RESTORATION PROJECT
Lower Riley Creek

The vision for this project is to provide an ecologically diverse stream reach that significantly reduces streambank erosion, provides diverse habitats, and enhances the public's access and their understanding of why stable stream systems are important.

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.

The Lower Riley Creek Restoration is a multi-year project that began in 2017. The project boundaries include a section of the creek that is severely eroded and has many bank failures and a deeply incised channel. As such, flood flows are concentrated in and near the main channel. This confinement results in faster flows and increases erosion potential within that reach.

Site D3 (marked on the map) is a ravine feature that conveys intermittent runoff from several residential lots to Riley Creek via a storm sewer outfall near the start of the ravine. Past agricultural practices and current runoff from the residential lots has resulted in an increase of both volume and runoff rate to the ravine. The increased volume and rate is exasperated by the steep channel slope of the ravine. The existing storm sewer outlet includes rip-rap and geotextile, which has currently failed, resulting in further erosion near the storm sewer outlet. The invert of the ravine is actively eroding because the flows are highly confined by tall banks, resulting in the creation of several large scarps.

The project's location in the Riley Creek Conservation Area provides opportunities for interpretive signage and future programming to educate the public on the importance of diverse stream corridors.

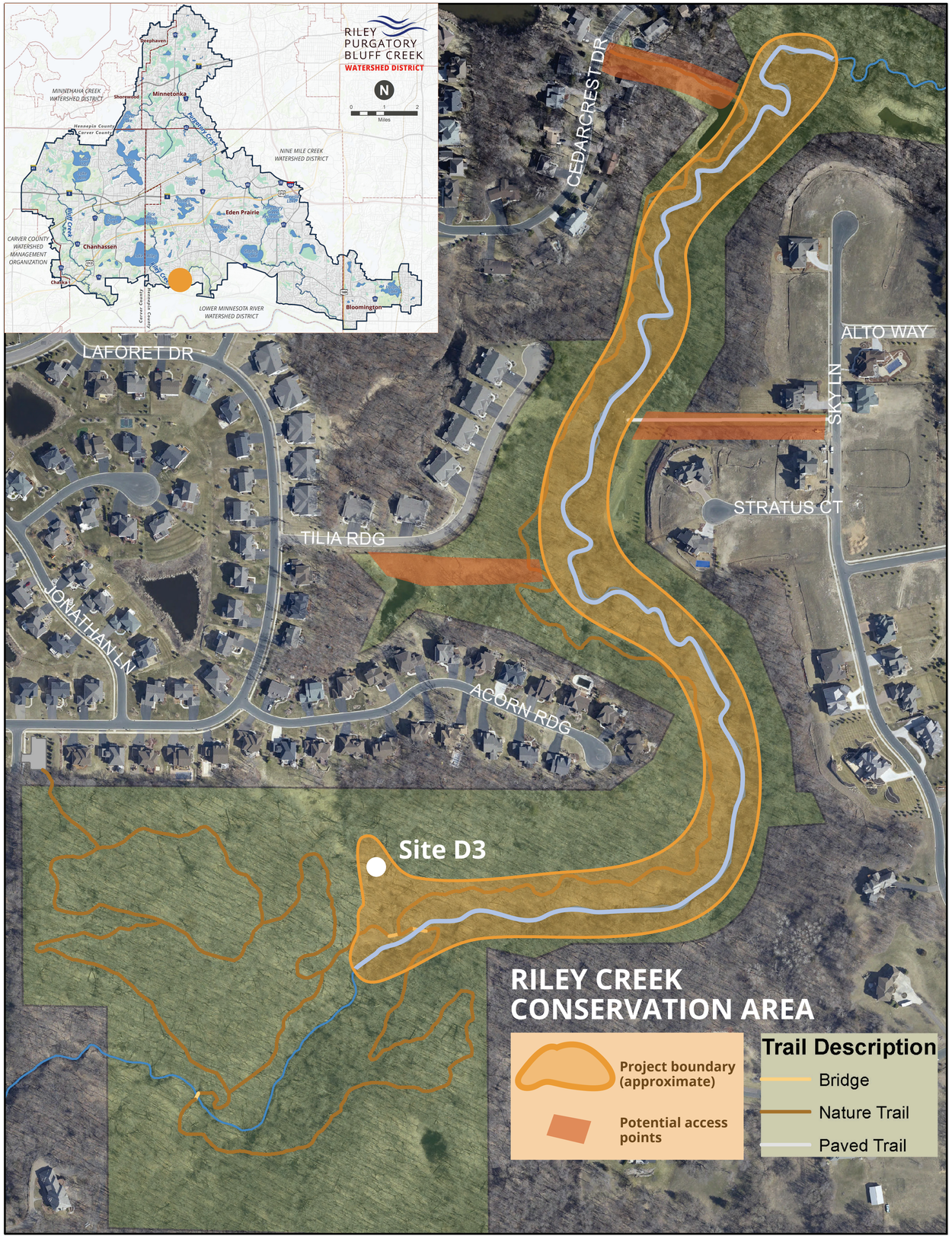
You can help by implementing water friendly practices that decrease stormwater runoff from your property. Together, we can make a difference in the health of Riley Creek.

PROJECT PARTNERS
This project is made possible through the financial contributions of the following partners:

RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

EDEN PRAIRIE LIVE • WORK • DREAM

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT



Location