1,967,000</u>	<u>(2,054,890)</u>
General Revenues					
Property taxes					4,223,039
Unrestricted investment earnings					416,078
Other revenues					(556)
Total General Revenues					<u>4,638,561</u>
Change in Net Position					2,583,671
Net Position, January 1					<u>8,948,198</u>
Net Position, December 31					<u>\$ 11,531,869</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
CHANHASSEN, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2025

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2025
(With Comparative Totals for December 31, 2024)

	509 Plan Implementation	
	2025	2024
Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 7,676,143	\$ 9,560,237
Receivables		
Accounts	115	-
Accrued interest	25,615	18,783
Taxes	49,651	45,170
Due from other governments	1,982,000	15,000
Prepaid items	46,559	38,017
Total Assets	\$ 9,780,083	\$ 9,677,207
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 260,770	\$ 345,770
Accrued salaries payable	34,632	36,580
Deposits payable	587,377	811,433
Unearned revenue	98,597	-
Total Liabilities	981,376	1,193,783
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Unavailable revenue - taxes	26,866	25,169
Fund Balances		
Nonspendable for prepaid items	46,559	38,017
Committed for		
Planning and implementation	7,484,006	7,530,207
Assigned for planning and implementation	1,241,276	890,031
Total Fund Balances	8,771,841	8,458,255
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balance	\$ 9,780,083	\$ 9,677,207

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet
to the Statement of Net Position
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2025

Amounts reported for the governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because

Total Fund Balances - Governmental	\$ 8,771,841
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds.	
Cost of capital and leased assets	6,780,443
Less accumulated depreciation/amortization	(533,416)
Noncurrent liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported as liabilities in the funds.	
Compensated absences payable	(106,668)
Bonds payable	(2,735,000)
Premium on bonds	(250,301)
Lease liability	(90,339)
Net pension liability	(246,321)
Some receivables are not available soon enough to pay for the current period's expenditures and therefore are unavailable in the funds.	
Taxes receivable	26,866
Governmental funds do not report long-term amounts related to pensions.	
Deferred outflows of pension resources	103,084
Deferred inflows of pension resources	(154,692)
Governmental funds do not report a liability for accrued interest until due and payable.	<u>(33,628)</u>
Total Net Position - Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ 11,531,869</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025
(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2024)

	509 Plan Implementation	
	2025	2024
Revenues		
Property taxes	\$ 4,221,342	\$ 4,034,288
Permit income	76,709	156,115
Partner funds	180	11,511
Intergovernmental	1,974,058	31,087
Interest on investments	416,078	434,645
Miscellaneous	5,896	1,279
Total Revenues	<u>6,694,263</u>	<u>4,668,925</u>
Expenditures		
Current		
General government	1,829,103	1,734,602
Programs	570,061	643,693
Projects	959,561	957,682
Capital outlay		
Programs	59,660	13,755
Projects	337,147	5,787,756
Debt service		
Principal	5,242,458	63,026
Interest and other	413,140	48,154
Total Expenditures	<u>9,411,130</u>	<u>9,248,668</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>(2,716,867)</u>	<u>(4,579,743)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)		
Bonds issued	2,735,000	5,150,000
Long-term liabilities issued	27,273	-
Premium on bonds issued	268,180	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>3,030,453</u>	<u>5,150,000</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	313,586	570,257
Fund Balances, January 1	<u>8,458,255</u>	<u>7,887,998</u>
Fund Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 8,771,841</u>	<u>\$ 8,458,255</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Reconciliation of the Statement of
Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
to the Statement of Activities
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because

Total Net Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 313,586
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Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over the estimated useful lives as depreciation/amortization expense.

Capital outlays	27,273
Depreciation/amortization expense	(91,041)

The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities.

Lease repayments	65,185
Long-term liabilities issued	(27,273)
Debt issued	(2,735,000)
Premium on bonds issued	(268,180)
Bond premium amortization	17,879
Principal on contracts payable	4,903,094
Principal on special assessments payable	274,179

Interest on long-term debt in the statement of activities differs from the amount reported in the governmental funds because interest is recognized as an expenditure in the funds when it is due, and thus requires the use of current financial resources. In the statement of activities, however, interest expense is recognized as the interest accrues, regardless of when it is due.	51,699
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Certain revenues are recognized as soon as they are earned. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, certain revenues cannot be recognized until they are available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.

Property taxes	1,697
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Long-term pension activity is not reported in governmental funds.

Pension expense	61,760
Pension revenue	(911)

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

Compensated absences payable	(10,276)
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Change in Net Position - Governmental Activities	\$ <u>2,583,671</u>
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The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Reporting Entity

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (the District), Chanhassen, Minnesota was originally created in 1969 by the Minnesota Water Resources Board acting under the authority of the Watershed Law. The District is operated by a five-member Board of Managers originally appointed by the Board.

The District has considered all potential units for which it is financially accountable, and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the District are such that exclusion would cause the District's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. These criteria include appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and (1) the ability of the primary government to impose its will on that organization or (2) the potential for the organization to provide specific benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the primary government. The District has no component units that meet the GASB criteria.

B. Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the District. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Amounts reported as *program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Separate financial statements are provided for the major governmental fund. The major individual governmental fund is reported as a separate column in the fund financial statements.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Basis of Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due.

Charges for service, assessments to members, grants and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the organization.

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on an accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the year in which the resources are measurable and become available.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Non-exchange transactions, in which the District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlement and donations. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the District must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the District on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from non-exchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Unearned revenues arises when assets are recognized before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied. Grants received before eligibility requirements are met are recorded as unearned revenue.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

The District reports the following major governmental fund:

The *509 Plan Implementation Fund* - Notwithstanding chapter 103D, a local government unit or watershed management organization may levy a tax to pay the increased costs of preparing a plan under sections 103B.231 and 103B.235 or for projects identified in an approved and adopted plan necessary to implement the purposes of section 103B.20 1. The proceeds of any tax levied under this section shall be deposited in a separate fund and expended only for the purposes authorized by this section. Watershed management organizations and local government units may accumulate the proceeds of levies as an alternative to issuing bonds to finance improvements.

D. Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position/Fund Balance

Deposits and Investments

The District's cash and temporary investments are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Cash balances are pooled and invested, to the extent available, in certificates of deposit and other authorized investments.

The District may also invest idle funds as authorized by Minnesota statutes, as follows:

1. Direct obligations or obligations guaranteed by the United States or its agencies.
2. Shares of investment companies registered under the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940 and received the highest credit rating, rated in one of the two highest rating categories by a statistical rating agency, and have a final maturity of thirteen months or less.
3. General obligations of a state or local government with taxing powers rated "A" or better; revenue obligations rated "AA" or better.
4. General obligations of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency rated "A" or better.
5. Obligation of a school district with an original maturity not exceeding 13 months and (i) rated in the highest category by a national bond rating service or (ii) enrolled in the credit enhancement program pursuant to statute section 126C.55.
6. Bankers' acceptances of United States banks eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve System.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

7. Commercial paper issued by United States banks corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries, of highest quality category by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies and maturing in 270 days or less.
8. Repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements and securities lending agreements with financial institutions qualified as a "depository" by the government entity, with banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System with capitalization exceeding \$10,000,000, a primary reporting dealer in U.S. government securities to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, or certain Minnesota securities broker-dealers.
9. Guaranteed Investment Contracts (GIC's) issued or guaranteed by a United States commercial bank, a domestic branch of a foreign bank, a United States insurance company, or its Canadian subsidiary, whose similar debt obligations were rated in one of the top two rating categories by a nationally recognized rating agency.

The broker money market accounts operate in accordance with appropriate state laws and regulations. The reported value of the pools is the same as the fair value of the pool shares. The District does not have a formal investment policy.

The District categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. The District's recurring fair value measurements are listed in detail on page 40 and are valued using quoted market prices.

The Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund is regulated by Minnesota statutes and the Board of Directors of the League of Minnesota Cities and is an external investment pool not registered with the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) that follows the regulatory rules of the SEC. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 79, the District's investment in this pool is valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value. There are no restrictions or limitations on withdrawals from the 4M Liquid Asset Fund. Investments in the 4M Plus must be deposited for a minimum of 14 calendar days. Withdrawals prior to the 14-day restriction period will be subject to a penalty equal to seven days interest on the amount withdrawn. Seven days' notice of redemption is required for withdrawals of investments in the 4M Term Series withdrawn prior to the maturity date of that series. A penalty could be assessed as necessary to recoup the Series for any charges, losses, and other costs attributable to the early redemption. Financial statements of the 4M Fund can be obtained by contacting the League of Minnesota Cities Finance Department at 145 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55103-2044 or by calling (651) 281-1200.

Property Taxes

The Board of Managers annually adopts a tax levy and certifies it to the County in December of each year for collection in the following year. The County is responsible for billing and collecting all property taxes for itself, the District, the local School District, and other taxing authorities. Such taxes become a line on January 1st and are recorded as receivables by the District on that date. Real property taxes are payable (by property owners) on May 15th and October 15th of each calendar year. The District has no ability to enforce payments of property taxes by property owners. The County possesses this authority.

Delinquent taxes receivable includes the past six years' uncollected taxes. Delinquent taxes have been offset by a deferred inflow of resources for taxes not received within 60 days after year end in the fund financial statements.

Prepaid Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include land, land improvements and easements are reported in the applicable governmental activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

GASB Statement No. 34 required the District to report and depreciate new infrastructure assets effective with the beginning of the 2004 calendar year. Infrastructure assets include lake improvements, dams and drainage systems. Neither their historical cost nor related depreciation had historically been reported in the financial statements. For governmental entities with total annual revenues of less than \$10 million for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999 the retroactive reporting of infrastructure is not required under the provisions of GASB Statement No. 34. The District implemented the general provisions of GASB Statement No. 34 in the 2004 calendar year and has elected not to report infrastructure assets acquired in years prior to 2004. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Capital assets of the District are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Assets	Useful Lives in Years
Building	30
Equipment and Vehicles	5 - 10
Lease Assets	10

Deferred Outflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District has one item that qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item, deferred pension resources, is reported only in the statements of net position. This item results from actuarial calculations and current year pension contributions made subsequent to the measurement date.

Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and additions to/deductions from PERA's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by PERA except that PERA's fiscal year end is June 30th. For this purpose, plan contributions are recognized as of employer payroll paid dates and benefit payments and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value. The General fund is typically used to liquidate the governmental net pension liability.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

The total pension expense for the General Employees Retirement Plan (GERP) is as follows:

District's proportionate share	\$ (7,565)
Proportionate share of State's contribution	<u>(911)</u>
Total pension expense	<u>\$ (8,476)</u>

Compensated Absences

It is the District's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused paid time off (PTO) benefits, which is paid to the employee upon separation. All PTO is accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements. The 509 Plan Implementation fund is typically used to liquidate governmental compensated absences payable.

Long-term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities statement of net position. The recognition of bond premiums and discounts are amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method. Bonds and other long-term payables are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Bond issuance costs are reported as an expense in the period incurred.

Deferred Inflows of Resources

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The government has one type of item, which arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting that qualifies as needing to be reported in this category. Accordingly, the item, unavailable revenue, is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from property taxes. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available.

The District has an additional item which qualifies for reporting in this category. The item, deferred pension resources, is reported only in the statements of net position and results from actuarial calculations.

Fund Balance

In the fund financial statements, fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of resources reported in the governmental funds. These classifications are defined as follows:

Nonspendable - Amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, such as prepaid items.

Restricted - Amounts related to externally imposed constraints established by creditors, grantors, or contributors; or constraints imposed by state statutory provisions.

Committed - Amounts constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by formal action (resolution) of the Board, which is the District's highest level of decision-making authority. Committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board modifies or rescinds the commitment by resolution.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Assigned - Amounts constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed. In governmental funds other than the General fund, assigned fund balance represents all remaining amounts that are not classified as nonspendable and are neither restricted nor committed. In the General fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Board itself or by an official to which the governing body delegates the authority.

Unassigned - The residual classification for the General fund and also negative residual amounts in other funds.

The District considers restricted amounts to be spent first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available. Additionally, the District would first use committed, then assigned, and lastly unassigned amounts of unrestricted fund balance when expenditures are made. The district strives to maintain an unassigned fund balance of an amount not less than 50 percent of next year's budgeted expenditures for working capital.

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net position is displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets - Consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization reduced by any outstanding debt attributable to acquire the capital assets.
- b. Restricted net position - Consists of net position balances restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Unrestricted net position - All other net position balances that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "investment in capital assets".

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Note 2: Stewardship, Compliance and Accountability

A. Budgetary Information

The Board of Managers adopts an annual budget for the 509 Plan Implementation fund of the District on an annual basis. During the budget year, supplemental appropriations and deletions are or may be authorized by the Board. The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by the District for budgeting data. All appropriations end with the fiscal year for which they were made. The District does not use encumbrance accounting.

The District monitors budget performance on the fund basis. All amounts over budget have been approved by the Board through the disbursement process. The budget was not amended in 2025.

B. Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations

The following fund had expenditures in excess of appropriations at December 31, 2025:

Fund	Budget	Actual	Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations
509 Plan Implementation Fund	\$ 6,387,750	\$ 9,411,130	\$ (3,023,380)

The budget excess was funded with other financing sources from the issuance of long-term liabilities.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 3: Detailed Notes on Accounts

A. Deposits and Investments

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits and investments is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits and investments may not be returned, or the District will not be able to recover collateral securities in the possession of an outside party. In accordance with Minnesota statutes and as authorized by the District Council, the District maintains deposits at those depository banks, all of which are members of the Federal Reserve System.

Minnesota statutes require that all District deposits be protected by insurance, surety bond or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged must equal 110 percent of the deposits not covered by insurance or bonds, with the exception of irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by Federal Home Loan Banks as this type of collateral only requires collateral pledged equal to 100 percent of the deposits not covered by insurance or bonds.

Authorized collateral in lieu of a corporate surety bond includes:

- United States government Treasury bills, Treasury notes, Treasury bonds.
- Issues of United States government agencies and instrumentalities as quoted by a recognized industry quotation service available to the government entity.
- General obligation securities of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated "A" or better by a national bond rating service, or revenue obligation securities of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated "AA" or better by a national bond rating service.
- General obligation securities of a local government with taxing powers may be pledged as collateral against funds deposited by that same local government entity.
- Irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by Federal Home Loan Banks to a municipality accompanied by written evidence that the bank's public debt is rated "AA" or better by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or Standard & Poor's Corporation; and
- Time deposits that are fully insured by any federal agency.

At year end, the District has no deposits other than outstanding bank activity and bank sweeps.

Investments

The investments of the District are subject to the following risks:

- *Credit Risk* is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. Ratings are provided by various credit rating agencies and where applicable, indicate associated credit risk. The District follows State Statutes in regard to credit risk of investments. The District policy does not further limit investment choices. All of the District's investments were covered by FDIC insurance, see Custodial Credit Risk below.
- *Custodial Credit Risk* for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 3: Detailed Notes on Accounts (Continued)

- *Concentration of Credit Risk.* This is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of a government's investment in a single issuer. The District places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer. Most of the investments held by the District are over the 5% credit concentration threshold. The District does not have a policy limiting concentration in one issuer.
- *Interest Rate Risk.* This is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The District does not have an investment policy to address interest rate risk.

At year end, the District's investment balances were as follows:

Types of Investments	Credit Quality/ Ratings (1)	Segmented Time Distribution (2)	Amount	Fair Value Measurement Using		
				Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Pooled Investments at Amortized Costs						
4M Fund	N/A	less than 1 year	\$ 7,308,422	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non-pooled Investments at Fair Value						
Negotiable certificates of deposits	N/A	Less than 6 months				
Negotiable certificates of deposits	N/A	less than 1 year	1,080,000	-	1,080,000	-
Total			<u>\$ 8,388,422</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,080,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

(1) Ratings are provided by Moody's where applicable to indicate associated credit risk.

(2) Interest rate risk is disclosed using the segmented time distribution method.

N/A Indicates not applicable or available.

A reconciliation of cash and temporary investments as shown on the financial statements of the District is as follows:

Carrying Amount of Deposits	\$ (712,279)
Investments	<u>8,388,422</u>
Total Cash and Investments	<u>\$ 7,676,143</u>

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 3: Detailed Notes on Accounts (Continued)

B. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2025 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets not Being Depreciated				
Land	\$ 6,027,043	\$ 27,273	\$ -	\$ 6,054,316
Capital Assets Being Depreciated/Amortized				
Equipment and vehicles	352,789	-	-	352,789
Lease building (intangible right to use)	338,767	-	-	338,767
Intangibles	34,571	-	-	34,571
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated/Amortized	726,127	-	-	726,127
Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization for				
Equipment and vehicles	(222,434)	(24,065)	-	(246,499)
Lease building (intangible right to use)	(190,557)	(63,519)	-	(254,076)
Intangibles	(29,384)	(3,457)	-	(32,841)
Total Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization	(442,375)	(91,041)	-	(533,416)
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated/Amortized, Net	283,752	(91,041)	-	192,711
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	\$ 6,310,795	\$ (63,768)	\$ -	\$ 6,247,027

Depreciation and amortization expense was charged to functions/programs of the governmental activities as follows:

Governmental activities	
General Government	\$ 74,262
Projects	16,779
Total Depreciation/Amortization Expense	\$ 91,041

C. Lease Liability

The District entered into an operating lease agreement for building space on January 10, 2017 with CSM Investors Inc. The agreement term is 122 calendar months beginning on March 1, 2017. The lease has base monthly payments that increase from year to year. The District will have the option to extend the lease an additional 5 years when the current lease expires in April of 2027. Further information is listed below.

Description	Total Lease Liability	Interest Rate	Issue Date	Payment Terms	Payment Amount	Balance at Year End
Office Space	\$ 338,767	1.30 %	03/01/17	10 years	variable	\$ 90,339

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 3: Detailed Notes on Accounts (Continued)

Future lease payments are as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 67,384	\$ 775	\$ 68,159
2027	22,955	62	23,017
Total	<u>\$ 90,339</u>	<u>\$ 837</u>	<u>\$ 91,176</u>

D. Contract for Deed

On April 3, 2024, the District entered into a contract for deed with a private seller to acquire three parcels of real property located in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The total purchase price is \$5,400,000. The District made an initial down payment of \$250,000 and assumed a deferred special assessment of \$274,179. The remaining balance of \$4,875,821 accrues interest at 6.0% through December 31, 2024, and 7.0% thereafter. The District is obligated to make quarterly interest-only payments starting July 5, 2024, with the full principal and accrued interest due on December 31, 2029, unless prepaid. During the year the District paid off the remaining liability owed as part of the contract for deed and there is no liability remaining for the contract for deed or special assessment payable.

E. Long-term Debt

The District issues general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital assets and real property. General obligation bonds will be repaid with ad valorem tax levies in future years.

Description	Authorized and Issued	Interest Rate	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Balance at Year End
G.O. Bond, Series 2025B	\$ 2,735,000	4.00 - 5.00 %	11/18/25	12/01/40	<u>\$ 2,735,000</u>

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for the general obligation bonds are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	Governmental Activities		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 125,000	\$ 129,980	\$ 254,980
2027	135,000	119,200	254,200
2028	140,000	112,450	252,450
2029	145,000	105,450	250,450
2030	155,000	98,200	253,200
2031 - 2035	905,000	366,250	1,271,250
2036 - 2040	<u>1,130,000</u>	<u>139,200</u>	<u>1,269,200</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,735,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,070,730</u>	<u>\$ 3,805,730</u>

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 3: Detailed Notes on Accounts (Continued)

F. Long-term Debt

Changes in Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2025 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance	Current Portion
Governmental Activities					
Lease Payable	\$ 155,524	\$ -	\$ (65,185)	\$ 90,339	\$ 67,384
Contract for Deed	4,875,821	27,273	(4,903,094)	-	-
Special Assessment Payable	274,179	-	(274,179)	-	-
General obligation bonds	-	2,735,000	-	2,735,000	125,000
Bond Premium	-	268,180	(17,879)	250,301	-
Compensated Absences Payable*	96,392	10,276	-	106,668	33,923
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 5,401,916</u>	<u>\$ 3,040,729</u>	<u>\$ (5,260,337)</u>	<u>\$ 3,182,308</u>	<u>\$ 226,307</u>

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 4: Defined Benefit Pension Plans - Statewide

A. Plan Description

The District participates in the following cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plans administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). These plan provisions are established and administered according to Minnesota Statutes chapters 353, 353D, 353E, 353G, and 356. Minnesota Statutes chapter 356 defines each plan's financial reporting requirements. PERA's defined benefit pension plans are tax qualified plans under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

General Employees Retirement Plan (General Plan)

Membership in the General Plan includes employees of counties, cities, townships, schools in non-certified positions, and other governmental entities whose revenues are derived from taxation, fees, or assessments. Plan membership is required for any employee who is expected to earn more than \$425 in a month, unless the employee meets exclusion criteria.

B. Benefits Provided

PERA provides retirement, disability, and death benefits. Benefit provisions are established by state statute and can only be modified by the state Legislature. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits, but are not receiving them yet, are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated their public service. When a member is "vested," they have earned enough service credit to receive a lifetime monthly benefit after leaving public service and reaching an eligible retirement age. Members who retire at or over their Social Security full retirement age with at least one year of service qualify for a retirement benefit.

General Employees Plan Benefits

General Employees Plan requires three years of service to vest. Benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service. Two methods are used to compute benefits for General Plan members. Members hired prior to July 1, 1989, receive the higher of the Step or Level formulas. Only the Level formula is used for members hired after June 30, 1989. Under the Step formula, General Plan members receive 1.2% of the highest average salary for each of the first 10 years of service and 1.7% for each additional year. Under the Level formula, General Plan members receive 1.7% of highest average salary for all years of service. For members hired prior to July 1, 1989 a full retirement benefit is available when age plus years of service equal 90 and normal retirement age is 65. Members can receive a reduced retirement benefit as early as age 55 if they have three or more years of service. Early retirement benefits are reduced by .25% for each month under age 65. Members with 30 or more years of service can retire at any age with a reduction of .25% for each month the member is younger than age 62. The Level formula allows General Plan members to receive a full retirement benefit at age 65 if they were first hired before July 1, 1989 or at age 66 if they were hired on or after July 1, 1989. Early retirement begins at age 55 with an actuarial reduction applied to the benefit.

Benefit increases are provided to benefit recipients each January. The postretirement increase is equal to 50% of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) announced by the SSA, with a minimum increase of at least 1% and a maximum of 1.5%. The 2025 annual increase was 1.25%. Recipients that have been receiving the annuity or benefit for at least a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive the full increase. Recipients receiving the annuity or benefit for at least one month but less than a full year as of the June 30 before the effective date of the increase will receive a prorated increase.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 4: Defined Benefit Pension Plans - Statewide (Continued)

C. Contributions

Minnesota Statutes chapters 353, 353E, 353G, and 356 set the rates for employer and employee contributions. Contribution rates can only be modified by the state Legislature.

General Employees Fund Contributions

General Plan members were required to contribute 6.50% of their annual covered salary in fiscal year 2025 and the District was required to contribute 7.50% for General Plan members. The District's contributions to the General Employees Fund for the year ended December 31, 2025, were \$53,284. The District's contributions were equal to the required contributions as set by state statute.

D. Pension Costs

General Employees Fund Pension Costs

At December 31, 2025, the District reported a liability of \$246,321 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Fund's net pension liability. The District's net pension liability reflected a reduction due to the State of Minnesota's contribution of \$16 million. The State of Minnesota is considered a non-employer contributing entity and the state's contribution meets the definition of a special funding situation. The State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the District totaled \$5,942.

District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 246,321
State of Minnesota's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the District	<u>5,942</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 252,263</u></u>

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2025, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's contributions received by PERA during the measurement period for employer payroll paid dates from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, relative to the total employer contributions received from all of PERA's participating employers. The District's proportionate share was 0.0074% at the end of the measurement period and 0.0073% for the beginning of the period.

For the year ended December 31, 2025, the District recognized pension expense of negative \$7,565 for its proportionate share of the General Employees Plan's pension expense. In addition, the District recognized an additional negative \$911 as pension expense (and grant revenue) for its proportionate share of the State of Minnesota's contribution of \$16 million to the General Employees Fund.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 4: Defined Benefit Pension Plans - Statewide (Continued)

At December 31, 2025, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual economic experience	\$ 23,469	\$ -
Changes in actuarial assumptions	5,935	56,678
Net difference between projected and actual investment earnings	-	98,014
Changes in proportion	47,213	-
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	26,467	-
	<u>\$ 103,084</u>	<u>\$ 154,692</u>
Total		

The \$26,467 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2026. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

2026	\$ (2,825)
2027	(26,065)
2028	(31,674)
2029	(17,511)

E. Long-term Expected Return on Investment

The State Board of Investment, which manages the investments of PERA, prepares an analysis of the reasonableness on a regular basis of the long-term expected rate of return using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce an expected long-term rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentages. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-term Expected Return on Investment
Domestic Equity	33.5 %	5.10 %
International Equity	16.5	5.30
Fixed Income	25.0	0.75
Private Markets	25.0	5.90
	<u>100.0 %</u>	
Total		

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 4: Defined Benefit Pension Plans - Statewide (Continued)

F. Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The total pension liability for each of the cost-sharing defined benefit plans was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2025, using the entry age normal actuarial cost method. The long-term rate of return on pension plan investments used to determine the total liability is 7%. The 7% assumption is based on a review of inflation and investment return assumptions from a number of national investment consulting firms. The review provided a range of investment return rates considered reasonable by the actuary. An investment return of 7% is within that range.

- Inflation is assumed to be 2.25% for the General Employees Plan.
- Benefit increases after retirement are assumed to be 1.50% for the General Employees Plan.

Salary growth assumptions in the General Employees Plan range in annual increments from 11.5% after one year of service to 3% after 27 years of service.

Mortality rates for the General Employees Plan are based on the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality Table. The tables are adjusted slightly to fit PERA's experience.

Actuarial assumptions for the General Employees Plan are reviewed every four years. The General Employees Plan was last reviewed in 2022. The assumption changes were adopted by the board and became effective with the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation.

The following changes in actuarial assumptions and plan provisions occurred in 2025:

General Employees Fund

Changes in Actuarial Assumptions:

- The combined service annuity loading factors increased from 15% to 19% for vested, terminated members and from 3% to 44% for non-vested, terminated members.
- The assumed post-retirement benefit increase changed from 1.25% to 1.5%.

Changes in Plan Provisions:

- The post-retirement benefit increase formula changed to 100% of the Social Security annual increase, between 1% and 1.75%, beginning January 1, 2026. If the funded ratio (on a market value of assets basis) is less than 85% for the last two consecutive annual valuations or is less than 80% in the most recent actuarial valuation, the maximum is reduced to 1.5%. Previously, the benefit increase was 50% of the Social Security annual increase, between 1% and 1.5%.
- The 1% additional employer contribution is eliminated when the plan reaches 98% funded status (on an actuarial value of assets basis); this contribution was previously scheduled to stop when the plan reached 100% funded status.

G. Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability in 2025 was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and employers will be made at rates set in Minnesota Statutes. Based on these assumptions, the fiduciary net position of the General Employees Plan was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 4: Defined Benefit Pension Plans - Statewide (Continued)

H. Pension Liability Sensitivity

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability for all plans it participates in, calculated using the discount rate disclosed in the preceding paragraph, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current discount rate:

	<u>1 Percent Decrease (6.00%)</u>	<u>Current (7.00%)</u>	<u>1 Percent Increase (8.00%)</u>
General Employees Fund	\$ 598,276	\$ 246,321	\$ (39,193)

I. Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about each pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in a separately issued PERA financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained on the Internet at www.mnpera.org.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2025

Note 5: Other Information

Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters for which the District carries insurance. The District pays annual premiums for its workers compensation and property and casualty insurance. Settled claims have not exceeded the District's coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Liabilities are reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred, and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Liabilities, if any, include an amount for claims that have been incurred but not reported (IBNRs). The District's management is not aware of any incurred but not reported claims.

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
CHANHASSEN, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2025

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhasen, Minnesota
Required Supplementary Information
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - 509 Plan Implementation Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Original and Final Budget Amounts	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues			
Property taxes	4,249,905	\$ 4,221,342	\$ (28,563)
Permit Income	110,000	76,709	(33,291)
Partner funds	-	180	180
Intergovernmental	4,500	1,974,058	1,969,558
Interest on investments	250,000	416,078	166,078
Miscellaneous	65,000	5,896	(59,104)
Total Revenues	<u>4,679,405</u>	<u>6,694,263</u>	<u>2,014,858</u>
Expenditures			
Current			
General government	1,765,750	1,829,103	(63,353)
Programs	1,375,430	570,061	805,369
Projects			
Bluff creek	215,000	45,886	169,114
Riley creek	1,631,925	219,671	1,412,254
Purgatory creek	798,645	694,004	104,641
Capital outlay			
Programs	101,000	59,660	41,340
Projects	500,000	337,147	162,853
Debt service			
Principal	-	5,242,458	(5,242,458)
Interest and other	-	413,140	(413,140)
Total Expenditures	<u>6,387,750</u>	<u>9,411,130</u>	<u>(3,023,380)</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>(1,708,345)</u>	<u>(2,716,867)</u>	<u>(1,008,522)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)			
Bonds issued	-	2,735,000	2,735,000
Premium on bonds issued	-	27,273	27,273
Premium on bonds	-	268,180	268,180
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>3,030,453</u>	<u>3,030,453</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(1,708,345)	313,586	2,021,931
Fund Balances, January 1	<u>8,458,255</u>	<u>8,458,255</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 6,749,910</u>	<u>\$ 8,771,841</u>	<u>\$ 2,021,931</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Required Supplementary Information (Continued)
December 31, 2025

Notes to the Required Supplemental Information - Budgetary Reporting

A. Budgetary Comparison Schedule

The budgetary comparison schedule presents the comparison of the original and legally amended budget with actual amounts on a departmental level for the 509 Plan Implementation fund. The departmental level budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. The fund balance reports revenue in the period in which they become measurable and available.

B. Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations

For the year ended December 31, 2025, expenditures exceeded appropriations in the following fund:

Fund	Budget	Actual	Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations
509 Plan Implementation Fund	\$ 6,387,750	\$ 9,411,130	\$ (3,023,380)

The budget excess was funded with other financing sources from the issuance of long-term liabilities.

C. Summary of Significant Budget Variances

The 509 Plan Implementation fund revenues and expenditures varied significantly from final budget amounts as noted below:

Revenues

- Intergovernmental revenue exceeded final budgeted amounts due to more Minnesota state grants revenue for the purchase of real property completed in the prior year.
- Interest earnings exceeded final budgeted amounts due to conservative budgeting based on market uncertainty.

Expenditures

- Program expenditures were under final budgeted amounts due to less legal, engineering, and supplies costs than anticipated.
- Project expenditures were under final budgeted amounts due to less engineering and legal costs than anticipated.
- Capital Outlay expenditures were under final budgeted amounts due to less expenditures for spring road conservation projects incurred in the current year.
- Debt Service expenditures were over final budgeted amounts due to the payoff of the contract for deed during the year.

D. Budgetary Compliance

There were no budgetary compliance violations for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District

Chanhassen, Minnesota

Required Supplementary Information (Continued)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

Schedule of Employer's Share of PERA Net Pension Liability - General Employees Fund

Fiscal Year Ending	District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (a)	State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the District (b)	Total (a+b)	District's Covered Payroll (c)	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (a/c)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
6/30/2025	0.0074 %	\$ 246,321	\$ 5,942	\$ 252,263	\$ 673,190	36.6 %	90.8 %
6/30/2024	0.0073	269,431	6,967	276,398	616,382	43.7	89.1
6/30/2023	0.0061	341,105	9,451	350,556	487,037	70.0	83.1
6/30/2022	0.0058	459,362	13,535	472,897	436,059	105.3	76.7
6/30/2021	0.0065	277,579	8,352	285,931	464,131	59.8	87.0
6/30/2020	0.0060	359,727	11,120	370,847	426,004	84.4	79.1
6/30/2019	0.0055	304,083	9,500	313,583	360,608	84.3	80.2
6/30/2018	0.0047	260,737	8,633	269,370	316,977	82.3	79.5
6/30/2017	0.0034	217,054	2,731	219,785	220,465	98.5	75.9
6/30/2016	0.0028	227,346	2,931	230,277	172,425	131.9	68.9

Schedule of Employer's PERA Contributions - General Employees Fund

Year Ending	Statutorily Required Contribution (a)	Contributions in Relation to the Statutorily Required Contribution (b)	Contribution Deficiency (Excess) (a-b)	District's Covered Payroll (c)	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (b/c)
12/31/2025	\$ 53,284	\$ 53,284	\$ -	\$ 710,456	7.50 %
12/31/2024	47,701	47,701	-	636,013	7.50
12/31/2023	41,054	41,054	-	547,389	7.50
12/31/2022	34,146	34,146	-	455,283	7.50
12/31/2021	33,167	33,167	-	442,226	7.50
12/31/2020	33,599	33,599	-	447,990	7.50
12/31/2019	31,326	31,326	-	417,681	7.50
12/31/2018	23,840	23,840	-	317,869	7.50
12/31/2017	21,160	21,160	-	282,139	7.50
12/31/2016	13,813	13,813	-	184,176	7.50

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Required Supplementary Information (Continued)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information - General Employee Retirement Fund

Changes in Actuarial Assumptions

2025 - The combined service annuity loading factors increased from 15% to 19% for vested, terminated members and from 3% to 44% for non-vested, terminated members. The assumed post-retirement benefit increase changed from 1.25% to 1.5%.

2024 - The following changes in assumptions are effective with the July 1, 2024 valuation, as recommended in the most recent experience study (dated June 29, 2023): Rates of merit and seniority were adjusted, resulting in slightly higher rates. Assumed rates of retirement were adjusted as follows: increase the rate of assumed unreduced retirements, slight adjustments to Rule of 90 retirement rates, and slight adjustments to early retirement rates for Tier 1 and Tier 2 members. Minor increase in assumed withdrawals for males and females. Lower rates of disability. Continued use of Pub-2010 general mortality table with slight rate adjustments as recommended in the most recent experience study. Minor changes to form of payment assumptions for male and female retirees. Minor changes to assumptions made with respect to missing participant data.

2023 - The investment return and single discount rates were changed from 6.5 percent to 7.0 percent.

2022 - The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2020 to Scale MP-2021.

2021 - The investment return and single discount rates were changed from 7.50 percent to 6.50 percent, for financial reporting purposes. The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2019 to Scale MP-2020.

2020 - The price inflation assumption was decreased from 2.50% to 2.25%. The payroll growth assumption was decreased from 3.25% to 3.00%. Assumed salary increase rates were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019 experience study. The net effect is assumed rates that average 0.25% less than previous rates. Assumed rates of retirement were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019 experience study. The changes result in more unreduced (normal) retirements and slightly fewer Rule of 90 and early retirements. Assumed rates of termination were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019 experience study. The new rates are based on service and are generally lower than the previous rates for years 2-5 and slightly higher thereafter. Assumed rates of disability were changed as recommended in the June 30, 2019 experience study. The change results in fewer predicted disability retirements for males and females. The base mortality table for healthy annuitants and employees was changed from the RP-2014 table to the Pub-2010 General Mortality table, with adjustments. The base mortality table for disabled annuitants was changed from the RP-2014 disabled annuitant mortality table to the PUB-2010 General/Teacher disabled annuitant mortality table, with adjustments. The mortality improvement scale was changed from Scale MP-2018 to Scale MP-2019. The assumed spouse age difference was changed from two years older for females to one year older. The assumed number of married male new retirees electing the 100% Joint & Survivor option changed from 35% to 45%. The assumed number of married female new retirees electing the 100% Joint & Survivor option changed from 15% to 30%. The corresponding number of married new retirees electing the Life annuity option was adjusted accordingly.

2019 - The mortality projection scale was changed from MP-2017 to MP-2018.

2018 - The mortality projection scale was changed from MP-2015 to MP-2017. The assumed benefit increase was changed from 1.00 percent per year through 2044 and 2.50 percent per year thereafter to 1.25 percent per year.

2017 - The Combined Service Annuity (CSA) loads were changed from 0.8 percent for active members and 60 percent for vested and non-vested deferred members. The revised CSA loads are now 0.0 percent for active member liability, 15.0 percent for vested deferred member liability and 3.0 percent for non-vested deferred member liability. The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.0 percent per year for all years to 1.0 percent per year through 2044 and 2.5 percent per year thereafter.

2016 - The assumed post-retirement benefit increase rate was changed from 1.0 percent per year through 2035 and 2.5 percent per year thereafter to 1.0 percent per year for all future years. The assumed investment return was changed from 7.9 percent to 7.5 percent. The single discount rate was changed from 7.9 percent to 7.5 percent. Other assumptions were changed pursuant to the experience study dated June 30, 2015. The assumed future salary increases, payroll growth and inflation were decreased by 0.25 percent to 3.25 percent for payroll growth and 2.50 percent for inflation.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Required Supplementary Information (Continued)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information - General Employee Retirement Fund (Continued)

Changes in Plan Provisions

2025 - The post-retirement benefit increase formula changed to 100% of the Social Security annual increase, between 1% and 1.75%, beginning January 1, 2026. If the funded ratio (on a market value of assets basis) is less than 85% for the last two consecutive annual valuations or is less than 80% in the most recent actuarial valuation, the maximum is reduced to 1.5%. Previously, the benefit increase was 50% of the Social Security annual increase, between 1% and 1.5%. The 1% additional employer contribution is eliminated when the plan reaches 98% funded status (on an actuarial value of assets basis); this contribution was previously scheduled to stop when the plan reached 100% funded status.

2024 - The workers' compensation offset for disability benefits was eliminated. The actuarial equivalent factors updated to reflect the changes in assumptions.

2023 - An additional one-time direct state aid contribution of \$170.1 million will be contributed to the Plan on October 1, 2023. The vesting period of those hired after June 30, 2010, was changed from five years of allowable service to three years of allowable service. The benefit increase delay for early retirements on or after January 1, 2024 was eliminated. A one-time non-compounding benefit increase of 2.5 percent minus the actual 2024 adjustment will be payable in a lump sum for calendar year 2024 by March 31, 2024.

2022 - There were no changes in plan provisions since the previous valuation.

2021 - There were no changes in plan provisions since the previous valuation.

2020 - Augmentation for current privatized members was reduced to 2.0% for the period July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023 and 0.0% after. Augmentation was eliminated for privatizations occurring after June 30, 2020.

2019 - The employer supplemental contribution was changed prospectively, decreasing from \$31.0 million to \$21.0 million per year. The state's special funding contribution was changed prospectively, requiring \$16.0 million due per year through 2031.

2018 - The augmentation adjustment in early retirement factors is eliminated over a five-year period starting July 1, 2019, resulting in actuarial equivalence after June 30, 2024. Interest credited on member contributions decreased from 4.0 percent to 3.0 percent, beginning July 1, 2018. Deferred augmentation was changed to 0.0 percent, effective January 1, 2019. Augmentation that has already accrued for deferred members will still apply. Contribution stabilizer provisions were repealed. Postretirement benefit increases were changed from 1.0 percent per year with a provision to increase to 2.5 percent upon attainment of 90.0 percent funding ratio to 50.0 percent of the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment, not less than 1.0 percent and not more than 1.5 percent, beginning January 1, 2019. For retirements on or after January 1, 2024, the first benefit increase is delayed until the retiree reaches normal retirement age; does not apply to Rule of 90 retirees, disability benefit recipients, or survivors. Actuarial equivalent factors were updated to reflect revised mortality and interest assumptions.

2017 - The State's contribution for the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund equals \$16,000,000 in 2017 and 2018, and \$6,000,000 thereafter. The Employer Supplemental Contribution for the Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund changed from \$21,000,000 to \$31,000,000 in calendar years 2019 to 2031. The state's contribution changed from \$16,000,000 to \$6,000,000 in calendar years 2019 to 2031.

2016 - There were no changes in plan provisions since the previous valuation.

OTHER REQUIRED REPORTS

RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
CHANHASSEN, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Board of Managers
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (the District), Chanhassen, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 2, 2026.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the District failed to comply with the provisions of the contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, miscellaneous provisions, and tax increment financing sections of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Other Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65, as described in the Schedule of Finding and Response as item 2025-001. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the District's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions, insofar as they relate to accounting matters.

The District's response to the finding is described in the accompanying schedule of finding and response. The response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of those charged with governance and management of the District and the State Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Abdo
Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 2, 2026

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Chanhassen, Minnesota
Schedule of Finding and Response
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

<u>Finding</u>	<u>Description</u>
2025-001	Time Period for Payment
<i>Condition:</i>	Auditing for legal compliance requires a review of the District's payment of claims. Our audit indicated three instances of non-compliance of invoices paid outside of 35 days out of our sample size of twenty-five.
<i>Criteria:</i>	Minnesota statute section 471.425 requires that the District pay bills within 35 days from receipt. If the invoice is not paid within 35 days, interest at 1.5 percent per month is to be added to the amount due.
<i>Cause:</i>	This was due to invoices submitted and received after the internal cutoff date.
<i>Effect:</i>	The District is out of compliance with this statute.
<i>Recommendation:</i>	We recommend that the District develop policies and procedures related to the accounts payable cycle. These policies and procedures should include payment terms that are outlined within State statutes. We also recommend purchasing a date stamp to document when all invoices are received at the District. Implementing this recommendation will not result in any additional cost to the District.

Management Response:

The District's Board of Managers has adopted the auditor's recommendation that the District date stamp each invoice when it is received by the District in order to substantiate the beginning of the 35-day period. In addition, because the Board of Managers generally only meets once per month, the Board of Managers has adopted a policy that all contracts must include, and all vendors must agree to allow the District not less than 60 days after receipt of an invoice to process and pay such invoice as allowed by Minnesota statute section 471.425. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District intends to process and pay all invoices as expeditiously as possible.

Acronyms used in District Materials

ACEC	American Council of Engineering Companies
AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
APWA	American Public Works Association
ASCE	American Society of Consulting Engineers
BFE	Base Flood Elevation
BMP	Best Management Practices
BWSR	Board of Water and Soil Resources
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CRAS	Creek Restoration Action Strategy
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWF	Clean Water Fund
DWSMA	Drinking Water Supply Management Area
E&O	Education and Outreach
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
IAP2	International Association of Public Participation
IDDE	Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
LID	Low Impact Development
LGU	Local Government Unit
LOMA	Letter of Map Amendment
LVMP	Lake Vegetation Management Plan
MAWD	Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
MBS	Minnesota Biological Survey
MCES	Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
MDA	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MDH	Minnesota Department of Health
MDNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
MnDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MnRAM	Minnesota Routine Assessment Methodology
MLCCS	Minnesota Land Cover Classification System
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MRCC	Midwestern Regional Climate Center
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MSHA	Minnesota Stream Habitat Assessment
MSL	Mean Sea Level
MSP	Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport
MUSA	Metropolitan Urban Service Area
NAPP	National Aerial Photography Program
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHIS	Natural Heritage Information System
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRI	Natural Resources Inventory
NURP	Nationwide Urban Runoff Program
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
OHWL	Ordinary High Water Level
PAHs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PI Survey	Point-intercept survey (grid pattern aquatic plant survey)
PRAP	Performance Review and Assistance Review

PWI	Public Waters Inventory
RCL	Riley Chain of Lakes
RPBCWD	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
RWI	Restorable Wetlands Inventory
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SSTS	Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographic dataset
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TP	Total Phosphorus
TP-40	Technical Paper 40
TP-49	Technical Paper 49
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
TRPD	Three Rivers Park District
UAA	Use Attainability Analysis
UMN	University of Minnesota
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geologic Survey
VIC	Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup
WCA	Wetland Conservation Act
WHPP	Wellhead protection plan
WMO	Watershed Management Organization
WOMP	Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program
WRAPS	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy
WSTMP	Wetland Status and Trends Monitoring Program
YOY	Young of the Year



District Update

December 2025

Across rivers and highways, cities and counties, our watershed connects us all. In 2025, this connection guided our efforts to collaborate with partners old and new to continue our work to protect, manage and restore the ecological functions of our shared water resources.

We began working on our next 10-Year Plan, bringing together natural resources, parks and recreation, and community development staff from cities and other government organizations to serve on our Steering Committee. Their insights will help shape the goals and strategies that guide our work for the decade ahead. Look for more opportunities to participate in the planning process throughout the 2026 calendar year.

We partnered with the City of Chanhassen to develop plans for the North Lotus Lake Park Project, which will restore native plant communities and increase stormwater infiltration while incorporating artistic features that encourage park visitors to gather, relax, play and explore.

We have finalized plans for the Upper Riley Creek Ecological Restoration and Channel Stabilization Project which will begin construction in 2026, and we have begun plans on the Upper Bluff Creek Ecological Restoration and Channel Stabilization Project with the intention of beginning construction in 2027.

We recently completed the acquisition of three parcels that are home to ecologically sensitive plant communities along Spring Road in Eden Prairie. Restoration of the native habitat is set to begin in 2026. The land is hoped to be the future site of RPBCWD offices, educational facilities, and community resources.

Our Stewardship Grant Program awarded over \$180,000 to residents, HOAs, cities and commercial property owners to assist in implementing natural shoreline restorations, habitat restorations, waterbody buffers, and stormwater management projects.

Our water resources team stayed busy assessing wetlands, sampling soils and monitoring water quality across the district. Alum treatments were delivered on Rice Marsh Lake and Round Lake to control internal loading of phosphorus and reduce the growth of algae.

Due to heavy spring rains, water quality was reduced in lakes across the District. Despite this, three lakes are eligible for de-listing from the MPCA Impaired Waters List for nutrients. Lake Riley, Rice Marsh Lake and Hyland Lake are expected to be removed from the list next spring, marking an exciting milestone in our efforts to restore the health of our waters.

We bid farewell to two of our valuable staff members and to board manager David Ziegler, and thank them for their years of service to the district. We welcomed manager Leslie Stovring of Eden Prairie to the board, and Skye Slater as our new GIS Communications Specialist, who will enhance our ability to share data and progress with our stakeholders.

As we welcome the new year, we look forward to strengthening our partnerships, exploring new engagement strategies, and continuing to protect the waters that connect us.

Sincerely,



56 Years of Watershed Protection

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) is a special unit 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.

Managers, Staff, and Consultants

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.

Regular Meetings

**Third Wednesday of
each month at 7 p.m.***



* Schedule changes
posted on website
rpbcwd.org/calendar
18681 Lake Drive E,
Chanhassen

Board of Managers: Name, title, city of residence, term ending date



Dorothy Pedersen
President
Shorewood
July 2026



Bonnie Nelson
Vice President
Chanhassen
July 2027



Tom Duevel
Secretary
Minnetonka
July 2028



Jill Crafton
Treasurer
Bloomington
July 2027



Leslie Stovring
Member
Eden Prairie
July 2028

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Smith Partners PLLP*

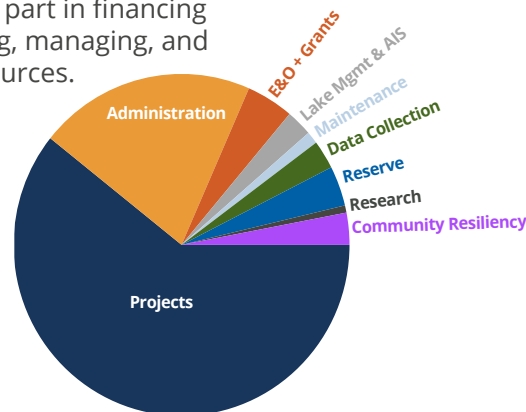
Legal Advisor
612-344-1400

*Consultant

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 2025 levy was \$4.2 million, and the board-approved 2025 budget, including funds from previous levies, was \$6.4 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.



Featured Project: North Lotus Lake Park Project

Chanhassen, MN | Carver County

Project Need

Lotus Lake is impaired for nutrients, primarily phosphorus. The purpose of the North Lotus Lake Park Project is to improve the water quality of Lotus Lake by reducing the amount of stormwater runoff that enters the lake. The project would prevent about 16 pounds of phosphorus from entering the lake each year, which is equivalent to preventing the growth of 8,000 pounds of algae per year!

Project Vision

The vision for this project is to create a space that improves Lotus Lake water quality while enhancing park visitor experience. Project benefits include:

- Improve water quality of Lotus Lake
- Promote diverse vegetation and soil health
- Offer visitors a unique experience



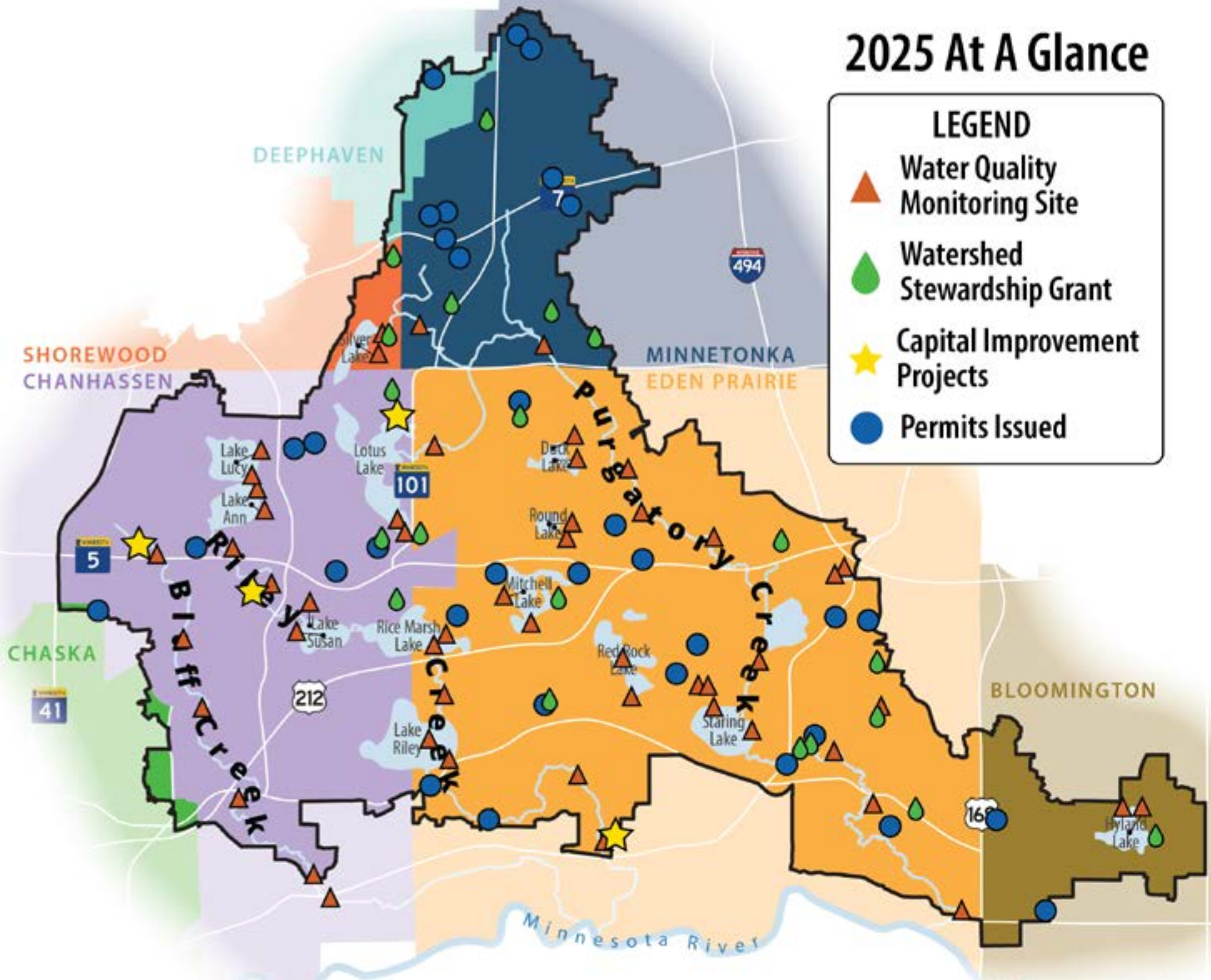
Concept design as of October 2025

Learn more at rpbcwd.org/north-lotus-lake-park-project.

2025 At A Glance

LEGEND

- ▲ Water Quality Monitoring Site
- 💧 Watershed Stewardship Grant
- ★ Capital Improvement Projects
- Permits Issued



2025 Water Resources Summary

District water resources staff collect data throughout the year. The primary sampling season for lakes is May through October and for streams is April through September. In addition to monitoring, staff implement projects and programs that help protect and improve lake and stream health. This summary provides an overview of that work. For a deeper dive, check out the water quality fact sheets in the appendix or the water resources report at rpbcwd.org.

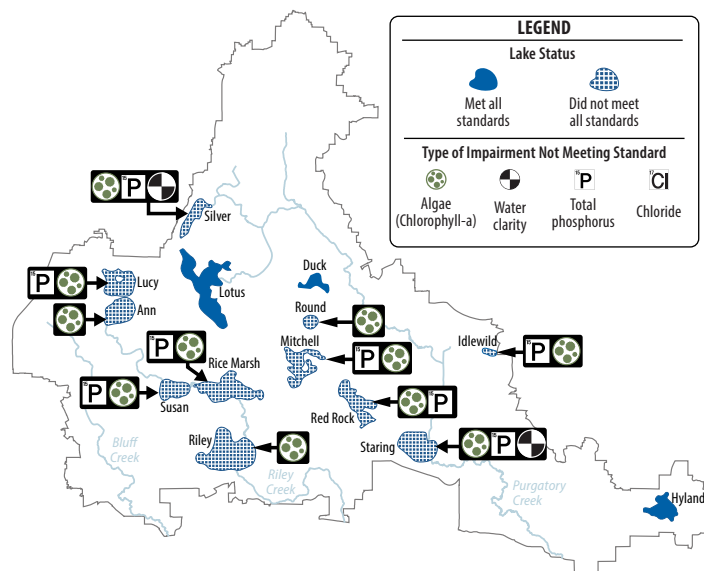
LAKES

Water Quality Summary

RPBCWD and its partners monitor 13 lakes and one open water wetland for over a dozen parameters. Parameters of particular interest include total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a (an indicator of algae growth), water clarity, and chloride. The results from the growing season (June-September) are compared to parameter standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Figure 1 provides an overview of 2025 lake impairments. Having an impairment means that the lake did not meet the MPCA standard for a parameter. Heavy rains in spring 2025 likely contributed to higher lake nutrient levels (e.g., phosphorus), which resulted in abundant algae growth as indicated by high chlorophyll-a levels in summer. Despite high average chlorophyll-a levels, most lakes met the clarity standard for their lake type (deep or shallow).

Figure 1. Summary of 2025 lake water quality impairments



Overuse of winter salt resulting in chloride pollution of waterbodies is a growing concern. In 2025, staff visited lakes monthly to collect samples for chloride testing. All lakes met the MPCA average chloride standard in 2025 with no short-term spikes above the standard. However, the chloride levels of some lakes are trending up. During icier winters such as winter 2022-23, chloride spikes have occurred that exceed the chloride standard.

See Table 1 for a summary of whether or not lakes met water quality standards for total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, clarity, and chloride. More detail, including chloride trends, can be found in the 2025 water quality fact sheets and water resources report.

Table 1. In 2025, did the lake meet the MPCA standard?

Lake Name	Total Phosphorus	Chlorophyll-a	Clarity	Chloride
DEEP LAKE STANDARD →	Less than 0.04 mg/L	Less than 14 µg/L	Greater than 1.4 meters	230 mg/L
Ann	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Lotus	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Riley	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Round	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
SHALLOW LAKE STANDARD →	Less than 0.06 mg/L	Less than 20 µg/L	Greater than 1.0 meters	230 mg/L
Duck	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hyland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idlewild*	No	No	Yes	Yes
Lucy	No	No	No	Yes
Mitchell	No	No	Yes	Yes
Red Rock	No	No	Yes	Yes
Rice Marsh	No	No	Yes	Yes
Silver	No	No	Yes	Yes
Staring	No	No	No	Yes
Susan	No	No	Yes	Yes

*Open water wetland

Alum Treatments

An aluminum sulfate (alum) treatment is an effective way to reduce phosphorus in a lake resulting in less algae growth and improved water clarity. An alum treatment is considered to be a capital improvement project because of the large expense, where a single lake treatment can cost upward of \$100,000.

The decision to do an alum treatment takes into account internal phosphorus loading (determined by analysis of lake sediment testing), carp abundance, aquatic invasive plant abundance, water quality trends, and how long the alum treatment would be effective. In 2025, the District and its partners proceeded with alum treatments on Rice Marsh Lake and Round Lake. Table 2 provides an overview of all alum treatments over time.

Table 2. An overview of aluminum sulfate treatments over time.

LAKE	ALUM TREATMENT YEAR	PARTNERS
Hyland	2019, 2022	Three Rivers Park District
Lotus	2018, 2024	--
Rice Marsh	2018, 2025	--
Riley	2016, 2020	--
Round	2012, 2018, 2025	City of Eden Prairie

Aquatic Vegetation Management

The primary activities in the District's aquatic vegetation management program is population monitoring and control of invasive aquatic plants to benefit native populations. Monitoring is done through point intercept (PI) surveys, which are performed on a rotational basis on major lakes. In 2025, PI surveys were conducted on eight lakes by RPBCWD and other organizations. See Table 3 for a summary.

Table 3. An overview of point intercept surveys and lead organizations on district lakes in 2025.

LAKE	2025 POINT INTERCEPT SURVEY	LEAD ORGANIZATION
Ann	No	RPBCWD
Duck	No	RPBCWD
Hyland	Yes	Three Rivers Park District
Lotus	Yes	RPBCWD
Lucy	No	RPBCWD
Mitchell	Yes	City of Eden Prairie
Red Rock	Yes	City of Eden Prairie
Rice Marsh	No	RPBCWD
Riley	Yes	RPBCWD
Round	Yes	City of Eden Prairie
Silver	No	RPBCWD
Staring	Yes	RPBCWD
Susan	No	RPBCWD
PCRA wetland	No	RPBCWD



Invasive Plant Surveys and Treatments

Staff use separate delineation surveys in spring to assess the distribution and density of Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). If warranted, a permit for herbicide treatment is sought from the MN DNR. CLP is challenging to manage because it begins growing under lake ice in late winter/early spring. Snow cover on ice can reduce CLP growth and a cold spring can delay CLP growth, making it tricky for staff to schedule delineation surveys. Staff must also consider MN DNR regulations regarding aquatic herbicide use on public lakes:

- A permit application to the MN DNR is required for all aquatic herbicide use on all public lakes.
- The size of the herbicide treatment area may not exceed 15% of a lake's littoral zone. The DNR will consider a variance, such as a whole-lake treatment, under special conditions.
- Herbicide treatment for CLP control must occur no later than May 15th or a few weeks after ice-out, whichever comes later.

In 2025, six lakes were delineated for CLP and EWM. At the time of the surveys, four lakes had significant enough CLP levels to warrant chemical treatment, and three lakes were determined to need treatment to control EWM. See Table 4 for a summary.

Table 4. An overview of aquatic invasive plant treatments on district lakes in 2025.

Lake	Curly-leaf Pondweed Treatment: Timing, Size, Herbicide	Eurasian Watermilfoil Treatment: Timing, Size, Herbicide
Duck	None	July 2025, 5.1 acres, ProcellaCOR
Lotus	None	None
Mitchell	May 2025, 15.99 acres, Flumioxazin	None
Red Rock	May 2025, 12.84 acres, Flumioxazin	None
Riley	May 2025, 22 acres, Flumioxazin	July 2025, 10.93 acres, ProcellaCOR
Staring	None	July 2025, 5.88 acres, ProcellaCOR
Susan	May 2025, 5.89 acres, Flumioxazin	None

In addition to spring delineation surveys, staff perform surveys for turions, which are the primary reproductive structures of CLP, on an as-needed basis. Turions break off from adult plants and sprout to form new plants. Some turions germinate their first year while others overwinter in lake sediments to sprout the following year. Sampling for turions in the fall helps predict CLP growth the following year. In 2025, district staff did not perform any CLP turion surveys.

Staff hold a turion of curly-leaf pondweed. The turion is a reproductive structure that, once mature, breaks off the adult plant and falls to the lake bottom to sprout into a new plant.



Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels are an invasive species that fundamentally change the food web of lakes by out-competing native species for food, which is primarily phytoplankton. They also negatively impact recreation and structures such as docks. District staff continue to monitor for adult zebra mussels through visual surveys and monitoring plates. The Adopt a Dock program also enlists volunteers to monitor with plates hung from residential docks. Staff additionally monitor zebra mussel veligers (larvae) by examining filtered water samples under a microscope. Carver County tests for eDNA in select lakes. The eDNA test is a very sensitive test that can detect zebra mussel DNA, with or without live zebra mussels present, within the lake environment.

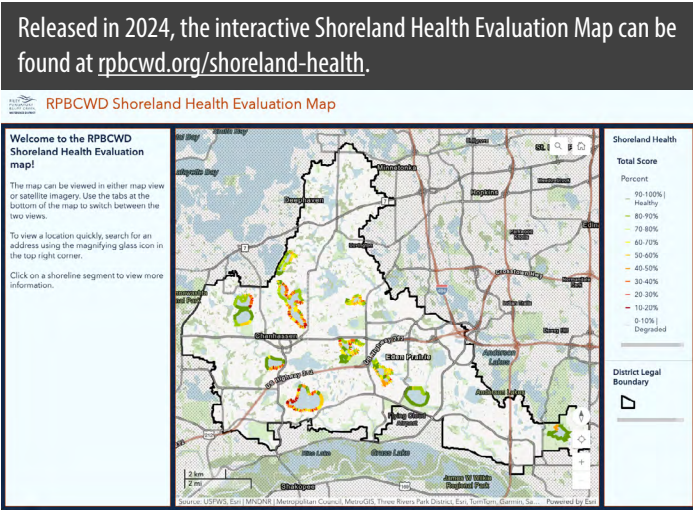
Treatments to control zebra mussels are considered experimental and there is no practical way to control an established population. Lakes within the district that have confirmed zebra mussel infestations include Riley (2018), Lotus (2019), and Ann (2023). In 2020, a single zebra mussel was



found on a buoy on the south shore of Lake Ann. In 2023, four zebra mussels were found on woody debris near the same area, which resulted in a rapid response effort from RPBCWD and Carver County. Visual searches around the lake via snorkeling, diving, and wading resulted in the discovery of five more zebra mussels in the same area. Because the area in which the mussels were found was near-shore, a copper sulfate treatment was applied in an attempt to eliminate or at least slow down the infestation. In 2024, Lake Ann was monitored with monthly visual scans, eDNA testing, veliger sampling, and passive plate sampling, but all techniques resulted in no additional evidence of zebra mussels. No additional scans occurred in 2025.

Shoreland Health Evaluation

An interactive Shoreland Health Evaluation Map was released in 2024 that allows lake residents to view their shoreland health scores. The web map is housed on a webpage with ways to improve a shoreland health scores and frequently asked questions. Beginning in 2025, residents could apply for a shoreland health cost share through our Stewardship Cost Share program. The cost share allows lake residents to be reimbursed for adding native vegetation to their shoreland zone, which will improve their shoreland health score.



Carp Management

Common carp are invasive fish that degrade water quality. When feeding, carp root in lake bottom sediments, uprooting aquatic plants and releasing nutrients into the water column. Because they are able to move between lakes using streams, District staff manage carp with the whole stream system (chain of lakes) in mind. See Figure 2 on the next page for an overview of carp management activities and locations in the District.

Management of carp in the district began in earnest in 2009. Winter seining was used 2009 to 2013 to remove carp and reduce their populations. Since then, a multi-pronged approach to carp management has kept carp populations well under control and below the recommend biomass level of 100 kilograms of carp per lake hectare.

In the Riley Creek chain of lakes, all lakes except Rice Marsh Lake have low recruitment potential. Low recruitment potential means that staff have observed little to no evidence of carp reproduction or young carp survival. On low recruitment lakes, boat electrofishing and small mesh trap netting are performed on a three-year rotation. Because of its high susceptibility to winterkill,

Rice Marsh Lake is considered to have moderate recruitment potential and is aerated every winter to help maintain the bluegill population to control carp.

In the Purgatory Creek chain of lakes, Staring Lake and the upper and lower wetlands in the Purgatory Creek Recreation Area (PCRA) have moderate to high carp recruitment potential and, therefore, electrofishing and small mesh trap netting are performed every year. See Table 5 for a summary of carp management methods, purpose, and frequency.

Table 5. Methods used in the district carp management program.

METHOD	PURPOSE	FREQUENCY
Electrofishing by boat	Monitor adult carp population; opportunistic carp removal if fish is netted	<i>Low recruitment lake & Rice Marsh Lake: every 3 years; High/moderate recruitment lake: yearly</i>
Electrofishing by backpack	Remove carp	Opportunistic as fish gather in springtime at inlet or outlet
Small mesh trap netting	Remove young-of-year carp; collect data on all species	<i>Low recruitment lake & Rice Marsh Lake: every 3 years; High/moderate recruitment lake: yearly</i>
Carp barrier	Prevent carp migration between lakes (four are water control structures that incidentally prevent migration; fifth is a gate installed to prevent carp movement at lower PCRA wetland)	Water control structures are permanent. Gate at PCRA lower wetland is adjustable.
Winter aeration	Prevent winterkill of bluegill that eat carp eggs & hatchlings (RPBCWD operates one unit located on Rice Marsh Lake)	December-March
Bluegill stocking	Increase bluegill that eat carp eggs and hatchlings	Occurs as warranted due to low bluegill population or winterkill event.

CARP MIGRATION BARRIERS

Every spring, the natural instinct of carp kicks in, driving them to migrate upstream to spawn. Unfortunately this behavior encourages the spread of carp into new waterbodies. However, in the District, carp migration is somewhat restricted by four water structures (outlets and weirs) and one adjustable carp gate at the south side of the lower PCRA wetland. See barrier locations in Figure 2.



Staff Hein holds an adult carp captured while boat electrofishing on Staring Lake.

CARP MONITORING AND REMOVALS

On lakes deep enough to accommodate equipment, district staff use electrofishing by boat to monitor carp populations. If staff observe carp, they make an effort to remove them by hand net. Electrofishing by boat occurs on a three-year rotation on low recruitment lakes and yearly on high and medium recruitment lakes.

Electrofishing by backpack targets carp opportunistically during the spring spawning run. When staff observe carp gathered at lake outlet and inlet points, they use backpack electrofishing units to temporarily stun fish and remove carp with hand nets.

Small mesh trap netting is used to monitor fish populations and carp reproduction. Five nets are set per lake for 24 hours and capture any fish that enters. Staff record data on all fish species captured, release non-carp species, and remove carp. Like boat electrofishing, this method occurs on a three-year rotation on low recruitment lakes and yearly on high and medium recruitment lakes.

In 2025, 645 carp (1,564 pounds) were removed from waterbodies within the District. The majority of removals (85 percent) occurred in the Purgatory Creek chain of lakes.

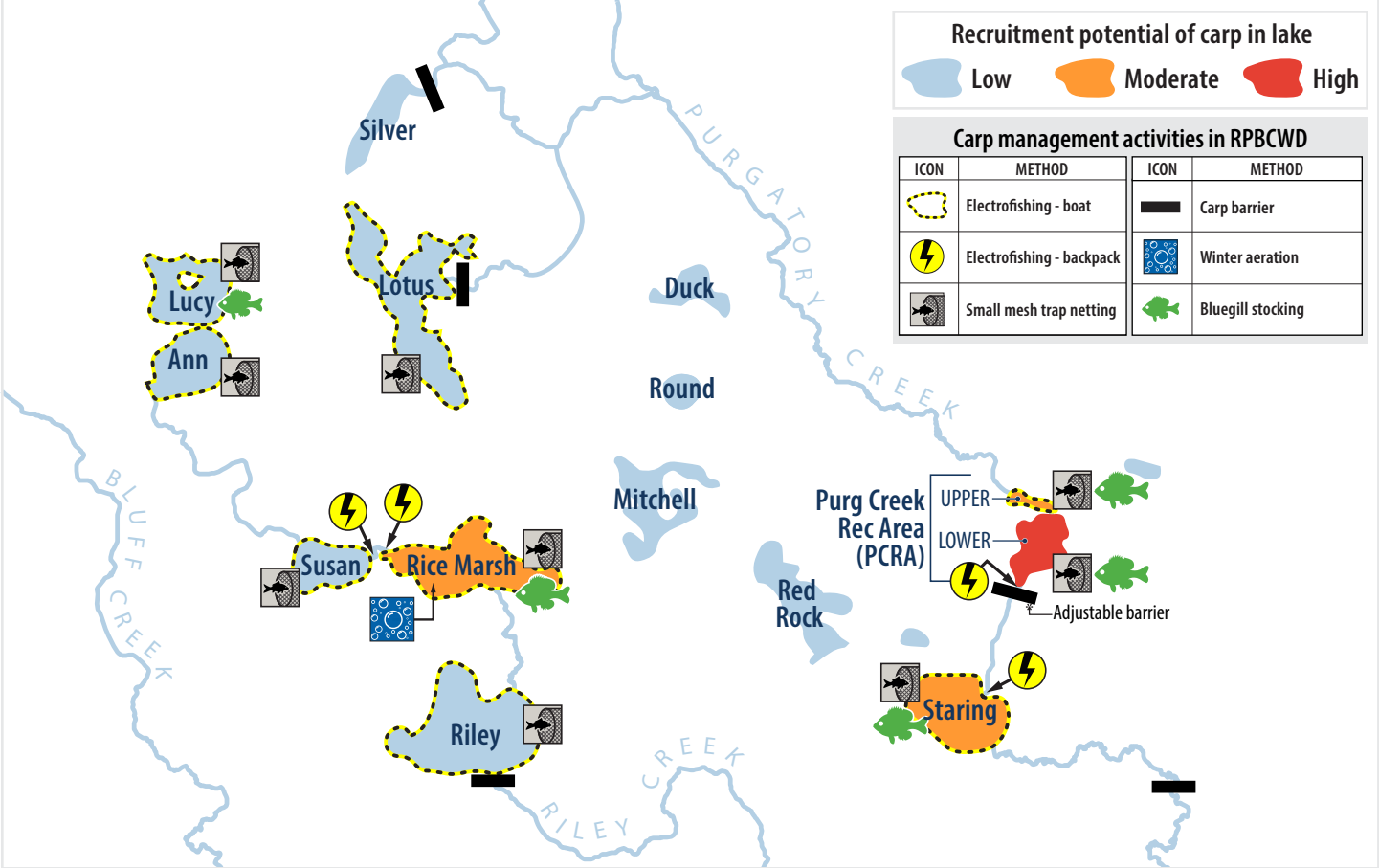
BLUEGILL POPULATION SUPPORT

Bluegill prey on carp eggs and hatchlings and are essential in reducing carp recruitment. Because Rice Marsh Lake frequently winterkills, district staff install an aerator that runs December through March to oxygenate the water and reduce die-off of bluegill and other native fish.

If fish population data collected through small mesh trap netting indicates a low bluegill population, district staff arrange for bluegill stocking. Because stocking occurred in 2024, no bluegill stocking took place in 2025.



Figure 2. Overview of carp recruitment potential in lakes and district carp management activities.



STREAMS

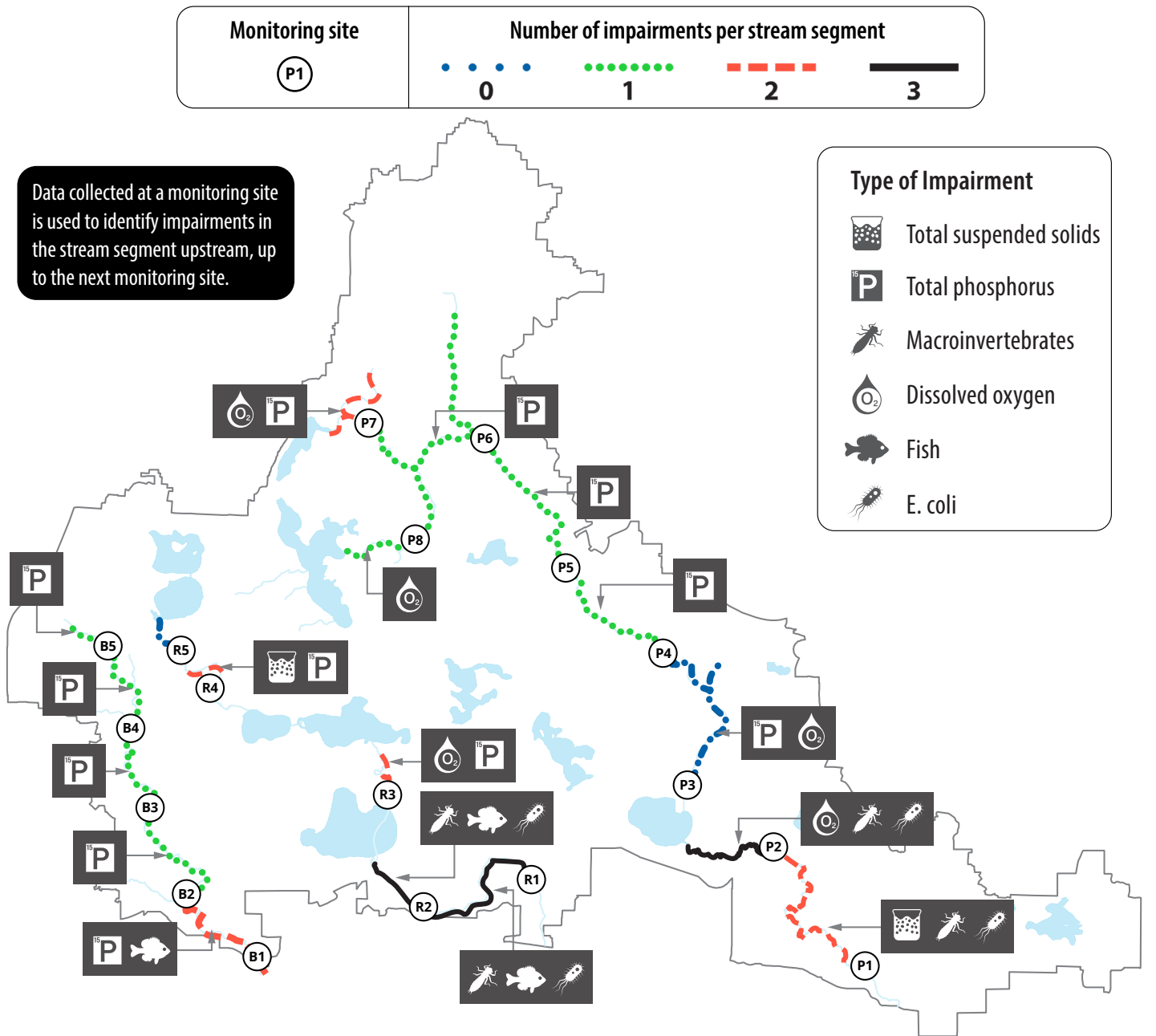
Water Quality Summary

RPBCWD staff monitor Riley, Purgatory, and Bluff creeks twice a month during the April-September field season. The largest stream, Purgatory, has eight regular monitoring sites (P1-P8). Riley and Bluff creeks each have five regular monitoring sites (R1-R5 and B1-B5). All three creeks flow south-southeast, eventually draining into the Minnesota River.

In addition to the regular monitoring sites, the District partners with the Met Council to collect data from continuous monitoring stations, one located on each creek near the southern boundary of the watershed district. Staff also install auto sampling units on a short-term basis at other sites of interest including project sites where before/after project installation data is collected. See Figure 3 for a map for the number of impairments per stream segment in 2025.



Figure 3. Number of impairments per stream segment in 2025 based on data collected from the 18 regular stream monitoring sites.



Creek Restoration Action Strategy

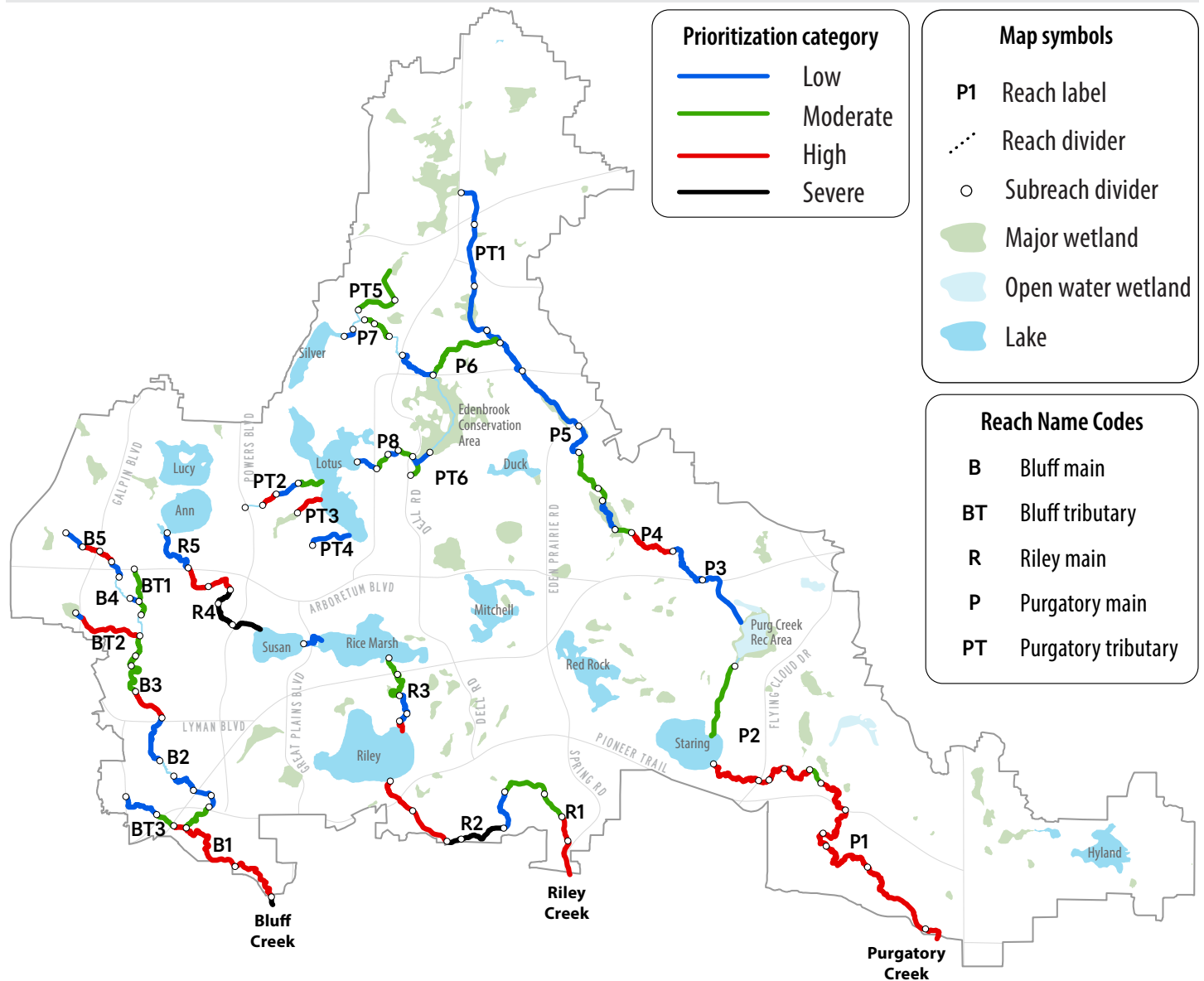
In addition to collecting bi-weekly water quality data, district staff inspect stretches of streams on a rotational once-a-year basis to evaluate changes over time. However, no inspections ("creek walks") occurred in 2025. During the walks, staff assess variables including stream stability, stream habitat, and water quality. Staff also take photos and detailed notes during assessment.

Stream walks also include staff checking the status of bank pins (rebar) located near regular stream monitoring sites. The three-pin sets are measured to quantify estimates of lateral bank recession rates and total annual loss. This data is incorporated into the CRAS scores for each stretch of stream. See Figure 4 for a map of the most recent CRAS stream restoration prioritization scores.

A set of three bank pins, painted bright orange, near monitoring site B4 on Bluff Creek. The pins are used to monitor streambank erosion and deposition.



Figure 4. The current Creek Restoration Action Strategy (CRAS) map to prioritize stream restoration based on condition. A combination of creek walk and water quality monitoring data is evaluated to determine the CRAS Tier I score for each stream substretch.



Staff collected stream water quality data in 2025 but did not walk any stream segments to update physical characteristics. Six subreach scores have improved and one has worsened since 2015. After assessments were completed in 2024, the list of the most degraded subreaches was re-evaluated. Table 7 shows the scores and rankings of the subreaches with the worst scores. Tier II variables (Figure 5) are used secondarily to sort subreaches identified as the most degraded. Restoration status of a subreach, if known, is also shown in the table.

Table 6 shows the current list of severe stream subreaches based on CRAS scores. Any stream with a Tier I score of 22 is considered a severe site.

Figure 5. CRAS scores are assessed using variables within two different tiers.

Tier I (measurable variables)
Infrastructure risk
Erosion and channel stability
Ecological benefits
Water quality

Tier II (socio-economic variables)
Project cost
Partnership opportunities
Watershed benefits
Public education

Visit rpbcwd.org/CRAS for more information about the Creek Restoration Action Plan.

Table 6. Updated 2025 Creek Restoration Action Strategy (CRAS) severe sites list.
When re-assessments are completed, the CRAS list of most degraded creek subreaches is updated.

Reach Name	Subreach Name*	Location	Tier I Score	Tier I Rank	Tier II Score	Tier II Rank	Restoration Status
R4	R4E	Powers Blvd to Lake Susan	22	5	26	1	Planning stage
R4	R4D	Railroad Bridge to Powers Blvd	22	8	22	2	Planning stage
R4	R4C	Park Road to Railroad Bridge	24	2	20	3	Planning stage
B5	B5C	Galpin Blvd to West 78th Street	22	7	18	4	Planning stage
B1	B1D	475 ft US of Great Plains Blvd to Great Plains Blvd	22	6	16	5	Access Issue
R2	R2C	720 ft US of Dell Trail to Dell Road	24	1	14	6	--
R2	R2D	Upper Third between Dell Road and Eden Prairie Road	22	3	10	7	--

* Name codes: R=Riley Creek, P=Purgatory Creek, B=Bluff Creek; number=stretch designation; second letter=subreach designation (A-G)

WATER QUALITY FACT SHEETS

Staff summarize water quality data for some waterbodies. The water quality fact sheets are available online at rpbcwd.org/factsheets and on their respective individual lake and stream webpages. Below is a list of the most recent fact sheets.

2025 Creeks Water Quality Update

- Single fact sheet for Riley, Purgatory and Bluff creeks

2025 Lake Water Quality Updates

- Ann
- Duck
- Hyland
- Lotus
- Lucy
- Mitchell
- Rice Marsh
- Riley
- Red Rock
- Round
- Silver
- Staring
- Susan



Riley Creek | Purgatory Creek | Bluff Creek 2025 CREEK UPDATE

Keeping creeks healthy requires several tools and strategies. Conducting projects to stabilize streambanks and restore stretches of stream is one strategy. Cleaning and slowing rainwater runoff before it reaches the creek is another. Before either of these can be done, we need to understand how the creek is doing and where it needs the most help.

District staff began stream monitoring in the 1970s. The District developed a tool to assess creeks: the Creek Restoration Action Strategy (CRAS) in 2017. CRAS uses water quality data, as well as information on erosion and habitat, to rank which creek stretches (sections) are doing the best and which are doing the poorest. CRAS scores for each stretch of stream are located on the next page.



Creek Stats

ATTRIBUTE	Bluff Creek	Riley Creek	Purgatory Creek
Length	6.8 miles	9.6 miles	12 miles
Elevation change	232 feet	230 feet	178 feet
Watershed size	5.6 square miles	11 square miles	30 square miles
Cities	Chanhassen, Chaska	Chanhassen, Eden Prairie	Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Deephaven, Bloomington, Shorewood
Lakes in watershed	None	Lucy, Ann, Susan, Rice Marsh, and Riley lakes	Silver, Lotus, Duck, Mitchell, Red Rock, and Staring lakes
Impaired Waters listing	Turbidity, fish	Fish, macroinvertebrates, turbidity, E. coli	Macroinvertebrates, E. coli
Common fish	Brook Stickleback, Northern Fathead Minnow	Green Sunfish, Fathead Minnow, Bluntnose Minnow	Bluegill, Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed Sunfish

The Three Creeks of the Watershed District

Bluff Creek

does not flow through any lakes on its way to the Minnesota River. However, it does connect many wetlands, and you can explore almost its entire length by trail.

Riley Creek

begins at lakes Lucy and Ann in Chanhassen and flows through three lakes before a steep descent into the river valley.

Purgatory Creek

has three headwaters: Lotus Lake in Chanhassen, Silver Lake in Shorewood, and wetlands in Minnetonka. On its way to the Minnesota River, the creek flows through the Purgatory Creek Rec Area and Staring Lake.

Creek Assessment Factors



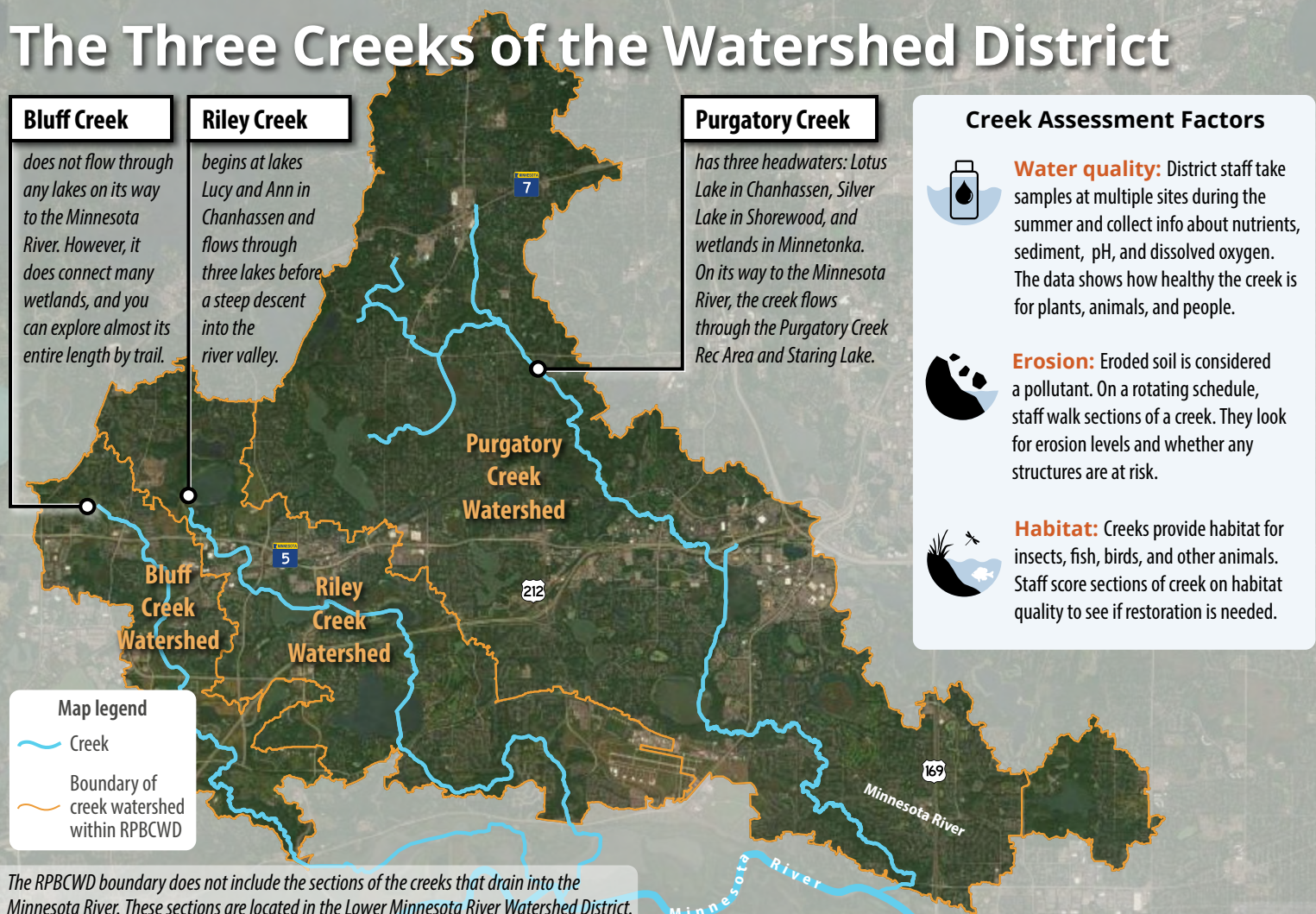
Water quality: District staff take samples at multiple sites during the summer and collect info about nutrients, sediment, pH, and dissolved oxygen. The data shows how healthy the creek is for plants, animals, and people.



Erosion: Eroded soil is considered a pollutant. On a rotating schedule, staff walk sections of a creek. They look for erosion levels and whether any structures are at risk.



Habitat: Creeks provide habitat for insects, fish, birds, and other animals. Staff score sections of creek on habitat quality to see if restoration is needed.



The RPBCWD boundary does not include the sections of the creeks that drain into the Minnesota River. These sections are located in the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

2025 Stream Monitoring Overview

Stream Water Quality Monitoring

In 2025, RPBCWD and its partners collected water quality samples and performed data analysis on 28 sampling sites in total along Riley Creek, Bluff Creek, and Purgatory Creek. Eighteen of these were regular water quality monitoring sites visited biweekly April to September. The District monitors six impairment categories based upon standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Stream water quality improved in 2025 from the previous year. In 2025:

- Bluff Creek had 6 impairments
- Riley Creek had 10 impairments
- Purgatory Creek had 14 impairments

None of the regular creek sampling sites met all water quality standards. Phosphorus was the most frequent impairment (12 of 18 regular sites). Two sites failed to meet the total suspended solids standard, and five sites fell below the dissolved oxygen standard. The lower reaches of both Riley and Purgatory creeks had macroinvertebrate and *E. coli* impairments, and the lower reaches of Riley and Bluff creeks had fish impairments.

CRAS Scores for Stream Restoration Planning

The District developed the Creek Restoration Action Strategy (CRAS) to prioritize creek reaches, sub-reaches, or sites, in need of stabilization and/or restoration. The District identified eight categories of importance for project prioritization:

- Infrastructure risk
 - Erosion and channel stability
 - Public education
 - Ecological benefits
- Water quality
 - Project cost
 - Partnerships
 - Watershed benefits

These categories were scored using methods developed for each category based on a combination of published studies and reports, erosion inventories, field visits, and scoring sheets from specific methodologies. Final tallies of scores for each category, using a two-tiered ranking system, were used to prioritize sites for restoration/remediation. Learn more at rpbcwd.org/CRAS.

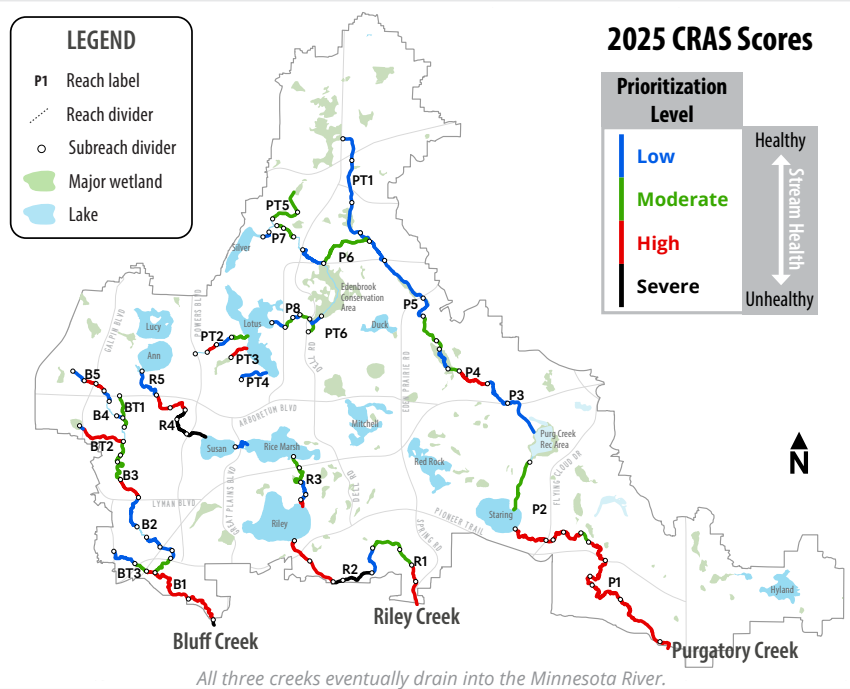
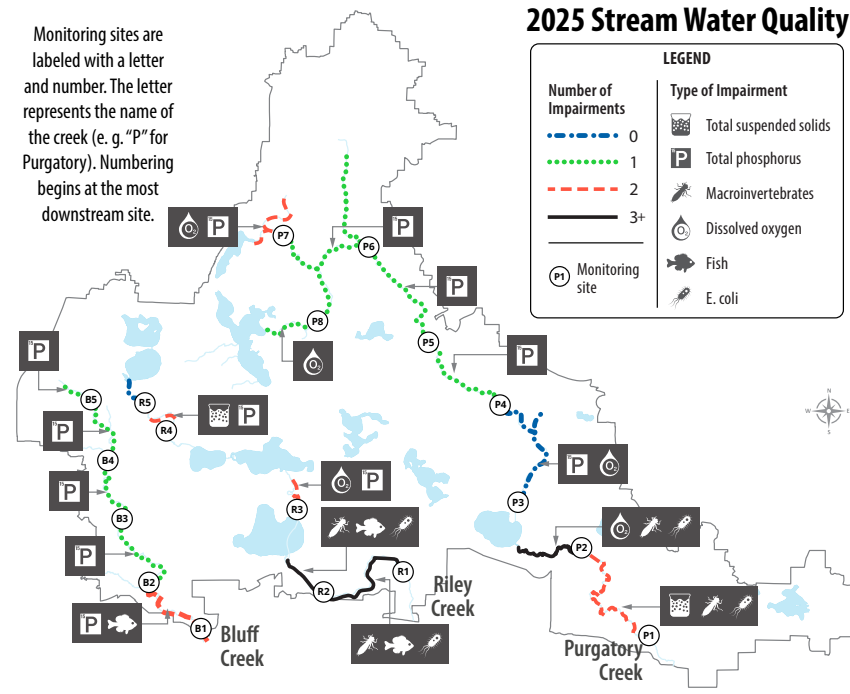
Severe Sites List

District staff use CRAS scores to identify the most degraded [creek sub-reaches](#) for restoration prioritization.

Reach Name	Subreach Name*	Location	Tier I Score	Tier I Rank	Tier II Score	Tier II Rank	Restoration Status
R4	R4E	Powers Blvd to Lake Susan	22	5	26	1	Planning stage
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R2	R2D	Upper Third between Dell Road and Eden Prairie Road	22	3	10	7	--

* Name codes: R=Riley Creek, P=Purgatory Creek, B=Bluff Creek; number=stretch designation; second letter=subreach designation (A-G)

2025 Stream Water Quality



Lake Ann

Located in Chanhassen, Lake Ann is at the headwaters of Riley Creek. Over the past 40 years, Lake Ann has consistently met the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency clean water standards.

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Lake Ann is classified as a "Deep Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet the standards set for deep lakes. This includes low phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.4 meters (4.6 feet) or greater.

Lake Ann Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Deep lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.04 mg/L	0.031 mg/L	Lake consistently meets standard. Slightly up from 2024 average.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 14 µg/L	17.425 µg/L	Lake did not meet standard. Higher average in 2025 likely due to heavy early spring rains flushing nutrients & sediments into the lake.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.4 meters	1.706 meters	Lake consistently meets standard. Down from historical average of 2.6 meters.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



Carp update: Staff continue to monitor Common Carp, an invasive species that harms water quality by destroying aquatic vegetation and stirring up lake bottom sediments. Carp biomass estimates have always been very low in Lake Ann and young of the year fish were not captured in 2025, indicating carp are not a significant issue in this lake.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	119 acres
Average lake depth	16.8 feet
Maximum lake depth	40 feet
MPCA lake classification	Deep lake
Watershed size	257 acres
Impervious surface	2% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury
Common fish	Bluegill, Northern Pike, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed Sunfish
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Common Carp, Brittle Naiad, Zebra Mussel

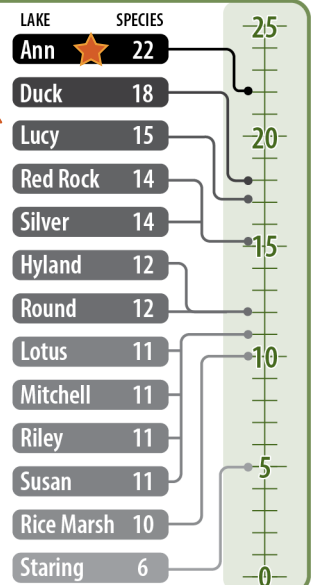


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Lake Ann** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Lake Ann Water Quality by the Numbers

For the past 40 years, Lake Ann has consistently met the clean water standards set by the MPCA. The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for deep lakes.

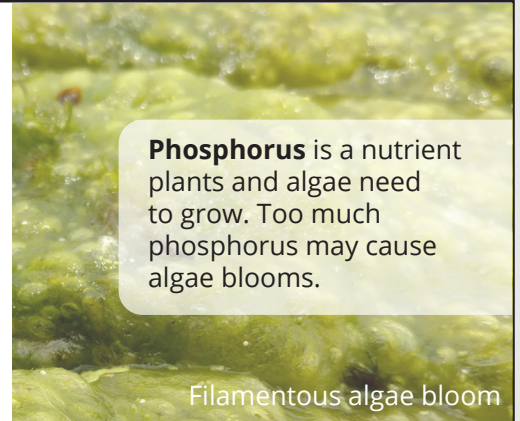
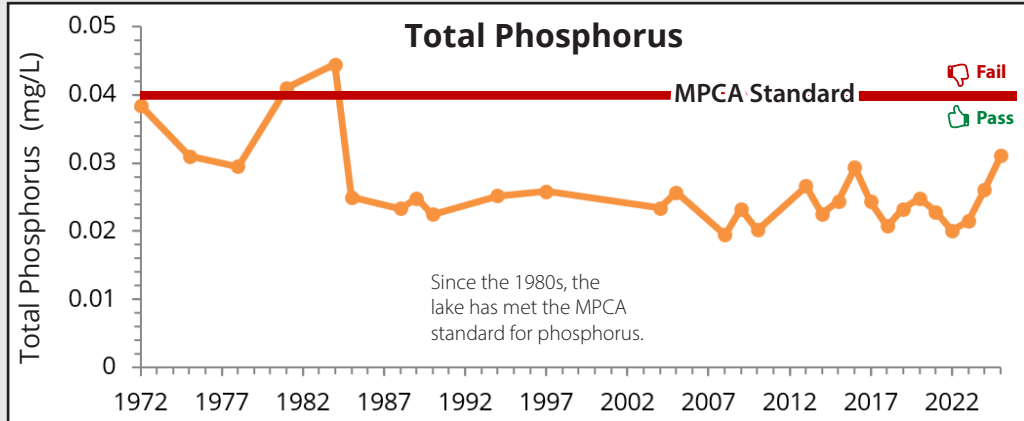
2025

Water Quality
Report Card

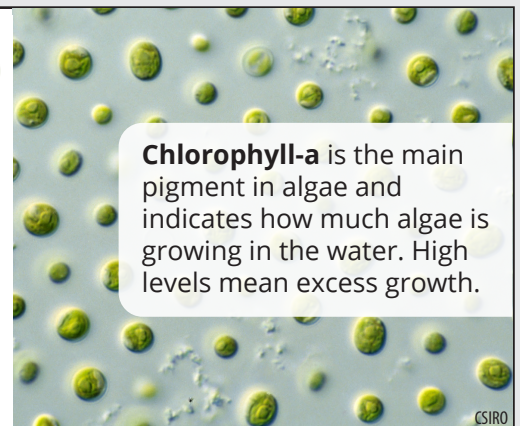
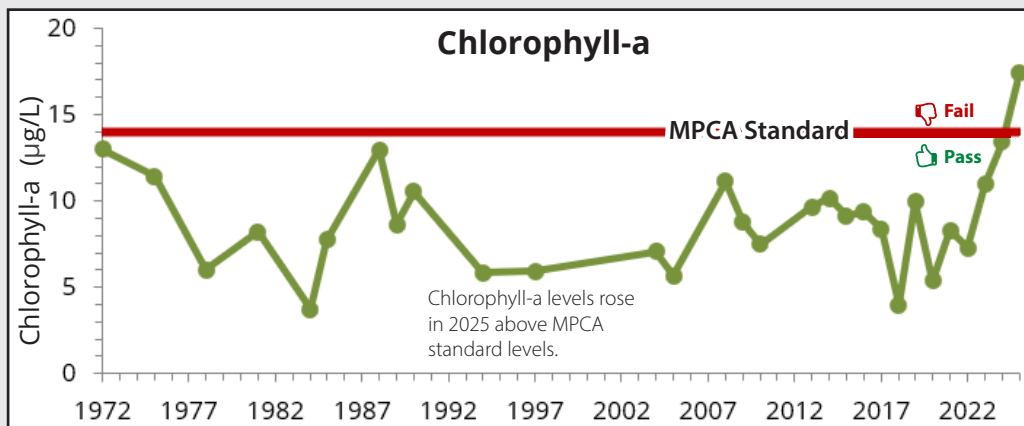
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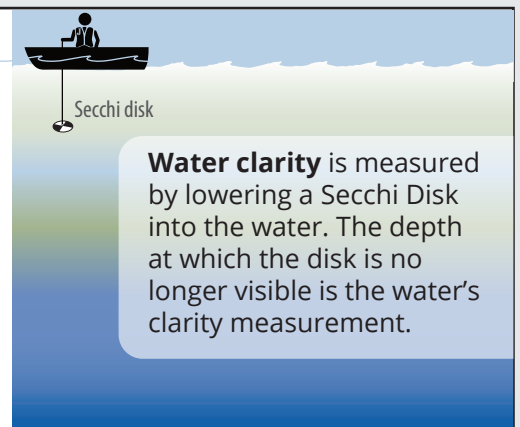
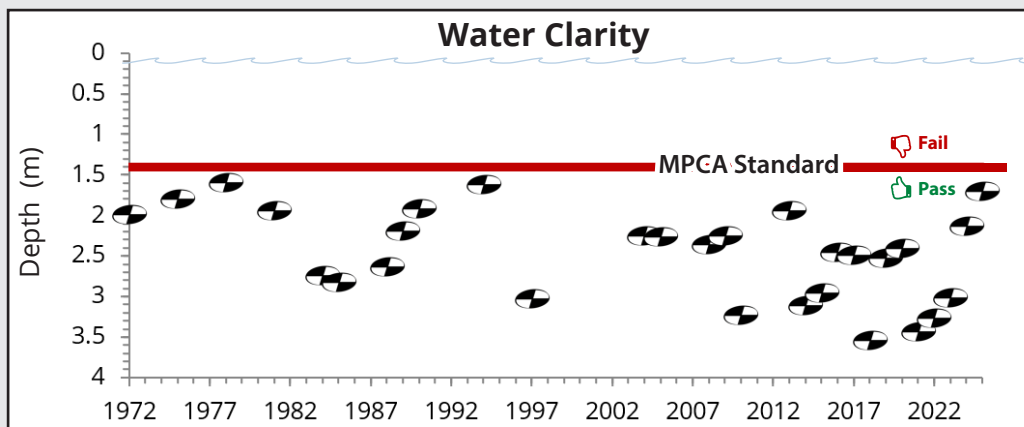
Trends Over Time: 1972-present



Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.



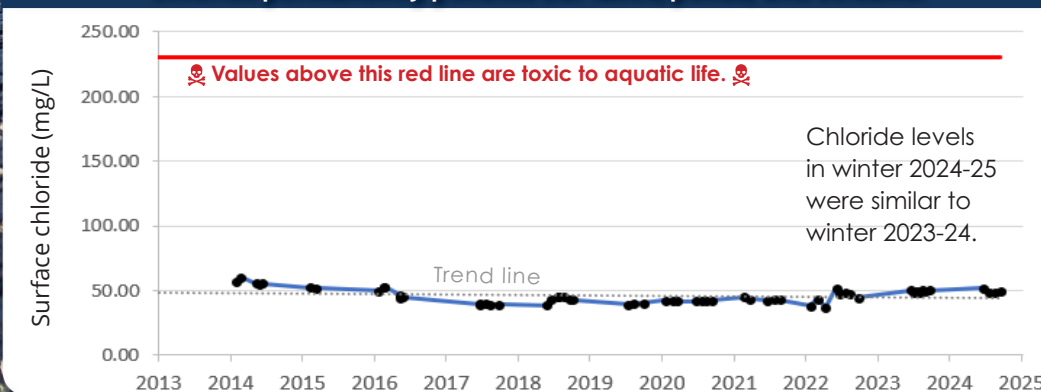
Chlorophyll-a is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.



Water clarity is measured by lowering a Secchi Disk into the water. The depth at which the disk is no longer visible is the water's clarity measurement.

Chloride: A Growing Concern

Chloride permanently pollutes our lakes, ponds, and streams!



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ONE TEASPOON
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FOREVER

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Duck Lake

Located in Eden Prairie, Duck Lake is one of the District's shallow lakes. Since 2011, it has seen improvement in water quality and met the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's clean water standards for several years.

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Duck Lake is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Duck Lake Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.060 mg/L	No significant trend. Phosphorus has increased in 2025 and did not meet the standard.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	19.700 µg/L	No significant trend. Chlorophyll-a has increased in 2025, but remains below the MPCA standard.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	1.836 meters	No significant trend. Lake has met clarity standard for 12 years.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



Plant update: Duck Lake was treated with herbicide for Eurasian watermilfoil in 2025, with a treatment area totaling 5.1 acres. The amount of vegetation present in Duck Lake may have impacted water clarity readings to be lower than actual measurement.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	41 acres
Average lake depth	3.4 feet
Maximum lake depth	8 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	233 acres
Impervious surface	20% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Not listed
Common fish	Bluegill, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Green Sunfish
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Purple Loosestrife, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Goldfish

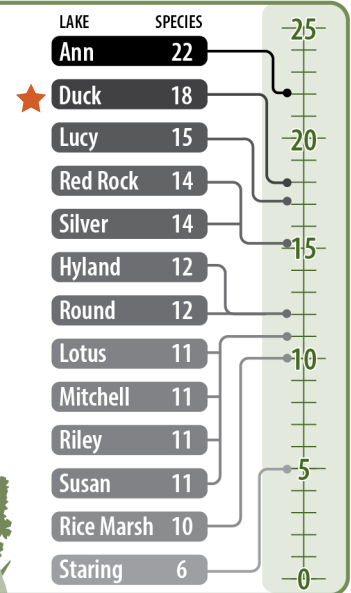


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Duck Lake** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Duck Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes. Over the last decade, Duck Lake has typically met the clean water standards set by the MPCA.

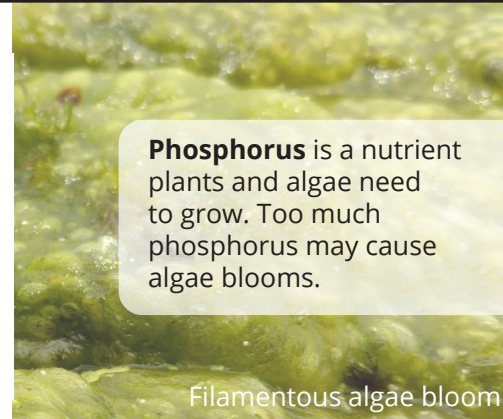
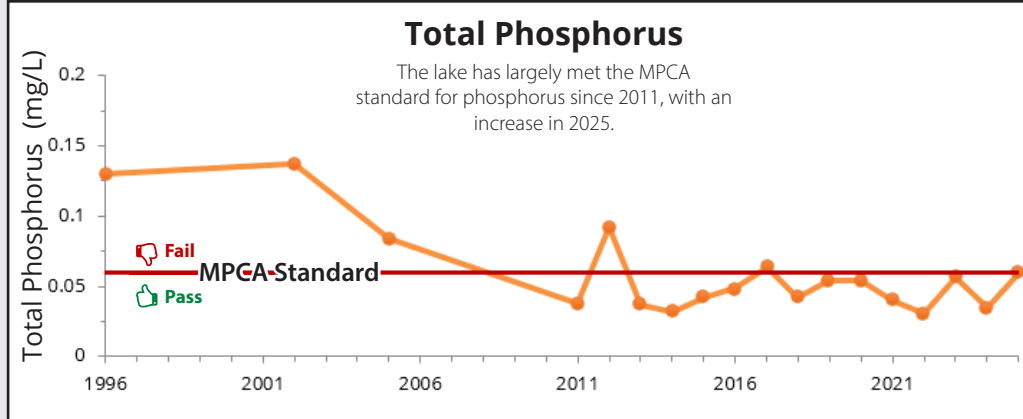
2025

Water Quality
Report Card

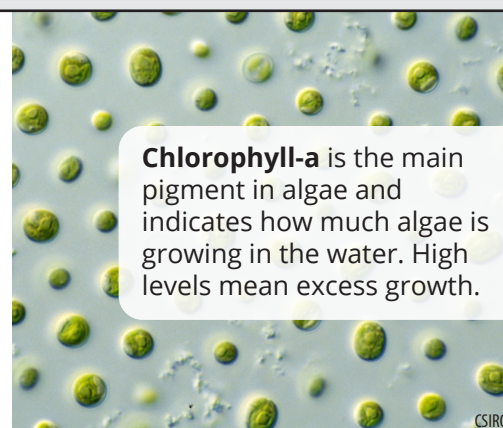
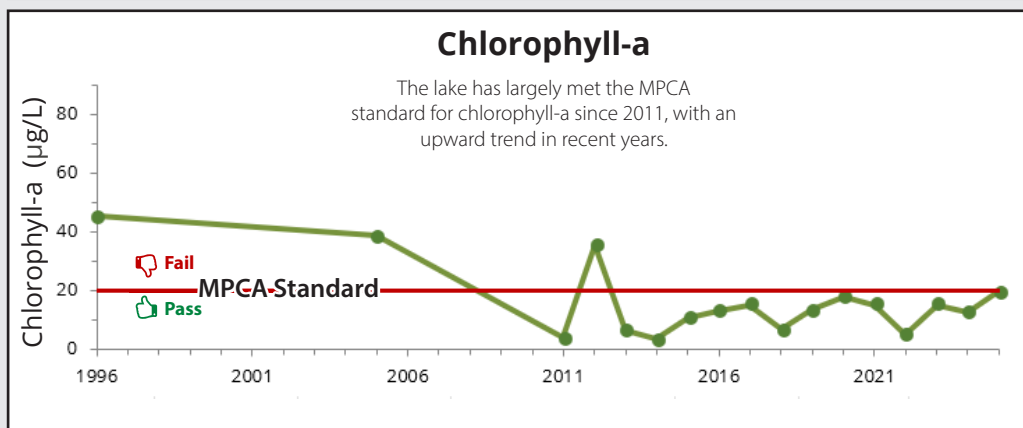
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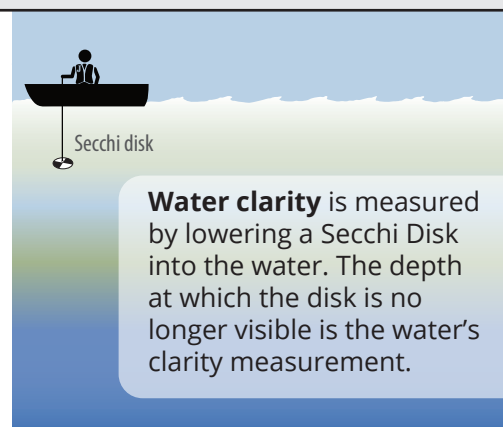
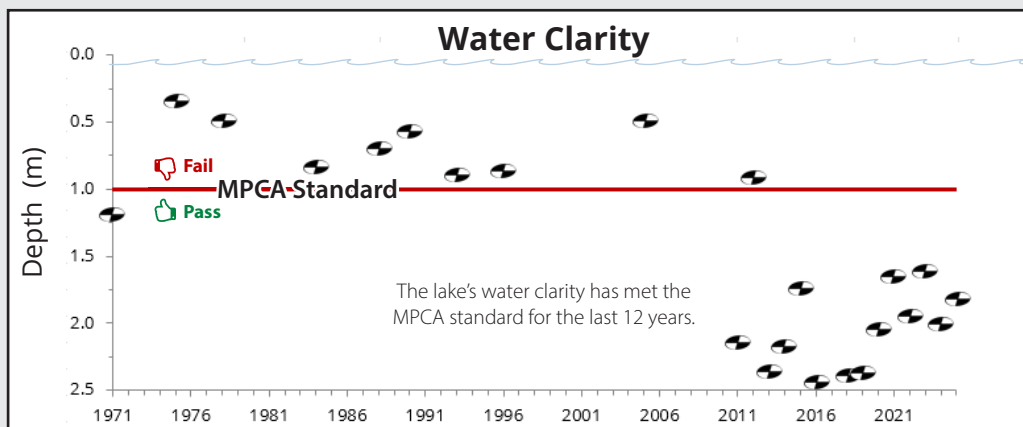
Trends Over Time: 1972-present



Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.



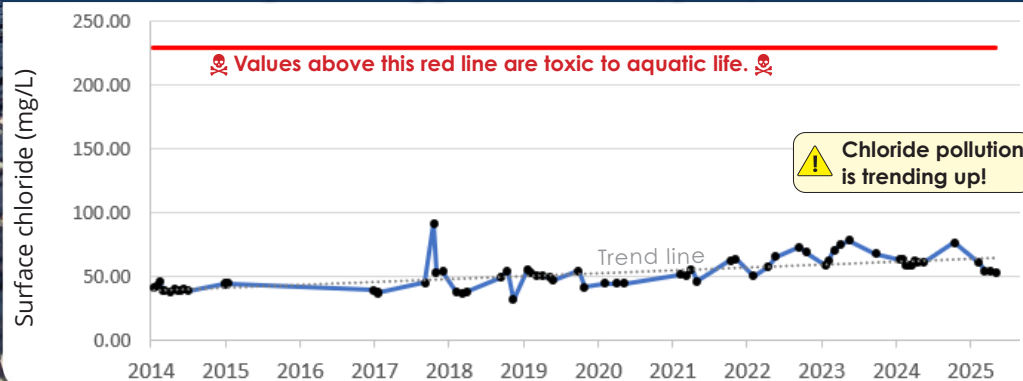
Chlorophyll-a is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.



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Hyland Lake

Located in Bloomington, Hyland Lake is surrounded by Hyland Lake Park Reserve, a Three Rivers Park District facility. Visitors can paddle the lake in the summer, hike nearby trails, and ski in the winter.

During June through September of each year, Three Rivers Park District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Hyland Lake is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Hyland Lake Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.035 mg/L	The lake has consistently met the standard since first alum dose in 2019. Three Rivers Park District applied a second alum dose in 2022.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	5.446 µg/L	Since the 2019 alum treatment, levels have been decreasing.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	2.234 meters	Clarity has improved since the 2019 alum treatment.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



Plant update: After four consecutive years of herbicide treatment, Hyland Lake was not treated in 2025. Native plants have expanded to 94% of the littoral areas on Hyland Land, with a significant reduction seen in invasive Curly-leaf pondweed. The number of native species increased to 12 compared to 9 in 2024.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	84 acres
Average lake depth	7.5 feet
Maximum lake depth	12 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	922 acres
Impervious surface	17% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Nutrients

Common fish
Bluegill, Black Crappie, Walleye, Black Bullhead, Largemouth Bass

Invasive species
Curly-leaf Pondweed

Great news!

Hyland Lake's 10-year water quality average is meeting standards, so the lake is in process of removal from the nutrient category of the MPCA Impaired Waters List.

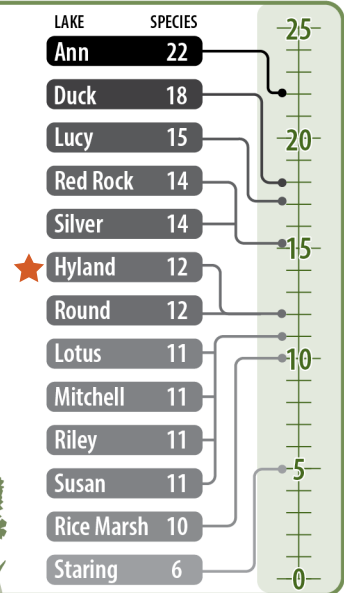


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Hyland Lake** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Hyland Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2025

The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes. Three Rivers Park District provides most of the water quality and plant survey data for Hyland Lake.

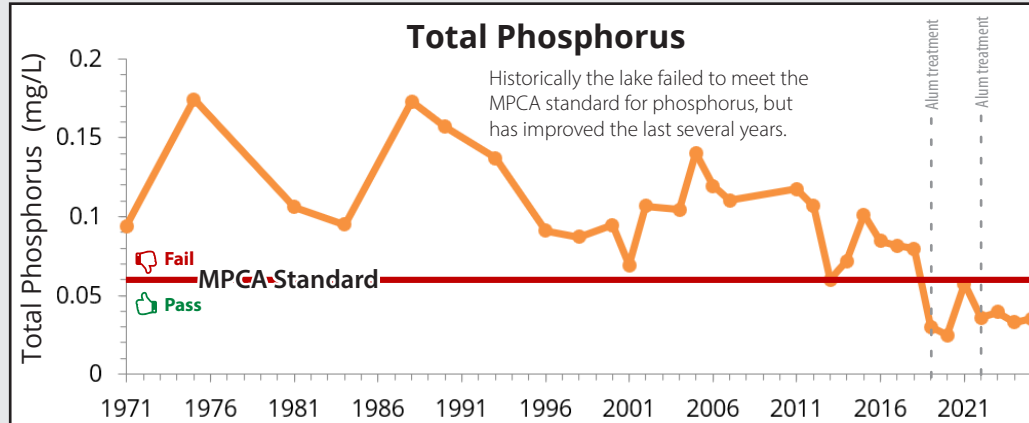


Water Quality Report Card

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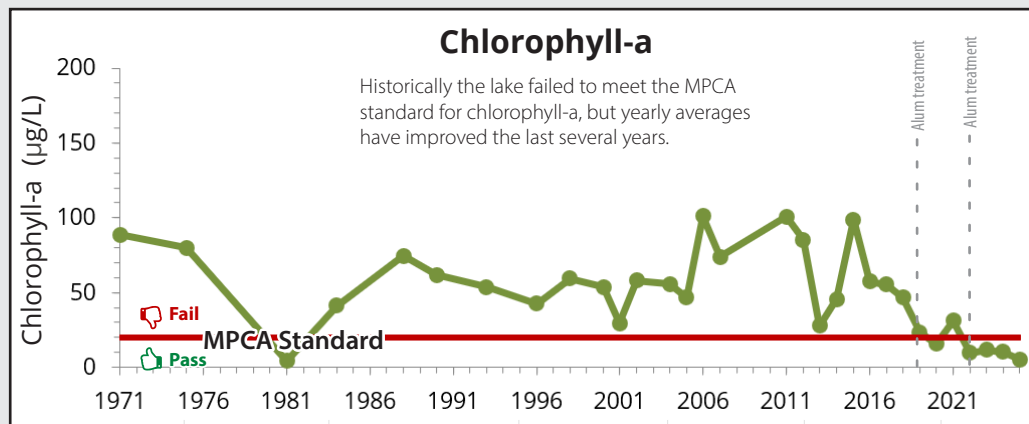
Trends Over Time: 1972-present



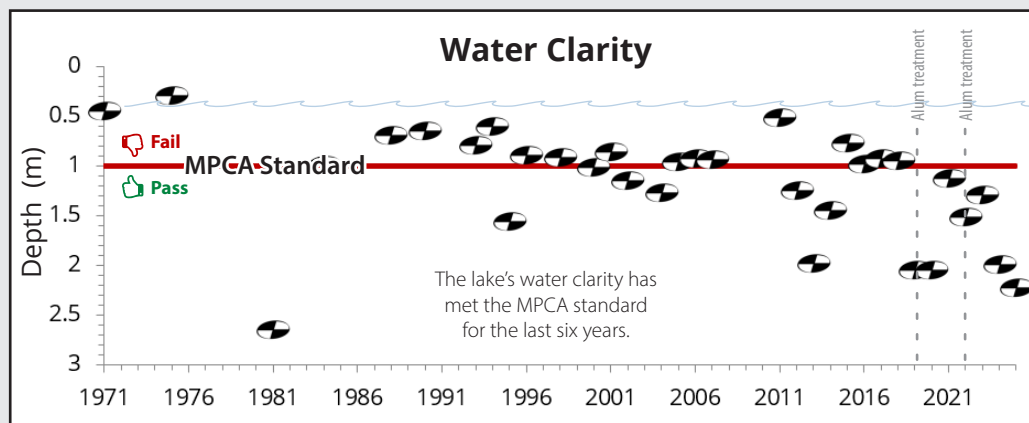
Hyland Lake received alum treatments in 2019 & 2022. Alum limits the availability of phosphorus in lakes to control algae growth & improve water clarity.

Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.

Filamentous algae bloom



Chlorophyll-a is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.

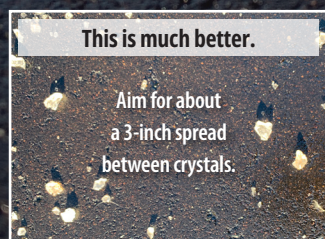


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- ❄️ Pile snow where it won't melt and refreeze on walkways

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ONE TEASPOON OF SALT POLLUTES 5 GALLONS OF WATER FOREVER



Lotus Lake

Located in eastern Chanhassen, Lotus Lake is one of three headwaters of Purgatory Creek. Water flows out of Lotus into the south fork of Purgatory Creek, which eventually meets up with the two other forks of the creek.

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Lotus Lake is classified as a "Deep Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must have very low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.4 meters (4.6 feet) or greater.

Lotus Lake Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Deep lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.04 mg/L	0.025 mg/L	Phosphorous decreased to meet MPCA standard in 2025. Alum treatment in Fall 2024 likely caused this decrease.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 14 µg/L	14.125 µg/L	Lake has <u>not</u> met the standard since monitoring began in 1972, but decreased in 2025.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.4 meters	2.081 meters	Lake has consistently met standard since 2013 except in 2020.

Water quality trends shown on the back page.



Carp update: Staff continue to monitor Common Carp, an invasive species that harms water quality by destroying aquatic vegetation and stirring up lake bottom sediments. No carp were caught while electrofishing in 2025, indicating carp are not an issue currently.



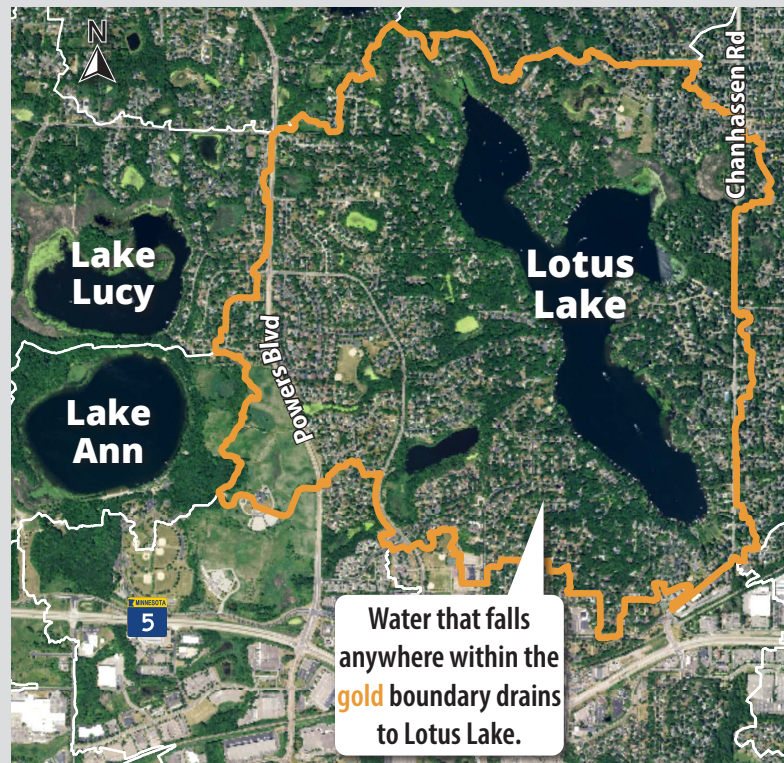
Plant update: Because Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) had become a dominant species, a whole-lake treatment was applied in 2024 to control this invasive plant. Post-treatment survey indicated no presence of EWM and that native White Water Lily and native Yellow Water Lily had become the most common aquatic plants.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	248 acres
Average lake depth	10.1 feet
Maximum lake depth	31 feet
MPCA lake classification	Deep lake
Watershed size	1,408 acres
Impervious surface	16% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury, nutrients, fish
Common fish	Bluegill, Yellow Bullhead, Walleye, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass
Invasive species	Eurasian Watermilfoil, Common Carp, Curly-leaf Pondweed, Brittle Naiad, Zebra mussel

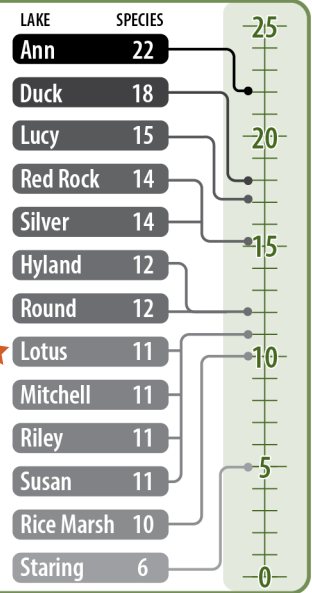


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Lotus Lake** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Lotus Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

For the last few years, Lotus Lake has consistently met the clean water standards set by the MPCA, except for Chlorophyll-a. The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for deep lakes.

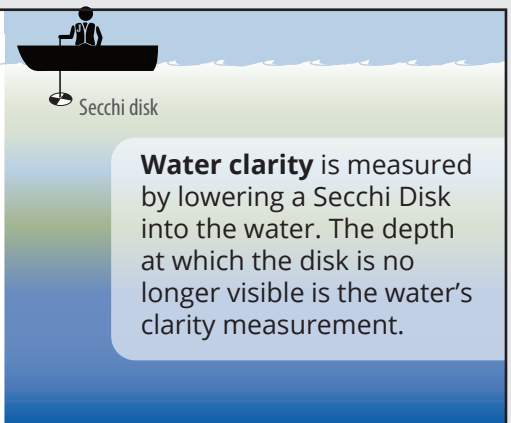
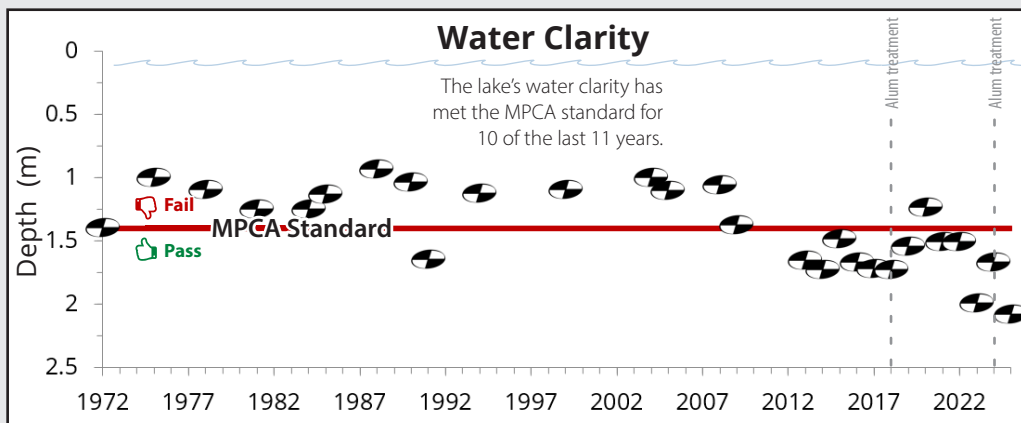
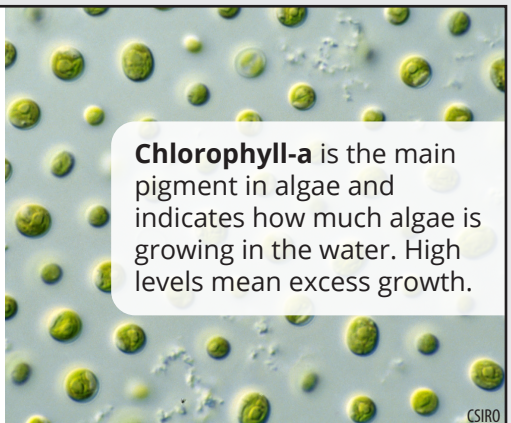
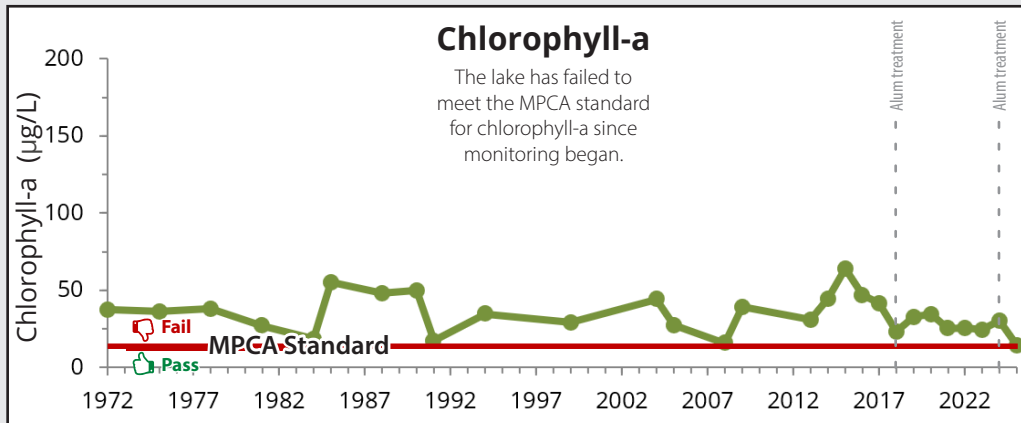
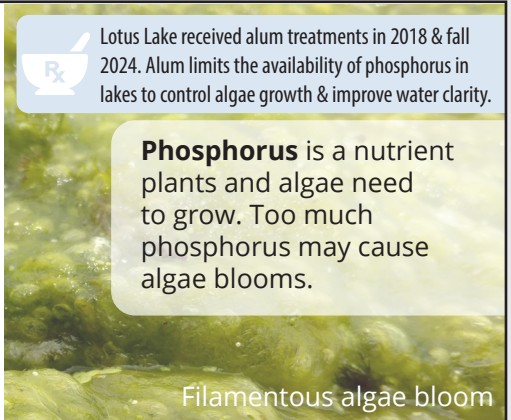
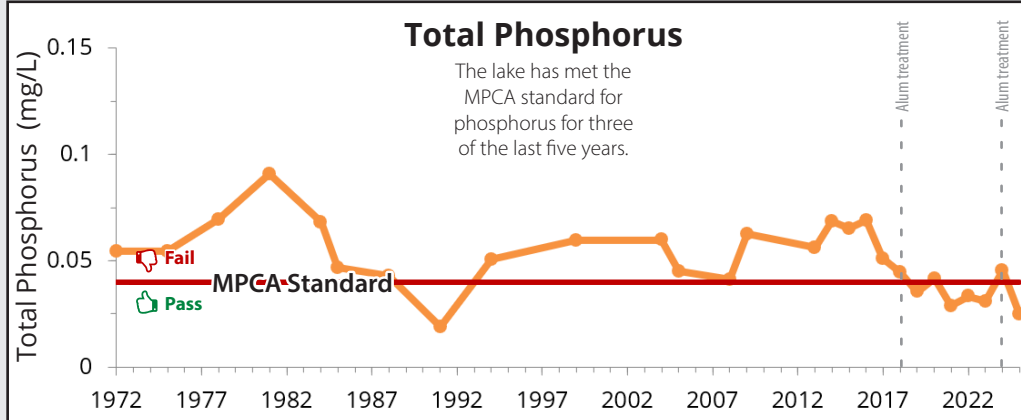
2025

Water Quality Report Card

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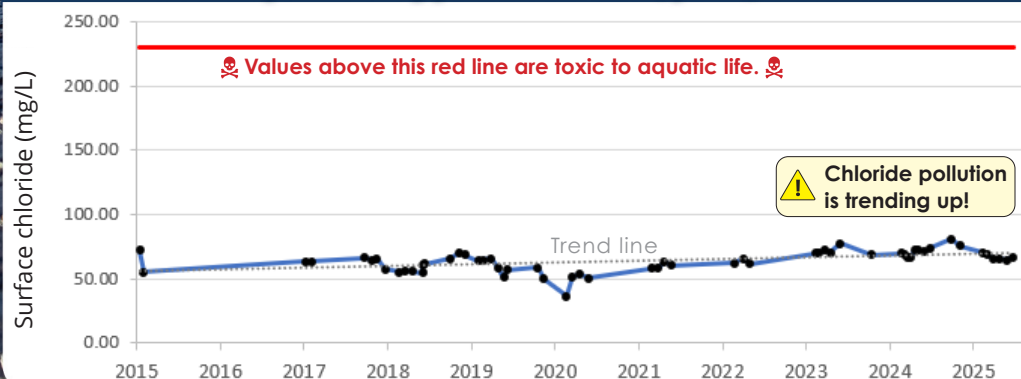
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Trends Over Time: 1972-present



Chloride: A Growing Concern

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Lake Lucy

Lake Lucy is the headwaters to Riley Creek. Water flows out of Lucy to Lake Ann and then to Riley Creek. On its way south to the Minnesota River, Riley Creek passes through Susan, Rice Marsh, and Riley lakes.

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Lake Lucy is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Lake Lucy Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.086 mg/L	The average total phosphorus level continued to rise in 2025, and the lake did not meet the standard.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	50.275 µg/L	After a few years of declining levels, chlorophyll-a returned to the level seen in 2015. This may be due to 2025 precipitation patterns.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	0.933 meters	Clarity is directly related to algae growth. Average clarity decreased and did not meet the standard.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



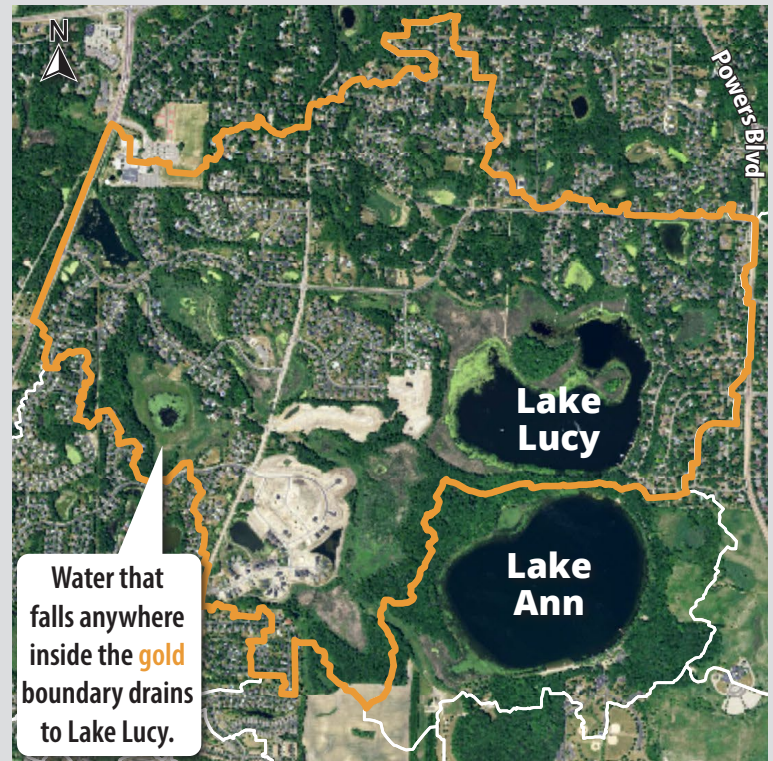
Carp update: Staff continue to monitor Common Carp, an invasive species that harms water quality by destroying aquatic vegetation and stirring up lake bottom sediments. In 2025, no carp were captured electrofishing in Lake Lucy, indicating carp are not currently a significant issue in this lake.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	88 acres
Average lake depth	6.5 feet
Maximum lake depth	20 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	988 acres
Impervious surface	14% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury
Common fish	Bluegill, Northern Pike, Yellow Bullhead, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed Sunfish
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Common Carp

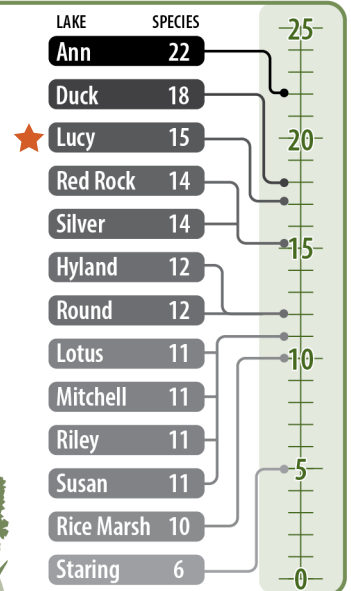


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Lake Lucy** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Lake Lucy Water Quality by the Numbers

Over the last few years, **Lake Lucy** has not met the clean water standards set by the MPCA. The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes.

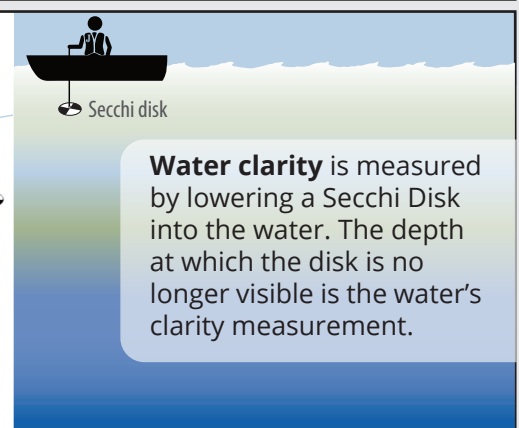
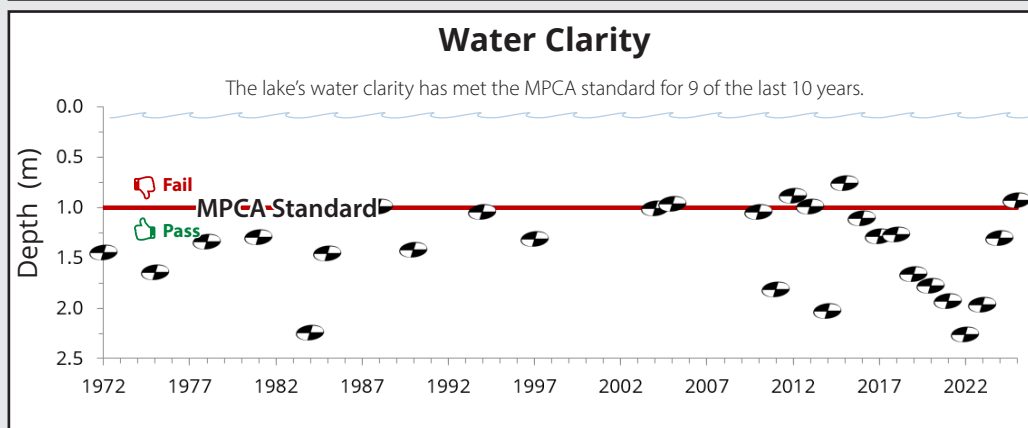
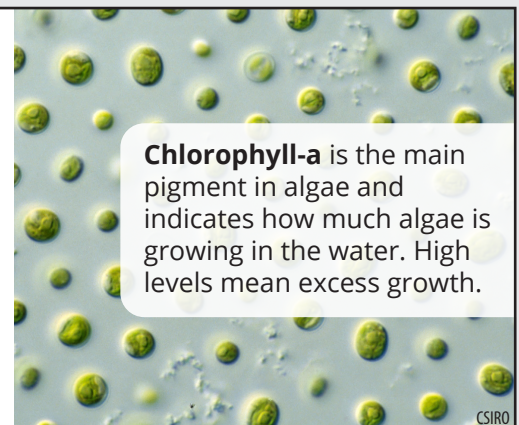
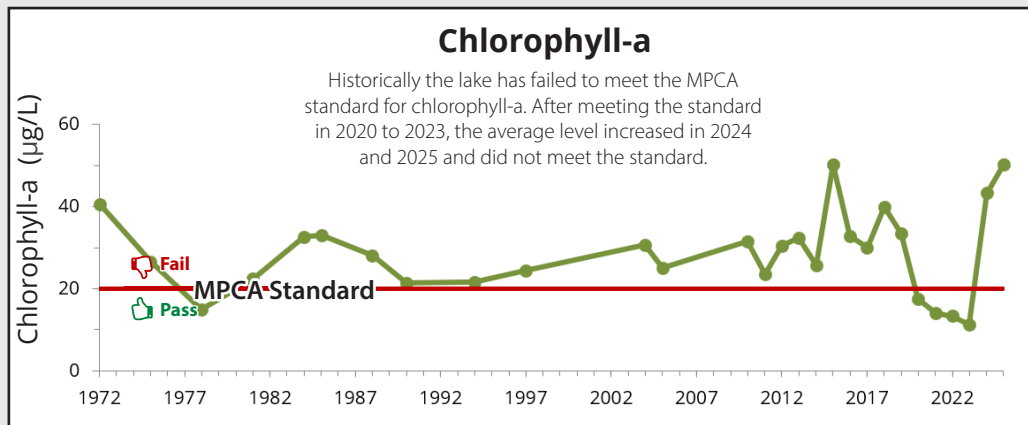
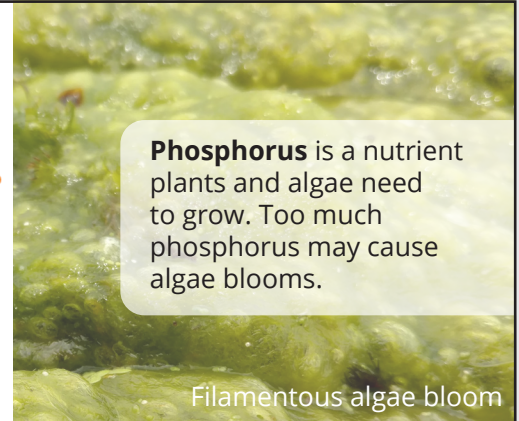
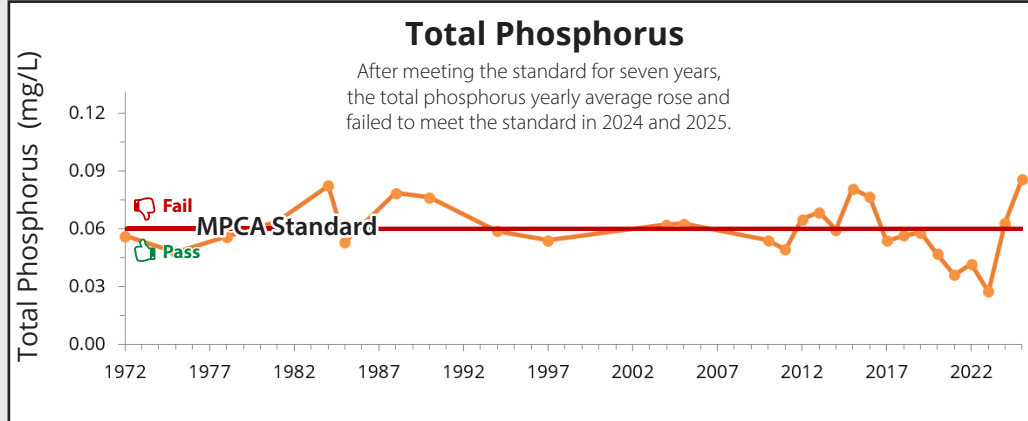
2025

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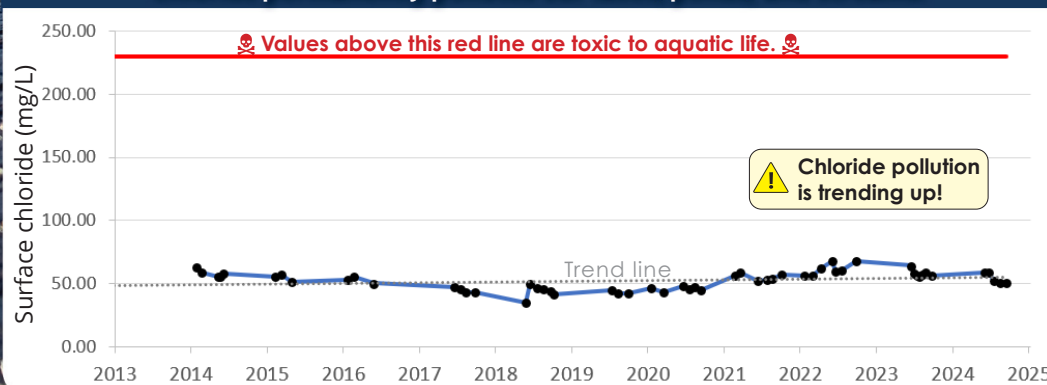


Trends Over Time: 1972-present



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Mitchell Lake

Located in Eden Prairie, Mitchell Lake is a part of the Purgatory Creek chain of lakes. During high water events it outflows through an overflow pipe to Red Rock Lake.

From June to September every year, City of Eden Prairie consultants visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Mitchell Lake is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Mitchell Lake Water Quality Snapshot			
Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.068 mg/L	In 2025, the lake did not meet the standard but improved from the 2024 average (0.072 mg/L).
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	33.4 µg/L	The lake has not met the standard since 2014, but the 2025 average improved from 2024 (62.0 µg/L).
Water Clarity	1.0 meter and greater	1.1 meters	Same average as 2024. No significant trend. The lake has frequently met the standard for the last 15 years.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



Plant update: In 2025, an RPBCWD consultant conducted a point intercept survey to evaluate plant diversity and density. Dominant species were coontail, yellow water lily, and Eurasian watermilfoil. In spring of 2025, RPBCWD treated 15.9 acres of the lake to control invasive curly-leaf pondweed.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	124 acres
Average lake depth	5.3 feet
Maximum lake depth	19 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	937 acres
Impervious surface	30% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury
Common fish	Bluegill, Black Bullhead, Black Crappie, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Purple Loosestrife, Brittle Naiad

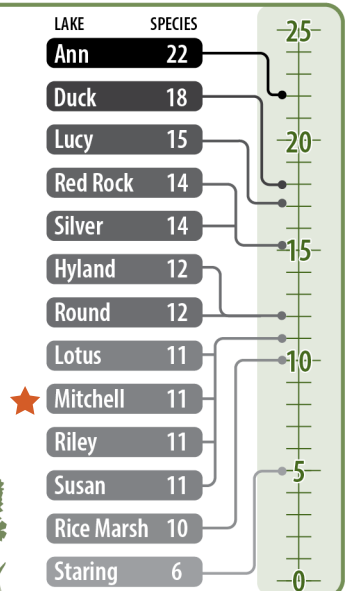


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

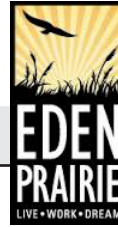
How does **Mitchell Lake** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Mitchell Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2025

The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for **shallow lakes**. For the last few years, the City of Eden Prairie has collected water quality data for Mitchell Lake.

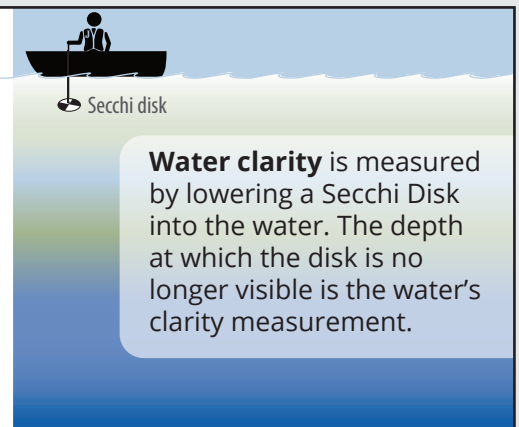
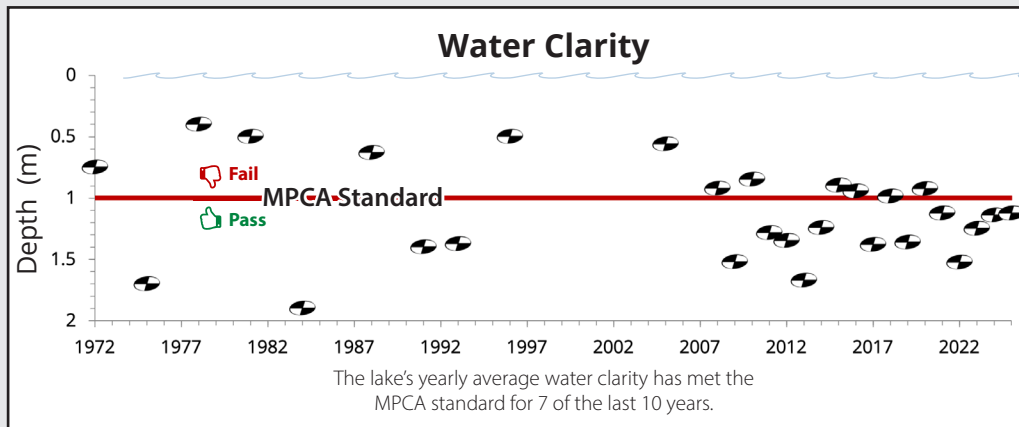
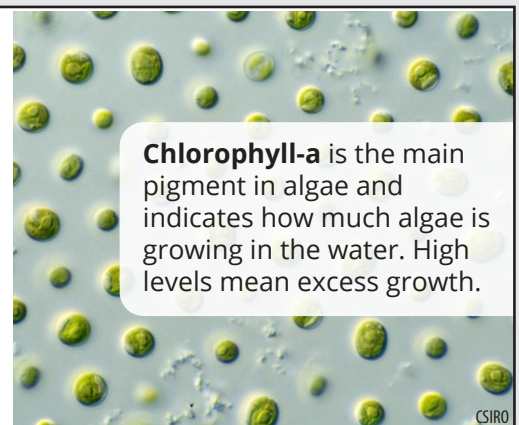
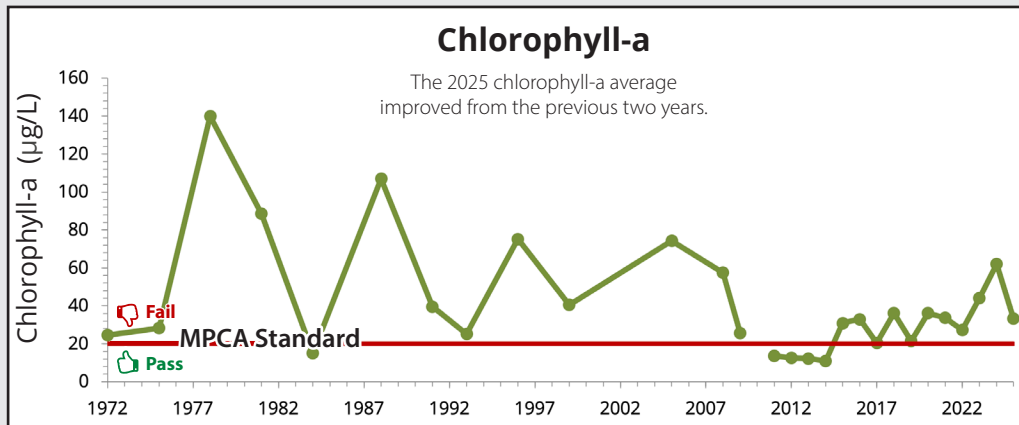
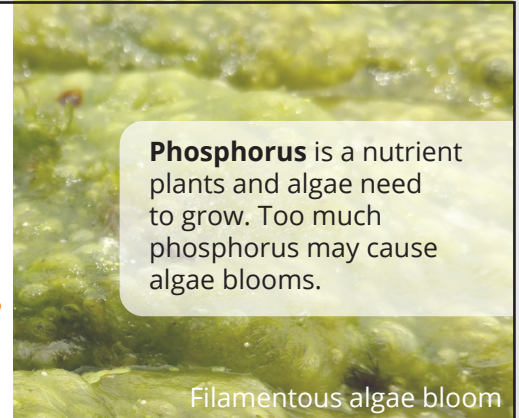
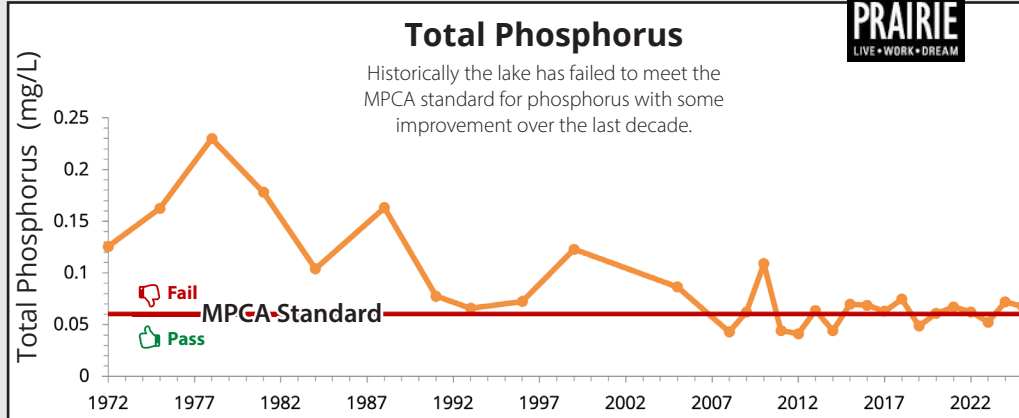


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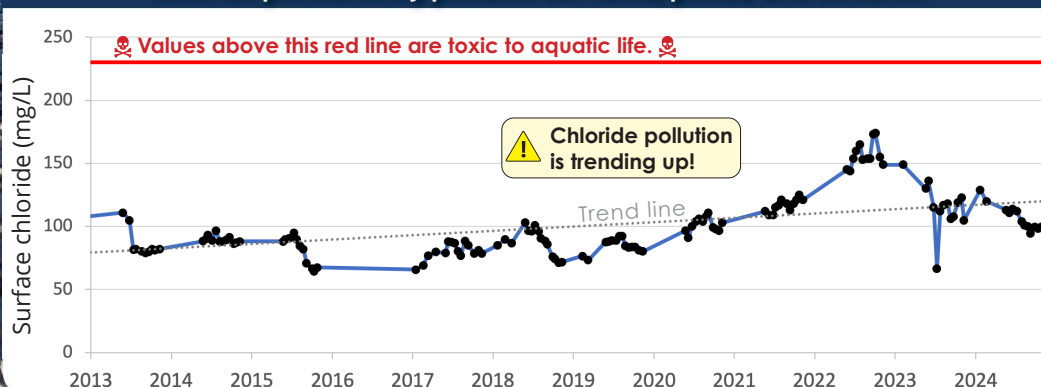


Trends Over Time: 1972-present



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Red Rock Lake

Located in Eden Prairie, Red Rock Lake is a part of the Purgatory Creek chain of lakes. During high water events it outflows through an overflow pipe to Staring Lake.

From June to September every year, City of Eden Prairie consultants visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Red Rock Lake is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Red Rock Lake Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.077 mg/L	The 2025 average improved from 2024 (0.082 mg/L) but still did not meet the standard. Early spring rains likely flushed TP-laden nutrients and sediments into the lake.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	65.9 µg/L	The 2025 average improved from 2024 (75.2 µg/L). The lake has not met the standard for the last 8 years.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	1.1 meters	The 2025 average improved from 2024 (0.9 m). The lake has met the standard 9 out of the last 10 years.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



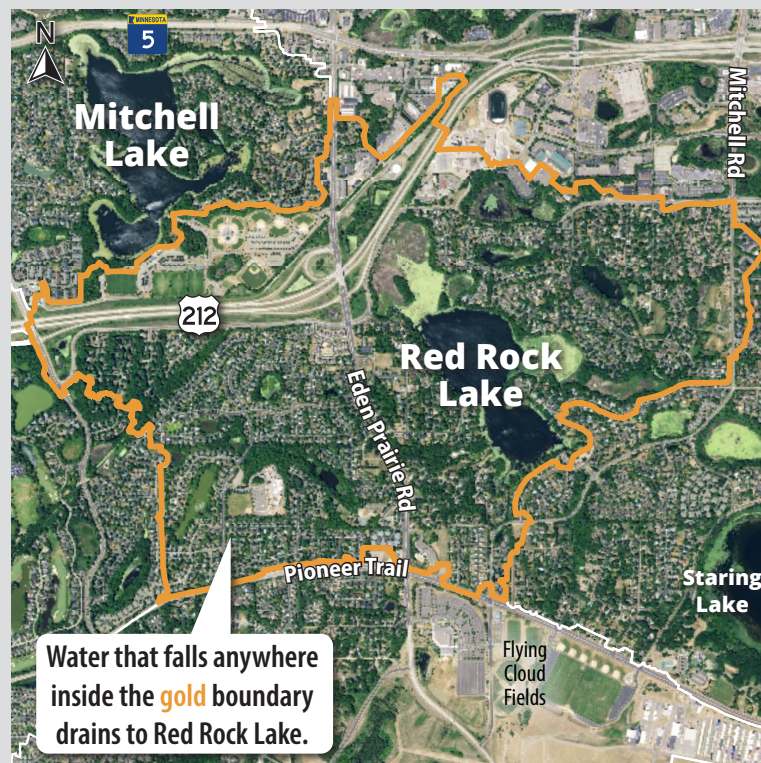
Plant update: In 2025, an RPBCWD consultant conducted a point intercept survey to evaluate plant diversity and density. Dominant species were coontail, yellow water lily, and leafy pondweed. In spring of 2025, RPBCWD treated 12.8 lake acres to control invasive curly-leaf pondweed.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Size	121 acres
Average depth	4.7 feet
Max depth	19 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	1,286 acres
Impervious surface	25% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury
Common fish	Bluegill, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed

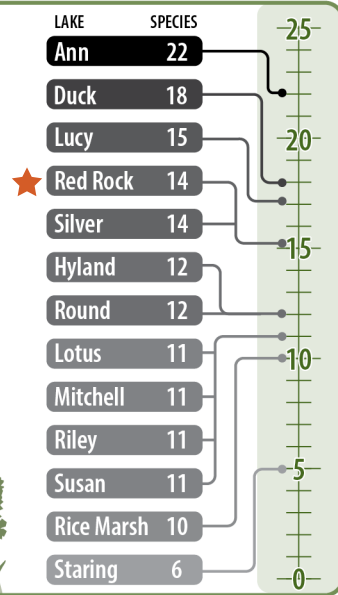


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Red Rock Lake** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Red Rock Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2025

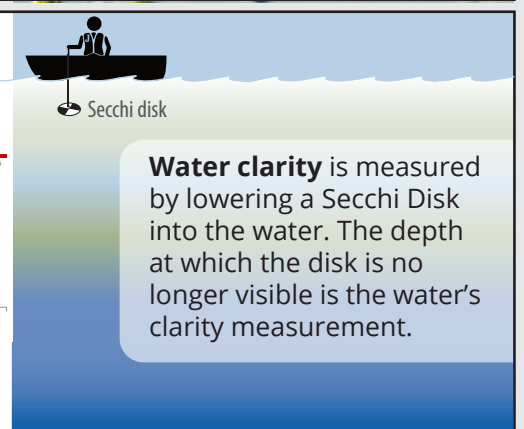
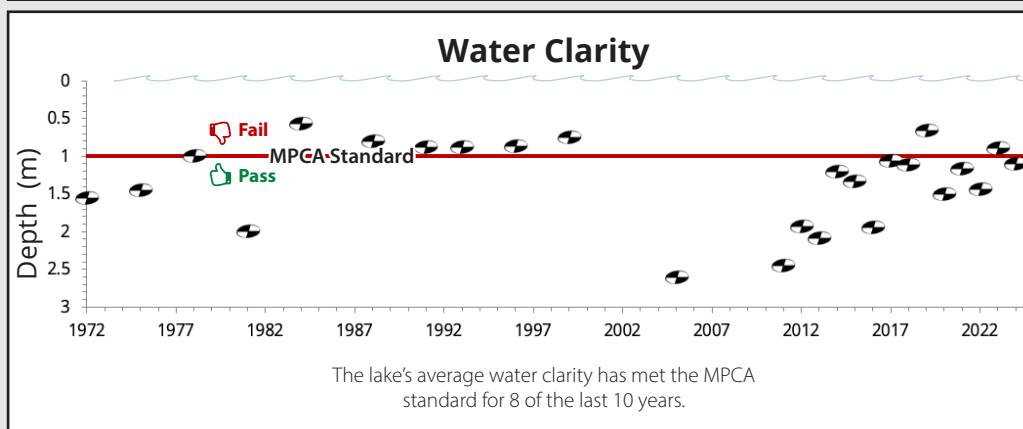
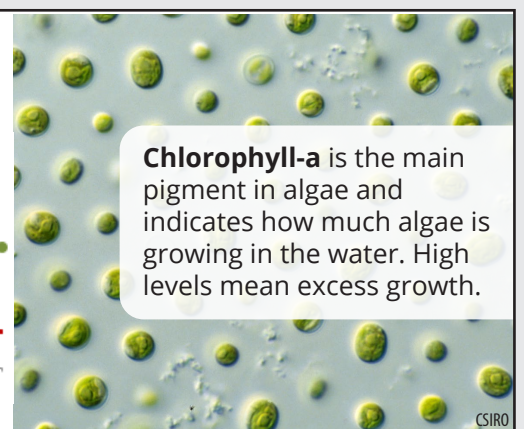
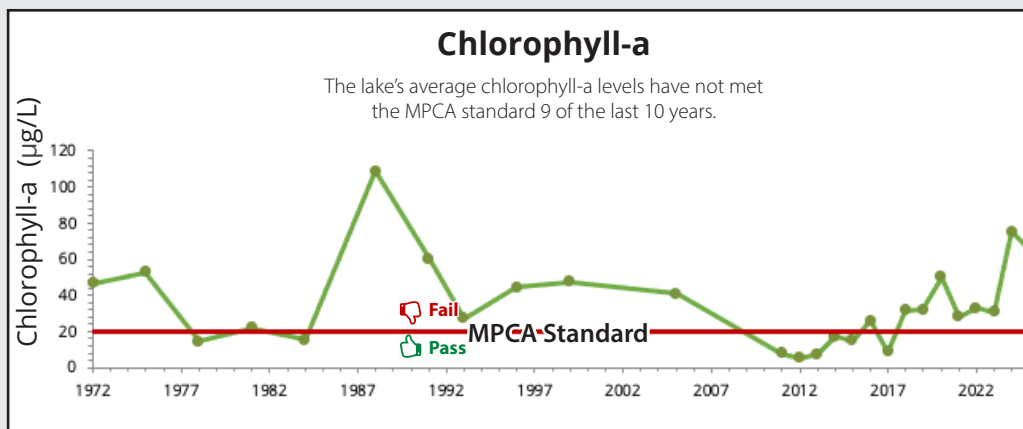
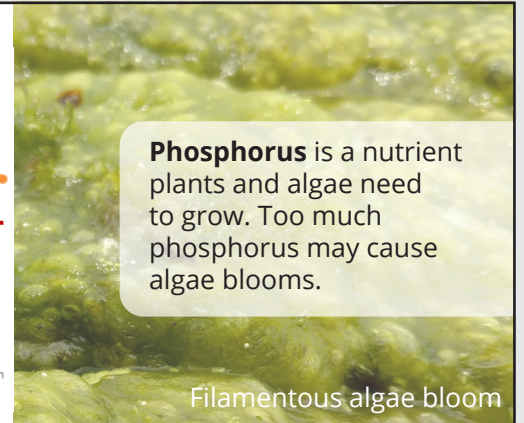
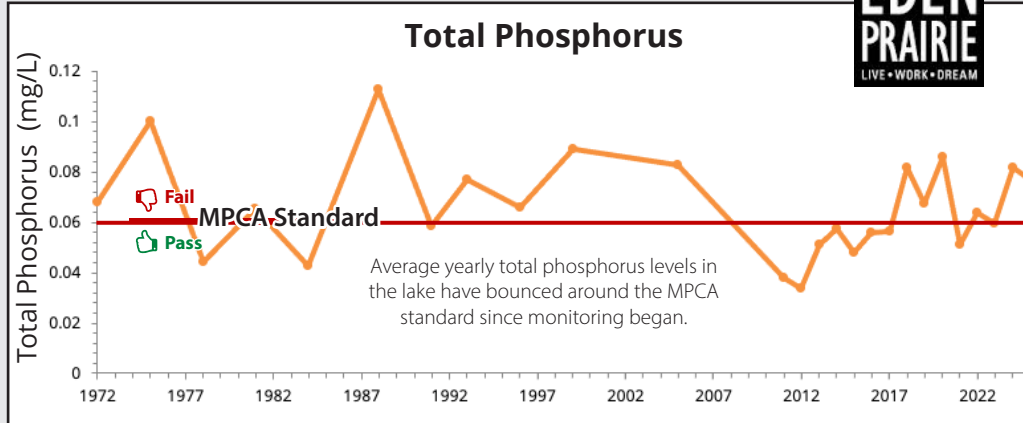
The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for **shallow lakes**. For the last few years, the City of Eden Prairie has collected water quality data for Red Rock Lake.

Water Quality Report Card

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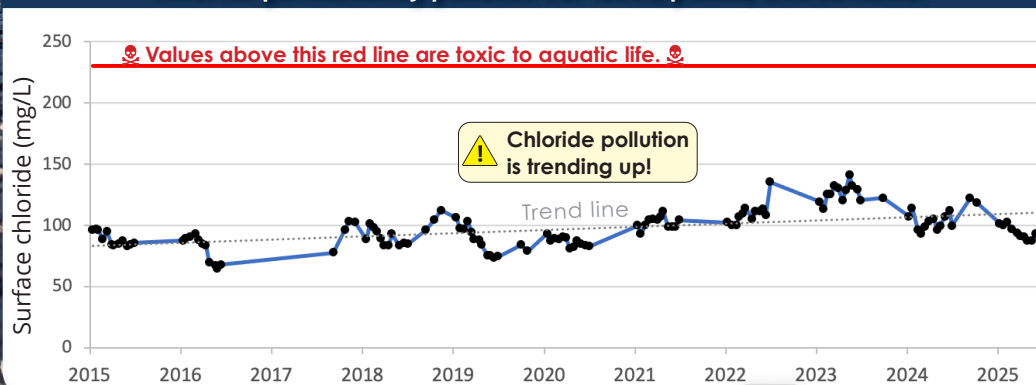


Trends Over Time: 1972-present



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Rice Marsh Lake

Located in both Eden Prairie and Chanhassen, Rice Marsh Lake is aerated in the winter. This management practice helps keep bluegill sunfish alive so that they can feed on invasive carp eggs in the spring.

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Rice Marsh Lake is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality Snapshot			
Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.100 mg/L	In 2025, the lake continued to not meet the MPCA standard. The lake has met the standard for 5 of the last 8 years.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	25.08 µg/L	Chlorophyll-a levels tripled in 2025 and did not meet the standard.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	1.76 meters	The lake has consistently met the clarity standard since the early 2000s.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



Carp update: Electrofishing surveys occurred on Rice Marsh Lake in 2025 to assess adult biomass. Very low numbers of large adult carp were captured indicating carp are not currently impacting the lake. The aeration unit is operated every winter to prevent a winterkill and carp reproduction which has been successful.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	83 acres
Average lake depth	5 feet
Maximum lake depth	11 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	966 acres
Impervious surface	32% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Nutrients

Common fish Bluegill, Northern Pike, Black Crappie, Yellow Bullhead, Pumpkinseed Sunfish

Invasive species Curly-leaf Pondweed, Purple Loosestrife, Common Carp

Great news!

Because Rice Marsh Lake's 10-year water quality averages meet shallow lake standards, the District is requesting that the MPCA removes it from the Impaired Waters List.

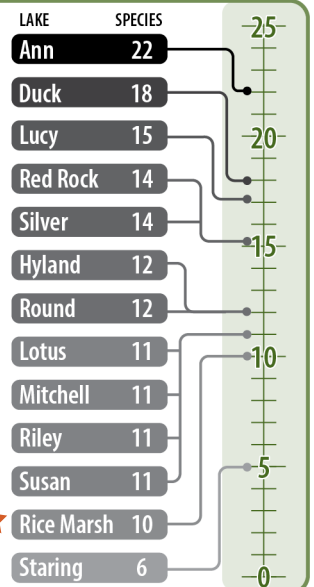


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does Rice Marsh Lake compare to other lakes in the District in number of native plant species?



Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality by the Numbers 2025

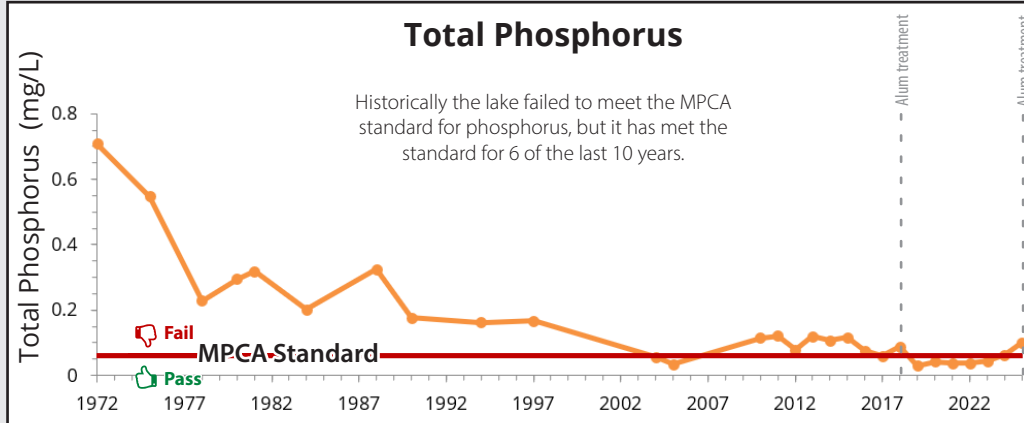
Over the last few years, Rice Marsh Lake has met the clean water standards set by the MPCA, with some changes in 2025. The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the

Water Quality Report Card

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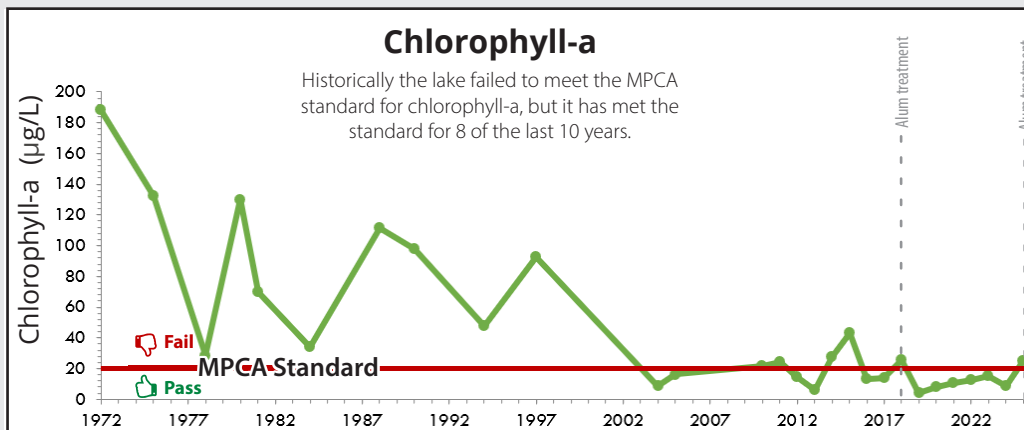
Trends Over Time: 1972-present



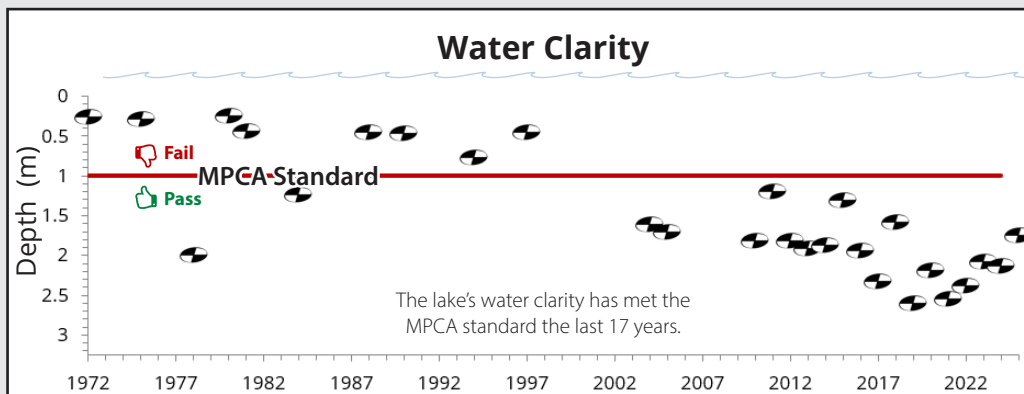
Rice Marsh Lake was treated with alum in 2018. Alum reduces phosphorus to control algae & improve clarity. A 2nd treatment occurred in fall 2025.

Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.

Filamentous algae bloom



Chlorophyll-a is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.

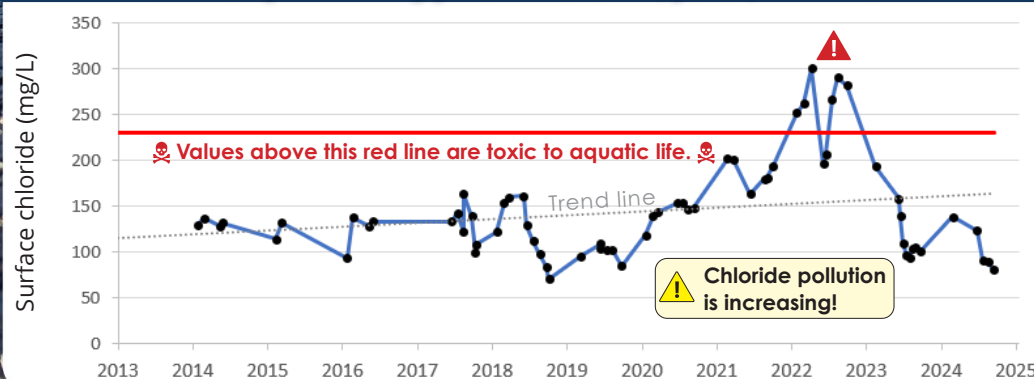


Secchi disk

Water clarity is measured by lowering a Secchi Disk into the water. The depth at which the disk is no longer visible is the water's clarity measurement.

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Lake Riley

At 297 acres and average depth of 23 ft, Lake Riley is the largest lake in the Watershed District. It is located on the boundary of Chanhassen and Eden Prairie and is a popular summer recreation spot.

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Lake Riley is classified as a "Deep Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must have very low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.4 meters (4.6 feet) or greater.

Lake Riley Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Deep lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.04 mg/L	0.033 mg/L	Since its first alum treatment in 2016, the lake has consistently met the standard.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 14 µg/L	31.1 µg/L	Since its first alum treatment in 2016, the lake has consistently met the standard. The 2025 chlorophyll-a average doubled and did not meet standard.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.4 meters	2.0 meters	The lake has consistently met the clarity standard since 2014.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



Plant update: In 2025 a treatment was applied to control Curly-leaf Pondweed. A survey in late summer identified 13 species, 11 of which were native. 2024 treatments resulted in an increased of plant density, plant depth, and littoral coverage. In 2024 Eurasian Watermilfoil had increased in 2024 and was treated in 2025. The most abundant species in 2025 were coontail and water star grass

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	297 acres
Average lake depth	23 feet
Maximum lake depth	49 feet
MPCA lake classification	Deep lake
Watershed size	1,776 acres
Impervious surface	18% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury, fish, nutrients
Common fish	Bluegill, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Yellow Bullhead, Black Crappie
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Zebra Mussels

Great news!

Because Lake Riley's 10-year water quality averages meet deep lake standards, the District is requesting that the MPCA removes it from the Impaired Waters List for nutrients.

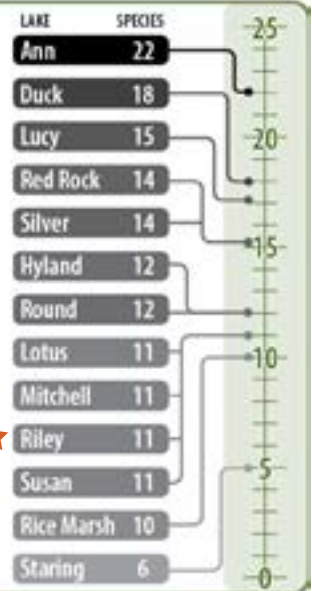


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Riley Lake** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Lake Riley Water Quality by the Numbers

2025

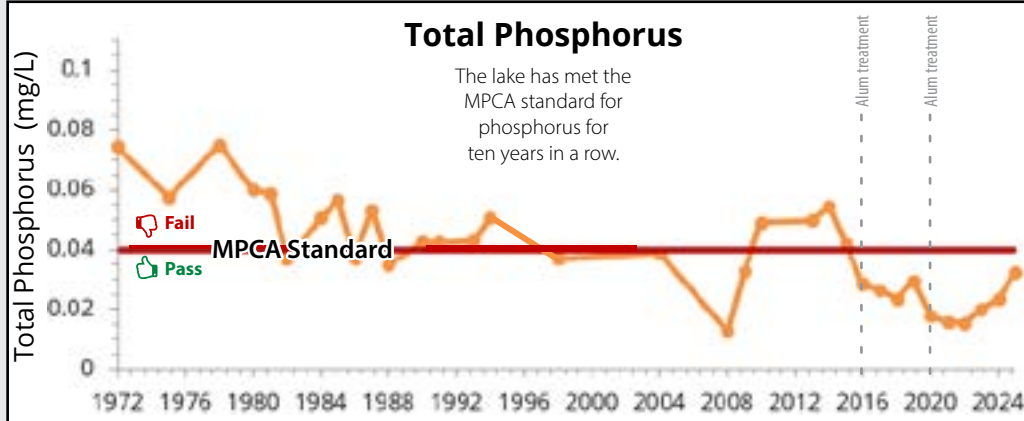
For the last few years, Lake Riley has consistently met the clean water standards set by the MPCA. The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for deep lakes.

Water Quality Report Card

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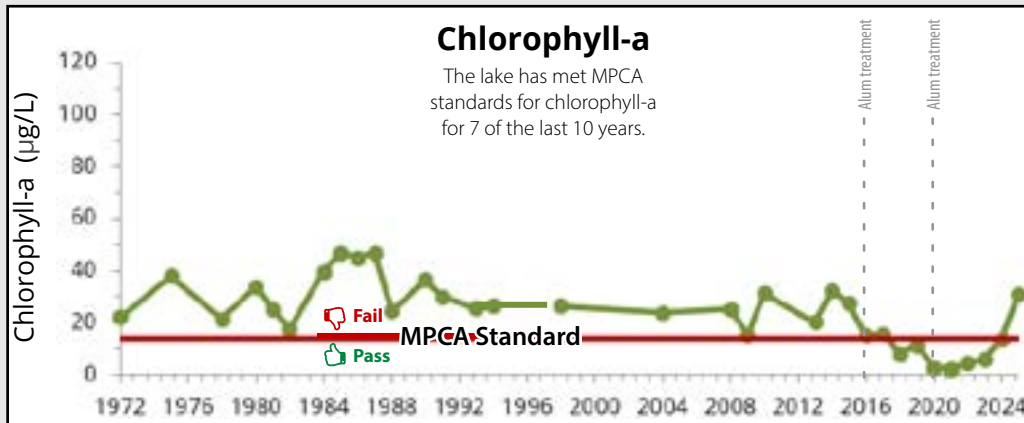
Trends Over Time: 1972-present



Riley Lake received an alum treatment in 2016 and 2020. Alum limits the availability of phosphorus in lakes to control algae growth & improve water clarity.

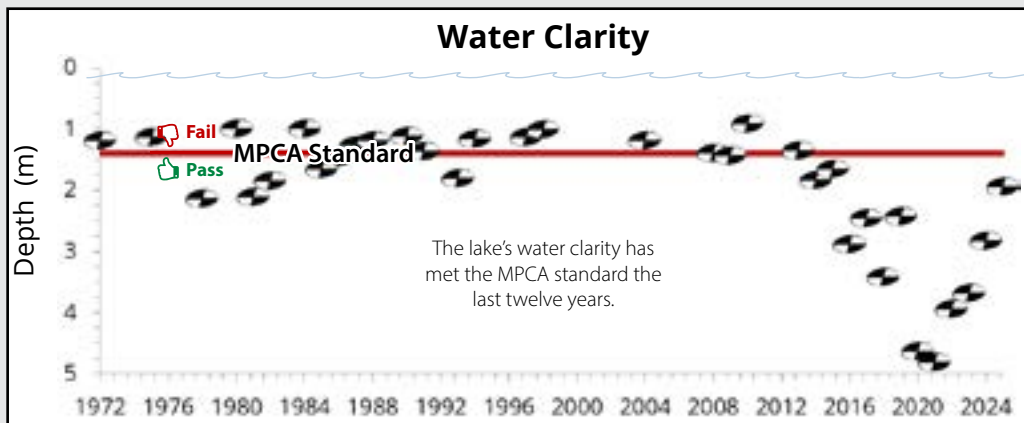
Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.

Filamentous algae bloom



Chlorophyll-a is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.

CSIRO

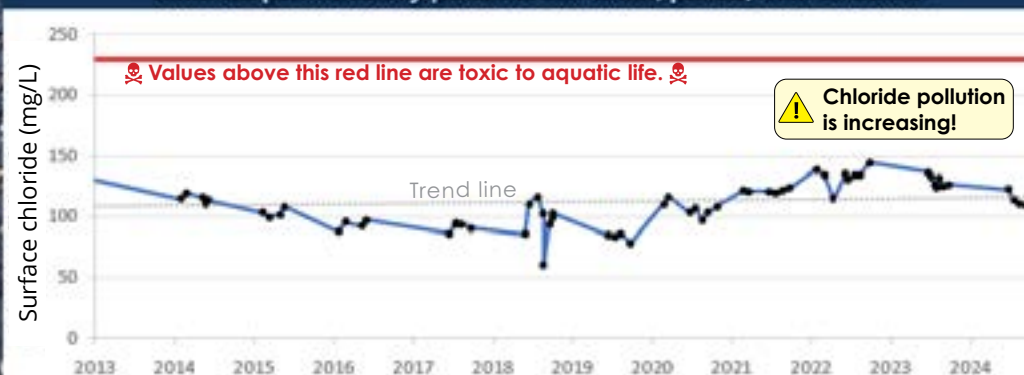


Secchi disk

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Round Lake

Located in Eden Prairie, Round Lake is a part of the Purgatory Creek Chain of Lakes. With a park and trail system around the lake, it is a popular recreation spot.

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Round Lake is classified as a "Deep Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must have very low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.4 meters (4.6 feet) or greater.

Round Lake Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Deep lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.04 mg/L	0.036 mg/L	Since the alum treatment in 2012, the lake has consistently met the standard.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 14 µg/L	14.4 µg/L	The lake has consistently met the standard, however the 2025 average was above the standard, though still a decrease from 2024.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.4 meters	2.3 meters	The lake has consistently met the clarity standard since the 2012 alum treatment.

Water quality trends shown on the back page.



Plant update: In 2025, the City of Eden Prairie conducted a point intercept survey to evaluate plant diversity and density. This is a method used to assess the current plant community and compare year-to-year plant variation. The survey found 12 native species, which is higher than previous years. Coontail and yellow water lily were the most abundant species.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	30 acres
Average lake depth	11 feet
Maximum lake depth	37 feet
MPCA lake classification	Deep lake
Watershed size	440 acres
Impervious surface	32% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury
Common fish	Bluegill, Yellow Bullhead, Black Bullhead, Black Crappie
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Brittle Naiad

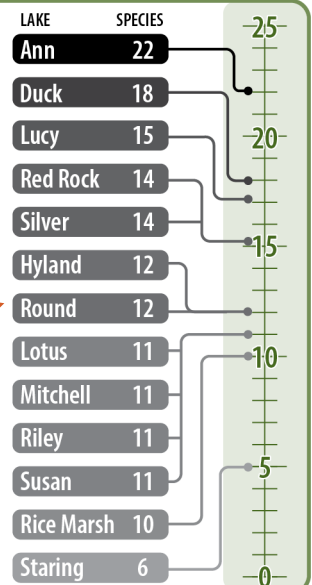


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Round Lake** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Round Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2025

Water Quality Report Card

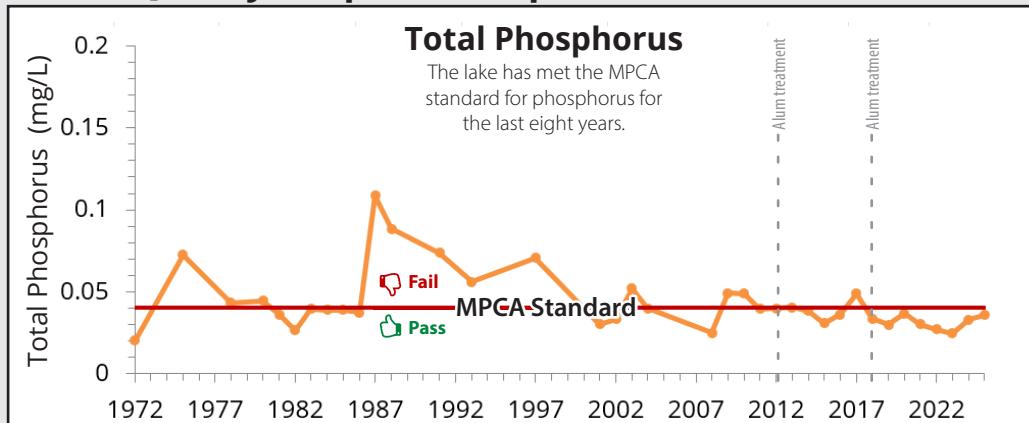
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The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for deep lakes. For the last few years, the City of Eden Prairie has collected water quality data for Round Lake.



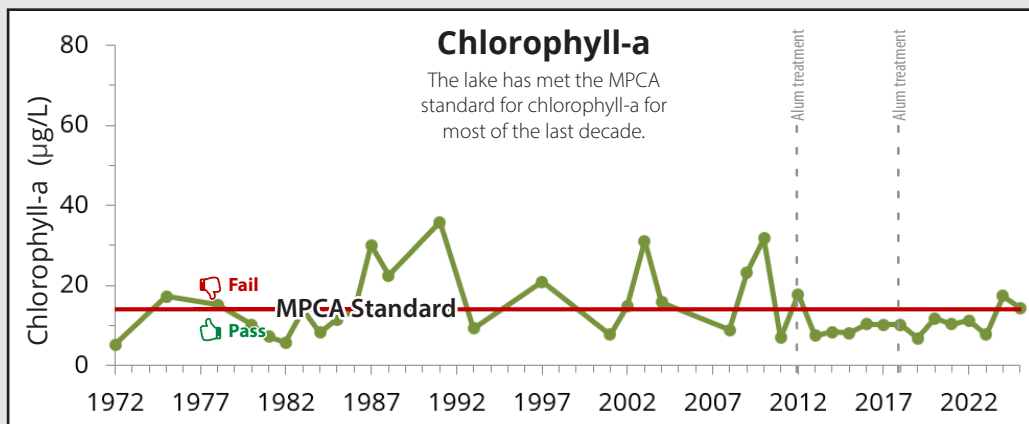
Water Quality Graphs, 1972-present



Round Lake received an alum treatment in 2012 and 2018. Alum limits the availability of phosphorus in lakes to control algae growth & improve water clarity.

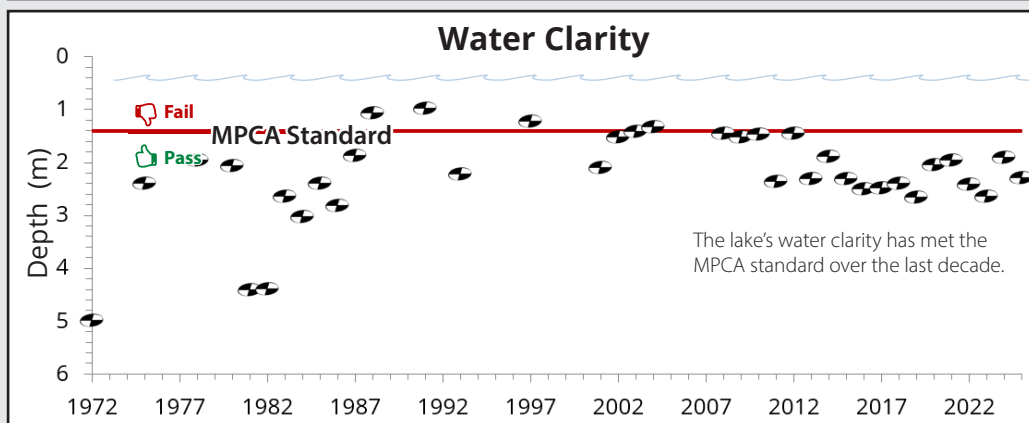
Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.

Filamentous algae bloom



Chlorophyll-a is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.

CSIRO



Water clarity is measured by lowering a Secchi Disk into the water. The depth at which the disk is no longer visible is the water's clarity measurement.

Secchi disk

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Silver Lake

Located in Shorewood, Silver Lake sits at the edge of the watershed district. It is the only lake in the District with a native wild rice population, a rarity in metro area lakes!

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Silver Lake is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Silver Lake Water Quality Snapshot			
Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.092 mg/L	No significant trend. For the last three years, the lake has failed to meet the MPCA standard for total phosphorus.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	40.0 µg/L	No significant trend. In 2025, the lake failed to meet the standard and average chlorophyll-a increased to 40.0 ug/L from 30.1 µg/L in 2024.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	1.4 meters	Since 2017, the lake has consistently met the standard for water clarity. This is correlated with the reduced water levels that occurred after the outlet became cleared.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	71 acres
Average lake depth	5 feet
Maximum lake depth	14 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	391 acres
Impervious surface	14% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Nutrients
Common fish	Black Bullhead, Fathead Minnow, Central Mudminnow
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Purple Loosestrife

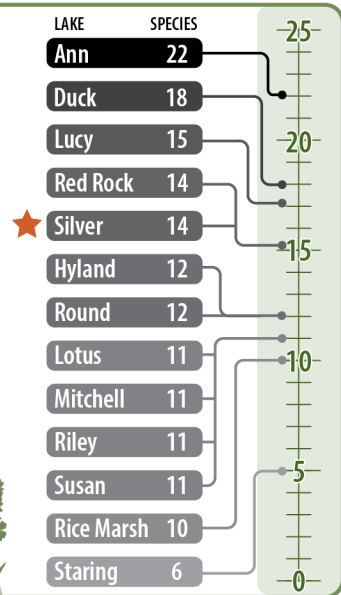


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Silver Lake** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Silver Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes.

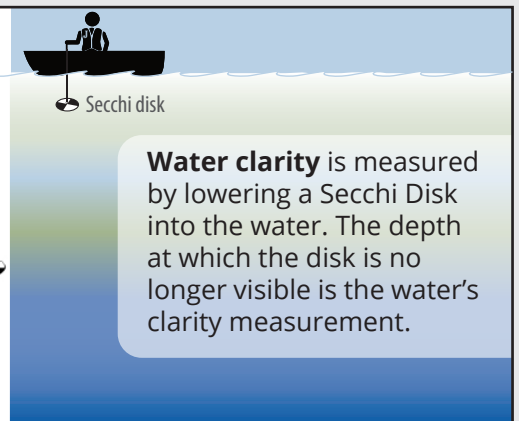
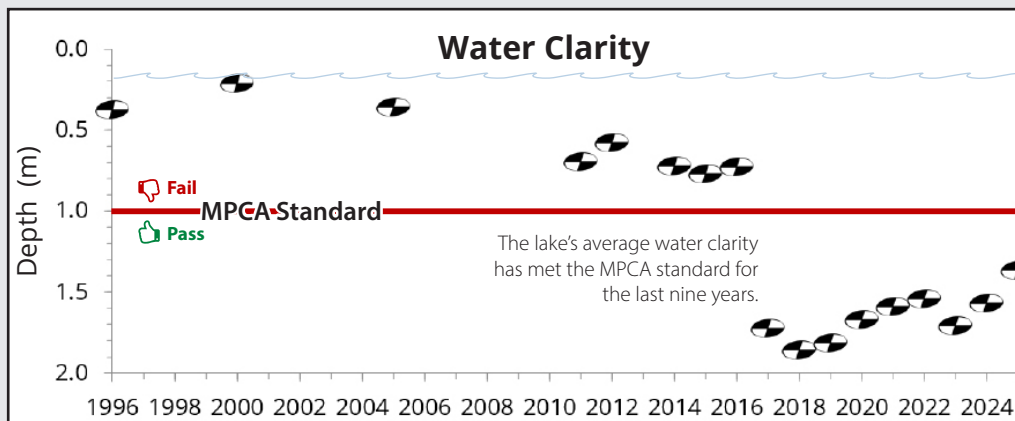
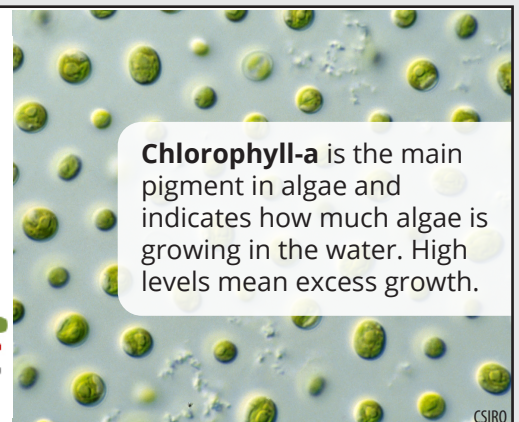
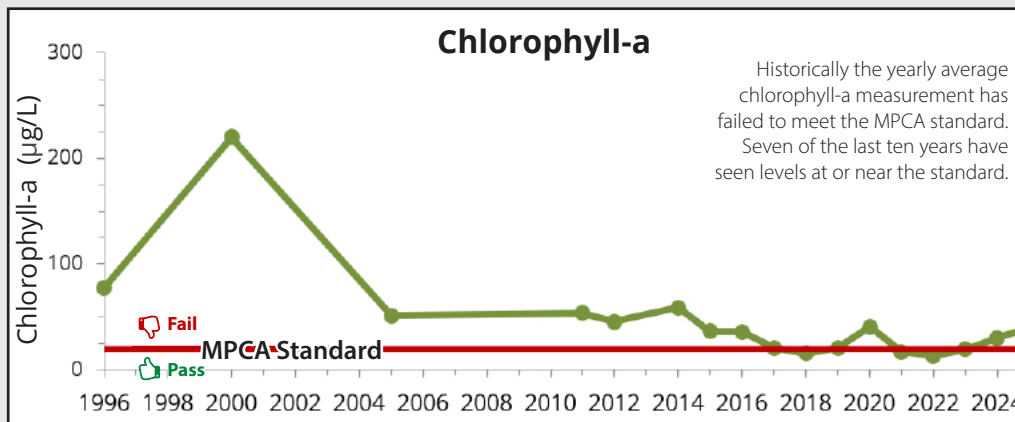
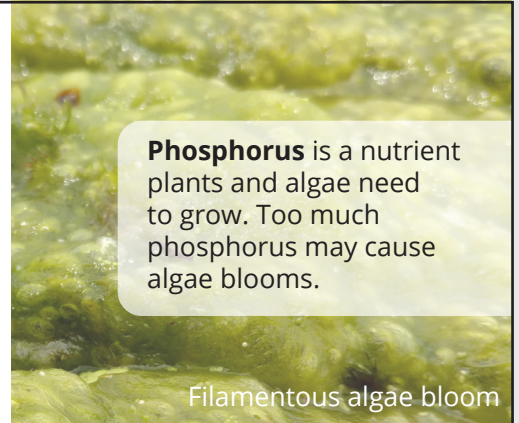
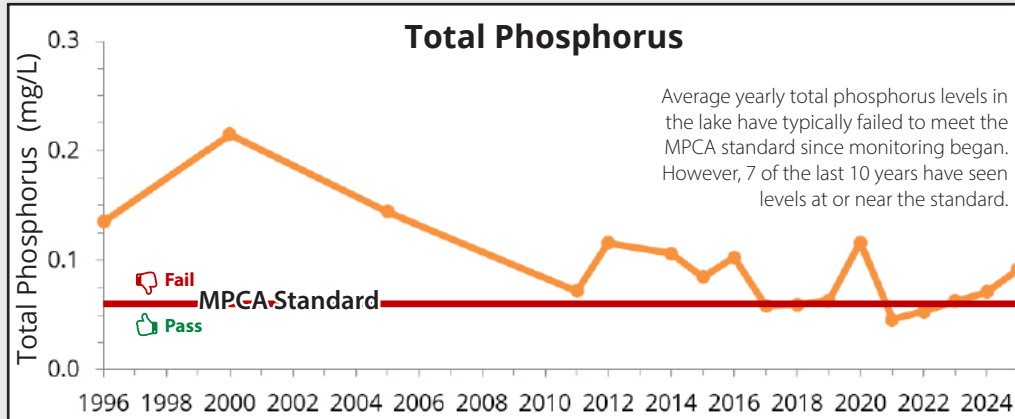
2025

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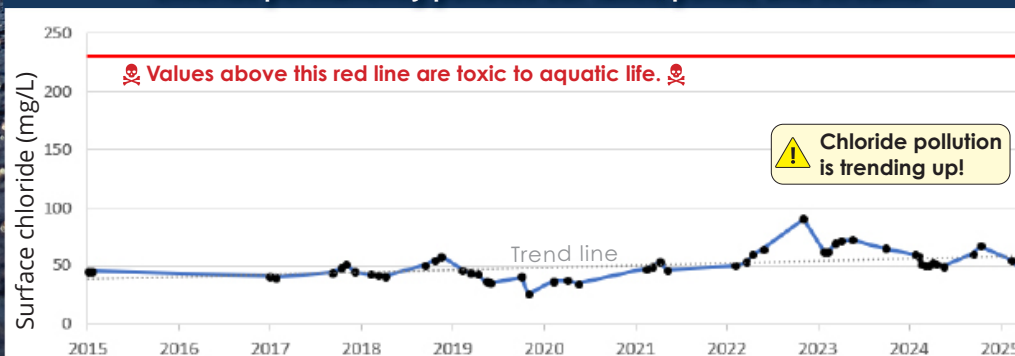


Trends Over Time: 1972-present



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Staring Lake

Staring Lake is located in Eden Prairie, west of Flying Cloud Drive and north of Pioneer Trail. Staring has a public boat ramp and a fishing pier. The Eden Prairie Outdoor Center is also located on its shores, off of Staring Lake Parkway.

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Staring Lake is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Staring Lake Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.063 mg/L	Levels have decreased since carp control began in 2011. In 2025, the lake just failed to meet the standard.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	41.7 µg/L	No significant trend. The lake failed to meet the standard but chlorophyll-a levels remained steady from previous year.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	0.8 meters	The lake has failed to meet the standard the last three years.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



Carp update: A winterkill in 2022-23 of bluegill and other fish that prey on invasive carp eggs and young resulted in carp recruitment in 2023. No recruitment was observed in 2024 or 2025, but staff will continue to monitor and control carp in the lake.



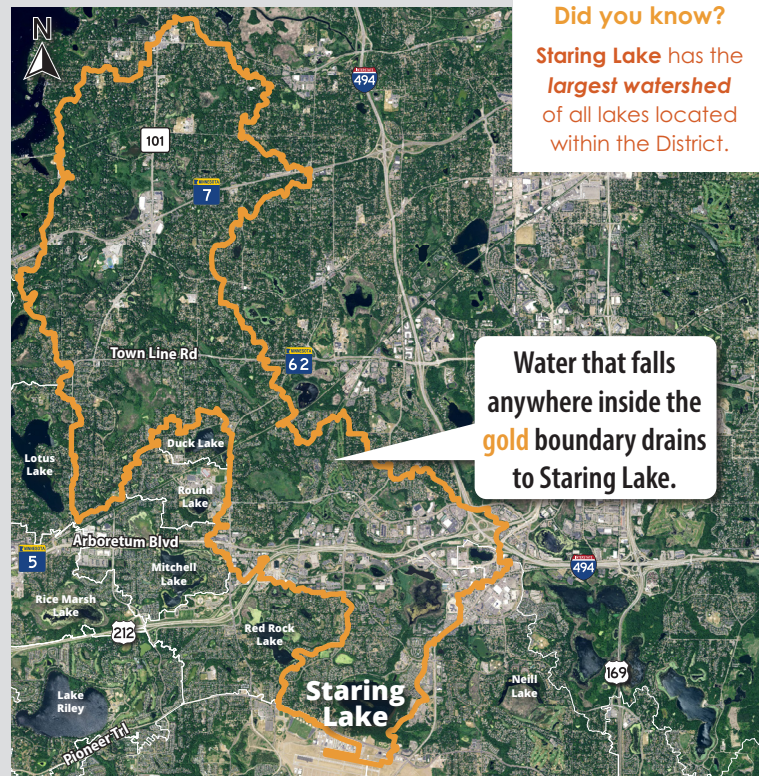
Plant update: Treatments were used to control invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil in 2022 and 2025, and Curly-leaf Pondweed in early 2024. In 2025, a survey showed presence of 6 native species, with Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed at low abundance.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	166 acres
Average lake depth	7 feet
Maximum lake depth	16 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	10,158 acres
Impervious surface	21% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury & nutrients
Common fish	Bluegill, Black Crappie, Black Bullhead
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Brittle Naiad, Common Carp

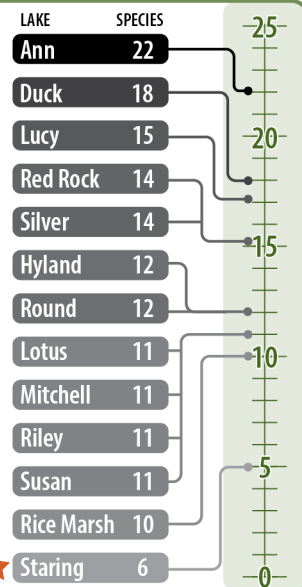


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Staring Lake** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species**?



Staring Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2025

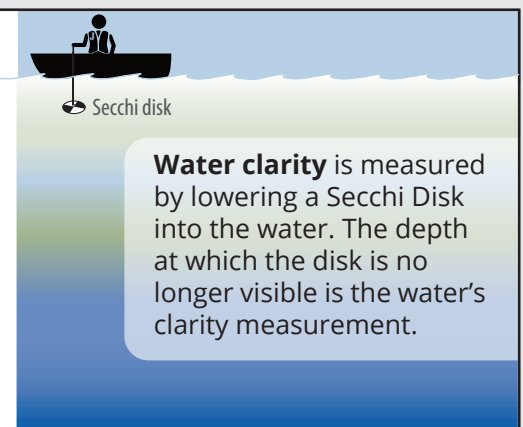
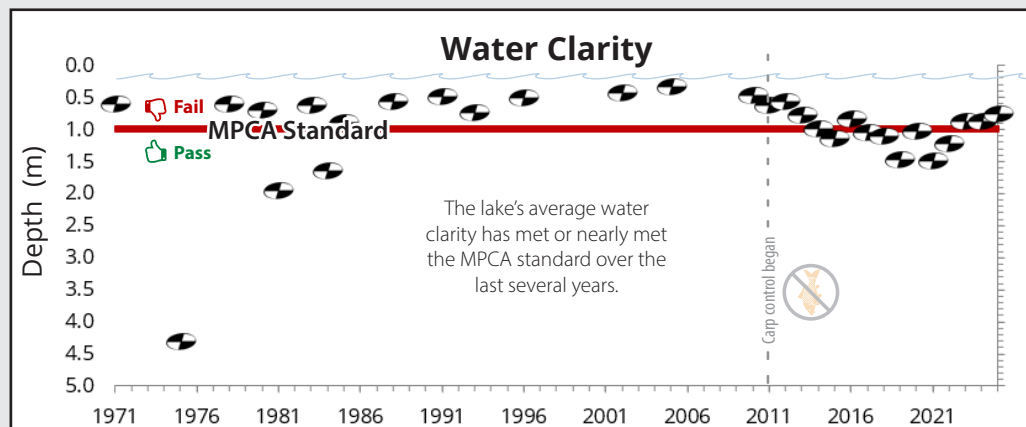
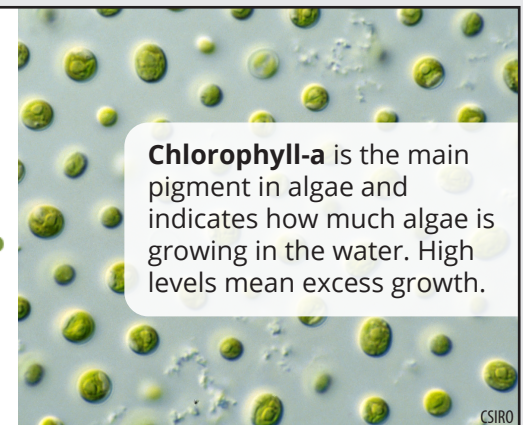
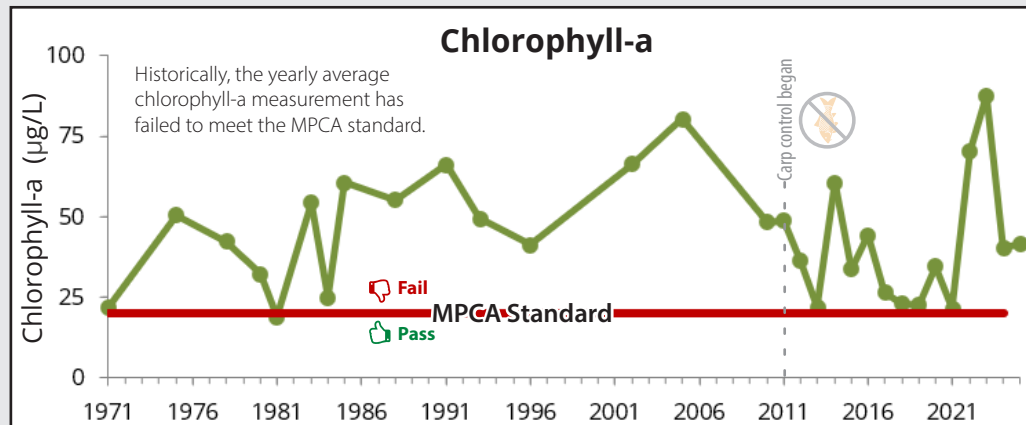
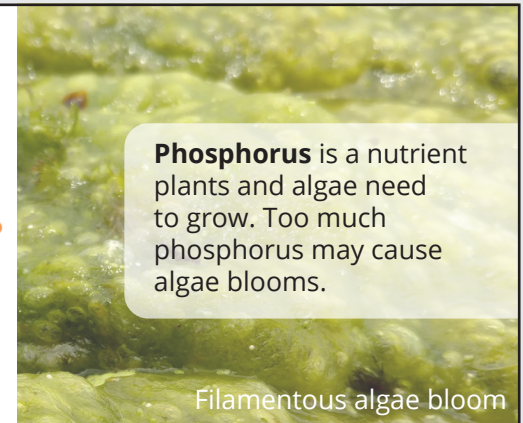
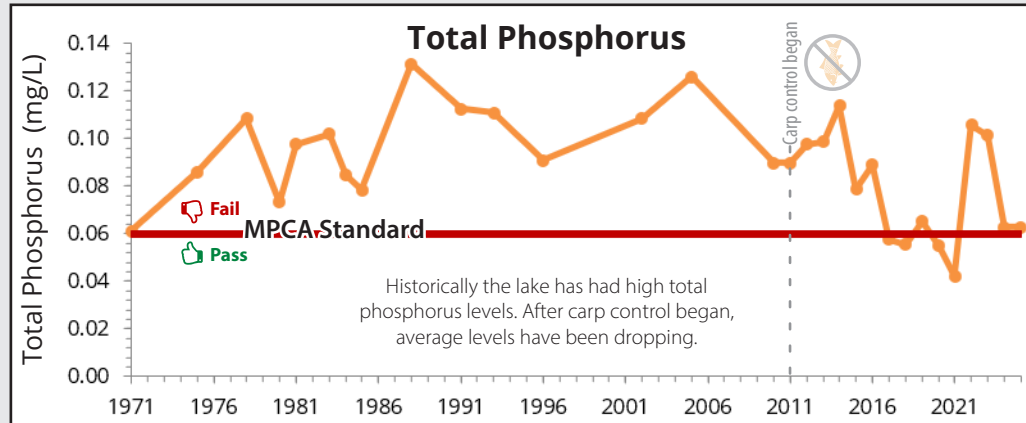
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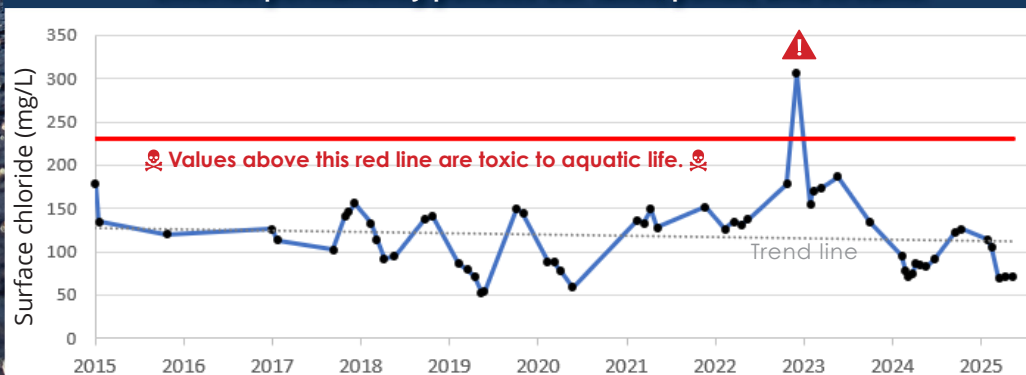
The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes. Over the last decade, **Staring Lake** has failed to consistently meet clean water standards set by the MPCA.

Trends Over Time: 1972-present



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Lake Susan

Located in Chanhassen, Lake Susan is a part of the Riley Creek Chain of Lakes. It is the third lake that Riley Creek flows through as it makes its way to the Minnesota River.

From June to September every year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Lake Susan is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Lake Susan Water Quality Snapshot			
Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.067 mg/L	No significant trend. In 2025, average phosphorus decreased, but the lake did not meet the standard.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	55.3 µg/L	No significant trend. In 2025, average chlorophyll-a was twice the standard.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	0.8 meters	No significant trend. In 2025, the average reading decreased to not meet the standard.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



Carp update: Carp are invasive and harm water quality by destroying aquatic vegetation and stirring up lake bottom sediments. Adult and young of the year carp numbers remain low in Lake Susan, and the district has been removing carp directly upstream of the lake. A temporary barrier was also placed at the outlet to reduce chances of the pond becoming a nursery.



Plant update: Lake Susan was treated with herbicide for curly-leaf pondweed in 2025 totaling 5.9 acres.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	88 acres
Average lake depth	10 feet
Maximum lake depth	17 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	1,231 acres
Impervious surface	27% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury & nutrients
Common fish	Bluegill, Black Crappie, Northern Pike, Black Bullhead, Yellow Bullhead
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Common Carp, Brittle Naiad



Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Lake Susan** compare to **other lakes** in the District in **number of native plant species?**



Lake Susan Water Quality by the Numbers

The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes. In 2025, Lake Susan failed to meet three clean water standards set by the MPCA.

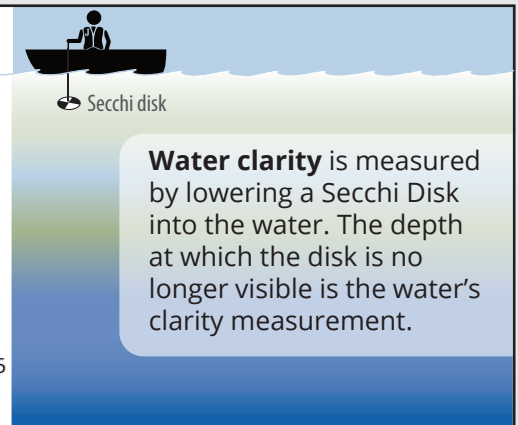
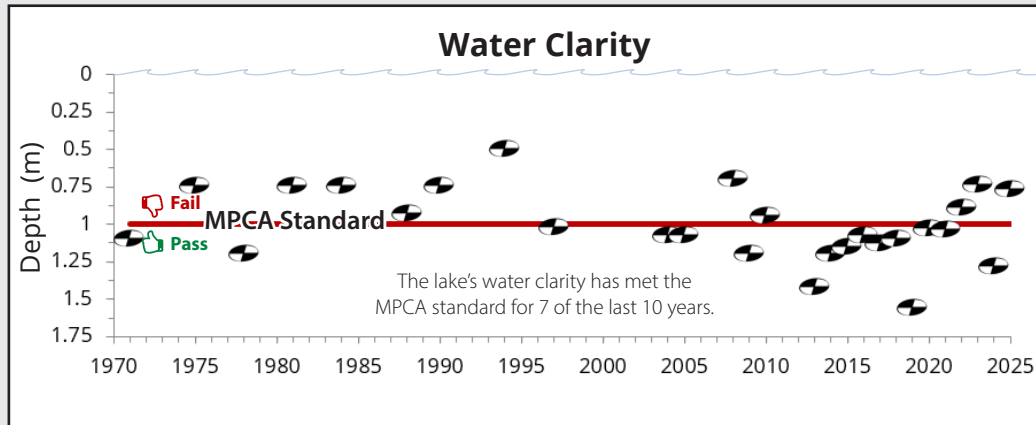
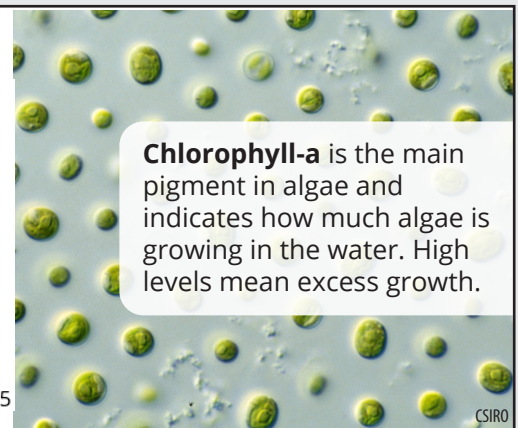
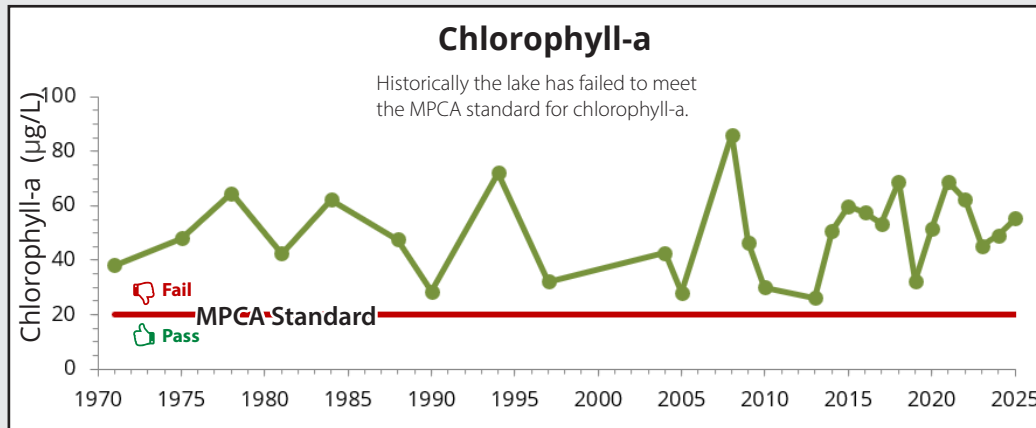
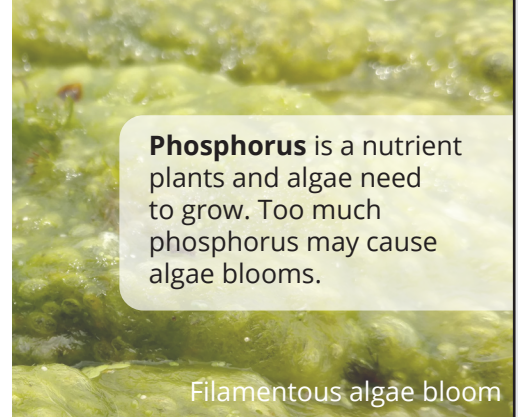
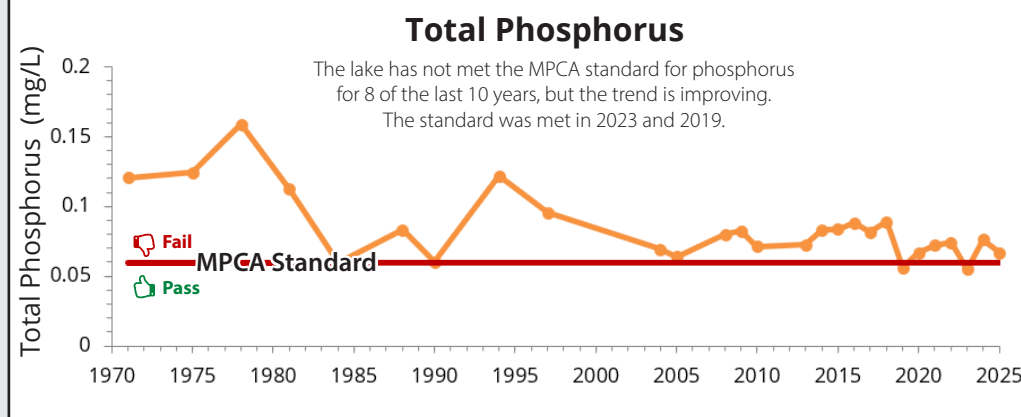
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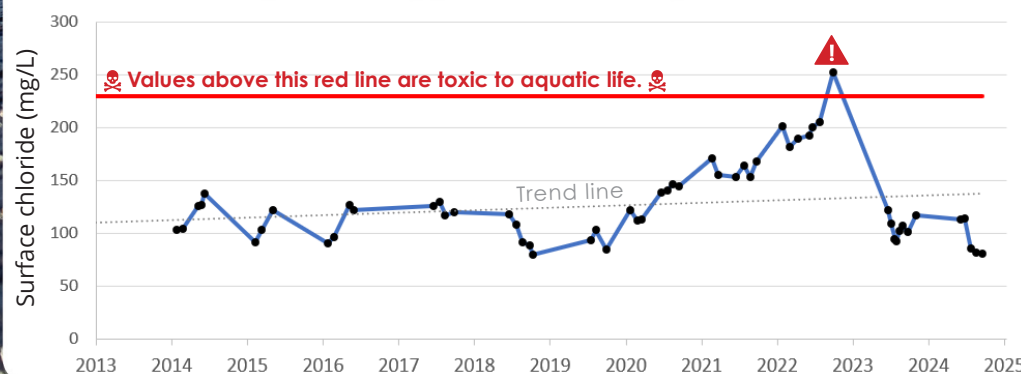
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Trends Over Time: 1972-present



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2025 Wetland Program Report

Zach Dickhausen, *Natural Resources Manager*

rpbcwd.org/wetlands

Introduction

In 2025, District staff focused wetland assessment efforts within the five watersheds of lakes Ann, Lucy, Susan, Mitchell, and Red Rock. These assessments were done as part of the Holistic Lake Management Plan for these five lakes. This round of assessments provided staff with an opportunity to update vegetative community scores of these wetlands as well. Many of these wetlands were previously assessed prior to the District adopting the use of the Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) to assess vegetative communities of the wetlands.

Staff have also been evaluating the Minnesota-Wisconsin Wetland Rapid Assessment Method by conducting their wetland assessments in tandem with their Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM) assessments. This evaluation is being done to compare the effectiveness of this new tool as staff look for a suitable alternative to the MnRAM Access form currently used by the District. It also starts the process of updating the District's wetland assessment database in anticipation that this new method is approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for evaluating Minnesota wetlands, replacing MnRAM as the approved method.

Wetlands and Holistic Lake Management

With the push to manage the District's waterbodies in a more holistic ecological approach, staff are looking to upland areas within the watersheds to identify and address water quality issues. This is a preventative approach to watershed management which seeks to manage and mitigate these issues before they reach our lakes and streams. Wetland functional assessment is an important part of developing this plan. Functions such as downstream water quality benefits

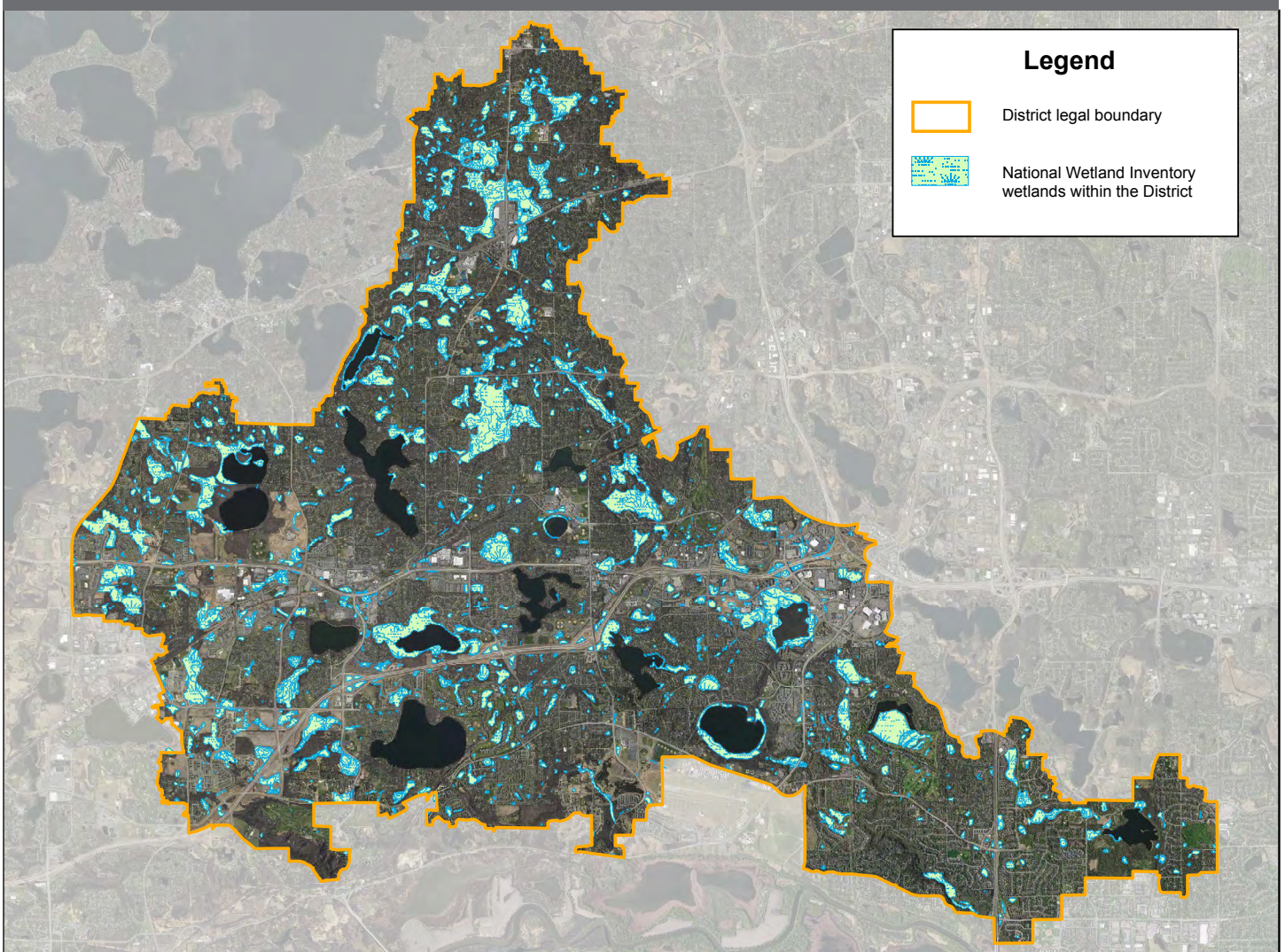
or storm water capture directly affect downstream lakes and streams. Through assessing factors such as the wetland's size, functionality, and drainage area, staff can better identify how the broader ecosystem is functioning and the potential benefits these wetlands provide to their watersheds. The current wetland assessment program will build off the Holistic Lake Management Plan. This plan will allow staff to better identify high priority wetlands for rehabilitation and protection. This allows further consideration into the current impacts and potential benefits these wetlands have on their watersheds. Future wetland restoration will provide greater functional benefits to the watersheds.

Most wetlands residing in the Lake Ann and Lucy watersheds were re-assessed, including conducting rapid FQAs on each wetland assessed, prior to 2025. Because of this, staff prioritized reassessing the wetlands within the other three lake watersheds of Susan, Mitchell, and Red Rock. FQAs had not been conducted on most of these wetlands prior to 2025. In total, 108 wetlands were reassessed in 2025. The wetlands database was updated with any changes to management classifications and functional scores (Table 1/Figure 2).

Minnesota Routine Assessment Method

The Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM) for Evaluating Wetland Functions was developed by an interagency working group to assess wetlands following passage of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act in 1991. It is a systematic way to document wetland functions and characteristics such as vegetative communities, habitat, anthropogenic values and impacts, stormwater interactions, general site hydrology, water

Figure 1. Wetlands identified within the District by the National Wetland Inventory (NWI).



quality, soils, topography, and buffer widths.

However, BWSR no longer provides support for MnRAM, and the Microsoft Access form has not been updated for over a decade. Barr has updated the Microsoft Access Database version of the MnRAM worksheet for the District to use in its wetland assessments. This modified version of the MnRAM worksheet allows staff to input more details about wetlands and their functions, providing a more accurate assessment of the site. It also generates a report that provides wetland function classifications and values based upon input. During wetland site visits, staff assess the site, fill out a MnRAM worksheet, and document the site with photographs. If staff observe indications of a potential wetland, they perform an initial assessment of the approximate wetland boundary or flag the site for future investigation.

Through MnRAM wetland assessment, staff have built a detailed catalogue of wetlands in the District. The catalogue supplements standard state and federal wetland inventories by including

Wetland Assessment Methods

MnRAM

Rapid, qualitative assessment used to identify wetland functions.

Combines data and observations gathered from a site visit and remote sensing data. This data produces ratings for assessed wetland functions.

This method asks:

What are the characteristics of the wetland as a whole?

FQA

Vegetation-based ecological condition assessment. Sites

are assessed for diversity and abundance of plant species. The higher a site scores, the closer it is to a natural condition and the more sensitive it is to disturbance.

This method asks:

What plant species grow in the wetland? How abundant are they?

details such as fine-scale wetland extent, more accurate vegetative community designations, record of wetland impacts and degradation, and infrastructure risks. Figure 1 shows the extent of wetlands within the District based on National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data.

Floristic Quality Assessment

Developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Rapid Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) provides an ecological assessment approach for wetlands based on plant habitat requirements and disturbance tolerance. The approach is based on a C-value assigned to each plant species by Minnesota botanical experts. The more sensitive a plant is to site conditions and disturbance, the higher the C-value. C-values of plants within a given community are used to calculate a floristic

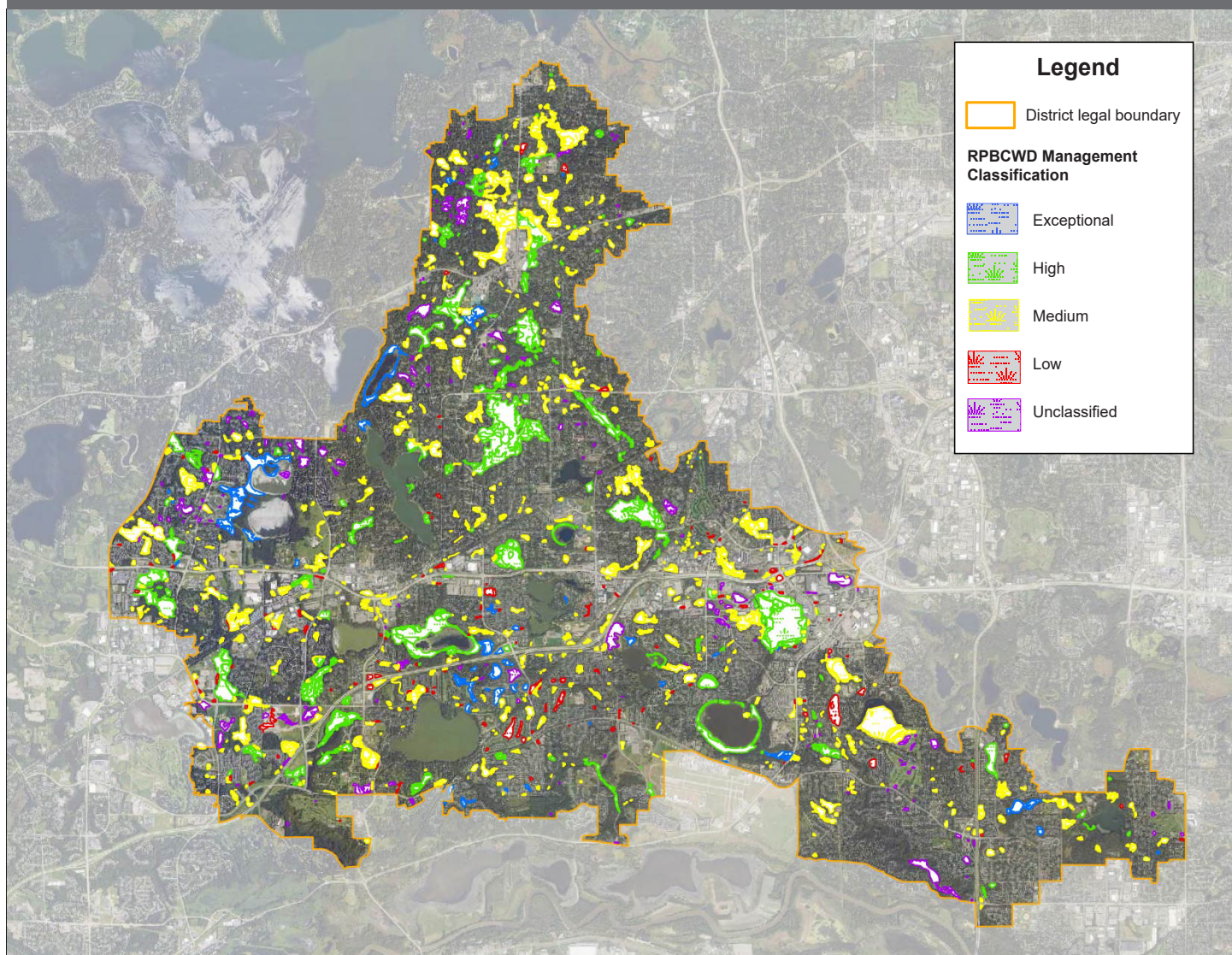
quality index (FQI). The greater the FQI, the closer the plant community is to a natural state.

FQA compliments MnRAM by providing a quantitative assessment of the makeup and quality of plant communities within a wetland. When used together, FQA and MnRAM data sets provide a comprehensive metric to assess wetlands. RPBCWD first began using FQA at the end of the 2020 field season. FQA has been a part of all District wetland assessments since 2021.

Wetland Rapid Assessment Update

In the fall of 2020, a memorandum of understanding was completed between the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Wisconsin Department of

Figure 2. Classification of wetlands assessed with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District as of 2025.



Natural Resources (WI DNR) regarding the Wetland Functional Assessment Initiative. This initiative is a joint effort between the Wisconsin DNR, Minnesota DNR, BWSR, MPCA, Environmental Protection Agency, and St. Paul U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to develop wetland functional assessment tools that can be used in Minnesota and Wisconsin. These assessment tools will also assist in wetland regulatory implementation and other wetland conservation uses. Current standards for wetland functional assessments in the state, such as MnRAM, are outdated and may not serve the needs of regulatory programs. Because of this initiative, development of a new functional assessment is underway. In February 2021, a steering committee was formed to define goals and objectives of the initiative. A technical advisory team made up of professionals within the agencies was established in summer 2021 to develop the tool and its functional categories. A draft tool and spreadsheet were completed in 2023.

Staff Dickhausen attended the Minnesota Water Resources Conference, special wetland session on October 17, 2023, where updates about the Wetland Functional Assessment Initiative were discussed. One of the main pushes for this initiative is that MnRAM is considered too qualitative of an assessment. The technical advisory team referenced aspects of the Minnesota Stream Qualification Tool (MNSQT), a tool which uses function-based parameters and metrics to assess functional categories of streams. The MNSQT was used as a template when drafting aspects of the new wetland tool. The new tool [RW5.1] will still be a rapid assessment, but it is going to rely more on observation-based metrics. Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) classification will also play a larger role in the assessment and establishment of areas of interest. Speakers also presented a basic breakdown of how the tool will work in providing functional assessment of wetlands. The assessment helps identify factors that change how well the wetland will perform functions. Indicators, or the observable characteristics related to the factors, are assessed. From here, the assessment helps identify primary and secondary opportunity values.

The Beta version of the tool was released to environmental organizations in Wisconsin and Minnesota in the late summer

of 2024 for testing and comment. Version 1.0 was released by BWSR for general use on October 22, 2025. BWSR is accepting feedback on the method until May 15, 2026. After, any necessary revisions will be made and go to the BWSR board for consideration of approval for use in Minnesota. It is anticipated that when this new method is approved for use, MnRAM will be removed as an approved method.

Wetland Management Classification

To advance the wetland assessment program, District staff are developing an assessment and management methodology based on ecosystem services to prioritize wetland rehabilitation, protection, and creation. These functions are listed on the “Wetland Classification Continuum” section of this report.

Metrics have been developed for each of these services, which, along with data gathered from the updated MnRAM and FQA assessments, determine the assignment of District management classifications to wetlands. These classifications include low, medium, high, or exceptional value wetlands. Management efforts to restore, protect, and create wetlands are currently prioritized on higher value wetlands. Vegetated buffer rules are also set based on these classifications.



MnRAM, along with Rapid FQA and other assessment tools, form the basis of wetland restoration prioritization in the District. The use of MnRAM also provides support for the District's regulatory program and implementation of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act, where the District is the local government regulating body (Deephaven and Shorewood).

Wetland Classification Continuum

Assigning management classification to wetlands provides input for prioritization of restoration efforts. These classifications are based on FQA data and MnRAM functional categories which include:

- **Vegetation diversity/integrity**
- **Habitat structure**
- **Amphibian habitat**
- **Fish habitat**
- **Shoreline protection**
- **Cultural/recreational/educational value**
- **Stormwater/urban sensitivity**
- **Wetland water quality**
- **Characteristic hydrology**
- **Flood/stormwater attenuation**
- **Commercial use**
- **Downstream water quality**



Exceptional Value

Wetland has large buffer area or buffers shoreline. High plant diversity. Little or no alteration of soils and plants. Water quality is good. Provides fish and/or amphibian habitat. Significant recreational, educational and/or cultural value.



High Value

Wetland with buffer or provides buffer for shoreline. Provides floodwater attenuation. Better to good water quality. Water deep enough to provide overwintering amphibian habitat. May provide fish habitat. Moderate plant diversity.



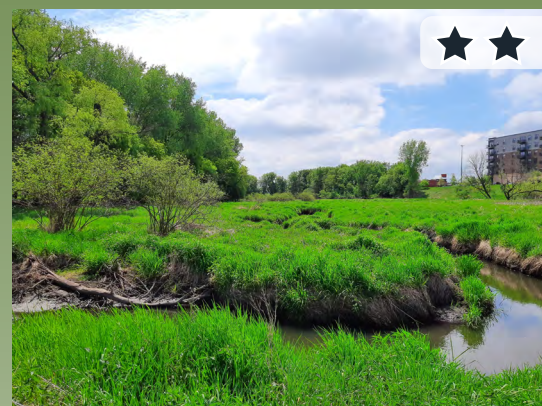
Medium Value

Wetland may have been excavated or serve as stormwater pond. Low plant diversity. Minimal educational, aesthetic, or recreational opportunity. Deeper water may provide overwintering wildlife habitat.



Low Value

Associated with agricultural or high-intensity land use. Very low species diversity and dominated by invasive species. Poor water quality, usually due to high inputs of untreated stormwater runoff. Has alteration or excavation. Little or no recreational or cultural value.



To date, staff have conducted assessments and assigned management classifications to 961 wetlands within the District. Table 1 and Figure 2 detail and show the distribution of these management classifications for wetlands identified within the District. The Wetland Classification Continuum on the previous page provides details on how wetland functions (or lack of) help determine and assign a management approach.

Table 1. Distribution of wetland classifications in the District.

Classification	Quantity
Exceptional	56
High	150
Medium	610
Low	145
Unclassified	154
TOTAL WETLANDS	1,115

2026 Wetland Assessment and Next Steps

As of the end of 2025, most wetlands within the District have been assessed using MnRAM and assigned a management classification. Staff Dickhausen will continue to conduct QA/QC assessments in different parts of the District as needed. The priority in 2026 will be assessment needs of wetlands within the five watersheds of those lakes for which lake and watershed management plans are being developed. Staff will continue to assess these and other wetlands with the new WI/MN rapid assessment method (alongside current assessment methods) as they continue to evaluate this tool for its use as a primary wetland assessment method. This tool seeks to measure wetland functions in a more quantitative manner than MnRAM. It also introduces the identification of HGM classification to wetland assessment. The HGM classification system classifies wetlands based on their landscape position, source of water (precipitation, groundwater, etc.), and hydrodynamics (inflow, outflow, flow-through, etc.). These core factors are likely responsible for the maintenance of most functions of the wetland and are currently as close to “first principles” of wetland function there is.

As of August of 2024, WCA statute has changed to include HGM classification as an accepted form of wetland type determination for WCA regulation and enforcement. In keeping with these changes, the District wants to eventually adopt HGM as the primary form of wetland assessment methodology to inform wetland functional scores and management classifications. This, in turn, would guide the District’s regulatory program, lake and watershed management plans, wetland restoration planning and implementation, and any WCA related work the District is a part of.

A change in wetland assessment methods would also provide staff with an opportunity to update and streamline the current process of wetland assessment and database management. As mentioned previously, MnRAM and the Microsoft Access version of MnRAM have not been updated or supported for quite some time. Even with updates made by Barr, staff sometimes still run into issues with running the Access form. There is not an efficient way to pull data directly from the Access from database to use for other applications such as updating the Districts wetland geodatabase. This is the primary wetland database of the District and is an integral part of WebMaps used for the Regulatory Program and public education. Every time the Access database is updated, the geodatabase must be updated manually. In preparation for switching to this new assessment method, staff are exploring different Esri GIS-based applications such as Survey123 and FieldMaps to see if it would make sense to create a field form based off the new tool’s Microsoft Excel form. Creation of such a form would allow staff to automatically save, and tie assessment data collected in the field to a geodatabase.

Pending BWSR approval of the WI/MN Wetland Rapid Assessment Method for use, and subsequent approval for use to inform District programs by the District’s Board of Managers, staff are tentatively planning to transition using this method at the end of 2026.

Restoration versus Rehabilitation

Wetlands have primary impacts where the hydrology is altered to a point where they no longer function as a wetland. This can be through the installation of drain tile, excavation of ditches, installation of outlet structures below the bed elevation of the wetland, or placement of fill. When one of the three parameters for determining the existence of a wetland (hydrology, hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation) are missing, in this case hydrology, the area does not meet the definition of a wetland. If wetland hydrology is restored, the wetland functions like a wetland again and is considered restored.

Conversely, wetlands may have secondary impacts that result in diminished function but still meets the definition of a wetland. One example is hydrologic alteration such as ineffective tiling or ditching where the wetland is only partially drained. Another example is diversion of the contributing watershed so that less water inputs to the wetland basin resulting in a drier hydrologic regime. The hydrology may remain the same but, due to land use changes, excessive nutrient or sediment loading may occur which impacts the vegetation community type, degrades avian or amphibian habitat, or results in a proliferation of invasive or pioneer species colonizing the wetland. In these cases, the wetland could be rehabilitated to enhance the diminished functions and possibly provide additional functions and public values.

Identification of Restorable Wetlands

In concert with the wetland inventory and assessment program, staff will work to identify historic wetlands that have been drained or filled and have the potential to be restored. In order to be considered for a wetland restoration, an area must have the following characteristics:

- An adequate source of hydrology
- Hydric soils
- Unimpeded by structures except when removal of the structures is desired by all stakeholders
- Property must be owned by an entity that is agreeable to protecting the area in perpetuity

Wetland Conservation Act Activities

The overall goal of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), passed as Minnesota law in 1991, is to achieve no net loss of wetlands in the state. It does this by regulating the:

1. Draining and filling of wetlands
2. Excavation within type 3, 4, and 5 wetlands
3. Excavation of all wetland types if said excavation fills or drains the wetland, converting it to a non-wetland.

Local government units (LGU) are responsible for administering WCA and for making determinations on applications, projects, or activities impacting wetlands. The District acts as the LGU in charge of administering WCA for parts of Shorewood and Deephaven located within the District and makes the decision to accept or deny WCA joint applications proposing activities within wetlands. Applications range from seeking a concurrence of wetland boundaries, based on a formal delineation, to seeking approval of an application for the purchase of wetland banking credits to replace wetlands lost during the course of a project. Staff also sit on WCA Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) for cities who act as the WCA authority throughout the rest of the District. Staff, along with other TEP members, advise LGUs on making decisions on to accept or deny WCA joint applications.

The District did not receive any WCA joint applications in 2025. Over the course of 2025, Staff Dickhausen represented the District on the various TEPs of the other LGUs within the District boundaries. This included the review of applications received by Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, and Minnetonka. Staff also worked with Chanhassen and their TEP on the continued review and enforcement of a pair of related WCA violations.

2025 Projects Report

Terry Jeffery, District Administrator

rpbcwd.org/projects

INTRODUCTION

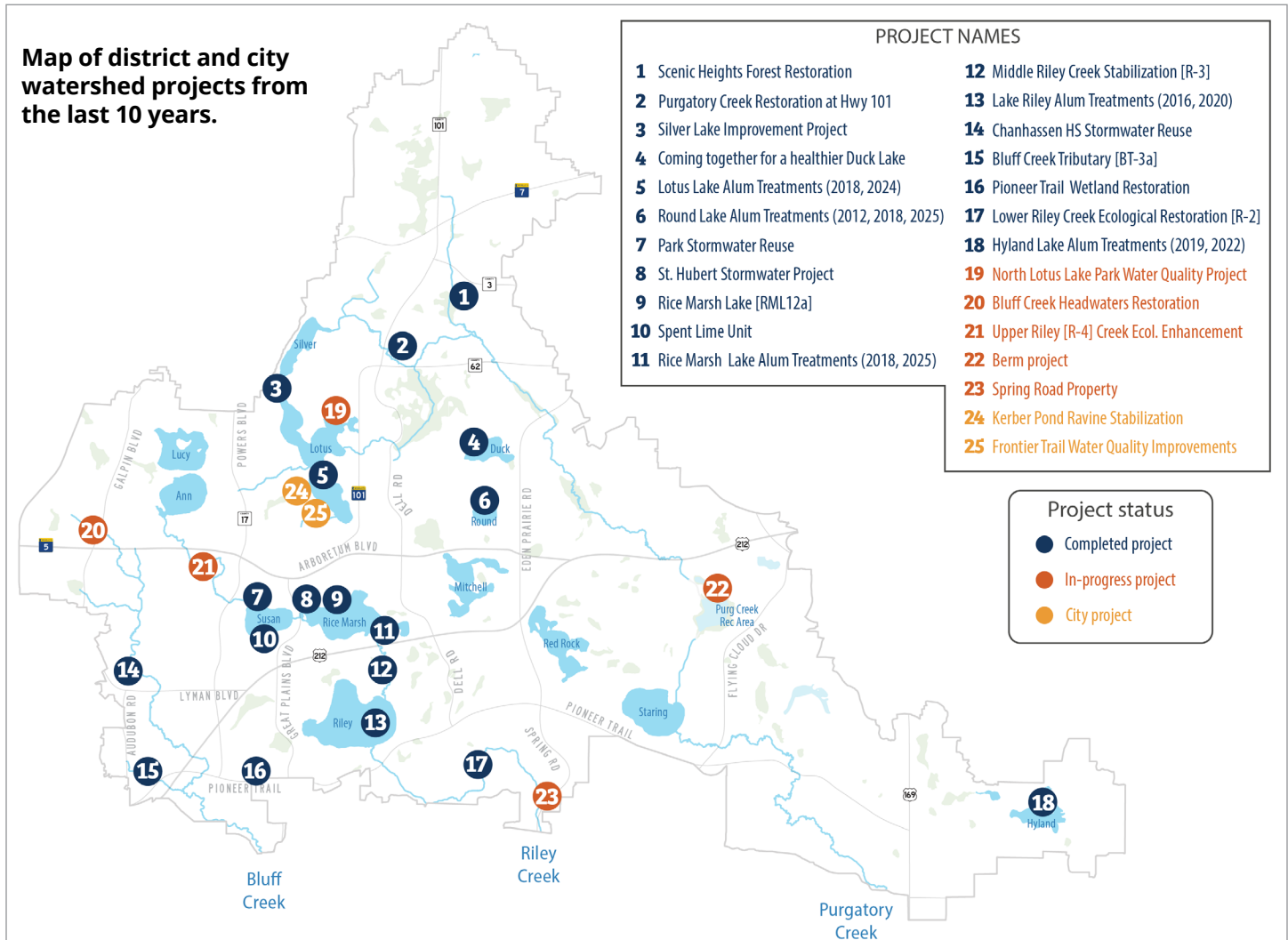
By the end of 2025, the RPBCWD had completed the majority of all capital projects identified within the current 10-year watershed management plan that did not have logistical impediments such as a lack of property rights. Three projects remain to be completed and are in various stages of planning and design.

The North Lotus Lake Park Water Quality Improvement project, which was included in a larger 2024 engineer report, was updated in 2025 to include community engagement elements for an enhanced park user experience. The City of Chanhassen was added as a partner for this project.

The Upper Riley Creek Ecological Enhancement project was delayed as acquisition of property rights suffered several setbacks as two properties changed hands two different times each throughout the project. In addition, RPBCWD and the City of Chanhassen collaborated to incorporate the design of a decant facility at Chanhassen Public Works as part of the overall project design and bid package. This element was ultimately delayed to a future date as Chanhassen did not have the financial resources at the time to proceed with the construction of the facility. Final design was completed and the project remains shovel ready contingent upon securance of the necessary land rights.

The Upper Bluff Creek Ecological Enhancement project was

Map of district and city watershed projects from the last 10 years.



ordered and the feasibility study was completed. Additional scope was added as the Board recognized the opportunity to restore a portion of the large wetland complex that serves as the headwaters of Bluff Creek.

In 2025, RPBCWD took the draft Ecosystem Health Action Plan (EHAP) completed in 2024 and used it as a template to initiate the Ten-Year Plan update to be completed by July of 2027. This plan will evaluate the existing Project Prioritization Schedule and make modifications as needed to align with revised RPBCWD goals and lessons learned over the last eight years of implementation.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Lotus Lake Water Quality Improvement Project

Lotus Lake is classified as a deep water lake with a beneficial use category of Class 2: Aquatic life and recreation. The MPCA standard for total phosphorus (TP) less than or equal to 0.04 µg/L. Lotus Lake has only met this standard once between 1972 and 2018. Since Lotus Lake received an alum treatment in 2018, it has consistently met the standard with an average TP concentration in 2021 of 0.029 µg/L. The MPCA standard for chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) is at or below 14µg/L, and Lotus Lake has not met this standard in any year tested although it has been trending downward since the alum treatment. Based upon the 2017 Use Attainability Analysis (UAA), internal loading accounts for 68% of the TP loads to Lotus Lake. A second alum treatment is planned for 2023, addressing the internal loading component. This internal load control is modeled to reduce annual loading approximately 586 pounds per year. In total, Lotus Lake needs a load reduction of 37% or 682 pounds.

The UAA identified eight potential locations for best management practices to treat the contributing watershed. In chapter 9 of the 2018 10-year plan, these projects were listed individually. It was decided while setting the 2022 budget that an economy of scale could result in a reduction of cost by combining several of the practices into one larger project. To this end, LL_1, LL_3, LL_7, and LL_8 have been combined into one project and the feasibility study was initiated in 2022. Based upon planning level estimates, these practices could potentially reduce external loading to Lotus Lake by 122.9 pounds of TP per year.

At the planning level for the UAA, these projects, in total,

ranged in cost from \$2,896,000 to \$4,059,000. It is important to emphasize that this is at the planning stage and that range will narrow as the design is developed. The City of Chanhassen has three road reconstruction projects planned for the area in the capital improvement plan. Chanhassen was provided the preliminary design for LL_7 and LL_8 and incorporated them into their road reconstruction plans to meet regulatory compliance. RPBCWD and Chanhassen are working as partners to provide regional treatment for the third road project. This was identified as LL_1 and has become the [North Lotus Lake Park Water Quality Improvement Project](#).

In February of 2025, the Board of Managers ordered that an artist and landscape architect be engaged to provide added outreach elements to the overall project. Staff, the consulting engineer, the landscape architect, and the selected artist held several community outreach events to gather input and feedback on the project throughout the summer and fall of 2025. Input from these sessions, as well as comments from Chanhassen City staff as well as the Parks and Recreation Commission, were incorporated into the final concept design. Final design will be completed in 2026 for construction in 2027.



Bluff Creek Headwaters Ecological Restoration Project

The District has partnered with the City of Chanhassen to stabilize Riley Creek from Highway 5 (MN TH5) to Lake Susan. The goal of the [Bluff Creek Headwaters Ecological Restoration Project](#) as described in the Bluff Creek Reach 5 Ecological Enhancement Plan is to create an ecologically diverse stream corridor and significantly reduce streambank erosion and sediment deposition into Bluff Creek and the Minnesota River, both of which have Total Suspended Solids (TSS) identified as the stressor. The project will also provide extended detention and ecological restoration within the headwater wetland. Where constraints allow, the stream will be reconnected to the floodplain.

Bluff Creek is impaired for both aquatic life (2002) and aquatic recreation (2002 and 2018). A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study was conducted in 2010 and identified in-stream and near-stream erosion as the primary sources of sediment. It further concluded that extended detention, such as will be provided by the wetland restoration, will aid in the reduction of erosive forces in the channel. In 2022, the Bluff Creek Reach 5 Ecological Enhancement Plan was completed. Conversations with the city of Chanhassen made the district aware that Chanhassen was planning on a full reconstruction of Galpin Boulevard. The district is working with Chanhassen to align these projects to the extent practical. One outcome of this communication was that the district advanced study of the creek crossing at Galpin Boulevard and designed a crossing that would not increase rates, velocities, or flood elevations while providing for animal migration. This design was provided to Chanhassen for inclusion in their reconstruction plans for Galpin Boulevard. Because of utility conflicts, the cost of the culvert replacement was approximately 300% greater than the original estimate and, therefore, the culvert replacement was removed from the design.

Modeling completed in 2022 indicates that flow rates and velocities can be reduced to pre-settlement conditions for the 1-year, 2-year, and 10-year return interval storms. This could translate into a reduction of 8,225 pounds of TSS and 31 pounds of total phosphorus (TP) in addition to the reductions resulting from the channel stabilization. The recommended channel stabilization concept (Concept C) is estimated to reduce loading of TSS by 60,200 pounds per year and TP by 38 pounds per year. Planning level cost estimates range from \$545,500 to \$848,600. As is always the case, planning level opinions of cost have a wide range because the specific design parameters are unknown. As

the design becomes more resolved, the range will narrow. The project was ordered by the Board of Managers in December of 2023.

Because of the opportunity to move forward with the North Lotus Lake Park Water Quality Project and the desire not have three large capital projects occurring concurrently, requiring a significant levy, the design was paused. The project schedule has been revised to complete design by spring of 2027 for construction in late 2027 or early 2028.



Images of eroding banks and incised channel of Bluff Creek - Reach 5 (B5) from 2022.



Upper Riley Creek Ecological Enhancement Project

The District has partnered with the City of Chanhassen to stabilize Riley Creek from Highway 5 (MN TH 5) to Lake Susan. The goal of the [Upper Riley Creek Ecological Enhancement Project](#), as described in the Upper Riley Creek Corridor Ecological Enhancement Plan, is to create an ecologically diverse stream corridor and significantly reduce streambank erosion in Riley Creek and sediment deposition into Lake Susan. Where constraints allow, the stream will be reconnected to the floodplain.

Riley Creek is impaired for both aquatic life (2002) and aquatic recreation (2002 and 2018). The receiving water, Lake Susan, is impaired for aquatic consumption, aquatic life, and aquatic recreation due to mercury, Fish Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI), and nutrients. The sampling performed where Riley Creek passes under Powers Boulevard found that all but two samples in 2018 and all of the 2019 samples exceeded the MPCA standard for total suspended solids (TSS) of $\leq 30\text{mg/L}$. Results of the P8 model indicate that 83,000 pounds (about 37,648 kg) of sediment are carried from the watershed to Lake Susan annually. This does not include loading from streambank erosion. To achieve and maintain the long-term water quality goals of Lake Susan, a 67% reduction in erosion source loading is necessary.

This reach, known as R4, was analyzed using the Bank Erosion Hazard Index and the Near Bank Stress Ratings. These tools were used to estimate bank erosion rates and were estimated at about 250 tons of total suspended solids (TSS) each year. By stabilizing Reach 4, engineers estimate the project will reduce TSS by 470,000 pounds per year and total phosphorus (TP) by 250 pounds per year. This represents the bank recession rate of 0.10 to 0.25 feet per year.

In 2022, the district performed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), and Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), preliminary plan design, and hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of the reach. The EAW produced a finding of no recognized environmental conditions. The ESA found nothing of consequence as well. The design has been modified to achieve no rise in flood elevation as required by FEMA. Design was completed in October of 2023. The RPBCWD has partnered with the City of Chanhassen to address an outdoor storage area currently used by the city that lies immediately adjacent to Riley Creek and surrounding wetlands. Chanhassen desires a decant facility to be constructed that would allow for deposit of materials such as street sweepings, slurry obtained through vacuuming out manufactured treatment devices and sump manholes, as well as other debris currently stored in the outdoor facility. Coordination with the city has resulted in a delay of the project timeline to work through design and logistics. This facility was ultimately removed from the overall project as the City of Chanhassen did not have the financial capacity to take this portion of the project on at this time.

Late 2024 and 2025 were spent procuring necessary rights from property owners with the work area. Two properties have proven problematic as they each changed ownership at least once with one of them changing ownership twice in that period. Solicitation of bids will take place in late summer of 2026 with construction tentatively scheduled for winter 2026/2027.

Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality Improvement Project

Rice Marsh Lake is classified as a shallow lake. The MPCA standard for TP is $\leq 60\text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$. The average growing season total phosphorus in 2010 was $115\text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$ with a peak of $130\text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$. In 2014 the average TP load concentration was $107\text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$ with a peak of $134\text{ }\mu\text{g/L}$. The 2016 Rice Marsh Lake and Lake Riley Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) found that 44% (712 pounds) of the load was from watershed runoff, 35% was from internal loading, and 19% originated from upstream lakes. To meet water quality goals, TP loading must be reduced by 41% or 681 pounds.

Rice Marsh Lake has a contributing local watershed of 883 acres. The selected subwatershed (RM_12) accounts for approximately 232 of those acres including the highly urbanized town center of Chanhassen, which has minimal treatment. The area accounts for loading of one pound per acre or 232 pounds of TP. The next largest contributing subwatershed (RM_33) accounts for 169 pounds. Most other subwatersheds are in the single digits.

The Feasibility Report for the Rice Marsh Lake Subwatershed RM_12a Water Quality Improvement Project evaluated seven different potential best management practices with one of these, manufactured treatment devices (MTD) looking at 14 different products. After meeting with Chanhassen staff of the Parks and Recreation Department and evaluating other site constraints such as the Metropolitan Council Interceptor Sewer Line, it was decided to go with a manufactured treatment device (MTD). The Kraken® Filter by Bio Clean was the preferred option as it was modeled to have the best removal efficiencies at between 52 and 59 pounds/year as well as having the needed capacity to handle the storm event flows through the system. A sampling unit was placed into the outlet for the

At the feasibility stage, the engineer's opinion of cost for the project ranged from \$456,000 to \$854,000. The awarded bid was for \$594,830. Funding for the [Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality Improvement Project](#) came from the RPBCWD levy. Chanhassen paid for installation of the curb cut rain garden during their road project and to have an existing storm sewer utility access hole adjusted and refurbished. The city also donated land for the project and partnership with Chanhassen is in the form of their donation of land and their committed to long-term maintenance of the area and the MTDs.

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. There will be three years of ongoing vegetation management.

Middle Riley Creek Stabilization Project

The District partnered with the Bearpath Golf and Country Club and the Bearpath Homeowners Association on the [Middle Riley Creek Stabilization Project](#). The goal of the project, described in the feasibility report, 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.

Riley Creek is impaired for both aquatic life (2002) and aquatic recreation (2002 and 2018). The receiving water, Lake Riley, is impaired for aquatic consumption, aquatic life, and aquatic recreation due to mercury, Fish IBI, and nutrients. Downstream, the Minnesota River is impaired for aquatic life and aquatic consumption.

Portions of this reach, known as R3 (extends from Rice Marsh Lake to Lake Riley), were analyzed using the Bank Assessment for Non-Point Source Consequences of Sediment (BANCS) model, which is comprised of two erosion estimation tools. Based upon the Bank Erosion Hazard Index portion of the BANCS, these reaches rated as “high.” By stabilizing Sub-Reaches E and D3, engineers estimate the project will reduce total suspended solids (TSS) by 16,640 pounds per year and total phosphorus (TP) by 8.3 pounds per year.

At the feasibility stage, the engineer’s opinion of cost for the project ranged from \$504,000 to \$819,000. The awarded bid was for \$439,582. Funding for this project came from the RPBCWD levy and the Bearpath Golf and Country Club. 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. This will be the last year of vegetation maintenance by the district before turning that responsibility over to Bear Path Golf and Country Club.

Silver Lake Water Quality Improvement Project

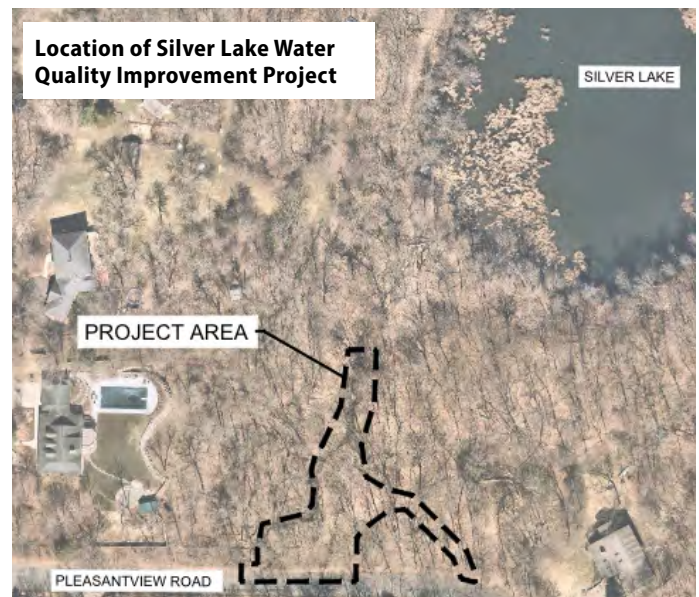
Silver Lake is classified as a shallow lake, which has an MPCA standard for total phosphorus (TP) less than or equal to 60 µg/L. Silver Lake has only met this standard in 2017. The District set a goal for chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) at or below 20 µg/L, and Silver Lake has not met this standard in any year tested. Based upon the 2017 Use Attainability Analysis, TP loads to Silver Lake need a

reduction of 16% or 179 pounds.

The Feasibility Report for the Silver Lake Subwatershed SIL_2 Water Quality Improvement Project identified five potential best management practices to treat the contributing watershed. Installation of a drop manhole structure with sump, channel reshaping, and installation of an iron-enhanced sand ditch check was selected to minimize cost, disturbance to the natural area, and potential utility conflicts. Based on estimates, the [Silver Lake Water Quality Improvement Project](#) will remove 2.6 to 4.7 pounds of TP per year.

During the feasibility study, the engineer’s opinion of project cost ranged from \$98,000 to \$183,000. The awarded bid was for \$127,977. Additional erosion was noted just beyond the construction limits and a change order was authorized to extend the curb and gutter and repair the eroded area for \$4,111, bringing total project cost to \$132,088. Funding for the project came from the RPBCWD levy with change order paid for by the City of Chanhassen. The City also partnered by donating land for the project and committing to long-term maintenance of the sump manhole and iron-enhanced sand filters.

The project was substantially complete in November 2021. Fall of 2024 will mark the completion of the three years of contracted vegetation maintenance.



Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Trail

Initiated as a flood hazard mitigation project, the project evolved into a wetland restoration project. The City of Chanhassen and RPBCWD purchased three houses that were constructed in an historic wetland and experienced regular flooding. The structures were removed from the property, either by home

movers or demolition, and their appurtenances also removed. Upon removal of the homes, RPBCWD commissioned a Feasibility Report – Pioneer Trail Wetland Restoration Project, to determine what ecological, flood protection, and stream protection benefits could be garnered from restoring the wetland on these three properties. The feasibility report looked at two outlet configurations for hydrologic and hydraulic control as well as two conceptual plans for habitat restoration.

At the feasibility stage, the engineer's opinion of cost for the selected options ranged from \$400,000 to \$650,000. The awarded bid was for \$295,098. Funding for the project came from the RPBCWD levy, the City of Chanhassen, a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant, and Watershed Based Funding Grant from the State of Minnesota. In 2021, the outlet structure was installed and earthwork was completed. Invasive species were treated as well. In the spring of 2022, the final treatment of invasive species was completed and in the summer of 2022 the wetlands were sown with native seed mixes and live container shrubs and trees were installed. There will be professional maintenance through 2027. Volunteers will be asked to perform additional maintenance thereafter.

Duck Lake Road Partnership

For many years, Duck Lake Road divided Duck Lake into two separate bodies of water. The separation negatively impacted water quality and wildlife habitat and caused frequent flooding of the roadway. In 2019, the City of Eden Prairie applied for a permit to reconstruct Duck Lake Road. This project evolved into construction of a bridge to replace the section of road dividing the lake.

The project replaced approximately 235 feet of two-lane roadway with a bridge and pedestrian improvements. Environmental benefits include restoration of the shoreline and about 7,000 square feet of the lake bed, removal of habitat fragmentation, and improved floodplain impacts by increasing the water storage volume of the lake.

Total project cost is approximately \$4.7 million over five years with the District providing up to \$1.175 million in support. The project was constructed entirely on city property, and the city will own and maintain Duck Lake Road and its right-of-way when the project is complete.

Project construction began in 2021 with substantial completion in late 2022. The official opening ceremony was held in June 2023. Later that year, the effort was selected as the [American Public Works Association's Project of the Year](#).

OPPORTUNITY PROJECTS

St. Hubert Water Quality and Native Vegetation Restoration Project

The [St. Hubert Water Quality Project](#) was project was a public/private partnership between RPBCWD, St. Hubert Catholic School, and Carver Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The project germinated from a school staff member's desire to install a raingarden for her classroom as a project to address runoff from the school's parking lot that had created a deeply incised gully had formed within a tributary to Rice Marsh Lake. The project evolved to address the gully, install a rain garden, install a tree trench, restore 0.6 acres of fallow land to prairie, as well as make some drainage improvements on the site. In addition to the water quality benefits, RPBCWD staff are working with staff at St. Hubert to develop curriculum to turn the prairie into a living classroom. The school and RPBCWD are also working with a class at the University of Minnesota to study soil health and vegetation establishment at the site.

A memorandum of conceptual design was prepared to communicate conceptual design options, approximate costs, as well as benefits and limitations of specific practices. The preliminary opinion of cost ranged from \$204,000 to \$277,000. The awarded bid was for \$290,964. Funding is from the RPBCWD levy, St. Hubert Parish Council, the State of Minnesota Watershed Based Implementation Fund, and Carver SWCD. The project was substantially completed in August of 2021. Three years of maintenance remains on the prairie, rain garden, and tree trench.



Photo of tree trench installation for the St. Hubert Opportunity Project.

Spring Road Conservation Project

The [Spring Road Conservation Project](#) originated out of a significant grassroots upwelling. The area was deemed to be a priority area for protection by the RPBCWD. The RPBCWD ten-year plan was updated to include the Spring Road Conservation Project on November 16, 2023. A public hearing was held on October 16, 2023. This project will protect and restore approximately 27 acres of highly erosive bluff land in the Riley Creek and Minnesota River valleys. In addition, the acquisition will allow for targeted education and outreach opportunities, will add one of two remaining properties needed to complete a contiguous natural corridor from Lake Riley to the Minnesota River, will aid in meeting the TMDL for both waterways, and will provide opportunity for research. The area may also be used to house the RPBCWD offices in the future.

Fee title for the land was acquired on December 30, 2025. Funding for the acquisition came from a \$1.98 million grant from Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and \$2.96 million bonding. The RPBCWD is working with the University of Minnesota and Hennepin County Land and Water to develop a restoration plan and restore the site beginning in 2026. The time will be contingent upon a number of factors including funding, phasing, and weather conditions.

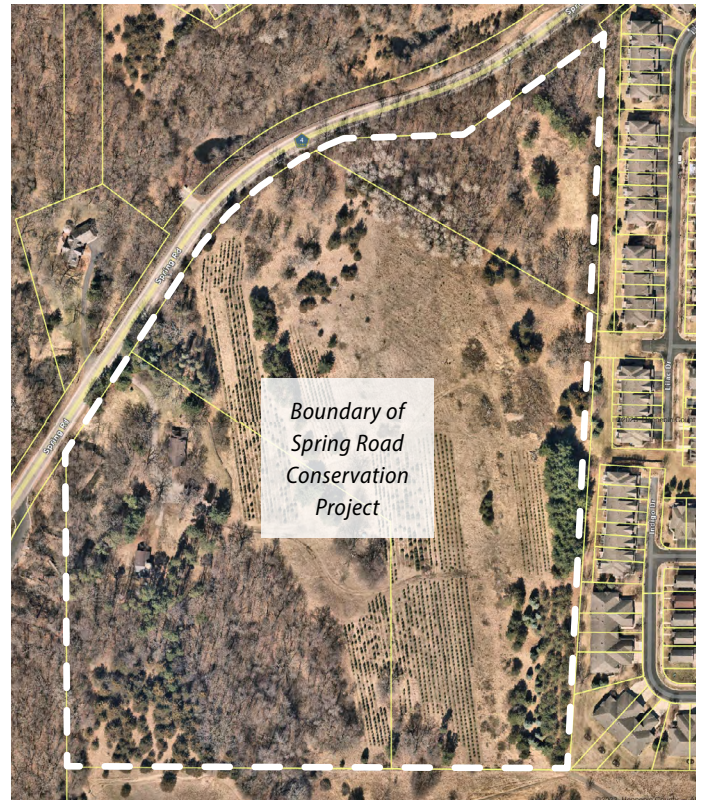


Photo of Spring Road Conservation Project showing fallow pasture and evergreen trees once harvested as Christmas trees.

2025 Soil Health Program Report

Zach Dickhausen, *Natural Resources Manager*

rpbcwd.org/soil-health-study

Introduction

The District and Barr Engineering staff have been developing the Soil Health Program as part of the Ecosystem Health Action Plan (EHAP). The purpose of this program is to assess various functions of urban soils to better understand the relationship between plant communities, soil functions and characteristics, and hydrology. Through on-site assessment and soil sampling, staff have collected data on various soil function metrics and plant communities. This study also acts as a way for staff to catalogue and identify the makeup of soils within the District.

These findings will provide further framework for improving soil functions pertaining to water quality and stormwater storage by informing changes to existing programs, including:

- Bolstering our cost-share program to include soil restoration
- Providing soil health resources for stakeholders
- Updating our regulatory rules pertaining to soil impacts
- Identifying long-term impacts of site restoration on soil
- Optimizing project site selection by accounting for soil benefits

What is Soil Health?

Soil health can be seen as “the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans” (NRCS 2023). Soil health and soil quality are considered synonymous. However, many soil professionals will make one distinction between the two: soil quality includes both inherent and dynamic quality (Moebius-Clune 2017). Inherent quality is the makeup and properties of soil, shaped by long-term geological processes; dynamic qualities, more of the “soil health” qualities, are the properties of the soil which are



influenced by use and changes on a human time scale (Cornell University 2017). Soil is its own ecosystem, working as a vital part of boarder ecosystems. Therefore, it is important to manage and strive for good soil health and function. Properly functioning soil provides benefits such as:

- Nutrient cycling and retention
- Healthy vegetation communities
- Carbon sequestration
- Greater water infiltration and storage

For more information on soil health, refer to Cornell University's “What is Soil Health?” Soil Health Manual Series, Fact sheet found in Appendix A, or the Cornell University Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health Training Manual.

Extensive research exists on soil health and its effectiveness on improving water quality and conservation. Staff continue to review literature on the subject, compile research findings,

and identify best practices for soil improvement and policies. The following is a summary of the soil assessment efforts staff undertook during the 2025 field season. This includes methods of assessment, infiltration data (specifically hydraulic conductivity), and soil physical, biological, and chemical characteristics. Further analysis of apparent trends in the data across the different land use types and soil types is also discussed.

Assessment Metrics

Table 1 contains the current list of sampling metrics collected during a site assessment. These metrics may change upon further literature review and data reassessment. One example of this is the addition of bulk density to the metrics list for the 2025 field season. The metrics analyzed by Cornell University's Soils Lab as a part of their standard soil health analysis package are noted in the following table.

Assessment Sites

Since Fall of 2023, site and point selection has been based on representative land use types. These land use types fall into two general categories: minimally disturbed soils with minimally altered hydrology, and disturbed soils with moderate-highly altered hydrology (Table 2).

Altered hydrology is the change in how water moves in the watershed, often due to human influence. This can lead to negative impacts on our ecosystems, including increased runoff into our waterbodies and decreased water storage capacity. A residential lawn is an example of a land use with altered hydrology. On lawns, this usually occurs through grading, soil compaction and maintenance of turfgrass. In other land use types, the introduction of invasive species, such as common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) or earthworms, can also lead to altered hydrology. These invasive species can also drastically alter the soil and surrounding vegetation. This can lead to perceived natural land use types, such as forested areas, having altered hydrology. Areas with minimally altered hydrology, or hydrology that has been restored to a more natural state, will

Table 1. List of current RPBCWD Soil Health Program sampling metrics.

Metric	Assessment
Infiltration rates (MPD infiltrometer)	On-site
Compaction (field penetrometer)	On-site
Soil respiration	Cornell University Soils Lab
pH	Cornell University Soils Lab
Modified Morgan Extractable P	Cornell University Soils Lab
K, Mg, Fe, Mn, Zn, Al, Ca, Cu, S, B	Cornell University Soils Lab
Soil texture	On-site <i>and</i> Cornell University Soils Lab
Active carbon	Cornell University Soils Lab
Wet aggregate stability	Cornell University Soils Lab
Soil organic carbon	Cornell University Soils Lab
Predicted Autoclave-citrate Extractable (ACE) protein*	Cornell University Soils Lab
Available water capacity	Cornell University Soils Lab
Surface/sub-surface hardness interpretation (based on field penetrometer readings)	Cornell University Soils Lab
Soil profile/horizon assessment (texture, color, thickness, matrix makeup, redoximorphic features, presence of wetland soils and/or hydrology, etc.)	On-site
Soil moisture	On-site
Vegetation	On-site
Presence of earthworms	On-site
Bulk density	On-site

*Autoclave-citrate extractable (ACE) protein and available water capacity are predicted based on other indicators measured.

have less soil disturbance that would lead to these negative impacts. In theory, these land use types will have increased infiltration and water storage capacity. An example of a land use type with minimally altered hydrology is an undisturbed prairie with diverse native plant communities.

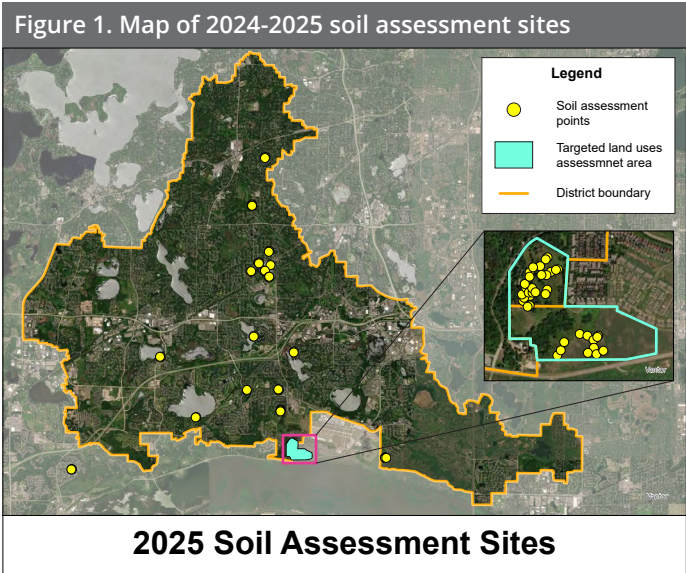
Specific site selection focuses on observing and comparing soil conditions at sites with altered hydrology, and minimally altered or restored hydrology. 2025 sample sites can be seen in

Figure 1. Initial points are mapped using Web Soil Survey. This application provides mapped soil textures and types created by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Once on site, adjustments to point placements are made if needed. They are made to accommodate observation of land use type boundaries, add additional assessment points to the sample size, or if other factors called for staff to do so (ex: to avoid sprinkler systems). One infiltration test is conducted at each mapped point. At least one composite sample, consisting of six subsamples, is taken at each point as well. Subsamples are taken within the general area of the corresponding infiltration measurement.

Table 2. List of representative land use types assessed within RPBUSD.

Minimally Altered and Restored Hydrology	Altered Hydrology
Restored prairie (>30 years old)	Residential lawn
Fallow field (>30 years old)	Mowed parkland and multi-activity field
Forests with good (>50%) herbaceous cover	Forest with poor (<50%) herbaceous cover
	Rain garden

After reviewing sample and test data from 2023-2024, staff identified three issues with site selection and sample point placement that they wanted to correct in 2025. First, it was determined that more assessments on residential, maintained lawns were needed. Residential lawns cover about 40 percent of the District. Staff did not sample any lawns until 2024, and the number of sites assessed was still too low to get a good baseline on how residential lawn soils were functioning within the District. Staff planned for analyzing data from residential lawn sites with the goal of identifying what the soil in these residential areas looked like. The 2025 residential sample sites had been developed across multiple decades and had varying levels of topsoil. Some sites had heavily mixed soils containing fill originating from off-site, and other sites had soil closer to what was present before development. Assessing residential lawns, which have such a varying level of disturbance depending on where and when they were developed, is key to staff having a clearer picture of what the District’s soils look like. Sampling a



large portion of residential lawns also gives staff an idea of how they function across the District. This can better inform future programs and rules pertaining to residential development and existing development management.

Second, staff found they needed more information on how soil function in land use types differs when they all share similar soil textures and makeup. In 2023 and 2024, staff collected quite a bit of data from each land use type. However, the soil makeup across these land use types varied quite a bit. A question was posed: How do soil texture and makeup affect these soil functions being measured? When looking at all the sample points containing a specific soil make-up and texture (ex: all sites with predominantly sandy soil), there were not enough points sampled within each land use type containing that specific soil make-up and texture(s) to carry out any accurate statistical analyses. this, a large part of the 2025 schedule focused on assessing a few different land use types with consistent soil texture and makeup located adjacent to each other.

Staff focused this part of assessments on one specific area in the southern part of the District, near Riley Creek immediately north of Flying Cloud Drive. This area contains Prairie Bluff Conservation Area and the Spring Road property. This area contains adequate sample area within a fallow tree farm dominated by smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), forest with poor herbaceous cover dominated by common buckthorn, and a restored prairie. The addition of the fallow tree farm (which was given its own category of land use as seen in Table 2) was an opportunity for the District to sample such a contained area

that had multiple land use types, all with very similar sandy soils. Figure 1 shows sites assessed in these adjacent land use types during the 2025 field season.

Lastly, staff wanted to increase the density of sample and test points across each site. Increasing the density of testing at a site gives a better representation of what the soil looks like at the site. It also avoids skewing results due to undersampling the site.

Infiltration

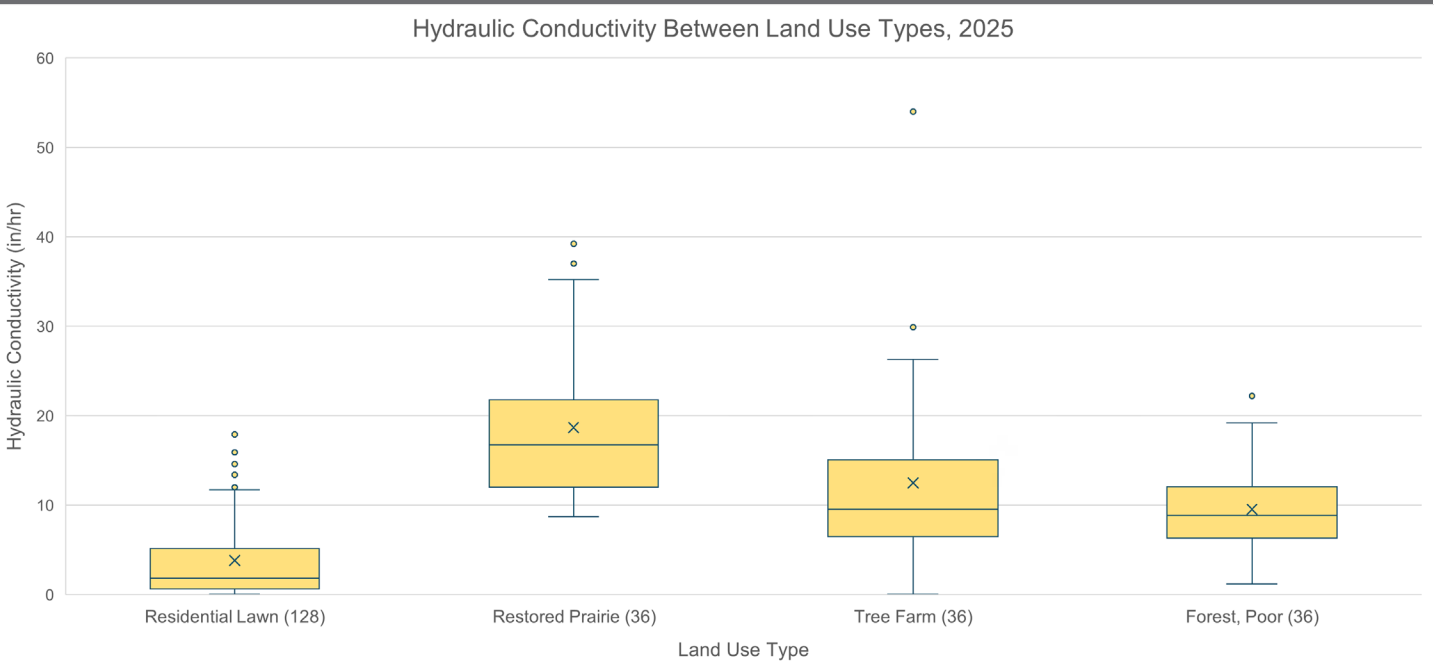
Infiltration testing was conducted to measure the hydraulic conductivity (Ksat) of the soil at each site using a Modified Philip Dunne infiltrometer (MPD). Hydraulic conductivity is the water infiltration rate once the soil has reached 100% saturation and the infiltration rate has become constant. Infiltration testing was conducted on days when there was no precipitation 24 hours prior. At each assessment point, three four-inch diameter graduated cylinders were pounded into the soil at a three-foot radius around a center point. At this point, the cylinders were each filled with 30 centimeters of water. Once filled, the MPD sensor heads were placed onto the cylinders, and the test was started immediately. Each individual cylinder constituted one test. Once the sensor head was in place and turned on, the MPD



automatically recorded data for each test. Each test ran until all the water had drained from the tube. If no water drainage was observed after one hour, the test was concluded.

Previously, this was done at the surface by only removing surface debris and sod. In 2025, staff conducted infiltration testing 12 inches below the surface. This was done because staff wanted to test hydraulic conductivity in residential lawn soils at a point below the lawn's topsoil. The topsoil is the 6 to 12 inches of soil that is usually placed on top of graded soils at the end of development. To be able to compare results across all four

Figure 2. Hydraulic conductivity of successful infiltration tests. "X" indicates the mean hydraulic conductivity (Ksat) value across all the tests within that particular land use type. The lines intersecting each box plot indicate the median Ksat value of the tests conducted for that land use type.



land use types tested in 2025, the three non-residential land use types were tested as 12" below the surface as well. Beyond this, seeing how hydraulic conductivity performs further down the soil column can give staff a better understanding of the depth of potential stormwater storage space at a site. This would also consider any change in compaction or other functions deeper below the surface.

Samples and Soil Profiles

Clear, sunny days were needed to properly evaluate the soil profile. When it was too overcast to properly assess soil horizon colors, soil profiles were conducted later during sunny conditions.

Each composite sample consisted of at least six subsamples taken in pairs. Each set of subsamples were taken 15 feet apart, with one pair taken adjacent to the infiltration test point. Previously for each subsample, surface debris was removed and an 8-inch-deep hole was dug using a tile spade. From the side of the hole, the top two inches of surface soil was removed to clear vegetation. Digging where the top two inches of surface soil were removed, and a six-by-two-inch sample, the width of the shovel blade, was removed along with any extra soil. In



Stiff sunflower (*Helianthus pauciflorus*)

2025, the starting hole was dug to a depth of about 18 inches. From here, the sample was removed from the side of the hole starting 12 inches below the surface. At each subsample point, a penetrometer was used to measure surface and subsurface compaction (0"-6" and 6"-18" from the surface, respectively). Penetrometer readings were recorded with soil samples and analyzed by the soils lab. Subsamples were placed and mixed in a clean, five-gallon bucket. Five cups of the composite sample were measured and double bagged in gallon freezer bags. Sample was labeled with site information, refrigerated, and mailed via USPS to the Cornell University Soils Lab for analysis. All samples were sent by end of day or the following day to prevent decomposition of samples.

Infiltration Data Results

Given the change in analysis depth in 2025, this analysis will focus on data collection in 2025. We will discuss how this field season's data compares to previously collected data, but with the caveat that different assessment depths could change the level of function or compaction.

During the 2025 field season, 83 sites were assessed for hydraulic conductivity (Ksat), equating to 249 individual infiltration tests. At least one set of three tests was conducted at each site; some sites had repeat or extra tests conducted. Some of these extra tests were due to errors in the infiltration test that produced "NULL" results. Other tests were stopped



Example of a soil profile extracted at a residential lawn

Figure 3. Sample assessment report for a sample taken at the Prairie Bluff Conservation Area.

Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health

From the Cornell Soil Health Laboratory, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853
<https://soilhealthlab.cals.cornell.edu>



Grower: Zach Dickhausen
18681 Lake Drive East
Chanhassen, MN 55317
zdickhausen@rpbcdw.org

Sample ID: CC544
Field ID: PB17
Date Sampled: 08/11/2025
Coordinates: Latitude: 44.81971
Longitude: -93.474761

Measured Soil Textural Class: **sand**

Sand: **91%** - Silt: **5%** - Clay: **3%**

Group	Indicator	Value	Rating	Constraints
physical	Available Water Capacity	0.05	13	Water Retention and Availability
physical	Surface Hardness	196	35	
physical	Subsurface Hardness	300	50	
physical	Aggregate Stability	37.1	63	
biological	Organic Matter Soil Organic Carbon: 0.01 / Total Carbon: 1.49 / Total Nitrogen: 0.04	0.7	5	Nutrient and Energy Storage, Ion Exchange, C Sequestration, Water Retention
biological	Predicted Soil Protein	4.85	23	
biological	Soil Respiration	0.1	6	Soil Microbial Abundance and Activity
biological	Active Carbon	125	5	Energy Source for Soil Biota
chemical	Soil pH	7.6	81	
chemical	Extractable Phosphorus	1.4	41	
chemical	Extractable Potassium	39.3	58	
chemical	Additional Nutrients Ca: 9480.9 / Mg: 205.4 / S: 3.3 Al: 3.8 / B: 0.17 / Cu: 0.06 Fe: 1.4 / Mn: 5.3 / Zn: 0.2		88	

Overall Quality Score: **39** / Low

Table 3. List of land use types with respective number of MPD tests over the 2025 field season.

Land Use Type	Number of MPD tests
Residential Lawn	128
Forest, Poor	36
Tree Farm	36
Fallow Field	36

early by staff due to slow or no drainage and produced a “NULL” result. In total, 27 tests produced a “NULL” result. Each of these NULL tests had their hydrographs analyzed. If the hydrograph showed that the infiltration rate over the last five minutes was close to 0.1 inches of movement per hour, then the hydraulic conductivity was estimated to be 0.1 inches per hour. If there was little to no movement during the entire test and the water level dropped at rate much less than 0.1 inch per hour, then hydraulic conductivity was estimated to be 0 inches per hour. Of those 27 NULL tests, 13 were determined unusable and left out of the data analysis. In total, 236 usable tests were collected. Table 3 gives the breakdown of how many successful tests occurred within each land use type in 2025.

Hydraulic conductivity varied across the four sampled land use types. The restored prairie had the highest average hydraulic conductivity across 36 tests at 18.67 in/hr. The prairie plant community was dominated by prairie grasses such as prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus hererolepsis*) and big blue stem (*Andropogon gerardii*). Residential lawns, dominated by Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) or other low-mowed turf grasses, had the lowest average hydraulic conductivity at 3.80 in/hr across 128 tests. The average hydraulic conductivity of the 36 tests at the tree farm and the 36 tests in the buckthorn dominated forested area were 12.49 in/hr and 9.52 in/hr, respectively. The old tree farm was dominated by smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), and thick areas of white spruce (*Picea glauca*). The forested area was dominated by thick buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) across all strata, and basswood (*Tilia americana*). Site-specific hydraulic conductivity graphs for each land use type can be found in Appendix B.

Staff did plan out non-residential sample points to be taken

from within a relatively small portion of the District. The idea behind this was to reduce variability when comparing hydraulic conductivity and other functions across different land use types by ensuring sites sampled were either on the same parcel or parcels adjacent to each other. This way they would all contain mostly similar soil types, textures, and topography. This would avoid widely varying soil textures which would have a significant effect on infiltration rates. In previous years, assessment sites were spread across and just outside of the District. This helped staff identify what soils looked like across more areas of the District, but there was more variability with soil makeup and texture. In the previous years’ data, there was a similar trend in hydraulic conductivity between altered and minimally altered and restored hydrology land use types, not including the mowed parkland and multi-use field categories. These categories were removed for assessment consideration because there was too much variability in traffic and use across this category. They would have to be split up into sub-categories to be considered for future sampling. Staff did start to see larger and more consistent differences in hydraulic conductivity between land use types when they shared similar soil texture and makeup.

Although 2025 residential lawn samples were taken from areas spread out across the District, most of the soil types assessed were majority sand or a sand-loam mixture. 33 of the 47 residential lawn sites sampled had a soil texture of sandy loam to sand, the remaining 14 sites having a texture of loam. This brings a bit more confidence when comparing hydraulic



Prairie at the Prairie Bluff Conservation Area

Table 4. Soil Health Indicators - Cornell Framework.

PHYSICAL	Predicted Available Water Capacity: reflects the quantity of water that a disturbed sample of soil can store for plant use. It is the difference between water stored at field capacity and at the wilting point, and is measured using pressure chambers.
	Surface Hardness: is a measure of the maximum soil surface (0 to 6 inch depth) penetration resistance (psi), or compaction, determined using a field penetrometer.
	Subsurface Hardness: is a measure of the maximum resistance (psi) encountered in the soil between 6 to 18 inch depths using a field penetrometer.
	Aggregate Stability: is a measure of how well soil aggregates resist disintegration when hit by rain drops. It is measured using a standardized simulated rainfall event on a sieve containing soil aggregates between 0.25 and 2.0 mm. The fraction of soil that remains on the sieve determines the percent aggregate stability.
BIOLOGICAL	Organic Matter: is a measure of all carbonaceous material that is derived from living organisms. The percent organic matter is determined by the mass of oven dried soil lost on combustion in a 500° C furnace.
	Predicted Soil Protein: is a measure of the fraction of the soil organic matter which contains much of the organically bound N. Microbial activity can mineralize this N and make it available for plant uptake. This is measured by extraction with a citrate buffer under high temperature and pressure.
	Soil Respiration: is a measure of the metabolic activity of the soil microbial community. It is measured by re-wetting air dried soil, and capturing and quantifying carbon dioxide (CO ₂) produced.
	Active Carbon: is a measure of the small portion of the organic matter that can serve as an easily available food source for soil microbes, thus helping fuel and maintain a healthy soil food web. It is measured by quantifying potassium permanganate oxidation with a spectrophotometer.
CHEMICAL	Soil Chemical Composition: is a standard soil test analysis package measures levels of pH and plant nutrients. Measured levels are interpreted in this assessment's framework of sufficiency and excess but no crop specific recommendations are provided. Nutrients measured include extractable phosphorus, extractable potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, aluminum, boron, copper, manganese, and sulfur.

conductivity of residential lawns in the District to other land use types assessed in 2025. There was a much lower average Ksat average for residential lawns in 2025 of 3.80 in/hr than the Ksat across 2022-2024 residential lawn tests of 7.63 in/hr. Both datasets were collected from areas across the District, but there are a couple things that could account for the difference in average Ksat. First, there were considerably more tests done in 2025 than in 2022-2024 (128 tests vs. 53 tests, respectively). With almost 2.5 times more tests, the 2025 data set is more reliable. Staff also made a point to collect more samples at each property to get a better representation of them. Secondly, staff wanted to test lower in the soil profile in 2025, specifically in residential areas. This was to find out how the soil beneath topsoil in our

residential areas' functions. Decompaction practices often do not decompact soil very deep, if at all. The layer of topsoil put down after grading and decomposition may not be very thick, if any was added at all. The age of the residential areas assessed varied. Some were developed within the last decade, some 30-40 years ago, and some homes were just built on land with minimal-to-no-large-scale residential development and alteration of the soil. By assessing the soil deeper in the profile, we can get a better idea of how the soil will function and infiltrate, especially in areas where the topsoil might be masking a heavily compacted soil beneath it.

Sample Data Results

Over the 2025 field season, 83 composite soil samples were collected from across the four different land use types (12 from each of the three land use types at the Spring Road and Prairie Bluff Conservation Area and 47 residential lawn samples). Samples were mailed to the Cornell University Soils Lab for analysis. Lab results and assessment of the samples included a comprehensive analysis of soil health for each sample, including measurements and functional scores of physical, biological, and chemical metrics. These scores rated each functional metric of a given sample out of 100, 0 being a very low functional score, and 100 being a very high functional score (Figure 3 is a sample assessment report for one of three samples taken at Prairie Bluff Conservation Area. This site is labeled as "PB17".) The assessment report for each sample also includes soil texture composition, as well as management suggestions to correct indicators which scored poorly. It is important to note that the CASH framework for assessment and soil health focus around soils within agricultural settings. Chemical functions' ratings listed in these reports are very specific to how the chemical makeup of the soil will influence crop growth. Chemical properties in soil will continue to be a part of the analysis of soil samples collected, but at this time, it will not be a part of sample analysis of this report. The overall quality score provided on the Cornell CASH report will also not be included seeing that chemical analysis has been removed.

Last year's soil report analyzed 114 samples taken from seven different land use types (including forest with poor cover, residential lawns and restored prairie) across the District since 2022. Staff had also expected to see better biological and physical functional scores in the unaltered/restored hydrological land use types when looking at the sample data collected during this period. However, as was the case with the samples taken in 2025, this did not necessarily happen. Including the 102 samples taken during the 2023-2024 season, the following analysis includes a total of 114 samples taken from representative ecosystems since the study began in the fall of 2022. Graphs of average functional ratings by land use type for 2025 can be found in Appendix C. The fallow field land



New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)

use type, where the field had been left to revert to a more natural state for 30 plus years, had some of the lowest average scores across most of the functions. This is a land use type that, when assessing older sites, one might expect the functional scores to be higher given the diversity and density of the plant community, and the reduced usage of the site. Like 2024, degraded forests' rates varied across the different functions, scoring higher than other land use types in some categories. Given the lack of herbaceous cover, and in the case of the forest site at the Spring Road property, the dominance of buckthorn, there was an assumption that degraded forests would score poorly across all functions.

After several years of data collection and review, staff are concluding that many of the representative sites being sampled range in functional quality and health. Some of the spaces with greater amounts of altered hydrology and disturbance are potentially in a healthier condition than they could be, given their land use type. On the flip side, minimally altered or restored hydrology land use types can be minimally disturbed and have a somewhat healthy plant community, but still have poorer soil function, while still having good hydraulic conductivity. Given this and the hydraulic conductivity results we have recorded over this study, there are likely other factors such as the makeup of plant community and usage that are influencing hydraulic conductivity. Even when we are seeing lower soil physical and biological functions across the minimally altered/restored hydrology land uses, we are still typically

seeing much higher average hydraulic conductivity rates. We know based on the literature on soil health and function, and infiltration, that good biological soil function leads to good soil physical function which ultimately leads to improved infiltration and water storage capacity. When looking at soil function within these different land uses, the level of function may not necessarily be an indicator of the plant community and land use. Perhaps the land use and plant communities are the indicator of how well stormwater might infiltrate and the amount of potential storage capacity despite what the level of biological and physical soil function. In cases where minimally altered hydrology land use types had decreased soil function, the goal of implementing any future BMP or restoration would be to improve those specific low-scoring functional categories and increase infiltration rates and storage capacity.

Next Steps

With several years of focused soil assessments, staff want to start using this data to inform and guide other District programs. In 2026, staff are exploring ways to improve residential lawn soil health in the District. One avenue being evaluated is soil quality restoration. This method improves lawn soil health through deep aeration and compost application. This process increases infiltration of water into the soil and organic matter content. Staff will also be looking into developing soil functional standards for the District using soil function assessment data collected since 2022. This will include looking to incorporate such standards into future rule updates and capital improvement projects.

Staff will continue sampling and testing soil in 2026. Assessment efforts will focus on remnant and restored prairies of differing ages in Minnetonka and Bloomington, as well as before and after District permitted projects.

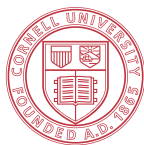
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Appendices

Appendix A

Cornell University Soils Fact Sheet



Cornell University
School of Integrative Plant Sciences

Soil Health Manual Series

Fact Sheet Number 16-00

Cornell Soil Health Laboratory: Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH)

The Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH), commonly known as the Cornell Soil Health Test, is designed for farmers, gardeners, agricultural service providers, landscape managers and researchers who want to go beyond simply testing the nutrient levels of their soils. The Cornell Soil Health Lab was the first to offer a comprehensive soil health package analysis that provides standardized information on a suite of important soil biological and physical parameters in addition to standard nutrient analyses. The CASH assessment is regarded as a key tool for soil health measurement by a diverse clientele of growers, research projects, and national initiatives.

The Cornell Soil Health Lab conducts many thousands of soil health package analyses each year. The Soil Health Report lists the laboratory results from each analysis. Each lab value is scored against the large database with color-coding for clarity. The Cornell Soil Health Lab also offers a Soil Health Management Planning framework to focus soil management options on the identified parameters.

The Cornell Soil Health Lab offers cutting edge soil assessments, many of which were developed in house, and which serve as the standard for soil health lab analytics around the world. The analyses are offered as individual assessments and as parts of soil health assessment packages. The suite of lab analyses include:

- pH and Nutrient Testing
- Loss on Ignition/Organic Matter
- Active Carbon
- Total Carbon, Total Nitrogen
- Soil Organic Carbon
- Surface and Sub-Surface Hardness
- Rapid Texture
- Wet Aggregate Stability
- Soil Respiration
- Autoclave-Citrate Extractable (ACE) Protein
- Available Water Capacity
- Predicted Available Water Capacity
- Predicted Autoclave-Citrate Extractable (ACE) Protein
- Bulk Density and Stone Content
- Soluble Salts

Our website offers a collection of one-page, two-sided Fact Sheets designed to explain each the soil indicators listed above. The Fact Sheets provide information regarding each soil analysis in a ready format for researchers, growers, Extension personnel and Ag Service Providers.

More comprehensive details regarding the CASH soil assessment indicators and soil health management strategies for improving soil health are available in the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health Training Manual, available free online.

Also available online are the Cornell Soil Health Lab Standard Operating Procedures for each of the soil lab analyses.



Acknowledgments

The Cornell Soil Health Lab thanks the School of Integrative Plant Science, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University and the NE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program.

This information is based on The Cornell Soil Health Manual and includes contributions from all authors of that document.

This fact sheet represents the best professional judgment of the authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the funders or reviewers.



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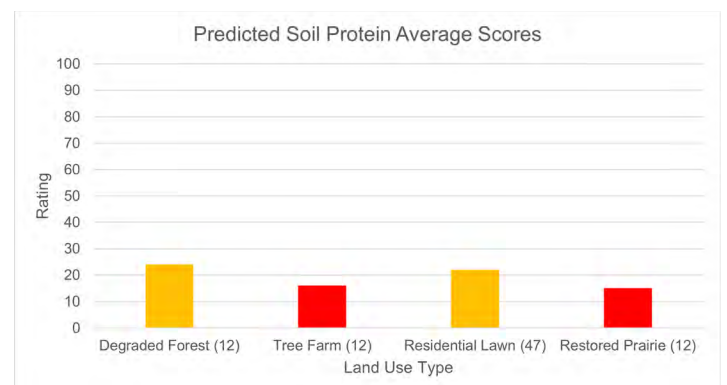
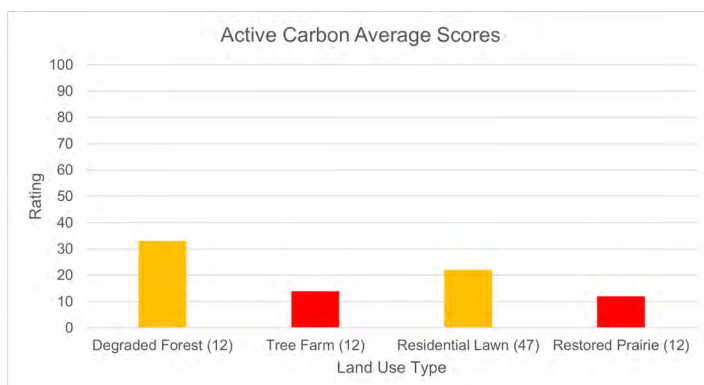
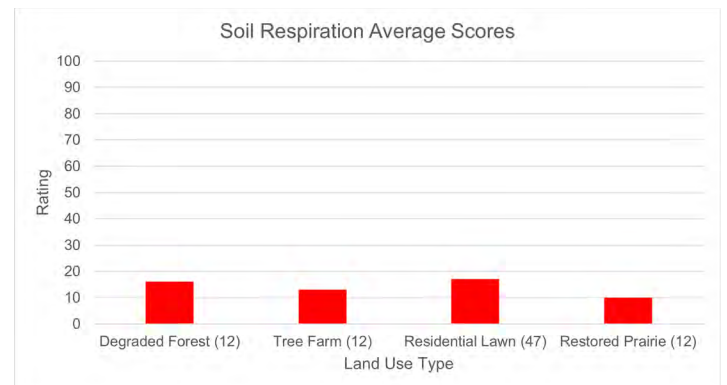
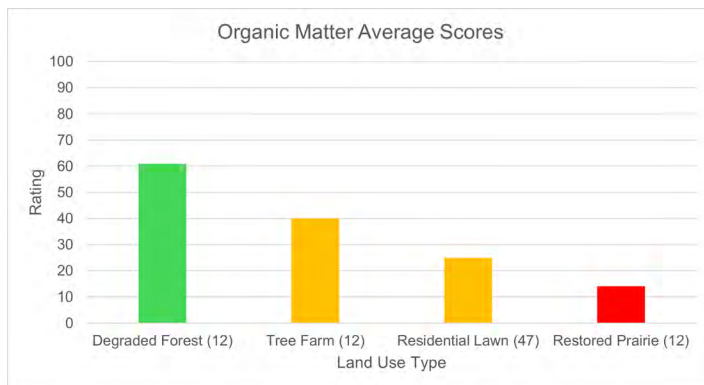
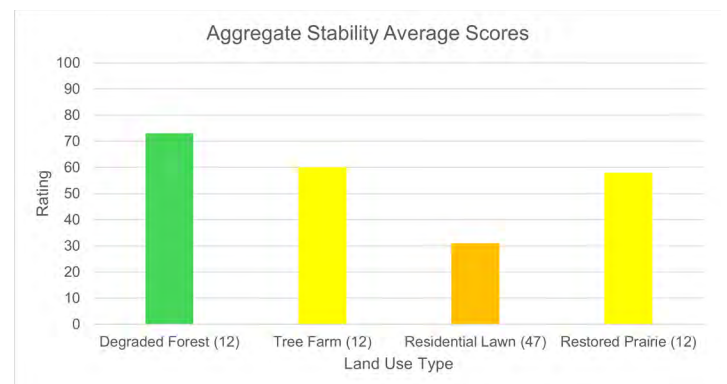
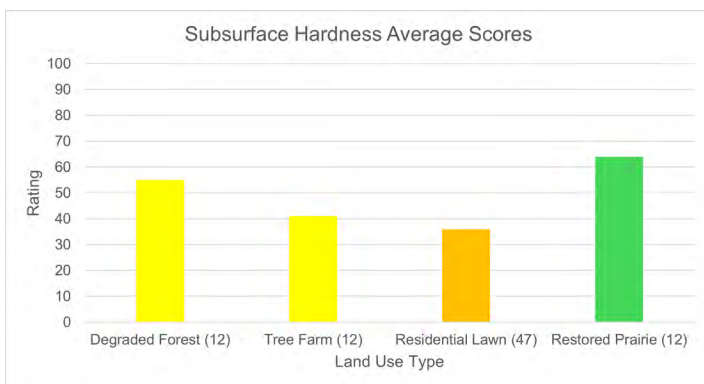
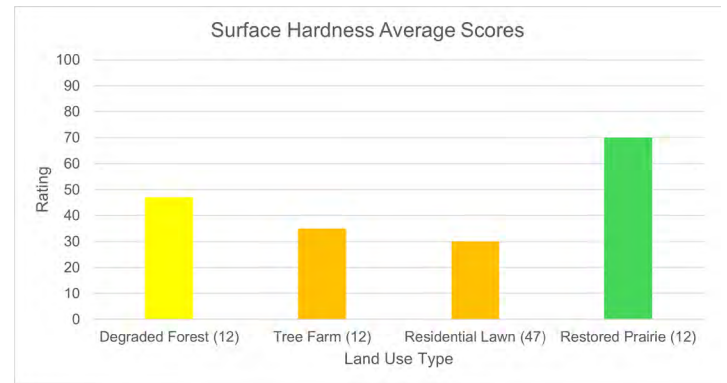
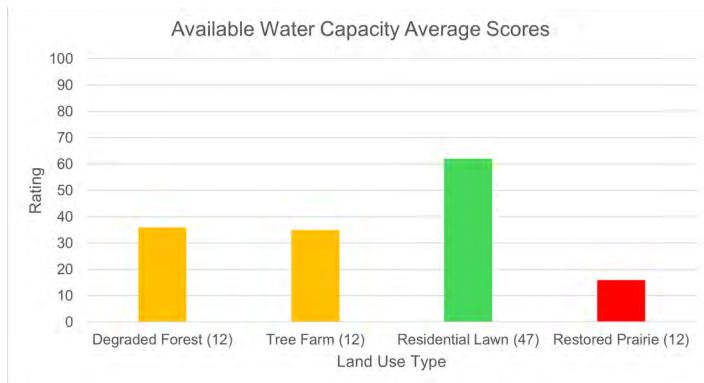
Appendix B

Site-specific hydraulic conductivity measurements across all land use types.



Appendix C

Comprehensive assessment of soil health indicator function/health ratings across all sites sampled.



2025 Cost Share Program Report

Eleanor Mahon, *Community Engagement Coordinator*

[rpbcwd.org/funding assistance](http://rpbcwd.org/funding%20assistance)

OVERVIEW

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) has three cost share/grant offerings. The Action Grant is open to all RPBCWD community members, and the Educator Mini-Grant is open to teachers and informal educators located within the district boundary. The Stewardship Cost Share is open to property owners within RPBCWD including homeowners, non-profits such as homeowners' associations and communities of faith, local units of government such as cities, schools, and businesses.

EDUCATOR MINI-GRANT

The Educator Mini-Grant supports educators in their efforts to connect their students with water resources. An applicant can be awarded up to \$400 for a project that has a water resources component. Previous grantees received reimbursements for bus fees to a nature center, binoculars for wildlife watching, and waders for students to use to collect aquatic macroinvertebrates. Three Educator Mini-Grants were awarded to teachers at Minnetonka High School for the purchase of water quality testing equipment for 10th graders to track trends in the water quality of Purgatory Creek.

Minnetonka High School 10th Graders conducting water quality testing on water collected from Purgatory Creek.



ACTION GRANT

Action grants are small, simple grants of up to \$250 for projects to protect clean water. They are designed to help residents have an impact on local water quality with small projects and grow awareness throughout communities in our watershed. Applications may be submitted year-round, and grant money is reimbursed upon project completion.

One Action Grant was awarded in 2024 to a student group at the University of Minnesota to assist them in a group project developing an ecological restoration plan for the Spring Road Conservation Project site. Another application from a neighborhood group in Minnetonka requesting funding to dredge and remove vegetation from a city-owned wetland was denied after the project did not receive approval from the City.



Equipment from a site visit with the University of Minnesota students at the Spring Road Property.

STEWARDSHIP COST SHARE

The Stewardship Cost Share provides cost share and technical advice for projects that protect and conserve natural resources. Ideal projects increase public awareness of the vulnerability of local water resources and solutions to improve them.

Potential grantees begin the application process by requesting a site visit. In 2025, 54 site visits were completed. These initial or "kick off" site visits are typically performed by Seth Ristow, Landscape Restoration Specialist, with the Carver Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). This ongoing partnership provides opportunity for district residents to discuss their project ideas with someone experienced in implementing a variety of best management practices including habitat restoration, erosion control, and rain gardens.

After the initial site visit, an application packet may be submitted. The application is reviewed initially by the RPBCWD cost share coordinator to see if all required information was submitted. If so, the application is forwarded to the cost share review committee, which in 2025 consisted of RPBCWD staff, Seth Ristow (Carver SWCD), and Marilyn Torkelson (RPBCWD Citizen Advisory Committee).

Cost share awards are based on the type of project and its value toward accomplishing District goals. The table in the upper right shows the maximum awards per applicant category. Not all projects are awarded the maximum.

APPLICANT CATEGORY	MAXIMUM AWARD	
	Percent of project cost	Dollar amount
Residents	75%	\$5,000
Non-Residents (Non-profits, Local government, schools, businesses)	50%	\$50,000

Seventeen grant projects were completed in 2025 with total cost share reimbursement of \$164,095. Before reimbursement, grantees must schedule and pass a project inspection (Carver SWCD). The grantee must also submit a project report consisting of a summary description, photographs, and receipts before reimbursement is considered. Grantees are required to maintain projects and submit reports after installation. Individual homeowners must maintain their project for at least five years. Other grant applicant types (non-profits such as homeowners associations, municipalities, etc.) must maintain their projects for at least 10 years.

2025 STEWARDSHIP COST SHARE ACTIVITIES	QUANTITY
Initial site visits completed	54
New agreements signed	17
Active projects	21
Close-out inspections completed	11

In 2025, we launched a new cost share program software. The new system includes automated email notifications to confirm site visit requests and other stages of the application/cost share process, including annual reporting reminders.

RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District

MS4Front

Grant Application Form

Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*)

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9

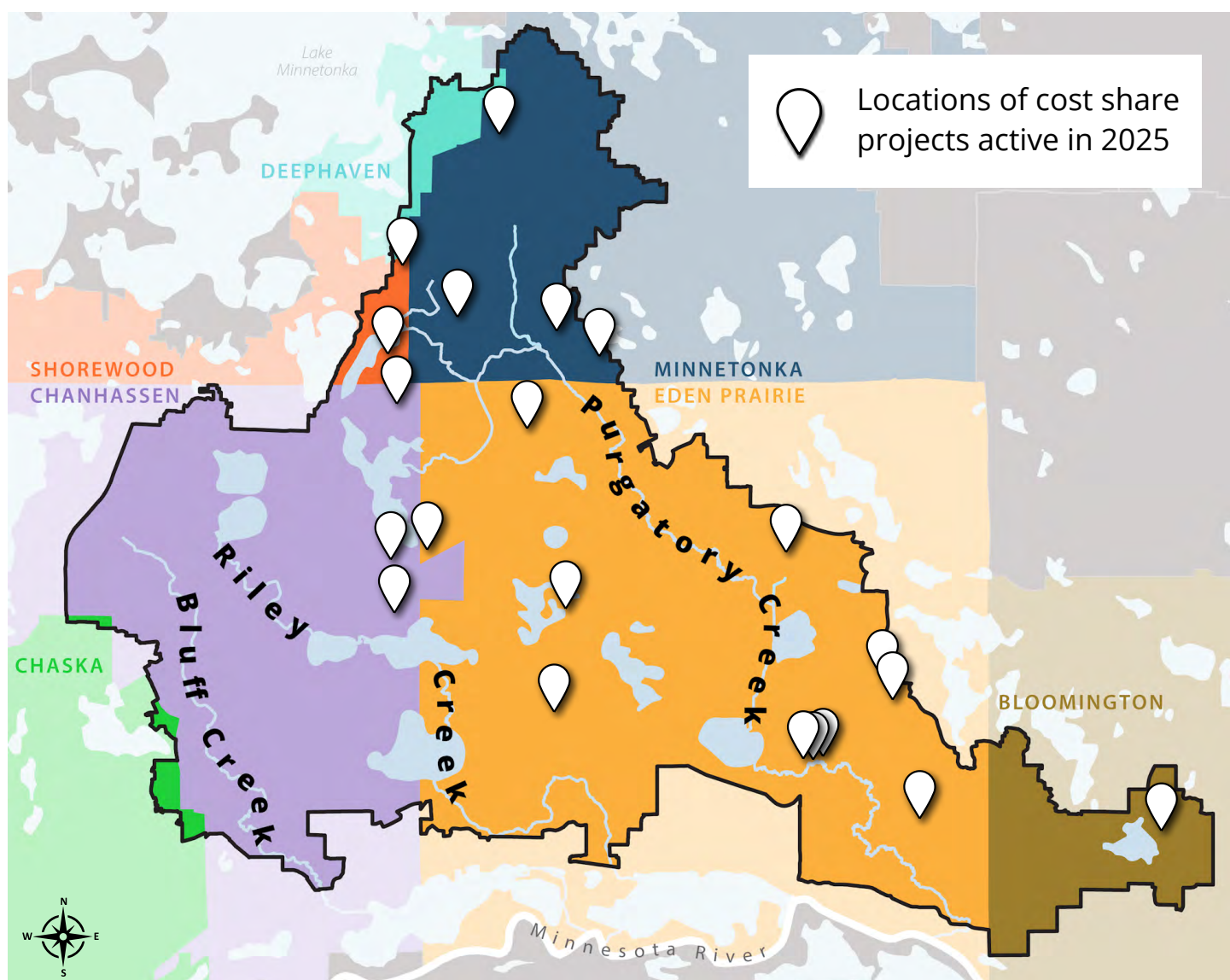
Instructions — Site Visit Request — Project Type — Project Details — Financial — Education — Maintenance — Attachments — Review and Submit

Active 2025 Stewardship Cost Share Projects

In 2025, there were 21 projects undergoing active installation. The figures below summarize who, where, and what types of projects were active. The majority of grantees were single family homeowners. Half of the projects occurred in Eden Prairie,

and most projects incorporated use of native plants through upland habitat or shoreline restorations. The map shows the approximate location of the active projects, which were distributed across five cities.

 Who were the grantees?		 Where were they from?		 What kind of project did they do?	
Homeowners	16	Eden Prairie	11	Habitat restoration	13
Non-profits	2	Chanhassen	3	Shoreline resto/buffer	4
Commercial	1	Minnetonka	4	Native planting	1
Government	2	Bloomington	2	Alternative Lawn	1
		Shorewood	1	Stormwater BMP	1

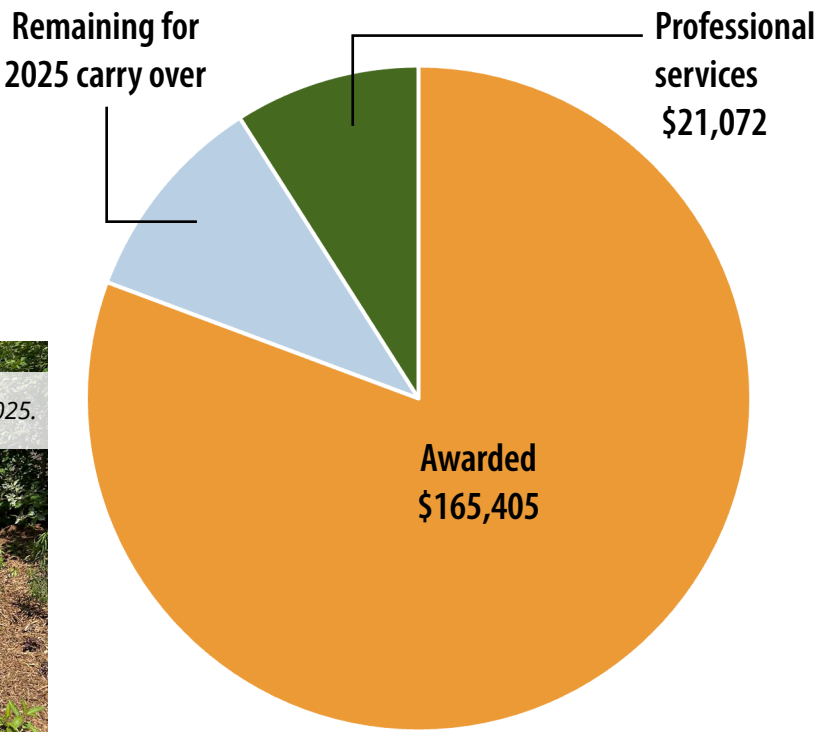


BUDGET STATUS

In 2024, the Stewardship Cost Share program had a budget of \$205,000. Of this, \$165,405.58 was awarded out to grant projects, and another \$21,072.31 was paid out to professional service support such as attorney review of cost share agreements and funds for Carver SWCD to perform site visits and inspections. About \$18,522.11 will be carried over to next year.



2024 BUDGET END-OF-YEAR STATUS



FEATURED COMMERCIAL PROJECT:
RAIN GARDENS & HABITAT RESTORATION

This project installed three rain gardens totaling 4,000 sq-ft, a one-acre habitat restoration, and a bored drainage system to direct roof water under the parking lot into the restoration site at a busy commercial strip mall.
The project was installed in summer 2025 and will intercept and manage over 336,000 gallons of rooftop stormwater runoff annually.

Work included site preparation, installation of berms to divert drainage flow, implementation of a bored drainage system to direct roof water under the parking lot into the pollinator habitat, mulch application, and installation of 1,103 native plants and 44 lbs of mesic and wet mesic seed mixes. The plant list includes over 70 native species of grasses, sedges, rushes, and forbs. Total project installation cost was \$132,270.90.



BEFORE: stormwater runoff travels over the parking lot, collecting pollutants



AFTER: A downspout is redirected to a rain garden

FEATURED RESIDENTIAL PROJECT:
GREEN ROOF

This project installed 1,000 square feet of sedum on the roof of a new construction home. The green roof will minimize stormwater runoff, reduce household energy use by serving as insulation, and act as an aesthetic centerpiece on a residential corner lot.
The project was installed in the fall of 2025 and will intercept and manage over 336,000 gallons of rooftop stormwater runoff annually.

Work included installation of a root barrier membrane, a water retention and drainage mat, flexible landscape edging, and 500 trays of various sedum species from the Minnesota Stormwater Manual's plant list for green roofs.

Total project installation cost was \$25,500.



2025 Education & Outreach Report

Liz Forbes, *Communications Manager*

Eleanor Mahon, *Community Engagement Coordinator*

rpbcwd.org/events-and-trainings

rpbcwd.org/calendar

The District's Education & Outreach program supports the goals outlined in the 10-year Management Plan by fostering an engaged community and offering opportunities for involvement.

EVENTS

Water Resources Summit

Water Resources Manager Josh Maxwell hosted the annual Water Resources Summit for partner organizations on February 27, 2025. The summit provided an opportunity to share monitoring results, planning efforts, and identify potential partnering opportunities.



Lake Association Summit

Fourteen representatives from eight lake/homeowner associations attended the 2025 Lake Association Summit at the RPBCWD office on March 19th. The event provided an opportunity for staff to provide an overview of the District's role in watershed protection, how to achieve a healthy lake, and capital improvement projects.



Open House: North Lotus Lake Water Quality Improvement Project

Two open houses were held in 2025 to collect input on preliminary concepts for the North Lotus Lake Water Quality Improvement Project. A mini-open house was held on June 8, 2025 at North Lotus Lake Park as part of RPBCWD's Creek Week activities. The exhibits including an overview of water quality projects identified in the Lotus Lake watershed, an updated preliminary concept for the North Lotus Lake Park project, and two exhibits to collect input on components including art that could be incorporated into the project. A second open house was held in conjunction with an open house for the City of Chanhassen's Pavement Rehabilitation Project on November 19.

Evening with the Watershed

Eighty-three local leaders, community members and partners joined RPBCWD on October 23rd at the historic Goodrich-Ramus Barn near Staring Lake for An Evening with the Watershed. The evening began with a social hour, followed by dinner and a presentation highlighting district projects, programs and highlights of the last 10 years. The evening capped off with an award ceremony recognizing some of RPBCWD's outstanding volunteers and water stewards.



STEM on Tap

RPBCWD partnered with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the City of Eden Prairie to offer six STEM on Tap workshops for area K-12 educators. Topics for the year included ornithology, GIS, Winter Tree ID, Art & STEM, Genetic Counseling, and Phenology. Over 100 teachers attended a 2025 workshop.



Creek Week

The District hosted it's third annual Creek Week in June 2025. The District hosted it's 3rd annual Creek Week in June. The week kicked off with Yoga in the Park and the 10th annual Cycle the Creek bike tour, followed by a park pop-up at North Lotus Lake Park, where visitors to the park could mingle with RPBCWD staff, play games, create artwork, and get an ice cream treat while enjoying a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Next, 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. A Paint & Sip with Natural Inks packed the house at the OG Coffee & Wine Bar, while A Learn-to- Canoe



Events from Creek Week 2025



Night with the Staring Lake Outdoor Center promised to be a great evening before inclement weather forced a cancellation. The sky cleared up just in time for Friday's Volunteer Wetland Planting at the site of the Pioneer Trail Restoration Project.

Throughout the month of June, the Passport Adventure encouraged people to get out to explore the watershed district by offering a prize pack to determined explorers.

Native Plant Workshops

RPBCWD partnered with Carver County Water Management Organization and Carver Soil & Water Conservation District to offer two Native Plant Workshops in 2025. The first workshop was held on April 10 and was a general introduction to native plantings and their impact on water quality. The second workshop on August 5th was geared towards maintaining existing projects and identifying common threats to native plantings.



Discover Your Watershed Party

On September 24, RPBCWD partnered with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the City of Eden Prairie to host a 'Discover Your Watershed' Party at the Preserve Association Barn. Over 50 community members stopped by for barbecue and to learn more about cost share programs and ways to get involved in protecting our water resources.



Christmas Tree Giveaway

On December 13, RPBCWD partnered with The PROP Shop of Eden Prairie, PROP Food Shelf, and EP Public Schools Family Resources Program to give away Christmas trees to families in need. Mugs of hot cocoa and a blazing fire countered the bitterly cold temperatures as families picked up their trees. The trees came from a former Christmas tree farm owned by the Standal Family in Eden Prairie, the site of the Spring Road Conservation Project. Stands were donated by community members.

VOLUNTEERS

Adopt a Dock

Adopt a Dock is a citizen science initiative where lakeshore residents monitor for aquatic invasive species. In 2025, 23 households used passive plate samplers to monitor for zebra mussels on Duck, Lucy, Lotus, Mitchell, Red Rock, Riley, and Silver lakes.



Photo of a volunteer's Adopt a Dock plate sampler with zebra mussels.

Adopt a Drain

In 2025, 91 participants adopted 147 storm drains within RPBCWD, preventing 1,974 pounds of leaves, sediment, salt and other debris from entering our waterways. Led by Hamline University, Adopt a Drain allows individuals to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and pledge to keep it clear of leaves and debris throughout the year while logging their impact in an online portal. Across all of Minnesota, the Adopt a Drain program kept 164,125 pounds of debris out of waterways in 2025.

Minnesota Water Stewards

A partnership with the Freshwater Society, Minnesota Water Stewards trains and supports community leaders to reduce water pollution and educate their community to conserve and protect our waterways. The program was placed on pause in 2025 to allow for a program restructure. 24 past stewards continued their service hours within the District.

Citizen Advisory Committee

Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon serve as liaisons for the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). In 2025, the CAC had 10 members and held 10 meetings. Seven meetings featured internal (staff) and external guest speakers. One CAC member serves on the Stewardship Grant review committee.

WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

Name	Date	Description	Attendees	Partner(s)
Woodland Invaders Workshop	3/03/2025	Hands-on event to identify and manage invasive garlic mustard and buckthorn.	23	City of Eden Prairie
Turfgrass Maintenance for Reduced Environmental Impacts Training	4/09/2025	Turfgrass maintenance professionals learn how turf management affects local lakes and rivers, gain techniques to optimize fertilizer and pesticide applications, and access resources to help implement new techniques into their lawn care maintenance.	35	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, NMCWD
Resilient Shorelines Workshop	6/17/2025	Covers fundamentals that shoreline property owners need for protecting water quality near their home, including shoreline site assessments, lakescaping and shoreline projects, plant selection tips, regulatory reminders, and access to resources.	28	Metro Blooms, City of Eden Prairie, NMCWD
Native Plants and Pocket Prairies Workshop	4/10/2025	Participants learn practical ideas for how to add native plants to their yard with small pocket prairies and large native plantings.	23	Carver SWCD, CCWMO
Native Plant Maintenance Workshop	8/5/2025	Resources to help residents learn best maintenance practices for their projects and how to identify common threats to native plantings.	34	Carver SWCD, CCWMO
Buckthorn Workshop	9/11/2025	Hands-on event to learn about how to identify and control invasive buckthorn.	21	City of Eden Prairie
Smart Salting Training - Liquid Deicer Refresher	10/30/2025	Training to provide winter maintenance professionals a closer look at when to use liquid deicer and how to develop strategies for product use, frequency and application for each winter event.	40	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, NMCWD

COMMUNITY EVENTS

In 2025, District staff participated in various community events and classroom visits. Staff tabled at these events:

- Eden Prairie Home, Landscape & Garden Expo
- Eden Prairie Eco Expo
- Eden Prairie Arbor Day Walk & Green Fair
- Chanhassen 4th of July Business Expo
- Minnetonka Summer Farmer's Markets (3x)
- Mitchell Lake Association Annual Meeting

Staff engaged with youth audiences at these events:

- Cedar Ridge Elementary School Science Night
Topic: Stormwater Runoff
- Eden Lake Elementary School 2nd Graders
Topic: Macroinvertebrates
- St. Hubert Catholic School 2nd Graders
Topic: Macroinvertebrates
- Metro Children's Water Festival
Topic: Aquatic Invasive Species
- Clear Springs Elementary School 4th Graders
Topic: Macroinvertebrates



COMMUNICATIONS

Annual Communication

In compliance with Minnesota Statute §103B.227, subdivision 4, the District created and distributed an Annual Communication. The 2025 Annual Communication includes general district information, project updates, and ways community members can help improve our water resources. The Annual Communication was sent to local leaders and municipal partners, emailed to our full mailing list, and handed out at community events. Download the document at rpbcbd.org/annual-report.

Social Media

The District posts content on three social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn under the username @rpbcbd. Through interactions and on handouts, the District encourages residents to follow District social media accounts.

Newsletters

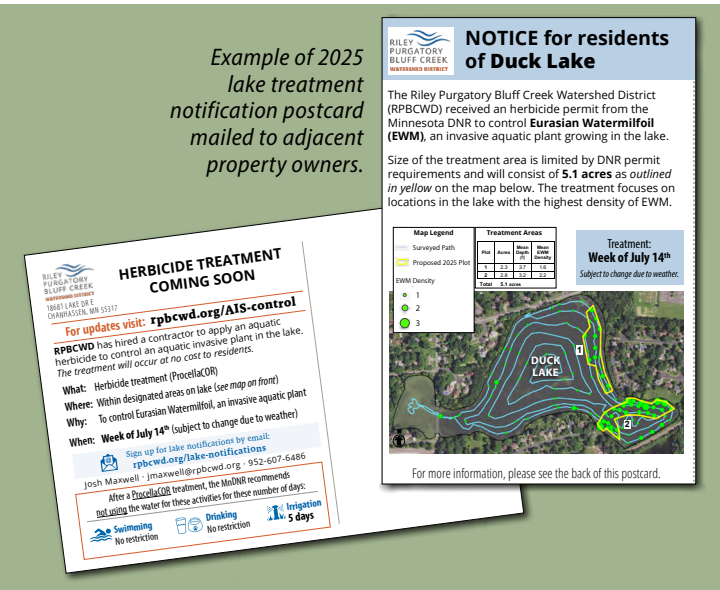
Electronic newsletters are sent quarterly to mailing list subscribers who opt-in for district updates. Subscribers can also opt to receive emails for volunteer opportunities and board meeting notices.

2025 Newsletter Summary

Issue	Recipients	Opens	Link Clicks
Winter	834	237	31
Spring	869	456	78
Summer	949	485	84
Fall	957	494	56

Direct Mail

Herbicide treatments to control aquatic invasive plants were conducted on six lakes in 2025. Before treatment, property owners adjacent to treatment areas were notified by postcard with a webpage link so residents could find out the latest information. Lake residents were also encouraged to sign up for a lake email notification service established in 2023. Lake association leaders were also contacted about treatments so that they could share the info with their association members.



Water Quality Factsheets

Every year, staff update water quality update factsheets for the previous year for three creeks and thirteen lakes:

- Ann
- Duck
- Hyland
- Lotus
- Lucy
- Mitchell
- Red Rock
- Rice Marsh
- Riley
- Round
- Silver
- Staring
- Susan

The 2024 factsheets were distributed electronically through email and on the website. A list of the factsheets may be accessed online at rpbcbd.org/factsheets and on individual waterbody webpages at rpbcbd.org/waterbodies. Printed copies were placed in the District office's front vestibule and provided upon request to lake associations and others.



New Website

In February 2025, RPBCWD launched a new website using the Streamline platform. Upgrades included built-in ADA compliance and the ability to send webpages to subscribers using the engage feature instead of through a separate application.

Wall Calendar

Each year, RPBCWD produces a wall calendar featuring artwork submitted to our annual Photo Contest. 183 photos were submitted, taken from natural areas around the district and featuring lakes and creeks, wildlife, insects, native plants and more. Each month of the calendar features callout text advertising RPBCWD projects and programs, as well as various ways community members can help protect our water resources.

Other Communication Items

In addition to growing content on the RPBCWD website, Education and outreach staff continue to expand the library of community engagement materials. We've also sponsored booklet printing with the Prairie Edge Chapter of Wild Ones.

Front and back cover of the 2026 RPBCWD Wall Calendar.



Seed packets containing a Pollinator Mix and a Bee Lawn Mix were handed out at community events.



In 2025, RPBCWD released five new stickers, which celebrate some of the native species found in Minnesota. Stickers continue to be very popular offering at tabling and other events.



E&O staff continue to upload recordings of Board of Manager meetings and work sessions to the RPBCWD YouTube channel.