

KNOW YOUR NRD



LOWER PLATTE NORTH
Natural Resources District
Wahoo, NE

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

Summer 2013

NRD QUICK FACTS:

The Lower Platte North NRD manages natural resources for parts of seven counties along the Platte River.

Flood Control Dams: 46

Irrigation Wells: 4,445

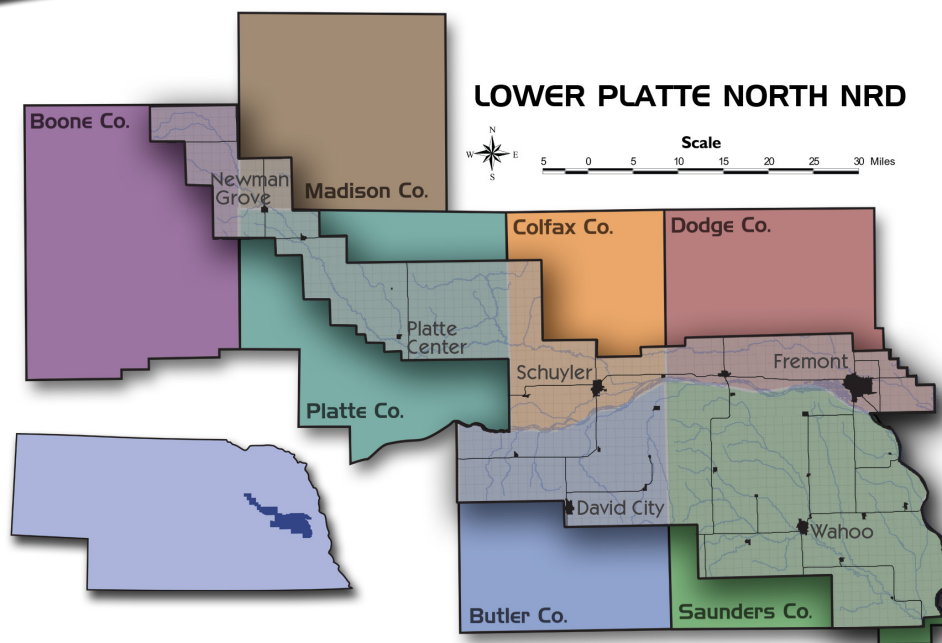
Abandoned Wells: 545 plugged since 1992

Producers Certified in Nitrogen Management: 1,300+

Trees Planted: 800,000+ since 1973

Feet of Terrace & Outlet Constructed in 2012: 59,000+

Residents Served by Rural Water Systems: 300+



Protecting Lives

Schuyler Levee Project

Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2013 on levees and channel improvements on a 2½ mile stretch of Shell Creek north and east of Schuyler.

A second phase involving a new 3-mile levee along the Platte River is on indefinite hold due to cost increases, but it is hoped that it will be built at some point as well.

With both levees complete, the project would reduce flooding in Schuyler enough to remove the city from the 100-year flood plain, and residents would no longer be required to carry flood insurance.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the Federal sponsor of the project, with Schuyler and the Lower Platte North NRD as local partners in the study and design phases.

Protecting Property

Lake Wanahoo

Years in the planning, the long-awaited Lake Wanahoo was opened to the public in April 2012. The 1,777-acre Lake Wanahoo State Recreation Area is located one mile north of Wahoo. Recreation at the site includes fishing access, no-wake boating, day use areas, tent and RV camping areas, hiking/biking trails, and more. The recreation area is managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

The 662-acre, two-mile-long Lake Wanahoo serves as the centerpiece for both the recreation area and the Sand Creek Environmental Restoration Project, which is restoring native wetland, grassland and forested areas in the Sand Creek Watershed. In addition, the dam is estimated to provide \$250,000 in annual savings from flood protection.

Protecting the Future

Being Water Wise

The Lower Platte North NRD works with producers and landowners across the district to protect and conserve the water resources we all depend on.

Training programs for nitrogen management and water conservation help producers maximize their efficiency and avoid potential contamination.

The Irrigated Acre Certification program helps protect water rights for existing irrigators in the event that the Lower Platte Basin is declared "fully appropriated" by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

In areas of the district where new irrigation development is limited, the NRD works with permit applicants to ensure that available acres are distributed fairly through a variance and ranking process.

Water Management

The Lower Platte North NRD closely monitors groundwater quality and quantity throughout the district. Education is a major focus of the NRD's regulatory efforts, and the district hosts training sessions each spring for producers to promote efficient use of fertilizer and water. The NRD also took proactive action to guard against falling water levels with a moratorium on expansion of irrigated acres in parts of Butler and Saunders Counties.



Soil Conservation and Land Treatment

To help keep water clean and prevent soil erosion, the Lower Platte North NRD provides cost-share assistance to landowners for constructing terrace systems, grassed waterways, small dams, and other conservation measures. The district also responds to erosion and sediment runoff complaints from area landowners.



Tree Planting and Wildlife Habitat

To encourage tree planting, the Lower Platte North NRD makes low-cost tree and shrub seedlings available to area landowners and communities.

The district also provides planting services, as well as designs and technical advice for preparing planting sites. More than 800,000 trees have been planted through this program since 1973. The district also donates trees to schools and youth groups for Arbor Day and other occasions.

Flood Reduction and Drainage

At any given time, the Lower Platte North NRD is typically involved in one or more large flood reduction or drainage projects. Dams, dikes, ditches, and other measures have been built across the district that have prevented millions of dollars in flood damage to farmland and urban areas.



Education

The NRD hosts a variety of activities to help educate the next generation about natural resources issues, including land judging contests for high school students and a natural resources festival for elementary students.

Outdoor Recreation

Looking for a low-cost destination for outdoor fun for the entire family? The NRD operates several public recreation facilities that offer fishing, hunting, camping, boating and more. Find out

more at www.lpnrd.org or www.nrdrec.org.

One of the great natural resources of Nebraska is the Platte River. It is the feature that attracted early settlers to our state and guided the wagon trails. Today, we look at the Platte River differently. It is a water source for cities like Fremont, Lincoln and Omaha, a haven for wildlife, and a place for recreation. Issues surrounding the Platte are top priority at the LPNNRD, since approximately 70 miles of the river flow directly through or border the district.

The NRD participates in a number of cooperative projects to help preserve and protect the Platte River and the homes and business near it, including:

- Ice jam prevention
- Invasive weed control
- Flood and drainage control
- Planning for sensible and sustainable development in the Lower Platte river corridor between Lincoln and Omaha

Our partners in these efforts include a variety of local, state and Federal agencies, as well as local landowners, businesses and other stakeholders.

About the NRD

The Lower Platte North NRD is dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and wise use of our natural resources. We are based in Wahoo and cover parts of seven counties in eastern Nebraska. There are 15 staff members at the main office and four clerks and two technicians in NRCS field offices. We are governed by 19 locally-elected directors.

Find out more about Nebraska's NRDs at www.nrdnet.org.