



NRD Board Approves New Water Quality Area

An area of Platte County northeast of Columbus has been named a water quality sub-area. The new designation means a higher level of groundwater quality management.

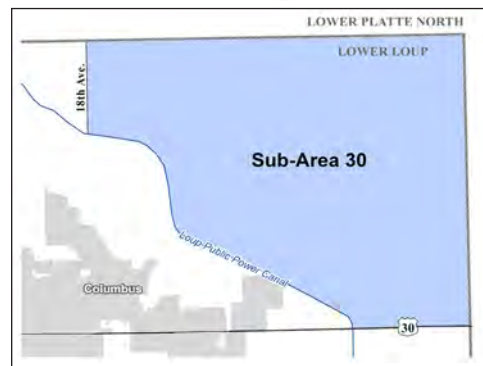
Following a public hearing in Columbus, the LLNRD Board of Directors, at their January meeting, approved the creation of SubArea 30 in a phase III level of management. Phase III means additional requirements for fertilizer application and soil and water sampling. It also requires the installation of flowmeters on irrigation wells.

To assist landowners with the

flowmeter requirement, the Lower Loup NRD has created a cost-share program for the equipment. This first year, cost-share will be 100 percent, in the second year 75 percent and in the third year 50 percent. After the third year, meters must have been placed.

The decision to create the new water quality management area came after consistent nitrate levels of up to 48 parts per million were found in groundwater. The federal limit for nitrates in drinking water is 10 parts per million.

Nitrate levels have been trending upward in that area of the Lower



Newly designated Water Quality SubArea 30 in Platte County

Loup NRD and the adjacent area in the Lower Platte North NRD. The new groundwater quality management requirements are effective immediately.

NRD Assists Communities After 2019 Flooding

The villages of North Loup and Sargent are getting assistance from the Lower Loup NRD to address flooding and drainage issues.

The LLNRD has hired consultants to examine the issues in each community and plans will be drafted to address those issues. The plans can then be used to leverage financial assistance to remedy the issues from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Both communities saw extensive flooding problems in 2019. The problems in each community were the result of drainage from outside the community running through it.

Community meetings are being held to get input from the public on how and where flooding affected them and to get input on potential solutions. A number of options will be considered.

Without plans in place, the two towns would not be able to provide the local match needed for federal and state grants.

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LLNRD Receives WFPO Grant for Mud Creek

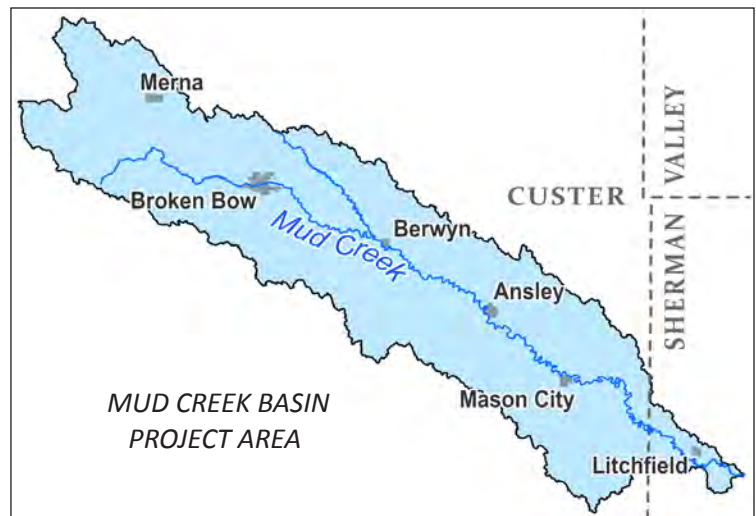
The Lower Loup Natural Resources District has received a Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program grant for Mud Creek. The NRD received funding to complete the Mud Creek Watershed Plan.

This plan will focus on reducing flood related damages to communities and agricultural land, improve flood resiliency, improve recreation opportunities and enhance groundwater recharge.

Lower Loup NRD General Manager Russell Callan said the federal grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will allow the District to explore

major flood risk reductions for Broken Bow and other communities.

The project will cover 239,997 acres in Custer and Sherman Counties. The \$725,000 grant will allow the LLNRD to identify structural and non-structural options to improve flood resiliency, mitigate flood damages, improve soil health and address groundwater declines.



The NRCS will cover 100 percent of the project's final design and construction

Director, Employees Honored For Service

The Lower Loup NRD honored a Director and six staff for their service to the District at its Annual Awards dinner, December 19, 2019.

Honored were (l to r) Brian Kolar, Director Dick Hadenfeldt, Jane Klanecky, Kandis Bremer, Tylr Naprstek, Kyle Charron, and Phillip Hill. The event took place at the Trotter Event Center in Ord.



LLNRD Receives Funding for Drought Plan

The LLNRD has received funding of \$52,260 from the Nebraska Water Sustainability Fund to develop a drought plan that can assess impacts, set specific drought-related actions, and develop potential remedies to be taken during times of drought.

The plan will increase long-term surface and groundwater quantity monitoring locations as well as address drought concerns, including the development of recharge and augmentation across the District.

The LLNRD drought plan will be developed through a District-wide

stakeholder group. Recharge improvements and groundwater/surface water augmentation projects are expected to come from the plan, according to Lower Loup NRD Assistant General Manager Tylr Naprstek.

A Message From The Manager

Welcome to another issue of “In The Loup.” Thanks for taking a moment to learn more about the Lower Loup NRD.

One of the district’s primary responsibilities is groundwater quality and our work to sample and test the groundwater is on-going. Our top concern for the groundwater is nitrates.

The LLNRD has three levels of water quality management. The entire NRD is in Phase I, which means information and education on water quality is required. Water Quality SubArea 29 in northeast Wheeler County is Phase II, and requires flow meters on all irrigation wells, certification classes for all nitrogen applicators, no fall or winter fertilizer applications on sandy soils, annual soil and water sample requirements,

and annual reporting of fertilizer use.

The Lower Loup’s Phase III Management Areas are Area 28, south of the Loup River in Nance and Platte Counties, and the newly created SubArea 30, northeast of Columbus in Platte County. Phase III management includes a flow meter requirement for all irrigation wells, certification classes for all nitrogen applicators, no fall or winter fertilizer applications, split application of fertilizer in the spring, annual soil nitrogen and water sample requirements, inhibitor use requirements, and annual reporting of fertilizer use and yields.

The LLNRD works to prevent all forms of nitrate contamination. We recognize the major contribution of nitrates is from the leaching of



*LLNRD General Manager
Russell Callan*

commercial nitrogen fertilizer. We are working with producers across the NRD to make sure fertilizer is not over-applied. Balancing the desire for top yields with protection of the groundwater below is a top priority.

Davis Creek: Tent Area, More Electrical Sites

Davis Creek Recreational Area, south of North Loup, now offers a tent camping site. In addition, every camping spot in the rec area has electrical service.

LLNRD General Manager Russ Callan said the additions complete renovations at the popular camping spot. With the addition of electrical service in the old camping loop on the area’s west side, there are now 67 total full-service sites. The fee to camp at Davis Creek Recreation Area is \$25 per night. Reservations for Davis Creek can be made at ReserveAmerica.com.

The other new addition is a tent camping area. Located just to the east of the newer camp loop, the tent site offers camp sites, each with a picnic table, cement pad and fire ring. Assistant General Manager Tylr Naprstek said the tent site also includes an ADA compliant site.

Naprstek said there is no charge for the tent camping sites.

He said the sites are near the water

and offer plenty of trees and shrubs.

The sites are not reservable, available only on a first come, first served basis.



Davis Creek Recreation Area now features a tent camping area with picnic tables and fire rings.



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Protecting Lives, Protecting
Property, Protecting the Future.

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POSTAL PATRON

Buy Trees To Beautify, Protect, And Shade

The Lower Loup Natural Resources District is now accepting orders for conservation tree and shrub seedlings for planting this Spring. The trees are sold across the District to landowners seeking to implement windbreaks, wildlife habitat, buffer strips, or other conservation practices. Each tree or shrub is a two-year-old bare root seedling and approximately 12 to 18 inches tall.

The price on all trees and shrubs is \$1.00 per seedling plus sales tax. Each species must be ordered in lots of 25. Property owners can hand plant the trees and shrubs or request the NRD machine plant them. The Lower Loup's machine planting charge is 75 cents per tree and the minimum charge is \$200. The District also provides a weed

spraying service. The charge is \$35 plus \$2.00 per hundred feet of row. Cost-share assistance may be available. More information can be found at your nearest Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

For conservation trees, contact your NRCS office or the Lower Loup NRD, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord. Telephone (308) 728-3221. Trees sold online at www.llnrd.org.



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For more information on available species, drop
by or call the Natural Resources Conservation
Service offices in Ord, Burwell, Albion, Columbus,
Fullerton, St. Paul, Broken Bow and Spalding.



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