

KNOW YOUR NRD



LOWER PLATTE NORTH
Natural Resources District

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

Summer 2019

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: 4,600+

Abandoned Wells: 640 plugged since 1992

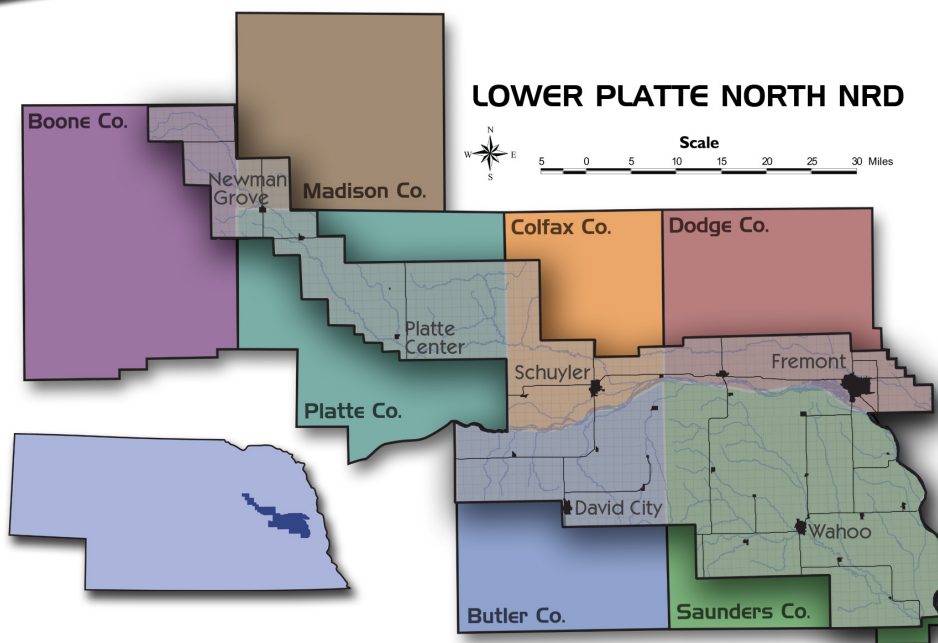
Producers Certified in Nitrogen Management: 1,400+

Trees Planted: 875,000+ since 1973

Feet of Terrace Constructed Since 2017: 230,000+

Residents Served by Rural Water Systems: 250+

Education Program Outreach in FY2019: 2,400+ youth



PROTECTING LIVES

PROTECTING PROPERTY

PROTECTING THE FUTURE

Water Quality Initiatives

In 2003 and 2004, the NRD established "Phase 2 areas" near Bellwood and Richland-Schuyler to deal with elevated nitrate levels in groundwater. Since then, parts of the Bellwood area have shown a slow but steady decline in nitrates. Unfortunately, challenges remain for the Richland-Schuyler area and a Phase 4 has been added. A new trigger level of 15 ppm of nitrates can trigger a management area for more intensive management.

Requirements for the phase areas include fertilizer restrictions, split applications for commercial nitrogen fertilizer use or use of an approved inhibitor, and fertilizer reporting for pre-plant fertilizer use.

Wahoo Creek Watershed

Additional funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy will continue the development of Phase 2 of the Wahoo Creek Watershed Water Quality Plan.

Phase 2 of the project includes the potential replacement of several bridges with road dam structures in Saunders County, as well as provides additional assistance for continued landowner conservation efforts in the watershed. Additional RCCP funding from NRCS has been approved for the development of structures on sites 26 and 27.

The full duration of Phase 2 is mid-2017 to late-2020.

Water for the Future

Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) flights have played an essential role in the LPNNRD efforts to address water quality and quantity issues. During flights, an electromagnetic field is continuously transmitted to the land surface where sensors under the aircraft detect the electromagnetic energy. Some sensors can even reach 1,000 feet below the land surface.

Flights were launched in 2009 and 2016 for the Platte/Colfax and Butler/Saunders "Special Quantity Subareas". In 2018, flights were launched in additional parts of Butler, Dodge, & Saunders Counties.

More information on AEM flights and data that has been collected is available at www.enwra.org.

Platte River Protection

The Lower Platte North NRD participates in a number of cooperative projects to help preserve and protect the Platte River and the homes and businesses near it. These projects include ice jam prevention, invasive weed control, and flood and damage reduction. Various partners on the local, state, and federal levels collaborate on many of these efforts.



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 design and technical advice for preparing planting sites. Nearly 1 million 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 Damage Reduction

At any given time, the Lower Platte North NRD is typically involved in one or more large flood damage reduction 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.



Classroom Activity Presentations

Outdoor Recreation

Looking for a low-cost destination for outdoor fun for the entire family? The NRD operates three public recreation facilities that offer fishing, hunting, camping, boating and more. Find out more at www.lpnrd.org or www.nrdnet.org.



Lake Wanhoo
State Recreation Area

Water Management

The Lower Platte North NRD works with producers and land-owners across the district to protect and conserve our water resources. In 2018, the NRD adopted a new Groundwater Management Plan.



Updated rules & regulations include changing the number of acres allowed to amount of water consumed (acre foot of water).

The NRD also allows expansion of acres without increasing consumptive use. The District has completed Acre Certification and approved the Voluntary Integrated Management Plan.

Watershed Improvements

The Lower Platte North NRD has made significant efforts to improve water quality in the 330,000 acres of the Shell Creek Watershed, which has led to the significant accomplishment of Shell Creek being the first water course in Nebraska to be de-listed for pollution due to atrazine.

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 one technician in NRCS field offices. We are governed by 19 locally-elected directors.

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