



# YOUR

# watershed awareness SHEET

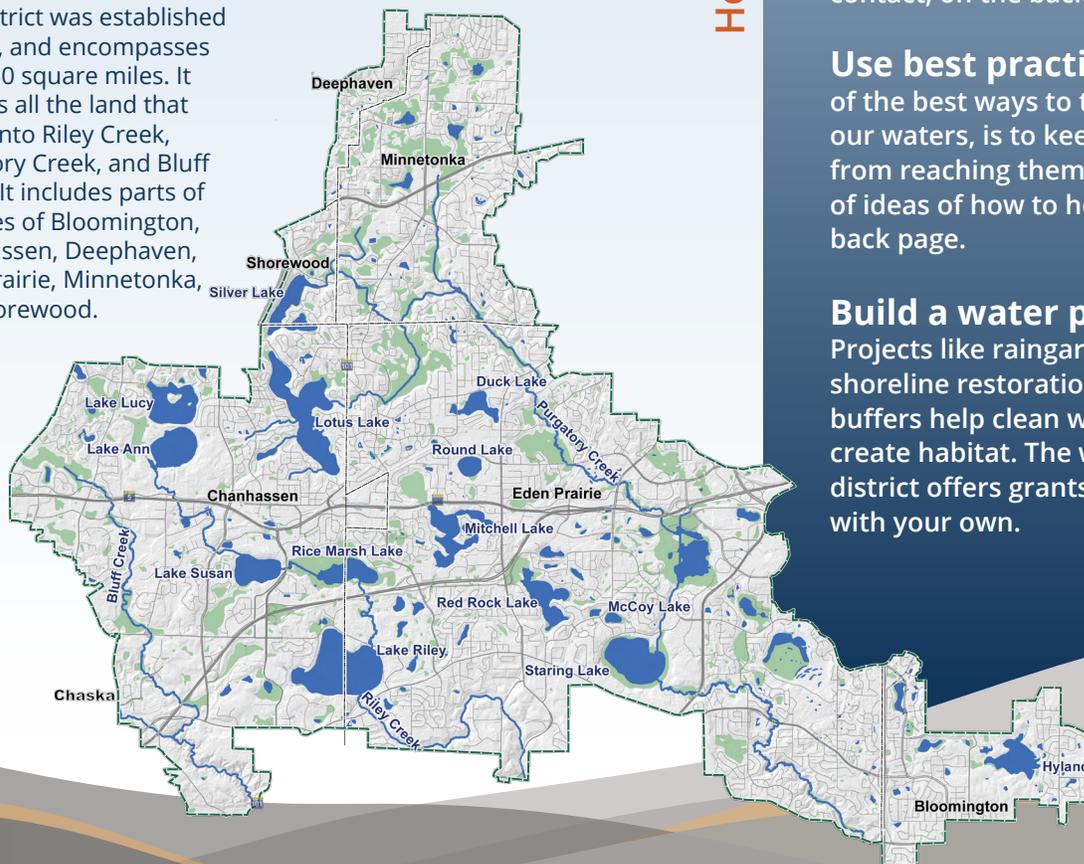
Welcome to the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District  
Watershed districts work to protect lakes, streams, and wetlands. We invite you to learn about the district, and how you can help to preserve clean water in your community.

## Watershed districts protect clean water

Watershed districts are unique to Minnesota. They are local government bodies, organized under the state Board of Water and Soil Resources. Their boundaries can cross multiple cities and counties. Why? Because they are based around a watershed, all the land that drains to a particular water body.

The mission of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District is to protect, manage, and restore the diverse waterbodies in its boundaries.

This district was established in 1969, and encompasses about 50 square miles. It includes all the land that drains into Riley Creek, Purgatory Creek, and Bluff Creek. It includes parts of the cities of Bloomington, Chanhausen, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and Shorewood.



How can you help?

**Know the rules.** All of our actions on land affect our waters. The watershed district developed a system of permits to help protect against these actions. The district is not the only organization that regulates use of and around lakes. See who else is involved, and who to contact, on the back page.

**Use best practices.** One of the best ways to take care of our waters, is to keep pollution from reaching them. Find a list of ideas of how to help on the back page.

**Build a water project.** Projects like raingardens, shoreline restorations, and buffers help clean water, and create habitat. The watershed district offers grants to help you with your own.

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RILEY  
PURGATORY  
BLUFF CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

## WHO IS INVOLVED IN LAKE MANAGEMENT?

There are several organizations that may require permits for actions on the land and in the lake:

### Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Generally, if an action takes place in the water, or right at its edge, the DNR is in charge of regulating it.

### Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

The MPCA sets the standards for whether a lake is healthy or not, and the requirements for improving water quality.

### Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD

The watershed district regulates actions on the land that might have impacts on the lake.

### City

Local cities in work together with the district to regulate actions on the land.

## HOW CAN I HELP MY LAKE?

One of the most impactful things we can do as residents of our watershed is to keep pollutants from entering stormdrains and making their way to local waterbodies:

- Blow grass-clippings back onto the lawn
- Rake leaves out of the street in the fall
- Adopt a storm drain & keep it clear of debris
- Wash your car on the lawn, or at a carwash



## I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS

Wondering if you need a permit? Curious how your lake is doing? Not sure who to talk to? You can always **contact the watershed district:**  
[info@rpbcwd.org](mailto:info@rpbcwd.org)

## WHAT ARE THE RULES?

Below are some common actions a lakeshore homeowner might take, and the regulations that guide them. For the complete set of watershed district rules, visit our website. Check with the DNR and your city for details on their rules.

### Put in a dock

Regulated by DNR. Usually does not require a permit.

Find out if your dock might require a permit at: [dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/needpermit](http://dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/needpermit)

### Build on my property

Regulated by City & Watershed District. A watershed district permit is needed for:

Any construction that moves 50 cubic yards of earth, or disturbs 5,000 square feet of land

Questions? Give us a call: 952-607-6512

Check with your city for their rules and requirements.

### Irrigate using lake water

Regulated by the Watershed District. Requires a permit.

### Put in a beach

Regulated by the DNR. Requires a permit, but you can apply through the watershed district.

You can only add sand to your shoreline twice. This is referred to as a "sand blanket."

### Remove aquatic plants

Regulated by DNR. Most activities require a permit.

**Requires a permit:** removing cattails, moving cattail bogs, using herbicides, using a WeedRoller, transplanting plants

**Does not need a permit:** cutting LESS THAN 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup> of underwater plants; removing lily pads for an access channel LESS THAN 15 ft wide

**Prohibited activities:** using hydraulic jets or lake bottom barriers; excavating the lake bottom; removing plants in fish-spawning areas, from undeveloped shoreline, or where they do not interfere with recreation

Full rules: [dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/regulations](http://dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/regulations)

### Stop my shore from eroding

Actions like using riprap to stabilize the shore would require a permit. However, using natural methods, like native plants can actually qualify for grant support.

### Cost share grants

Do you have erosion issues on your shoreline? Have you ever considered planting a native plant buffer? How about installing a rain-harvesting cistern?

The watershed district offers technical assistance and grants to help support clean water projects.

Interested? Write or call:

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