

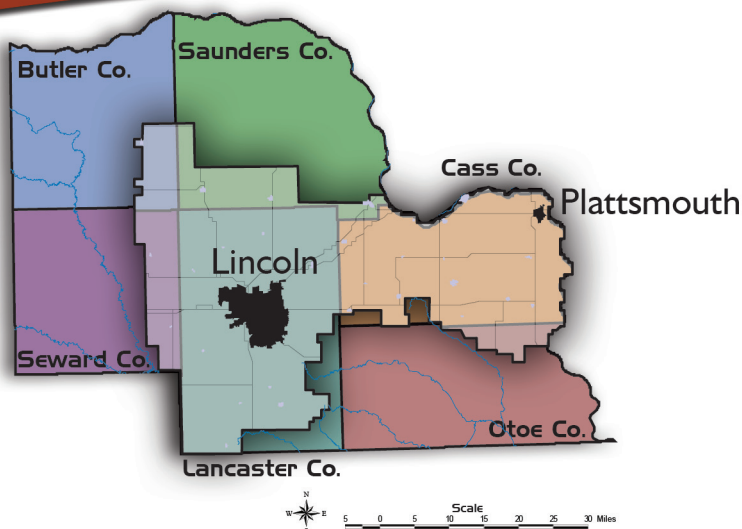
KNOW YOUR NRD

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

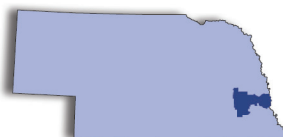


Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972

Summer 2012



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NRD



To Protect Water Quality & Quantity, Your NRD:

Ground Water

- Collects about 300 samples from wells throughout the District each year
 - public supply wells
 - monitoring wells around communities
 - irrigation wells
- Analyzes samples for up to 50 potential pollutants
- Collects about 300 ground water level measurements from wells each year
- Since 1990, has decommissioned 865 wells
- Since 1998, has cost-shared on 258 fertilizer flow meters

Surface Water

- Maintains 200 flood control structures
- Cost-shares with about 200 landowners on soil conservation projects each year
- Maintains 13 miles of Levees on Salt Creek in Lincoln

Protecting Lives

Flood Management is Top Priority at Public Lakes

The NRD operates and maintains about 200 flood control dams throughout the District. Most of them are on privately-owned land, but eight of the largest ones are available for public use. Those eight



Wildwood Lake

have become popular for great fishing, camping, hiking, hunting and more. During high water events, NRD-operated dams play important roles in keeping water out of homes, businesses and fields. Learn more about NRD Lakes at lpsnrd.org.

Protecting Property

Channel Protects Against Floods--and it's Green!

Besides removing 400 acres and 700 homes and businesses from the floodplain, Lincoln's new Antelope Valley Project reduces damages from flooding and maintains a continuous flow of water through the Antelope Valley Project between storms. The channel is just one of many GREEN aspects of the project, which also includes expanded greenways, parks and trails. The NRD is proud to be a partner in the Antelope Valley Project.



Protecting the Future

Kids Benefit from NRD Environmental Education

The NRD provides hands-on experiences and presentations to 10,000 students annually throughout the District, always emphasizing the importance of going outside. Presentations might introduce kindergarteners to the many types of tree and shrub seeds, show middle-schoolers how a well works, take high school students to a prairie or saline wetland and many more.

Through our Environmental Education program teachers get scholarships to attend workshops, we help kids go to summer camp, every third grader in the District gets a tree to plant on Arbor Day and we coordinate highly popular Fam-

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NRD Helps Landowners Conserve Natural Resources

Better Management Through Better Data

The NRD monitors ground water levels in all five of the Districts ground water reservoirs (GWR) and the "Remaining Area" each spring and fall, then analyzes the data to determine trends in ground water quantity. As the chart

Ground Water Reservoir Level Changes Spring 2011 - Spring 2012

Crete Princeton Adams	-1.0 ft
Dwight-Valparaiso	+0.4 ft
Lower Salt Creek	-1.0 ft
Missouri River Valley	-6.1 ft
Platte River Valley	+0.6 ft
Remainder of District	-1.7 ft

shows, compared to Spring, 2011 levels, wells measured this spring were, generally, unchanged, with the exception of the Missouri River GWR, where levels declined an average of 6.1 feet. A map showing the District's GWRs can be found at lpsnrd.org, then click on Programs.

In January, 2011, the NRD began requiring wells in the District that pump more than 50 gallons per minute have meters recording usage and all irrigated acres be certified. The gathering and analysis of this ground water data will help us learn more about the District's ground water and how it can be better managed for future generations.

NRD-Operated Dams Protect Lives and Property

With help from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the NRD is participating in a federal program to upgrade old dams so they better protect roads, homes and businesses. Hedgefield Dam, southeast of Hickman and Upper Salt Dam 35-A, just north of Hickman are two examples of dams that have been upgraded under the program.



An upgrade of Upper Salt Dam 35-A, north of Hickman, was completed in the spring of 2011.

Landowners Utilize NRD Programs



Buffer Strip

Through a variety of cost-sharing programs, the NRD will help approximately 200 District landowners pay for a variety of conservation improvements this year. These improvements include terracing, grassed waterways, buffer strips and more. Learn more about NRD cost-sharing at lpsnrd.org!

Kids Benefit from NRD Environmental Education (continued from front)



Family Nature Nights at schools. High school range judging and land judging teams compete at district and often state and national levels. The annual Envirothon is another national competition offering a broader spectrum of environmental learning to high schoolers.

We also maintain an extensive Lending Library for educators and we keep teachers up-to-date through a twice-yearly newsletter targeted exclusively to them. Learn more at lpsnrd.org and click on Programs.

NRD Board

Your NRD Board meets the third Wednesday of each month and meetings are open to the public. There are 21 Board members, two from each of 10 subdistricts, plus one at-large member. They serve four year terms. Information about meetings, subdistricts and individual Board members is available at lpsnrd.org, then click on About Us.

The NRD Does Fun!

Eight of our 200 flood control dams are open for public fishing, camping, hiking, no-wake boating, wildlife watching and just taking it easy on a nice day.

We maintain 50 miles of recreational trails; crushed limestone pathways through some of the best wildlife habitat anywhere.

We have restored several rare saline wetlands that are now open to the public. These wonders of nature offer plants and animals not found anywhere else in the world.

Looking for outdoor fun?

lpsnrd.org

Newsletter

Our "Know Your NRD" newsletter is distributed three times yearly through District newspapers, but you can make sure you're kept up on ways the NRD is protecting lives, protecting property and protecting the future by getting on our e-mailing list at lpsnrd.org and click on Publications!

Seedling Trees

We sell seedling trees and shrubs in bulk for windbreaks and wildlife habitat. Delivery coincides with spring planting. We can offer a great price because we combine orders with Nebraska's 22 other NRDs. Minimum order, 100. Get more details at lpsnrd.org and click on Permits & Forms.