Lake Lucy
Arboretum Blvd
Hwy 212
Riley Creek
Lake Ann
Lake Susan
Rice Marsh
Lake Rice
Minnesota River
18681 Lake Drive East
Chanhassen, MN
55317
Contact us
DISTRICT OFFICE
18681 Lake Drive East
Chanhassen, MN
55317
CONTACT INFO
952.607.6512
info@rpbcwd.org
rpbcwd.org
FIND US ON
instagram
twitter

Lake Lucy and Ann in Chanhassen and flows through three, down-stream lakes - Susan, Riley, Rice Marsh - before descending to the Minnesota River Valley. The creek has mild topography in the upper and middle portions of the watershed, but below Lake Riley the banks become steep.

LOWER RILEY CREEK RESTORATION
Riley Creek is unhealthy due to high levels of sediment in the water. There is active erosion occurring along the creek because of increased stormwater discharge. If nothing is done, the creek will continue to erode the streambanks and surrounding slopes, picking up more sediment. The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District with the City of Eden Prairie and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District are working together to stabilize and enhance the creek.

In 2019, contractors will begin in-ground construction on this project. They’ll regrade part of the slope, and install a series on stream management practice that will improve the health of the creek. Workers will also take extra precautions to minimize impact on the site and prevent the spread of invasive species.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

HELP US PROTECT CLEAN WATER
Projects to stabilize and restore the creeks are important, but only part of the clean water solution. Increased erosion is caused by extra water entering a creek off of homes, driveways, and roads. The volume of this stormwater runoff is much higher than it would have been 200 years ago—about 40 percent higher. To truly care for our creeks, we need to get more water to soak into the ground, and you can help!

**Harvest rainwater**
**Re-direct downsputs**
**Plant natives**
**Don’t dump leaves and debris**

Simple practices to decrease stormwater runoff can help reduce erosion in your local creek.

We can help! The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District offers grants for projects that protect and improve water resources. Visit our website (rpbcwd.org) for more information. Check with your city to see if they offer a grant or rebate program too.

YOU CAN HELP
Rainwater runoff, the water that flows across yards, parking lots, and streets into stormdrains, is one of the main causes of pollution in urban areas. You can take simple actions to help protect Riley Creek.

Keep the curb clean
Sweep up leaves, grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways and streets.

Water with care
Grass requires 1-inch of water per week; about one hour of sprinkling per week if it has not rained.

Salt smart
The salt we use to melt ice can pollute our lakes and creeks. Use salt sparingly and always shovel first.

Reuse the rain
Collect and reuse rainwater with a rain barrel.

Build a raingarden
Raingardens soak up water and filter out pollution. Visit our website for help.

Riley Creek begins at lakes Lucy and Ann in Chanhassen and flows through three, down-stream lakes - Susan, Riley, Rice Marsh - before descending to the Minnesota River Valley. The creek has mild topography in the upper and middle portions of the watershed, but below Lake Riley the banks become steep.

CHARACTERISTICS
Length: 9.6 miles
Elevation change: 230 ft
Watershed size: 10 sq miles
# of cities in watershed: 2
# of lakes connected: 5
# of monitoring sites: 5
# of parks: 11

Impairment: Turbidity
Common fish: Green Sunfish, Fathead Minnow, Bluntnose Minnow
Invasive species: Buckthorn, Common Carp

WATERSHED BOUNDARIES
Water that falls anywhere within the white border drains to Riley Creek.

LAND USE in the Riley Creek Watershed
Commercial: 7%
Residential: 29%
Farmland: 3%
Open Space: 40%
Roads: 7%
Open Water: 14%

HELP US PROTECT CLEAN WATER
Projects to stabilize and restore the creeks are important, but only part of the clean water solution. Increased erosion is caused by extra water entering a creek off of homes, driveways, and roads. The volume of this stormwater runoff is much higher than it would have been 200 years ago—about 40 percent higher. To truly care for our creeks, we need to get more water to soak into the ground, and you can help!

**Harvest rainwater**
**Re-direct downsputs**
**Plant natives**
**Don’t dump leaves and debris**

Simple practices to decrease stormwater runoff can help reduce erosion in your local creek.

We can help! The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District offers grants for projects that protect and improve water resources. Visit our website (rpbcwd.org) for more information. Check with your city to see if they offer a grant or rebate program too.

YOU CAN HELP
Rainwater runoff, the water that flows across yards, parking lots, and streets into stormdrains, is one of the main causes of pollution in urban areas. You can take simple actions to help protect Riley Creek.

Keep the curb clean
Sweep up leaves, grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways and streets.

Water with care
Grass requires 1-inch of water per week; about one hour of sprinkling per week if it has not rained.

Salt smart
The salt we use to melt ice can pollute our lakes and creeks. Use salt sparingly and always shovel first.

Reuse the rain
Collect and reuse rainwater with a rain barrel.

Build a raingarden
Raingardens soak up water and filter out pollution. Visit our website for help.

Riley Creek begins at lakes Lucy and Ann in Chanhassen and flows through three, down-stream lakes - Susan, Riley, Rice Marsh - before descending to the Minnesota River Valley. The creek has mild topography in the upper and middle portions of the watershed, but below Lake Riley the banks become steep.

CHARACTERISTICS
Length: 9.6 miles
Elevation change: 230 ft
Watershed size: 10 sq miles
# of cities in watershed: 2
# of lakes connected: 5
# of monitoring sites: 5
# of parks: 11

Impairment: Turbidity
Common fish: Green Sunfish, Fathead Minnow, Bluntnose Minnow
Invasive species: Buckthorn, Common Carp

WATERSHED BOUNDARIES
Water that falls anywhere within the white border drains to Riley Creek.

LAND USE in the Riley Creek Watershed
Commercial: 7%
Residential: 29%
Farmland: 3%
Open Space: 40%
Roads: 7%
Open Water: 14%

HELP US PROTECT CLEAN WATER
Projects to stabilize and restore the creeks are important, but only part of the clean water solution. Increased erosion is caused by extra water entering a creek off of homes, driveways, and roads. The volume of this stormwater runoff is much higher than it would have been 200 years ago—about 40 percent higher. To truly care for our creeks, we need to get more water to soak into the ground, and you can help!

**Harvest rainwater**
**Re-direct downsputs**
**Plant natives**
**Don’t dump leaves and debris**

Simple practices to decrease stormwater runoff can help reduce erosion in your local creek.

We can help! The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District offers grants for projects that protect and improve water resources. Visit our website (rpbcwd.org) for more information. Check with your city to see if they offer a grant or rebate program too.

YOU CAN HELP
Rainwater runoff, the water that flows across yards, parking lots, and streets into stormdrains, is one of the main causes of pollution in urban areas. You can take simple actions to help protect Riley Creek.

Keep the curb clean
Sweep up leaves, grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways and streets.

Water with care
Grass requires 1-inch of water per week; about one hour of sprinkling per week if it has not rained.

Salt smart
The salt we use to melt ice can pollute our lakes and creeks. Use salt sparingly and always shovel first.

Reuse the rain
Collect and reuse rainwater with a rain barrel.

Build a raingarden
Raingardens soak up water and filter out pollution. Visit our website for help.

Riley Creek begins at lakes Lucy and Ann in Chanhassen and flows through three, down-stream lakes - Susan, Riley, Rice Marsh - before descending to the Minnesota River Valley. The creek has mild topography in the upper and middle portions of the watershed, but below Lake Riley the banks become steep.

CHARACTERISTICS
Length: 9.6 miles
Elevation change: 230 ft
Watershed size: 10 sq miles
# of cities in watershed: 2
# of lakes connected: 5
# of monitoring sites: 5
# of parks: 11

Impairment: Turbidity
Common fish: Green Sunfish, Fathead Minnow, Bluntnose Minnow
Invasive species: Buckthorn, Common Carp

WATERSHED BOUNDARIES
Water that falls anywhere within the white border drains to Riley Creek.

LAND USE in the Riley Creek Watershed
Commercial: 7%
Residential: 29%
Farmland: 3%
Open Space: 40%
Roads: 7%
Open Water: 14%

HELP US PROTECT CLEAN WATER
Projects to stabilize and restore the creeks are important, but only part of the clean water solution. Increased erosion is caused by extra water entering a creek off of homes, driveways, and roads. The volume of this stormwater runoff is much higher than it would have been 200 years ago—about 40 percent higher. To truly care for our creeks, we need to get more water to soak into the ground, and you can help!

**Harvest rainwater**
**Re-direct downsputs**
**Plant natives**
**Don’t dump leaves and debris**

Simple practices to decrease stormwater runoff can help reduce erosion in your local creek.

We can help! The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District offers grants for projects that protect and improve water resources. Visit our website (rpbcwd.org) for more information. Check with your city to see if they offer a grant or rebate program too.

YOU CAN HELP
Rainwater runoff, the water that flows across yards, parking lots, and streets into stormdrains, is one of the main causes of pollution in urban areas. You can take simple actions to help protect Riley Creek.

Keep the curb clean
Sweep up leaves, grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways and streets.

Water with care
Grass requires 1-inch of water per week; about one hour of sprinkling per week if it has not rained.

Salt smart
The salt we use to melt ice can pollute our lakes and creeks. Use salt sparingly and always shovel first.

Reuse the rain
Collect and reuse rainwater with a rain barrel.

Build a raingarden
Raingardens soak up water and filter out pollution. Visit our website for help.

Riley Creek begins at lakes Lucy and Ann in Chanhassen and flows through three, down-stream lakes - Susan, Riley, Rice Marsh - before descending to the Minnesota River Valley. The creek has mild topography in the upper and middle portions of the watershed, but below Lake Riley the banks become steep.

CHARACTERISTICS
Length: 9.6 miles
Elevation change: 230 ft
Watershed size: 10 sq miles
# of cities in watershed: 2
# of lakes connected: 5
# of monitoring sites: 5
# of parks: 11

Impairment: Turbidity
Common fish: Green Sunfish, Fathead Minnow, Bluntnose Minnow
Invasive species: Buckthorn, Common Carp

WATERSHED BOUNDARIES
Water that falls anywhere within the white border drains to Riley Creek.

LAND USE in the Riley Creek Watershed
Commercial: 7%
Residential: 29%
Farmland: 3%
Open Space: 40%
Roads: 7%
Open Water: 14%
How healthy is Riley Creek?

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

To this end, the watershed district as well as the Metropolitan Council have been monitoring Riley Creek water quality for almost 20 years. Recently, the district developed a new tool to assess the creek: the Creek Restoration Action Strategy (CRAS). The CRAS uses water quality data, as well as information on erosion and habitat to rank which creek sections are doing the best, and which are doing the poorest. Below, the three major types of data used in the assessment are described. On the next page, a creek map shows the results from 2018.

Water quality
District staff take samples at five sites during summer. They gather information about nutrient levels (phosphorus), sediment, pH, and dissolved oxygen. These data let us know how clean the water is, and whether it is healthy for plants, animals, and people.

Erosion
Every year, staff walk along sections of the creek. They note sites with erosion, its severity, and whether any structures like houses or bridges are in danger. Erosion is also a problem because the sediment that erodes into the creek is a pollutant.

Habitat
Creeks are important habitat for insects, plants, fish, birds, and other animals. When staff check for erosion, they also assess the habitat. Reaches receive a score based on the quality of habitat they provide, and whether it needs to be restored.

Dive deeper
Interested in learning more? Explore the following reports on our website.

Stormwater ponds
RPBCWD. 2013. Stormwater pond project.

Restoration prioritization

Carp management