
3.0 Goals and Strategies

This section identifies the Vision and Mission of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD or District). The District will adopt the following goals related to accomplishing the District's Vision, and identified specific strategies to achieve these goals. The District established these goals and strategies through a consensus-based process that considered the results of the District's public engagement process (see Section 2.2). The resulting goals and strategies are connected to the comments received during the public engagement process in Appendix C.

3.1 District Mission and Vision

Mission:

Protect. Manage. Restore. Water Resources

Vision:

The Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District will protect, manage, and restore water resources under its jurisdiction. The District views all the following elements as essential to achieving its mission:

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

3.2 Goals and Strategies

The District has established the following goals as targets to achieve the District's Mission. The District developed these goals with consideration of the information gathered as part of the District's public engagement process (see Section 2.2). The goals aid in defining the purposes of the District. To achieve these goals, the District identified strategies that guide present and future management decisions.

1. Operate in a manner that uses District resources and capacity efficiently and effectively while advancing the District's vision and goals. (Admin 1)

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

To achieve these goals the District will pursue the following strategies, grouped by goal and topic area. The strategies identified in the following sections were defined with

consideration of the results of the public engagement process (see Section 2.0) and to address all issue areas identified through that process.

3.2.1 Administration

3.2.1.1 Administration goal (Admin 1)

Admin 1. Operate in a manner that uses District resources and capacity efficiently and effectively while advancing the District's vision and goals.

3.2.1.2 Administration strategies

Admin S1. The District will develop an annual work plan and budget, including periodic re-assessment of projects and priorities.

Admin S2. The District will periodically assess its capacity and resources and maintain staff necessary to implement the District's projects and programs.

Admin S3. The District will annually review its progress towards accomplishing the District's vision, goals, and planned implementation items. The District will publish the assessment as part of its annual report.

Admin S4. The District will review local water management plans for consistency with this 10-year plan. The District will work with cities to ensure that city local plans, ordinances, and planning documents are consistent with District policies.

Admin S5. The District will work with cities to ensure city regulatory programs provide water-resource protection equivalent to or better than District requirements, or work with cities to defer exercise of regulatory authority to the District.

3.2.2 Data Collection

3.2.2.1 Data Collection goal

DC 1 Collect data and use the best available science to recommend and support management decisions.

3.2.2.2 Data Collection strategies

DC S1. The District will create a wetland inventory based on available data and perform field assessments as needed.

DC S2. The District will develop and implement a Monitoring Plan. Collected data may include, but is not limited to: water chemistry, fisheries, macroinvertebrates, water

levels, vegetation, planktons, shoreline and streambank inventories, flow data, and climatic data.

DC S3. The District maintains the flexibility to modify its monitoring and data collection programs as necessary to capture the most relevant information. The District will periodically review and update its Monitoring Plan to address emerging contaminants of concern, improved analytical methods, or other developing issues.

DC S4. The District will collect data to assess the potential impacts of climate change on District projects, programs, and resources.

DC S5. The District will monitor District-managed resources for the presence of aquatic invasive species.

DC S6. The District will use data to evaluate the performance of and recommend District programs and capital improvement projects.

DC S7. The District will analyze data to help inform management decisions.

DC S8. The District will coordinate its monitoring efforts with other entities to promote efficiency, increase data availability, and to identify and fill data gaps.

3.2.3 Education and Outreach

3.2.3.1 Education and Outreach goal

EO 1 Design, maintain, and implement Education and Outreach programs to educate the community and engage them in the work of protecting, managing, and restoring water resources. (EO 1)

3.2.3.2 Education and Outreach strategies

EO S1. The District will regularly review its Education and Outreach Plan and update it, as necessary (see Appendix B).

EO S2. The District will use both formative and summative data to evaluate the success of its education and outreach program and adjust its program to improve effectiveness.

EO S3. The District will tailor its education and outreach strategies to present complex and/or technical issues in a manner that is appropriate for each audience.

EO S4. The District will use its education and outreach program to raise awareness of watershed management issues and best practices (e.g., aquatic invasive species, conservation).

EO S5. The District will build awareness of our water resources by highlighting recreational opportunities and access.

EO S6. The District will seek opportunities to engage the public in its projects and programs through diverse methods outlined in the education and outreach plan, including but not limited to: electronic communications, social media, website, informational signage, demonstration projects, tours, speaker's bureau, and open houses.

EO S7. The District will provide resources to increase stewardship within the community.

EO S8. The District will build community capacity by working with schools, lake associations, non-profits, volunteers, or other stakeholders to develop a network of watershed champions.

EO S9. The District will continue to implement its cost-share program to provide incentive for residents, business, institutions and local governmental units to implement watershed best management practices.

3.2.4 Planning

3.2.4.1 Planning goals

Plan 1. Plan and conduct the District's implementation program to most effectively accomplish its vision with consideration for all stakeholders and resources.

Plan 2. Consider sustainability and the impacts of climate change in District projects, programs, and planning.

3.2.4.2 Planning strategies

Plan S1. The District will use an adaptive management approach to protect, manage, and restore District-managed resources (see Section 9.1).

Plan S2. The District will consider the potential impact of climate change when developing and implementing District projects and programs.

Plan S3. The District will consider sustainability in the design and implementation of its projects and programs.

Plan S4. The District will annually review its 10-year implementation program (Table 9-1) and update the program as necessary, with consideration for the prioritization criteria outlined in Section 4.0.

Plan S5. The District will evaluate the success of implemented projects and programs every two years.

Plan S6. The District will implement projects that address a District-managed resource. The District will prioritize planned projects based on methodology included in Section 4.0 of this Plan, which is based on the following factors:

- Targeting District goals
- Sustainability
- Volume management
- Pollutant management
- Habitat restoration
- Shoreline/streambank restoration and stabilization
- Watershed benefits
- Partnership opportunities
- Public education and access



Staff member Jordan facilitating a conversation on building community resilience with local residents and Manager Forster and Manager Bisek

Plan S7. The District will seek to incorporate ecological, economic, and social benefits into its projects as opportunities allow.

Plan S8. The District will continue to perform resource assessments and feasibility studies (e.g., Use Attainability Analysis) to evaluate options to protect, manage, and restore District-managed resources.

Plan S9. The District will seek to partner with cities, state agencies, and other entities to implement projects and programs to meet District goals.

Plan S10. The District will pursue grants, cost-sharing, and other opportunities to leverage District financial resources.

Plan S11. The District will develop and implement a cost-share or grant program to assist local governmental units to fund emergency repair of damaged infrastructure to protect and restore water resources (e.g., severe storm events).

3.2.5 Regulation

3.2.5.1 Regulation goals

- Reg 1. Implement the District's regulatory program to protect water resources from further degradation, enhancing resources where possible.
- Reg 2. Support Carver and Hennepin County to operate effectively as Ditch Authorities.

3.2.5.2 Regulation strategies

- Reg S1. The District will implement its regulatory program by reviewing proposed land-disturbing activity and ensuring, through issuance of permits, compliance with applicable District rules, policies, and standards.
- Reg S2. The District will periodically review its rules and update them as necessary. The District will update its rules in accordance with applicable Minnesota Statutes and with involvement of cities, state agencies, and other stakeholders.
- Reg S3. The District will periodically review the implementation of its regulatory program for opportunities to improve the process.
- Reg S4. The District will coordinate with appropriate cities and appropriate governmental bodies in the project/development review process.

3.2.6 Water Resources

The District has adopted specific goals and strategies to protect, manage, and restore the water resources within its jurisdiction. These strategies are subdivided into the topic areas of:

- Water quality
- Water quantity
- Groundwater

3.2.6.1 Water Quality Goals

WQual 1. Protect, manage, and restore water quality of District lakes and creeks to maintain or achieve designated uses.

WQual 2. Preserve and enhance the quantity, as well as the function and value, of District wetlands.

WQual 3. Preserve and enhance habitat important to fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife.

3.2.6.2 Water Quality Strategies

Strategies addressing water quality are further subdivided into those that primarily address erosion, habitat, and pollutant loading. All three emerged as part of the public input process.

Erosion

WQual S1. The District seeks to minimize the negative impacts of erosion and sedimentation through the District's regulatory, education and outreach, and incentive programs.

WQual S2. The District will inventory and address areas within the watershed with existing erosion issues and/or areas at high risk for erosion by implementing the District's capital improvement, incentive and regulatory programs.

Habitat

WQual S3. The District encourages cities and developers to seek opportunities to incorporate habitat protection or enhancement into development and redevelopment projects.

WQual S4. The District will implement measures to manage carp populations in District-managed resources.

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- WQual S5. The District will cooperate with the MDNR to enhance fisheries consistent with the MDNR's ecological classification (Schupp, 1992).
 - WQual S6. The District will seek opportunities to establish and preserve natural corridors for wildlife habitat and migration.
 - WQual S7. The District will promote the use of natural materials and bioengineering for the maintenance and restoration of shorelines and streambanks where appropriate.
 - WQual S8. The District will consider opportunities to incorporate habitat protection, restoration, or improvement elements in District water quality, flood control, and other projects.
 - WQual S9. The District will partner with other entities to minimize the spread and reduce the adverse ecological impacts of aquatic invasive species.
 - WQual S10. The District will manage non-native aquatic invasive macrophytes to improve water quality and/or habitat in accordance with an approved lake vegetation management plan or as part of a rapid response control project.
 - WQual S11. The District recognizes the multiple benefits of vegetated buffers and promotes the use of vegetated buffers around all waterbodies.

Pollution

- WQual S12. The District will assist and cooperate with cities, MPCA, MDNR, MnDOT, other watersheds and other stakeholders in implementing projects or other management actions based on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Twin Cities Metro Chloride TMDL.
- WQual S13. The District will continue to minimize pollutant loading to water resources through implementation of the District's capital improvement, regulatory, education and outreach, and incentive programs.
- WQual S14. The District will continue to identify opportunities and actions to protect, restore, and enhance District resources.
- WQual S15. The District will cooperate with other entities to investigate treatment effectiveness of emerging pollutant removal practices.
- WQual S16. The District will work with the state agencies and local governmental units to identify emerging pollutants of concern.

WQual S17. The District will cooperate with member cities, the MPCA and other stakeholders in the development of total maximum daily load (TMDL) and watershed restoration and protection strategies (WRAPS) studies.

WQual S18. The District will work with local government units to minimize pollution risk to groundwater.

3.2.6.3 Groundwater Goals

Ground 1. Promote the sustainable management of groundwater resources.

3.2.6.4 Groundwater Strategies

Ground S1. The District will promote the conservation of groundwater resources through its education and outreach program and will work with cities to encourage conservation practices (e.g., water reuse) and reduce consumption.

Ground S2. The District will develop, or cooperate with the two watershed counties (which have statutory authority to develop groundwater-management plans) and others to develop, a groundwater action plan in an effort to gain a better understanding of groundwater-surface water interaction and develop management strategies that consider the protection of both resources. The role of the District may include:

- Collaboration with local and state agencies to identify and fill data gaps.
- Coordination with appropriate local government units and state agencies to develop a groundwater budget for the watershed.
- Coordination with appropriate local government units and state agencies to develop and utilize tools to assess surface water impacts and groundwater impacts of groundwater use (e.g., refinement of the Metro groundwater model, collaboration with cities on Wellhead Protection Plans, synchronization of the surface water models with groundwater models).

Ground S3. The District will work to increase understanding of the interaction between groundwater resources and surface waters within the District and consider those interactions in future management decisions.

3.2.6.5 Water Quantity Goals

WQuan 1. Protect and enhance the ecological function of District floodplains to minimize adverse impacts.

WQuan 2. Limit the impact of stormwater runoff on receiving waterbodies.

3.2.6.6 Water Quantity Strategies

- WQuan S1. The District will preserve and enhance the natural function of the floodplain and maintain floodplain storage volume.
- WQuan S2. The District will promote strategies that minimize baseflow impacts.
- WQuan S3. The District will continue to promote infiltration, where feasible, as a best management practice to reduce runoff volume, improve water quality, and promote aquifer recharge.
- WQuan S4. The District will maintain a hydrologic model using the most recent applicable National Weather Service reference data and use the model to define the District's 100-year floodplain.
- WQuan S5. The District will use models and other available tools to design projects resilient to predicted climate change impacts.
- WQuan S6. The District will seek to alter stormwater hydrographs through practices that reduce peak discharge rates and overall flow volume.
- WQuan S7. The District will promote/encourage cities and developers to implement Low Impact Development (LID) practices and will work with cities to reduce regulatory barriers to LID practices.
- WQuan S8. The District will develop and implement actions to reduce flood risk within the District.
- WQuan S9. The District will work with cities and other stakeholders to encourage conservation practices (e.g., infiltration basins, floodplain storage, water reuse) to protect creeks, lakes and wetlands.
- WQuan S10. The District will investigate alternatives to infiltration practices to promote volume reduction in areas not conducive to standard infiltration BMPs.