



# TRAIL MAP

## WHAT WE DO

RPBCWD partners with local communities to identify top priorities and plan, implement, and manage efforts to protect and improve the waters within our boundaries. We also work to educate and engage community members in stewardship.

District staff head out on Lake Riley for carp monitoring.



During a Cycle the Creek outing, participants take an educational break at Purgatory Creek Recreation Area.

- collecting data on the health of local lakes and creeks
- implementing projects to improve them
- hosting educational events to build stewardship
- awarding cost-share grants to support community water quality projects

Caring for local waters is a big task, and we can't do it alone. It is only through partnerships with other organizations and the community that together we can protect and improve water quality.



To learn more, visit [www.rpbcwd.org](http://www.rpbcwd.org)

## ABOUT US

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District is a local government organization charged with protecting, managing, and restoring the water resources within its boundaries.

At approximately 50 square miles it includes parts of seven cities — Bloomington, Chanhassen, Chaska, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and Shorewood.

The District is led by a 5-member Board of Managers. The managers meet on the first Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at the District Office.

Changes to this schedule are posted to our website: [rpbcwd.org](http://rpbcwd.org)

## OUR MANAGERS

Four Managers are appointed by the Hennepin County Commissioners and one Manager is appointed by the Carver County Commissioners. Each serves a three-year term.

## OUR STAFF

**Claire Bleser, Administrator**  
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## GET TO KNOW OUR WATERSHED

Our watershed abounds with various parks, including community and neighborhood parks, conservation areas and preserves. The many miles of hiking and biking trails are a great way to access these parks, as well as local lakes and creeks. Parks and trails are maintained by the cities in the watershed district or by Three Rivers Park District.

For more information, visit:

- [threeiversparks.org](http://threeiversparks.org)
- [ci.chanhassen.mn.us](http://ci.chanhassen.mn.us)
- [edenprairie.org/community/parks-trails-and-amenities](http://edenprairie.org/community/parks-trails-and-amenities)
- [eminnetonka.com/parks](http://eminnetonka.com/parks)
- [bloomingtonmn.gov/locations-parks-and-recreational-facilities](http://bloomingtonmn.gov/locations-parks-and-recreational-facilities)
- [ci.shorewood.mn.us/pages/parks/playing.html](http://ci.shorewood.mn.us/pages/parks/playing.html)



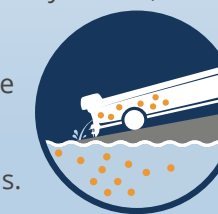
## YOU CAN HELP!

**Adopt a Stormdrain.** When it rains, water that falls on hard surfaces flows into stormdrains, which lead to our lakes and streams. Any pollution it picks up along the way also ends up in our waters.



Leaves and grass clippings may seem natural, but when they are carried to lakes and creeks by stormwater, they add excess phosphorus which can cause algae blooms. Help protect our waters by keeping leaves and other debris out of our streets and out of stormdrains!

**Stop the Spread.** Invasive species cause harm to the environments they invade, impact human recreation and the economy, and are challenging to manage. The district needs your help in stopping the spread of invasive plants and animals.



Some tips to help:

**Clean your boat.** Invasive species like to hitch-hike from one lake to another. Always check and clean your boat and equipment before and after launching.

**Know your plants.** Some water-garden or home-landscaping plants are invasive when they escape these controlled spaces. Always check before you buy.

**Don't free your fish!** Letting goldfish, crayfish, or other aquatic pets go free may seem kind, but these non-native species could be invasive. Rather than releasing them into a lake or stream, see if your local pet store has an adoption program.

**Build a Project.** Ever thought about planting a raingarden? How about a rainwater harvester? The watershed district has technical support and grants available for projects that help protect and conserve water. Find out more on our website: [rpbcwd.org](http://rpbcwd.org)



## PARKS within RPBCWD

Find more information on some of the parks in our area. For a complete list of parks, visit your city or park district website.

■ CHANHASSEN ■ EDEN PRAIRIE ■ MINNETONKA ■ BLOOMINGTON ■ SHOREWOOD

Which ones have you visited? →

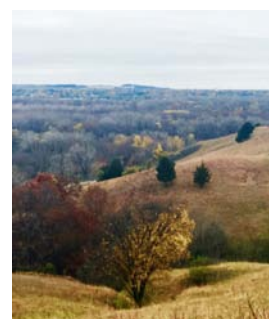
Key	Name	Type	Address	Description	Athletics	Bathroom	Beach	Boat Launch	Fishing Pier	Picnic Area	Play Equip't	X
1	Bandimere Community Park	Community	9405 Great Plains Blvd	32 acre park with youth athletic complex, trails, and a disc golf course	soccer fields, disc golf course, baseball fields, trails						✓	
2	Bluff Creek Preserve	Conservation area	Along Bluff Creek	A trail winds its way through this large expanse of wetland and upland habitat.	bike/walking trails							
3	Carver Beach Park	Neighborhood	6891 Lotus Trail	This six-acre park along the shoreline of Lotus Lake is the site of a City of Chanhassen - Watershed District partner project to restore the shoreline.			✓	Canoe only	✓	✓	✓	
4	Chanhassen Nature Preserve	Conservation area	Coulter Blvd	111 acre nature preserve, two mile walking loop, wetland with up/lowland wooded areas	trails					✓		
5	Lake Ann Park	Community	1456 West 78th St	102-acre park, gently rolling hills, while the western quarter of the park is in dense tree cover	ballfield, sand volleyball, batting cages, soccer fields, tennis	✓	✓	Electric boat motors only	✓	✓	✓	
6	Lake Susan Park	Community	903 Lake Drive East	33-acre park with trail along Lake Susan	batting cage, tennis, ballfield, sand volleyball, archery, walking trail	✓		✓	✓		✓	
7	Rice Marsh Lake Park	Community	8119 Erie Circle	This four-acre park has a 3.4 mile trail loop around Rice Marsh Lake.	basketball, bike trail, football/soccer field, softball field	✓				✓	✓	
8	South Lotus Lake Park	Community	7610 South Shore Dr	This nine-acre park includes boat access to Lotus Lake.	tennis courts			✓			✓	
9	Edenbrook Conservation Area	Conservation area	6655 Dell Road	Purgatory Creek runs through this nature preserve, often getting lost in the wetlands. Enjoy the peaceful setting on the walking trails and boardwalks.	trails							
10	Edenvale Conservation Area and Park	Conservation area & Park	7200 Edenvale Blvd	A multi-use park, nestled up against an extensive conservation area with a trail for exploring	basketball court, baseball fields, trails, ice rink	✓				✓	✓	
11	Homeward Hills Park	Neighborhood	12000 Silverwood Dr	A neighborhood park with many outdoor amenities for any season	basketball court, baseball fields, sand volleyball, ice rink, tennis, trails	✓				✓	✓	
12	Miller Park	Community	8208 Eden Prairie Rd	A park with something for everyone, on the shores of Mitchell Lake. *Note: boats are limited to 10-horsepower motors.	baseball, water park, winter sports, bike trail, hiking trails, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts	✓		✓*	✓	✓	✓	
13	Prairie Bluff Conservation Area	Conservation area	10092 Indigo Dr	A conservation area with rolling hills and beautiful vistas. Home to the Frederick Miller Spring.	walking trails, biking trails							
14	Purgatory Creek Recreation Area	Conservation area	13001 Technology Dr	Trails surround this large wetland that abounds with wildlife. Great for a bike ride or stroll.	bike/walking trail					✓		
15	Red Rock Lake Park	Conservation area & Park	15416 Boulder Pointe Rd	Boat access to Red Rock Lake is found here. *Note: boats are limited to 10-horsepower motors.	tennis court			✓*			✓	
16	Riley Creek Conservation Area	Conservation area	9795 Canopy Trail	Walk along Riley Creek on dirt paths in this wooded park. Enjoy the peaceful views, but don't forget bug spray!	walking trails							
17	Riley Lake Park	Community	9180 Riley Lake Road	A popular place to swim, boat, and fish. The Riley-Jacques Farm is located here too.	basketball, bike trail, tennis, sand volleyball, baseball	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Round Lake Park	Community	16691 Valley View Rd	Cool off in the splash pad in the summer and practice spins on the ice rink in winter.	baseball, bike trail, hiking, ice sports, sand volleyball, skate park, softball, splash pad, tennis court	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
19	Rustic Hills Park	Conservation area & Park	17465 Rustic Hills Dr	Enjoy the many amenities of the park, then take the nature trail that connects to the Edenbrook Conservation Area.	Tennis Court, basketball court, baseball, walking trail, sand volleyball					✓	✓	
20	Staring Lake Park	Community	14800 Pioneer Trail	Outdoor activities abound at this park on the shores of Staring Lake.	archery, baseball, basketball, bike/ski/hiking trails, disc golf, football/soccer, horseshoes, ice sports, sand volleyball, sledding hill, softball	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Boulder Creek Park	Community	5948 Stoneybrook Dr	Near Purgatory Creek Park Preserve, this 10-acre park features amenities for any season.	ice rink, trails, basketball court			Canoe only		✓	✓	
22	Covington Park	Community	18920 Manchester St	Combining large active play and natural areas, Covington Park has something for everyone.	soccer fields, football, ice rink, tennis, basketball court, trails	✓				✓	✓	
23	Purgatory Park Preserve	Conservation area	17315 Excelsior Blvd	155 acres Community park, views of Purgatory Creek, wetlands, woodlands, and prairie	walking trails	✓				✓		
24	Hyland Lake Park Preserve	Community	10145 Bush Lake Rd	A Three Rivers Park District park, Hyland is an extensive facility that extends beyond our watershed's boundaries.	skiing, trails, disc golf course, sledding, snowshoeing	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	Silverwood Park	Neighborhood	5755 Covington Rd	A friendly neighborhood park across the street from Silver Lake	tennis court, walking trail, basketball court					✓	✓	



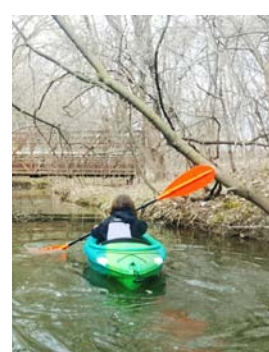
Winter fun at Lake Ann!



Miller Park playground



Prairie Bluff Conservation Area



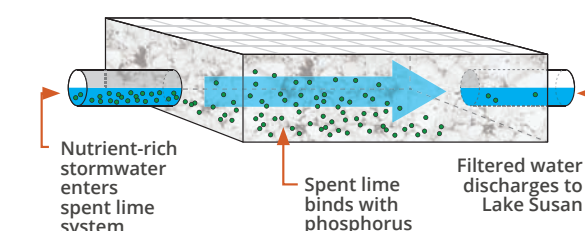
Kayaking on Riley Creek

## FIND THESE PROJECTS!

When you are out and about enjoying local parks and trails, check out these clean water projects. Find their location on the trail map (reverse side).

### 1 Protecting Lake Susan from Phosphorus Pollution

Stormwater entering Lake Susan carries with it pollutants including the nutrient phosphorus. Excess phosphorus can cause cloudy water and algae blooms. A spent-lime treatment system was constructed at a culvert where water flows into Lake Susan.



The system is estimated to prevent 45 pounds of phosphorus annually from entering the lake — enough phosphorus to produce about 22,500 pounds of algae! This project recycles spent-lime, a by-product of water treatment plants, to use as a phosphorus filter.



Look for the grate that signifies the top of the spent-lime system. Over time, the area will become more vegetated, effectively hiding the spent-lime system from view.

### 2 Managing Invasive Species

Common carp damage lake ecosystems by rooting up native plants, competing with native fish, and decreasing water quality. The district works to manage carp in the Riley Creek chain of lakes and Purgatory Creek chain of lakes. One of the strategies for doing this is to trap the carp in the Purgatory Creek Recreation Area wetlands, where they have a hard time surviving the winter.



This barrier keeps carp from moving back downstream. It is put in after the carp have migrated upstream in the spring.

### 3 Partnering for Clean Water

The large raingarden at Family of Christ Lutheran Church was created through a partnership between the church, the watershed district, the City of Chanhassen, and Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District. It was funded in part by a Clean Water Land and Legacy Fund Grant.



The garden captures, filters, and slows down stormwater runoff from the church's 1.4-acre parking lot. It removes pollutants like phosphorus and sediment before they enter nearby Bluff Creek.



# PARKS & TRAILS

## Bluff Creek Trail - 8 miles

Watch the landscape change as you wind along with Bluff Creek in this 8-mile out-and-back. Park at Lake Ann Park, and take the paved trail along Highway 5 west until it approaches Bluff Creek. Here you'll find a turnout that will take you under the highway and along Bluff Creek. Go east at Coulter Blvd, and stop by Family of Christ Lutheran Church to see their raingarden that helps clean polluted stormwater before it gets to Bluff Creek. Take the path under Coulter Blvd and continue south along the creek. A good spot to turn around is where the path meets Bluff Creek Blvd.

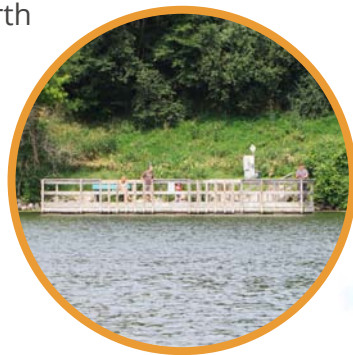


3  
Raingarden at Family of Christ Lutheran Church

1  
Spent Lime Treatment System

## Riley Creek Trail - 8 miles

See three lakes, one creek, and an innovative project to protect water quality, all in one 8-mile ride. Park at Lake Susan Park and head west along the trail. You'll cross Riley Creek and then head along Rice Marsh Lake before turning south toward Lake Riley. A gravel path will take you down to Pioneer Trail. Start heading north at Great Plains Blvd. From there, either head back up to Lake Susan, or go west at Lyman Blvd, north on Powers Blvd, and then left on Lake Susan Hills Drive. You'll find access to a trail here which will take you past the Lake Susan Spent Lime Treatment System, and eventually back to Lake Susan Park.



MN River Bluffs Regional Trail to Chaska

MN River Bluffs Regional Trail to Minneapolis

## Legend

- Natural Spring
- Fishing Pier
- Canoe Carry-in/Portage
- Boat Launch
- Hiking Trail
- Hiking & Biking Trail
- Park/Playground
- Preserve/Recreation Area
- District Boundary
- District Municipalities
- County Boundary



# RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

## FEATURED PARKS

Use numbered key below to locate parks on the map. See reverse side of map for more information about these featured parks.

Key	Park Name
<b>CHANHASSEN</b>	
1	Bandimere Community Park
2	Bluff Creek Preserve
3	Carver Beach Park
4	Chanhasseen Nature Preserve
5	Lake Ann Park
6	Lake Susan Park
7	Rice Marsh Lake Park
8	South Lotus Lake Park
<b>EDEN PRAIRIE</b>	
9	Edenbrook Conservation Area
10	Edenvale Conservation Area and Park
11	Homeward Hills Park
12	Miller Park
13	Prairie Bluff Conservation Area
14	Purgatory Creek Recreation Area
15	Red Rock Lake Park
16	Riley Creek Conservation Area
17	Riley Lake Park
18	Round Lake Park
19	Rustic Hills Park
20	Staring Lake Park
<b>MINNETONKA</b>	
21	Boulder Creek Park
22	Covington Park
23	Purgatory Park Preserve
<b>BLOOMINGTON</b>	
24	Hyland Lake Park Preserve
<b>SHOREWOOD</b>	
25	Silverwood Park

## Purgatory Creek Trail - 6 miles

A scenic loop that takes you by wetlands, the creek, and Staring Lake. Park at Purgatory Creek Park Pavilion in Eden Prairie, and head west or east around the Purgatory Creek Recreation Area. Follow Purgatory Creek as it flows out of the wetlands in the south, but not before you peer over the bridge to see if the invasive carp barrier is in place. Ride around Staring Lake, and pop in at the Staring Lake Outdoor Center, before heading back north to complete your loop.



2  
Carp Barrier