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# Watershed Overview

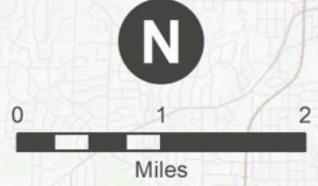
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**Citizen Advisory Committee**

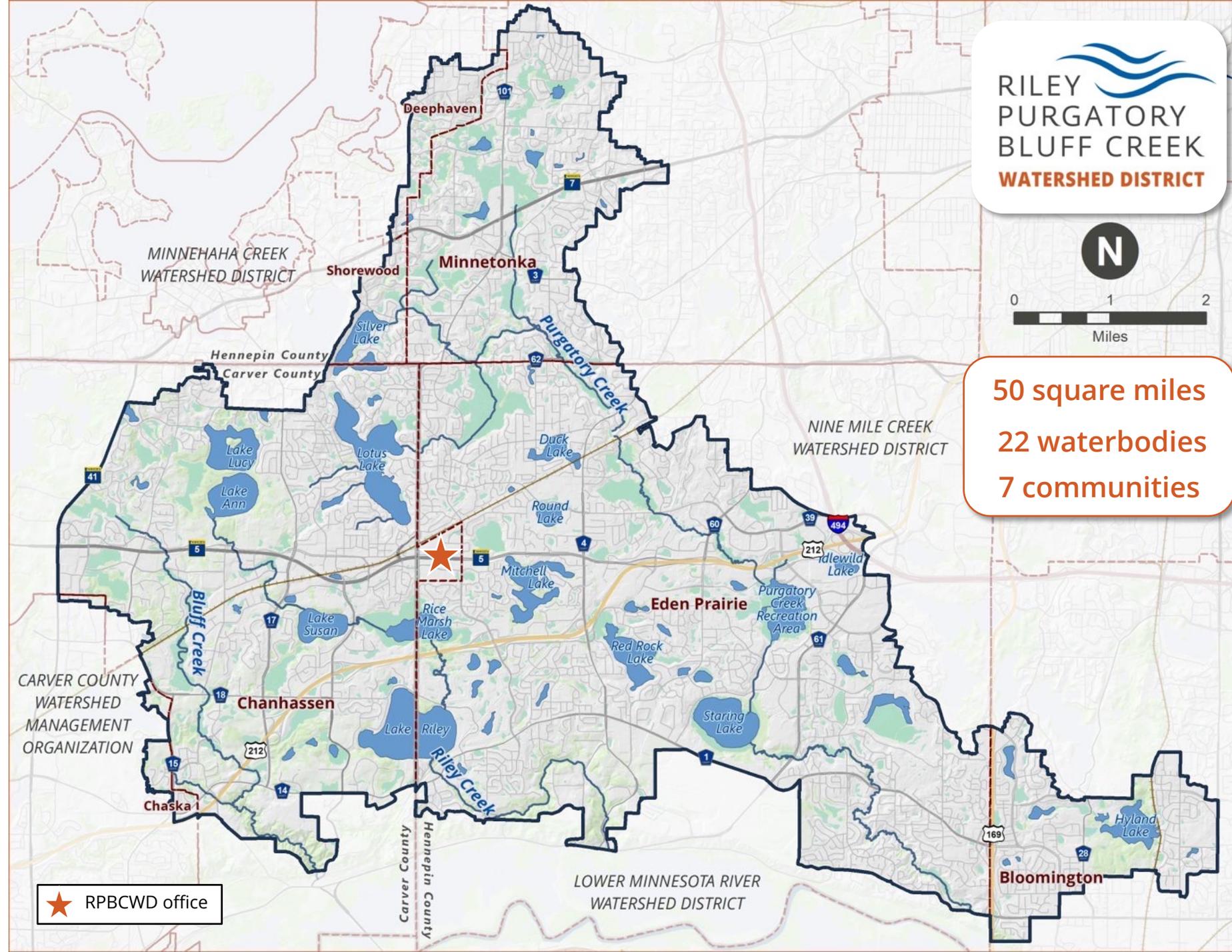
August 16, 2021

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consists of several overlapping, wavy shapes in shades of grey and orange, creating a landscape-like effect.

# What is the Watershed District?



50 square miles  
22 waterbodies  
7 communities



★ RPBCWD office

- A local government body
- Boundary based on watersheds of Riley, Purgatory, and Bluff creeks
- Established in 1969 by the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
- Funded through property tax levies



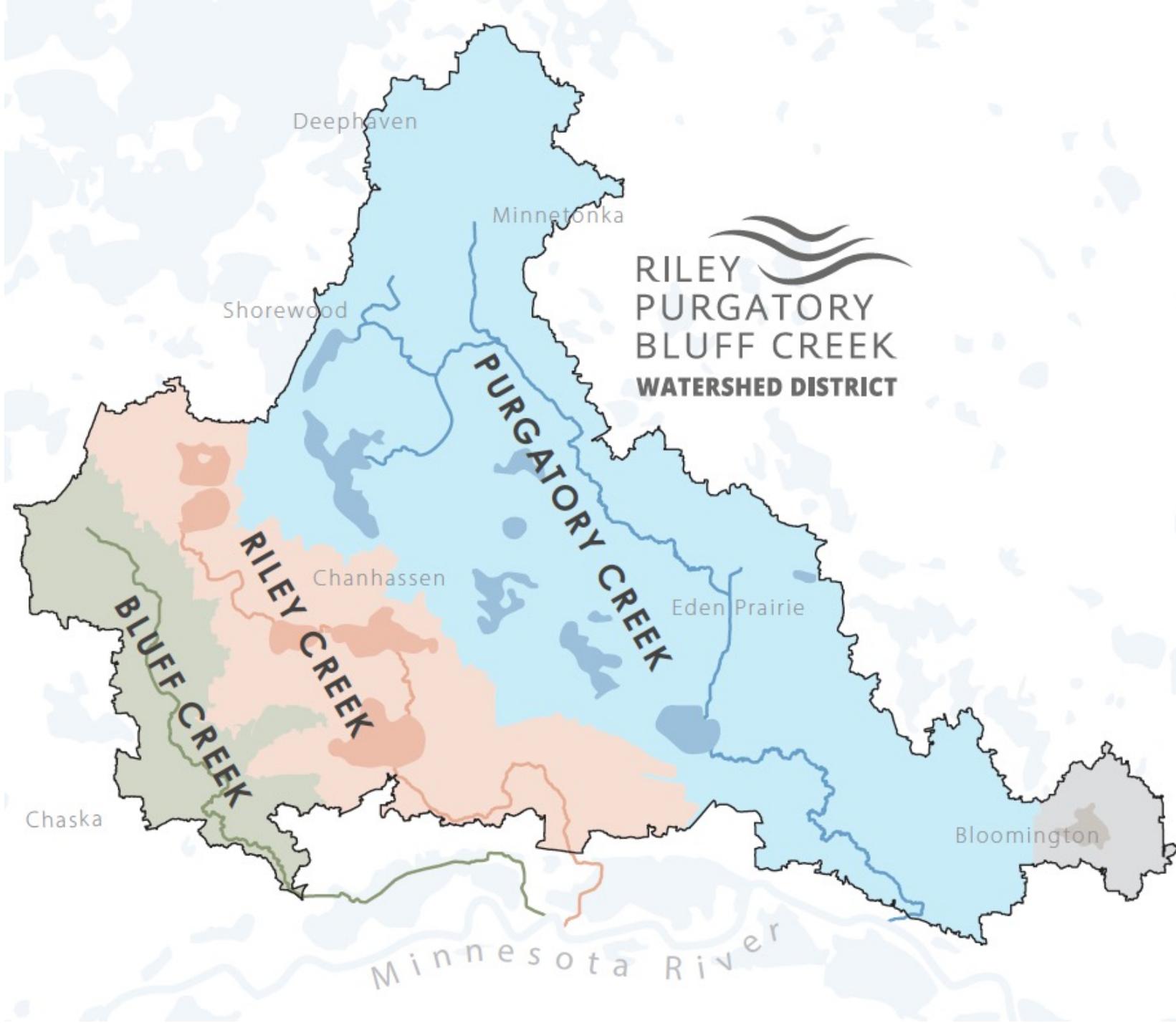
*What about that name?*

**Riley** • **Purgatory** • **Bluff**

Creek

Watershed

District

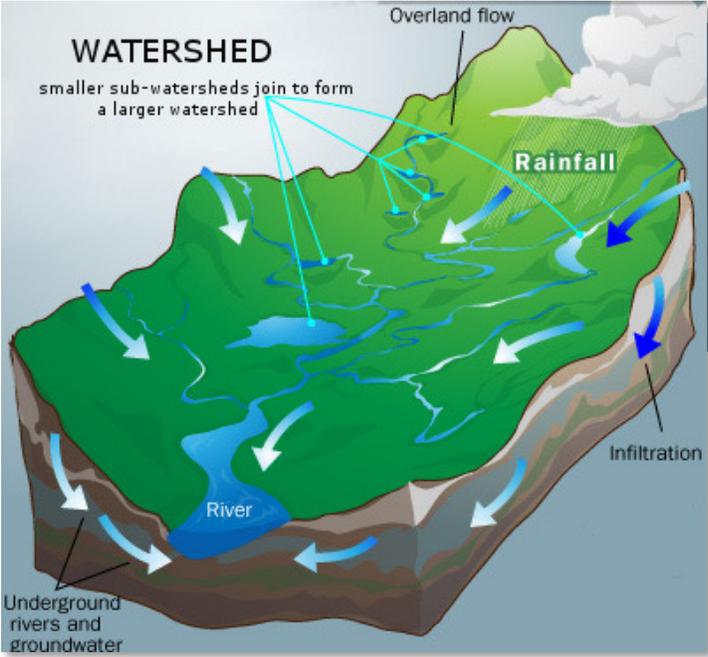


# What is a Watershed?

A waterbody's **area of drainage**.

“A precipitation collector”

( gravity + topography )



Surface Water + Ground Water

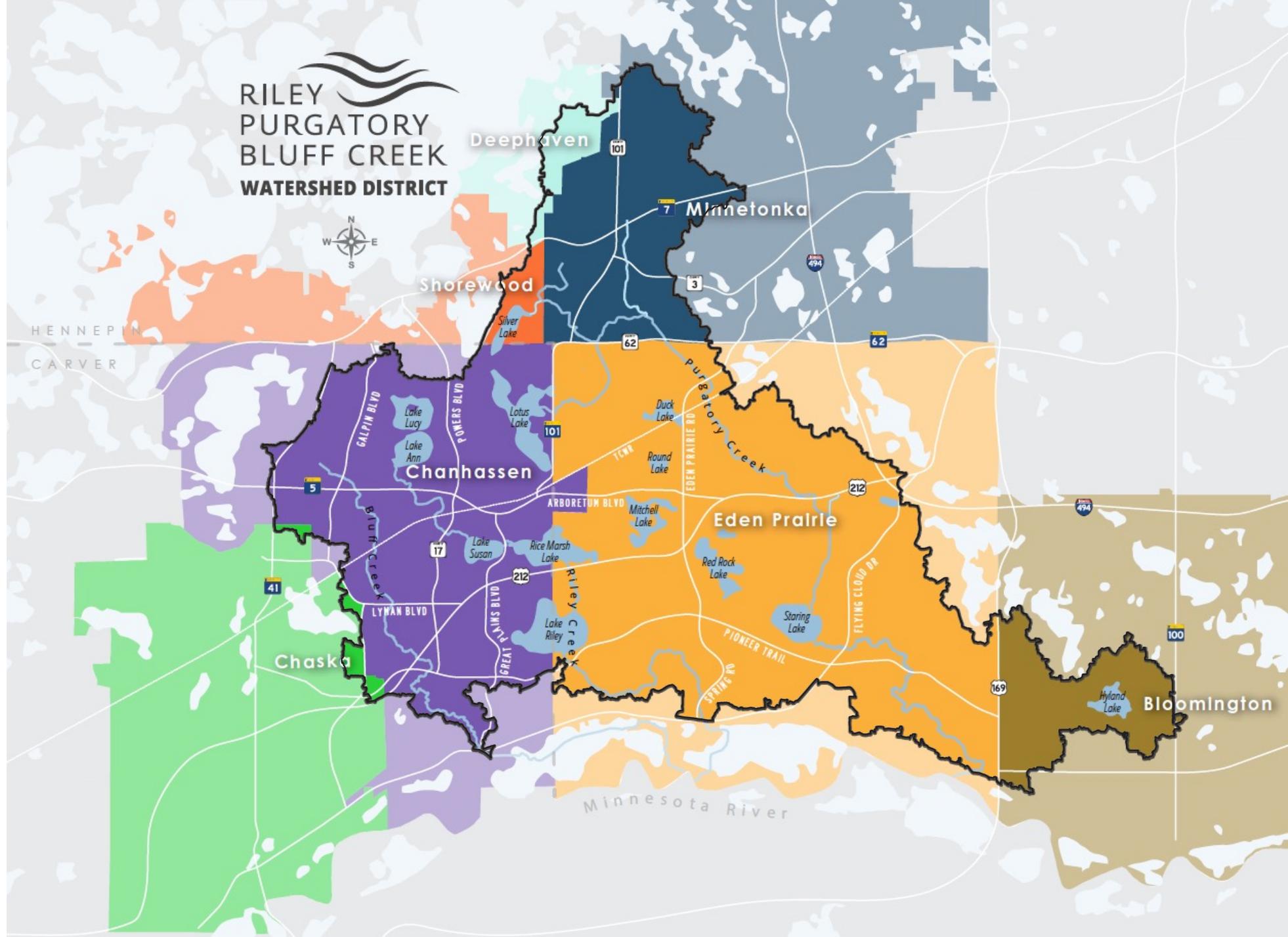
Minnesota River Basin



Lower Minnesota River Watershed



# Our boundary

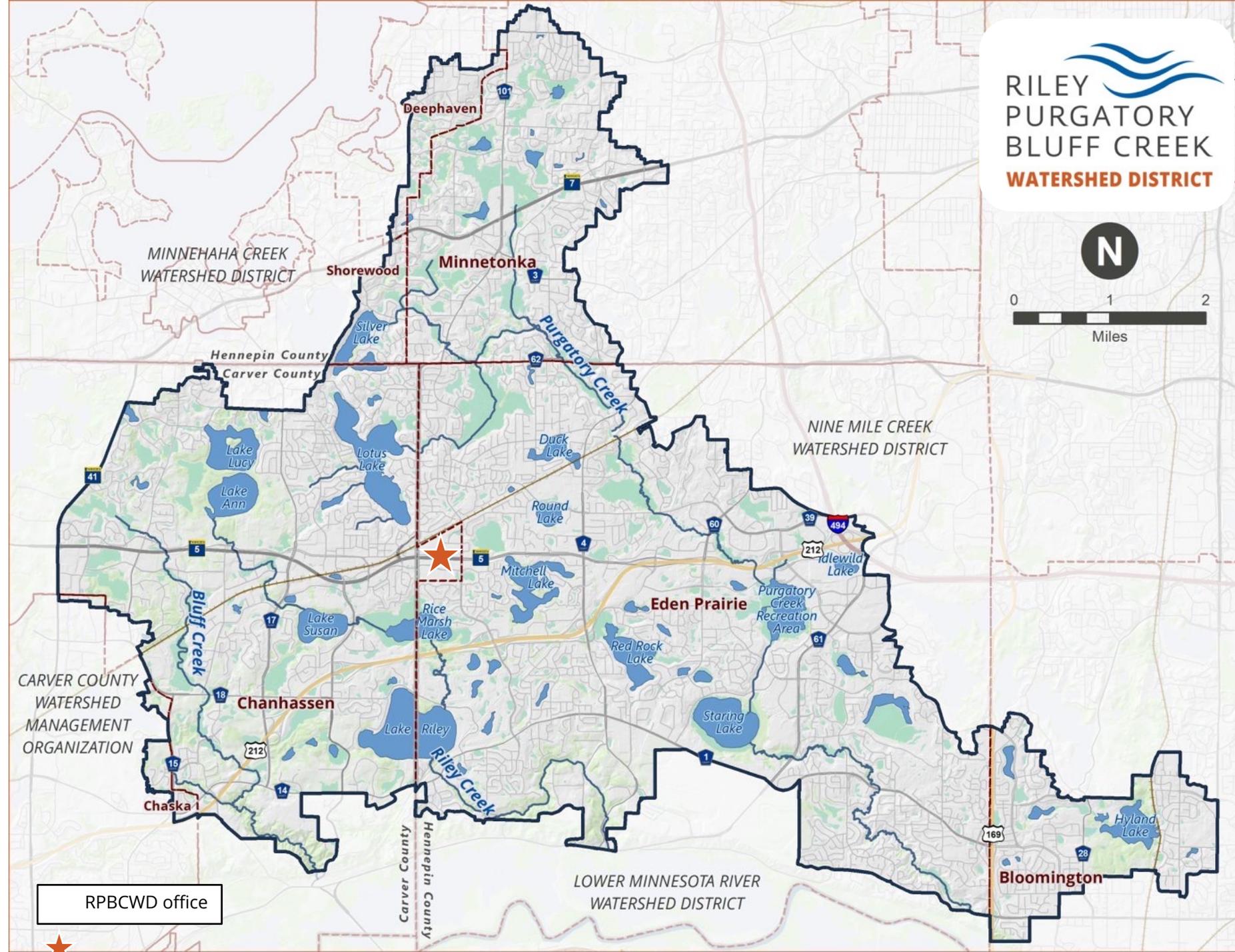


# Purpose

To protect & improve the **water resources** of our communities.

# Implementation

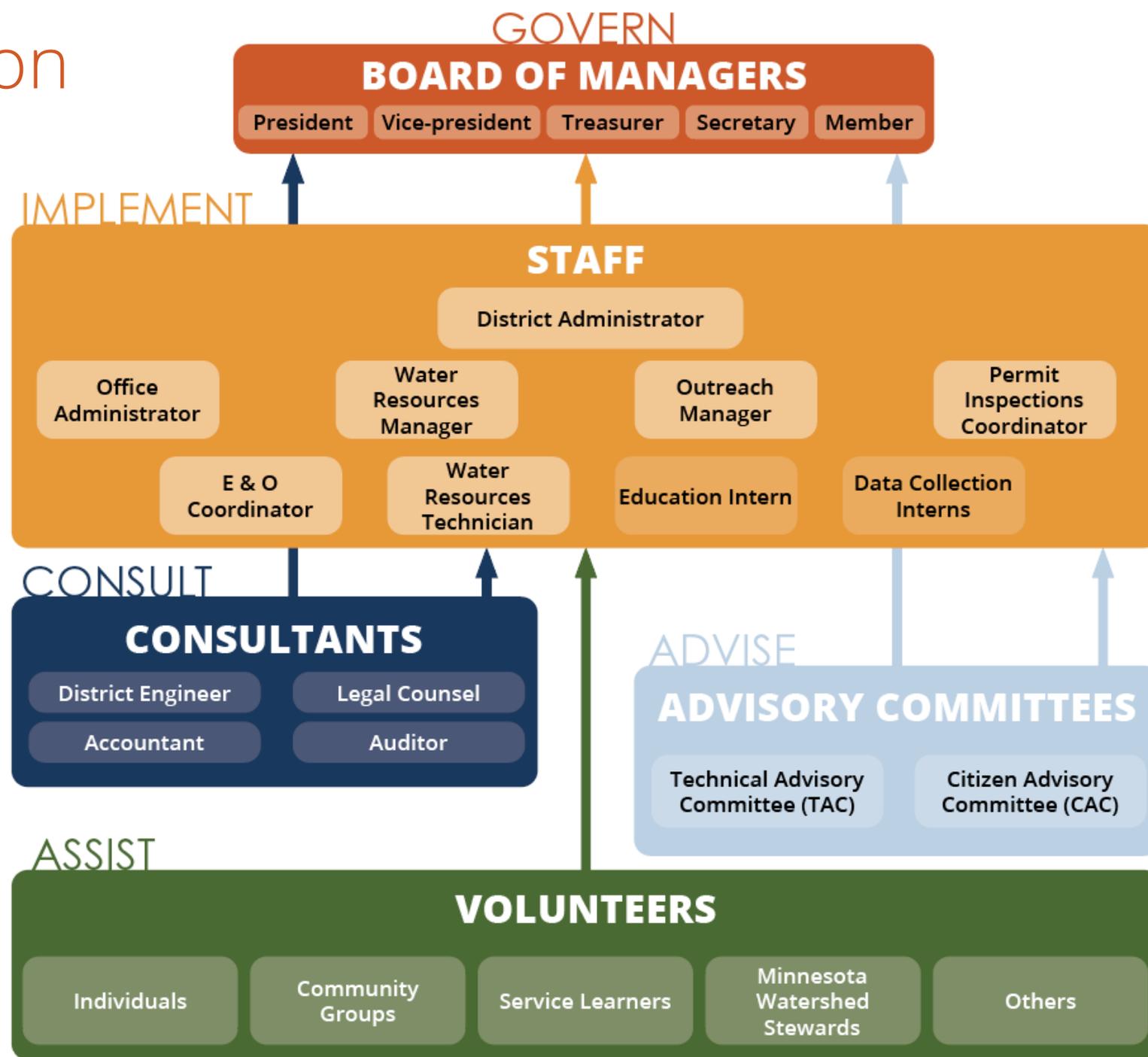
- Monitor waterbodies
- Regulate activities
- Improvement projects
- Cost-share grants
- Community outreach



# What guides us



# Organization



# What we do

## Monitor

- Data collection (nutrients, clarity, levels, etc.)
- Invasive species
- Site inspections

## Projects

- Invasive species control
  - Aquatic weeds
  - Carp
- Treatments (e.g., reduce phosphorus & other nutrients)
- Partnerships

## Permit Program

*Rules regulate activities within the watershed to protect public health and to protect natural resources.*

- Floodplain management & drainage alterations
- Erosion prevention & sediment control
- Wetland & creek buffers
- Dredging & sediment removal
- Shoreline & streambank stabilization
- Waterbody crossings & structures
- Appropriation of public surface waters
- Stormwater management

## Education & Outreach

- Events & workshops
- Volunteer program
- Classroom presentations

## Grant Program

- Water stewardship grants
- Action grants
- Educator grants
- Chloride reduction grants

# Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

The purpose of the CAC is to support the RPBCWD mission to protect and improve water resources.

The CAC regulates itself through its bylaws.

Last amended 12/16/2019

## How CAC members can support the mission

 Be the **eyes and ears** for RPBCWD

 Bring community concerns to the Board of Managers

 Identify volunteer opportunities for CAC members

 Help staff when staff request assistance

 Provide in-depth review of projects when requested by BOM or staff

➤ Feasibility studies

 Educate CAC members and the public:

➤ Suggest/coordinate presenters for CAC meetings

➤ Table community events

➤ K-12 presentations/activities



# Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

## Role of RPBCWD staff liaison

- Serve as liaison between CAC and other staff/BOM
- Attend CAC meetings
  - Provide district update
  - Answer questions
  - Upcoming opportunities
- Facilitate opportunities requested by the CAC
- Anticipate & request CAC input on projects when it would be most useful

Requests reviewed by District Administrator & CAC liaison

Identified by District Administrator & CAC liaison

### Staff does not

We do not appoint CAC members  
(the BOM does that)

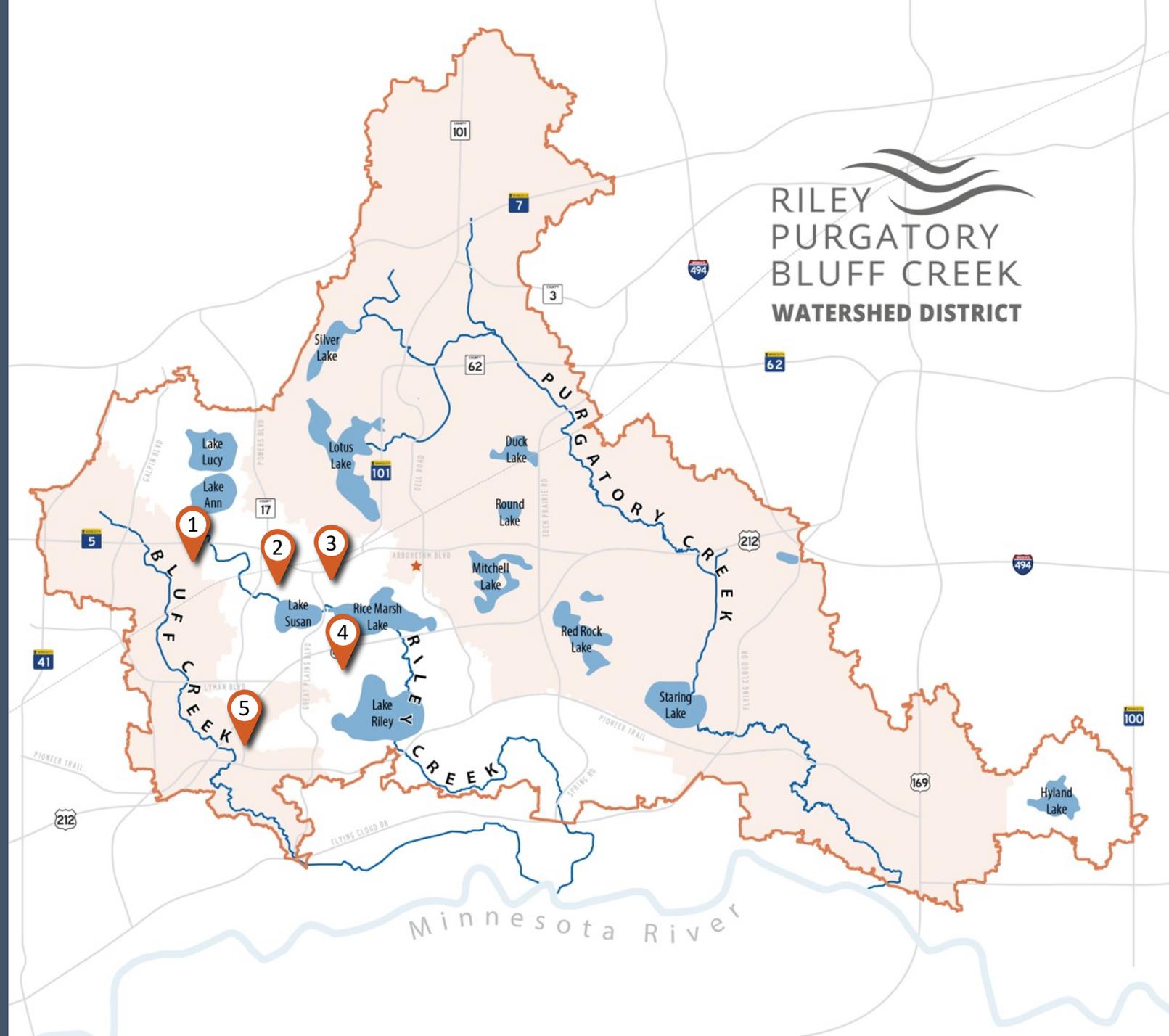
We do not direct the CAC  
(the CAC directs themselves)

We do not find things for the CAC to do  
(but we will ask for help!)



# Current Projects

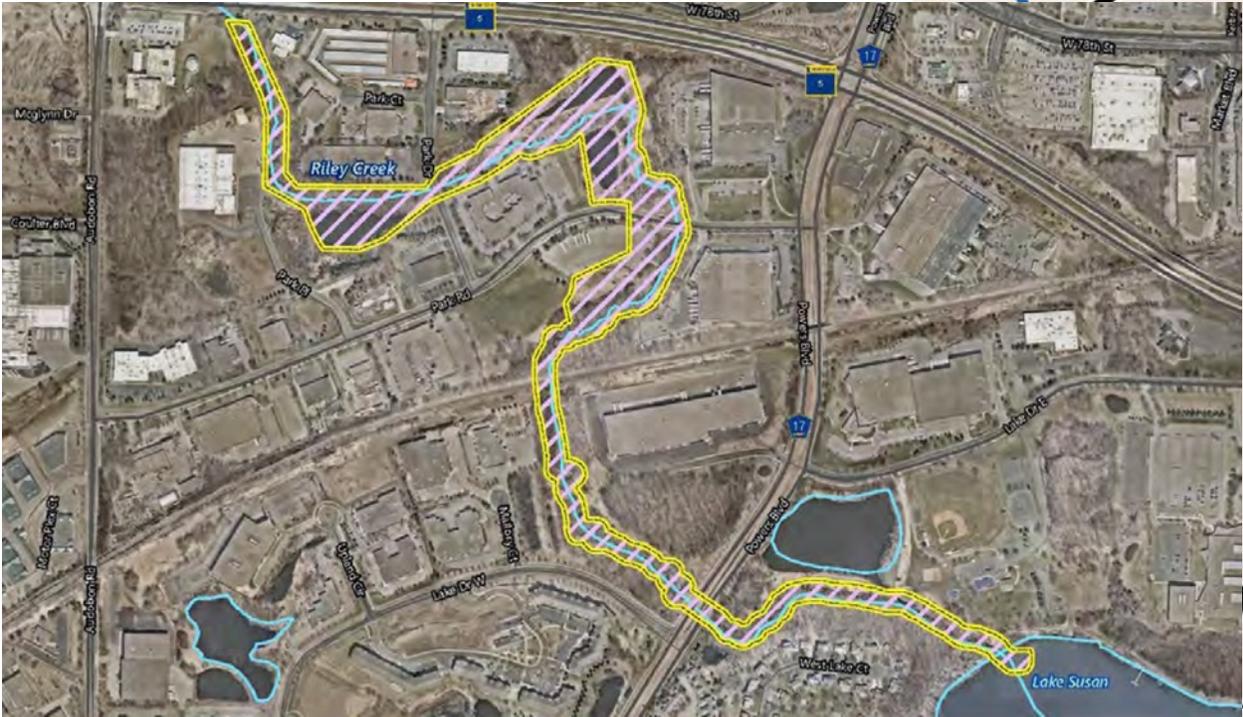
- 1 Upper Riley Creek Restoration
- 2 St. Hubert School Opportunity Project
- 3 Rice Marsh Lake Stormwater Project
- 4 Middle Riley Creek Restoration
- 5 Pioneer Trail Wetland Restoration



# Upper Riley Creek Restoration

### Purpose:

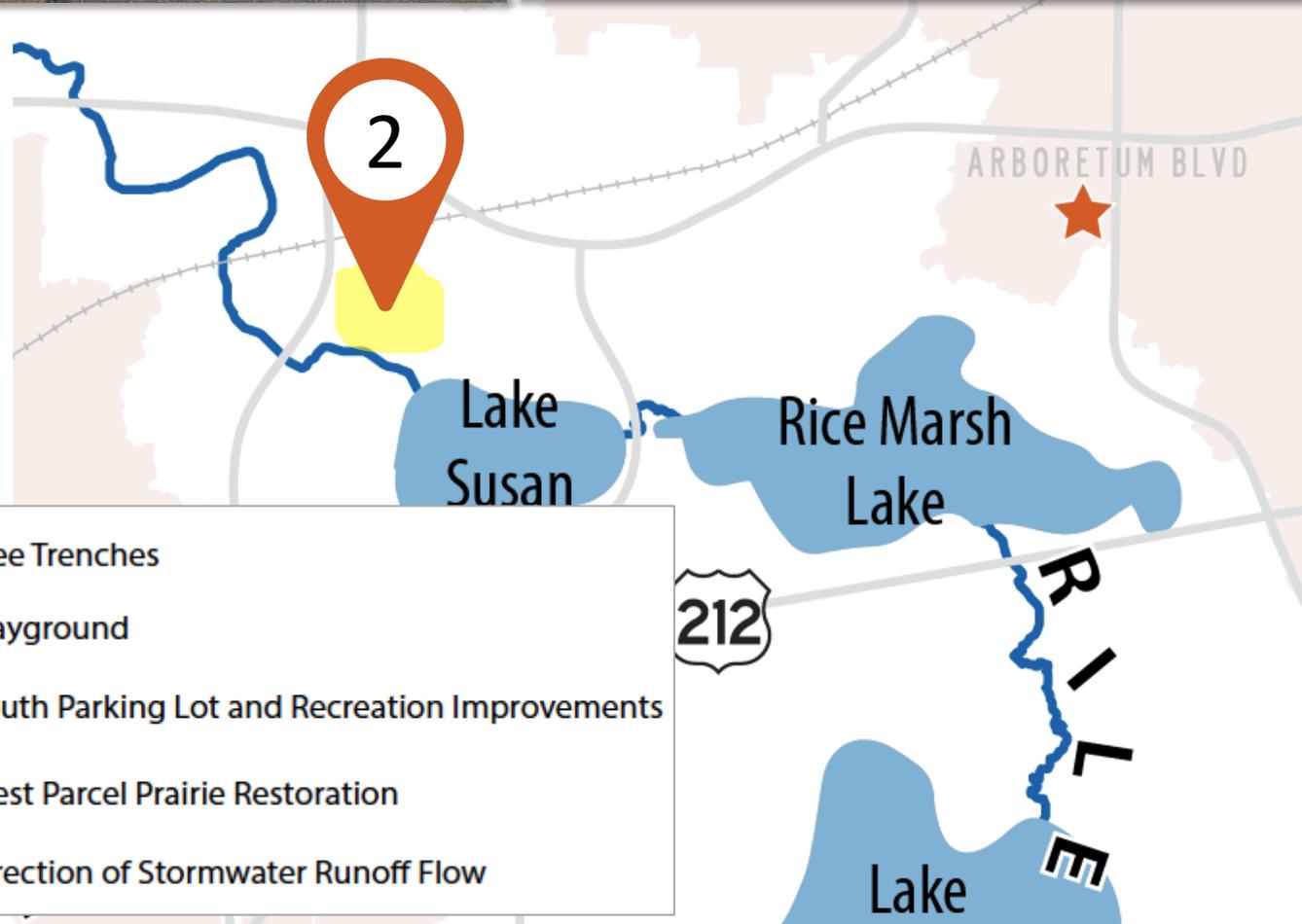
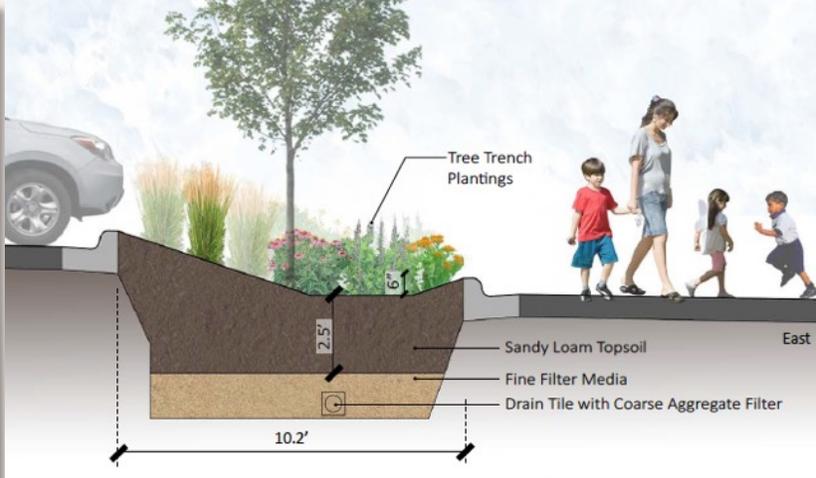
- Reduce streambank erosion
- Provide diverse habitat layers
- Improves ecological functions
- Enhance public access
- Educate public about importance of stream stabilization



# St. Hubert School Opportunity Project

**Purpose:**

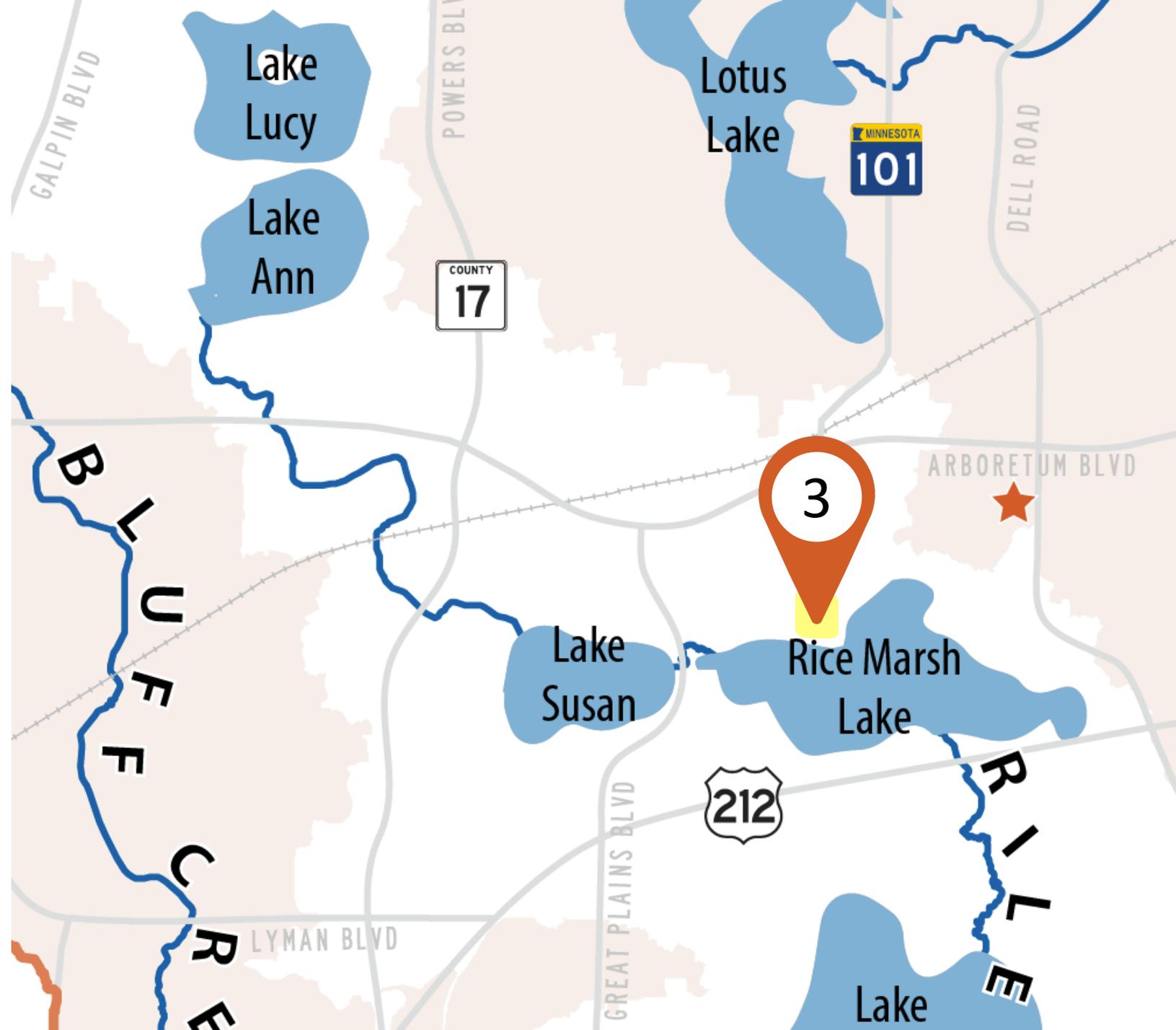
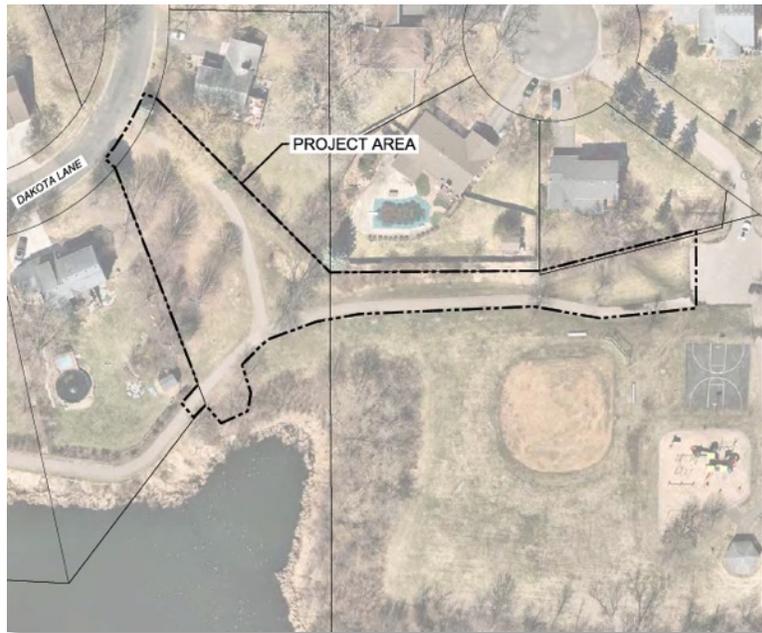
- Reduce runoff volume & rates
- Improve water quality
- Increase ecological biodiversity
- Educational opportunities



# Rice Marsh Lake Stormwater Project

**Purpose:** Reduce nutrient loading into Rice Marsh Lake

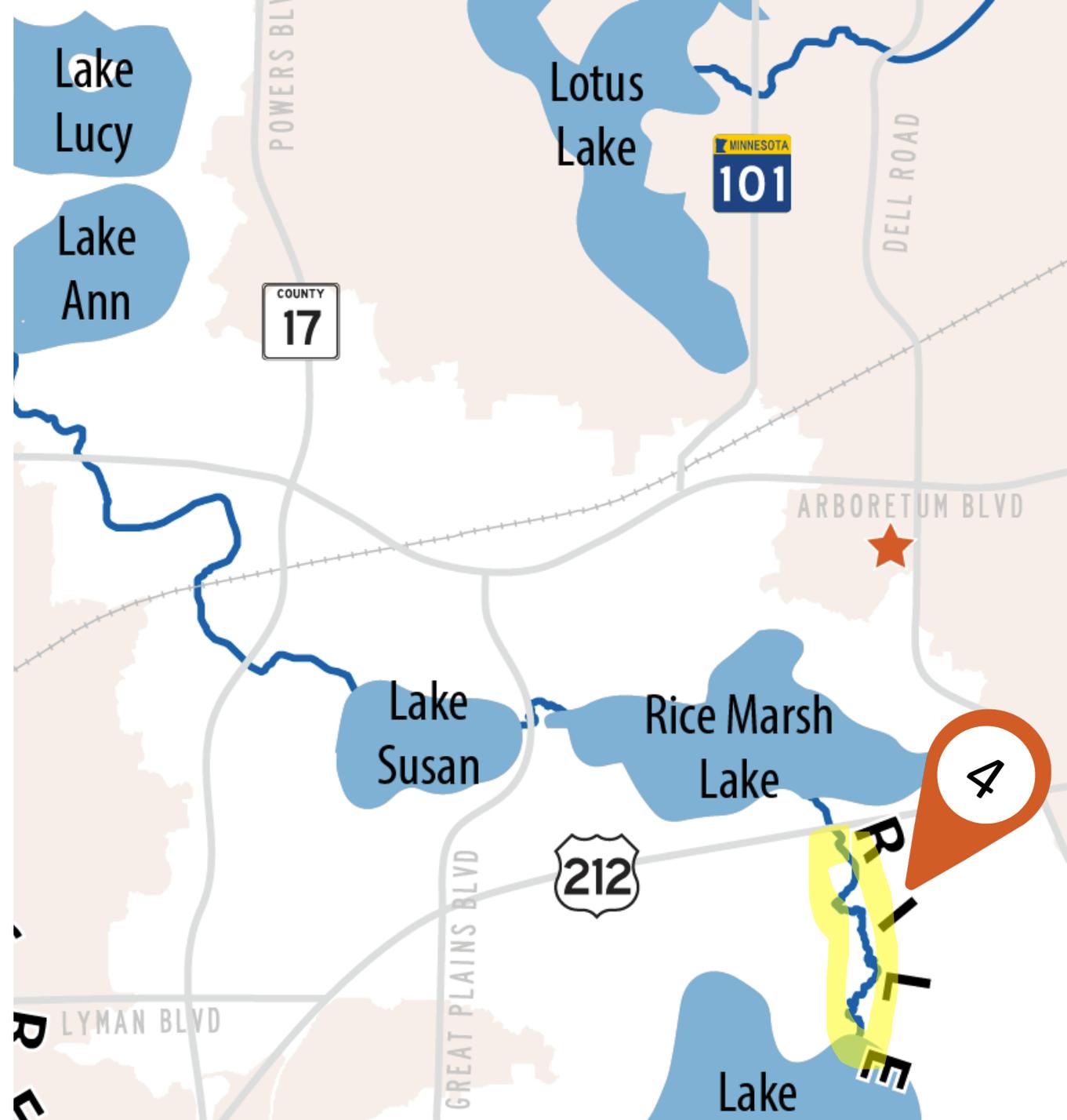
- Divert portion of stormwater runoff from street into a raingarden
- Install sediment trap
- Replace turf areas with native plant or bee lawn seed mixes



# Middle Riley Creek Restoration

## Purpose:

- Re-meandering stream to connect to floodplain
- Opportunity for education





# CAC Member Opportunities

## NEXT 6 MONTHS



### Cycle the Creek station staffing

October 9, 2021

**SAVE THE DATE!**



### Education

Beginning Fall 2021



### Seep search

Fall 2021



### Tree Sapling Giveaway

October 2021



### TAC Representative

Variable meetings



### Assist Minnesota Water Stewards

Beginning 2022

## FUTURE

*To be determined*



### Data collection



### Tabling Events



### Field work with staff

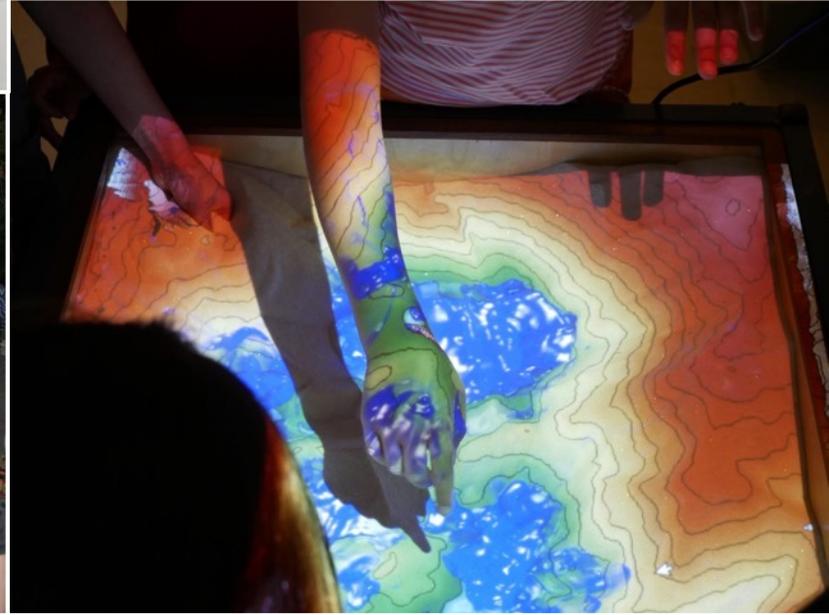


### Habitat maintenance



# CAC Member Opportunities Education & Community Outreach

Time for  
a poll!





# CAC Member Opportunities

## Field Work with Staff **or** Independent Field Work

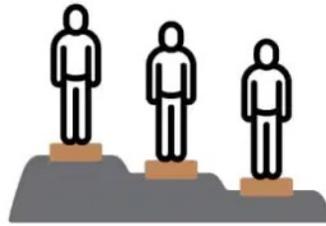
Time for  
a poll!



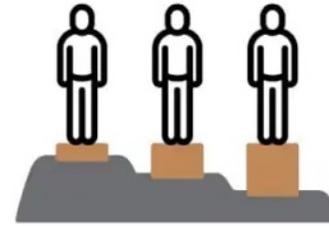


# CAC Member Opportunities Committee Work

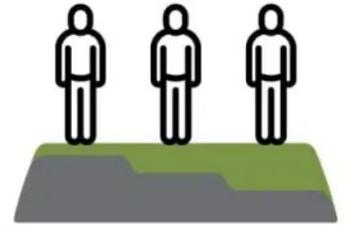
Time for  
a poll!



EQUALITY



EQUITY



JUSTICE



# Contacts



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We would like **your input** about **community events & speaker topics**. Please complete the **survey**, which will launch when the Zoom meeting ends.

**Thank you!**

