

KNOW YOUR NRD



PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER
Natural Resources District
Omaha, NE

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972

Fall 2019



THE PAPIO NRD

- Prevents loss of life and property through floodplain management and building effective solutions to potentially catastrophic flooding.
- Patrols over 85 miles of levees and maintains 85 small dams.
- Provides Chalco Hills Recreation Area/Wehrspann Lake for flood control and public recreation.
- Protects water quality by working with rural landowners to halt soil erosion.
- Provides high quality domestic water supply through rural water projects in Washington, Thurston, and Dakota Counties.
- Builds new public-access recreation sites on local rivers.

Protecting Lives. Protecting Property. Protecting Our Future.

Historic Flooding Hits Papiro NRD

In March 2019, the perfect storm of heavy rains, frozen ground, and snowmelt resulted in unprecedented flooding in the Papiro NRD and surrounding areas.



The District, encompassed by a third of the Missouri River and bordered by the Elkhorn and Platte rivers, endured record-high water levels from all three rivers.

With no robust levee system along the Platte and Elkhorn, several

levee systems overtopped and at least two breaches occurred.

Fortunately, inside the Omaha metro area and Papillion Creek Basin Watershed, where the NRD has a number of dams and levees, the system performed flawlessly.

Levee and NRD recreational area repair costs are estimated in the tens of millions of dollars with \$10.3 million in repair costs to the levee that protects Offutt Air Force Base alone.

The Nebraska Legislature passed a bill this session extending the District's bonding authority to assist the NRD in accelerating the repair and construction of current and future flood risk reduction systems.

Trails Help Bridge Our Community

The Papiro NRD continues to work on implementing federal aid transportation projects to construct additional trail facilities. Construction of the Western Douglas County Trail is expected to begin in early 2020.

This project will provide a bridge over the UP railroad, making a connection between Douglas County West schools and the Twin Rivers YMCA in Valley, NE.

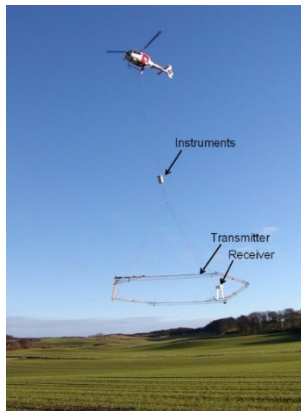
Design contracts have been signed to begin work on the Platte River Bridge Trail along Hwy 34/75 between Bellevue and Plattsmouth. The Papiro NRD will design and construct the trail deck with public access on the north and south sides of the river.

More About the Papio NRD

New Technology Maps Local Geology to Help Protect Our Groundwater

The Papio NRD is utilizing the latest technology, Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) mapping, to improve its planning and management of groundwater quality and quantity. AEM can determine the geologic layers underground by flying over it with a helicopter and special instruments. These instruments transmit electrical signals below ground and record the responses.

AEM mapping is used in Eastern Nebraska because of the impact glaciers had on moving and depositing various aquifer layers in various locations. Knowing where aquifers are and how they are connected is necessary information in order to better understand and protect our groundwater.



Missouri River Levee System Repairs Begin



The March flood overwhelmed the levees that protect Offutt Air Force Base, flooding a majority of its infrastructure.

Ironically, the Papio NRD was to begin rehabilitation work on the levees just prior to the flood event. Fortunately, this did not take place, as anything that would have been built would have been damaged. The Papio NRD begins work to raise the levee system in August.

The Missouri River Levee System provides vital flood protection for homes, agriculture land, businesses, the Omaha Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Offutt Airforce Base/STRATCOM.

Safe Water Delivered in Rural Areas

The Papio NRD operates three rural water supply systems. More than 5,000 residents of Washington, Thurston, and Dakota Counties, plus homes and businesses in the City of Fort Calhoun, rely upon the Papio NRD to supply plentiful, high-quality domestic water.

Environmental Education is Our Future

If we show our children the wonders of nature today, we will surely lessen the natural resources challenges of tomorrow.

Outreach presentations, field trips, water festivals, and helping teachers develop the tools needed to teach about the outdoors are all available through the Papio NRD.



OUR MISSION

- The mission of the Papio-Missouri River NRD is to *wisely Conserve, Manage, and Enhance our Soil, Water, Wildlife, and Forest Resources for the benefit of all citizens of the District.*
- The Papio NRD makes valuable use of tax dollars by partnering with federal, state, and other local agencies and groups – operating on less than 2% of local property taxes collected.

NRD Fast Facts

Headquarters Office

8901 S. 154th St., Omaha, NE 68138
402-444-6222

Board Chairman: Jim Thompson

General Manager: John Winkler

Asst. Gen. Manager: Marlin Petermann

Field Offices

Sary/Douglas Counties – Omaha

Washington County – Blair

Burt County – Tekamah

Thurston County – Walthill

Dakota County – Dakota City

Population: 625,000

Land area: 1,790 square miles

Top Priorities

The Papio NRD is governed by an elected 11-member board.

District Priorities:

- Reduce flood damages
- Maintain water quality and quantity
- Reduce erosion and sedimentation
- Provide outdoor recreation
- Provide domestic water supply
- Improve fish and wildlife habitat and forest resources

NRD Info

Learn more about Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts at www.nrdnet.org and www.papionrd.org.