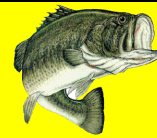


Free Family Fishing Day 20th 19th Annual Youth Fishing & Casting Derby



Sat. May 22, 2021

9:30-11:00 a.m.

At Willard Meyer Recreation Area (Swan 5)

Located: 3 miles East and 2 miles North of Tobias, NE or from the intersection of Hwys 74 & 15, 5 miles West and 2 miles North

Check-In: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Prizes & Free Hot Dog Lunch for All Participants

Pre-Registration is required | Deadline May 20, 2021

Registration must include:

- Your child's name, age and hometown
- The total number expected to eat lunch (including adults)
- Your contact information

A limited number of fishing poles will be available for those who don't have them. Please also indicate if you need a rod and reel for your child(ren)

Convenient ways to register :

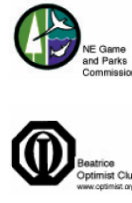
Scan the QR Code at the right with your smartphone camera

Visit lbbnrd.net and look for the registration link

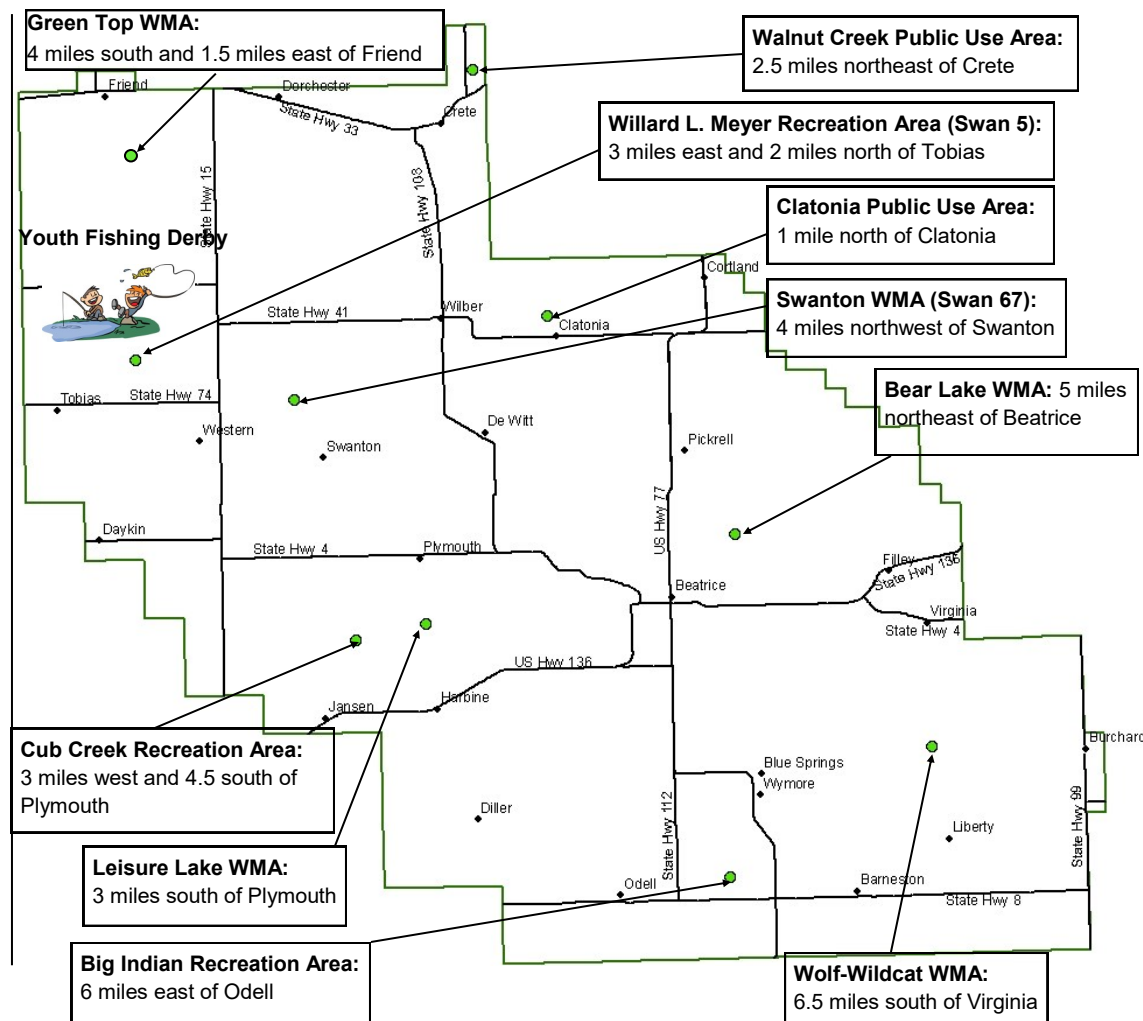
Email Kimmerling@lbbnrd.net

Call 402-228-3402

Lower Big Blue
Natural Resources District



Lower Big Blue NRD Recreation Area Locations



Fishing Day Activities

- Adults & Kids Fish Free! (No license required)
- Medals in four age groups for Largest Fish, Smallest Fish and Most Fish Caught
- Youth Casting Contest
- Big Indian Archers shoot
- Nebraska Game & Parks Fishery Display

The event will be altered slightly to follow Covid-19 precautions. We hope to see you all Saturday, May 22nd!!

For more information, call (402) 228.3402 or email kimmertling@lbbnrd.net

Sponsored by Optimist Club of Beatrice, Lower Big Blue NRD & Swan 5 Advisory Council

For more information on individual recreation areas and amenities, stop by or contact the Lower Big Blue NRD. Smartphone users can download the NRD Outdoor Recreation Areas app from your app store.

Protecting Lives. Protecting Property. Protecting the Future.

Lower Big Blue
Natural Resources District

805 Dorsey Street
Beatrice, NE 68310
Phone: (402) 228.3402
Fax: (402) 223.4441
www.lbbnrd.net

Watershed Capital of Nebraska

"Protecting Lives, Protecting Property,
Protecting The Future"

May 2021

THE BLUE BUZZ LOWER BIG BLUE NRD

Fishing Derby Returns to Lower Big Blue

LBBNRD is excited to announce that the 20th or shall we say 19th annual fishing derby will be held this year. After taking last year off due to Covid-19, everyone who contributes to this event is excited to see youth once again. Gather for a fun-filled day at Willard L. Meyer Recreation Area on Saturday May 22nd.

Check out the flyer on the back page of this newsletter for details on what the day includes and registration information.



Calling all campers! Recreation Areas Open!

The Lower Big Blue NRD recreation areas are officially open for the season. Cub Creek Recreation Area will remain closed to visitors this year as the lake undergoes renovation. No park permit is required to enter the areas operated by the Lower Big Blue NRD. Recreation Area Brochures which list available amenities are available at our office, or for more information you may visit our website at www.lbbnrd.net. Recreation areas are typically open from April thru October.

New Faces at the Lower Big Blue

They say the only thing certain in life is change. The end of 2020 and start of 2021 proved that the NRD is no exception. Long time board members Doug Pieper, James Damrow and Lawrence Gronewold all recently left the board. The three share a combined 42 years of service. While we are sad to see them go, we are excited to have new members eager to serve the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District.

Brent Katz
Sub-District 6



Brent is a 1993 Tri County graduate and is a 1997 graduate from UNL where he majored in Ag Business. While attending the University he was involved in livestock judging and was a member of FarmHouse fraternity. Brent participated in the LEAD (Agriculture Leadership Development) program Class of 23l. Brent is married to his wife Kathryn and they have 3 children, Luke (11), Logan (8) and Blakely (6). Brent is a 4th generation corn/soybean farmer but when not farming he enjoys being involved in his children's activities which include 4H, showing cattle, golf and basketball.

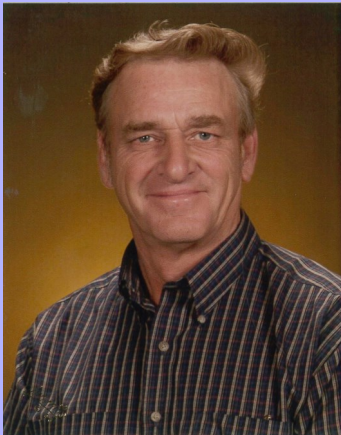
Heidi McClintock
Sub-District 2



Heidi and her son, Beau, live in the country outside of Odell. She raises a small cow-calf operation, goats and miniature donkeys. Heidi has a bachelor's degree in communications and has worked for Chadron State College and the Little Blue NRD. She also serves in the Nebraska Army National Guard.

"I'm excited to be able to help protect our natural resources for future generations."

Duane Parde
Sub-District 1



Duane is a life long resident of Gage county. He and his wife, Janice, farm near Pickrell. Duane has farmed for 49 years. Duane and Janice have three children, Eric, Jennifer and Brooke. They have 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Duane raises corn and soybeans and has raised cattle and hogs in the past. He is a member of Zion Lutheran Church, the Virginia American Legion and the American Legion Riders of Beatrice.

Lower Big Blue NRD Newsletter

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Questions or comments regarding the newsletter may be directed to the office of the Lower Big Blue NRD by phone at (402) 228.3402; by fax at (402) 223.4441; by email at kimmerling@lbbnrd.net; or by mail at:

Lower Big Blue NRD
805 Dorsey Street
P.O. Box 826
Beatrice, NE 68310

The Lower Big Blue NRD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

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Ryan Birkett
Wilber—Sub-District 1
Darrell Rains (Treasurer)
Beatrice—Sub-District 2
Heidi McClintok
Sub-District 2
Larry Barta
Swanton—Sub-District 3
Doug Stokebrand
DeWitt—Sub-District 3
Robert J. Lorenz
Crete—Sub-District 4
Rodney Skleba
Wilber—Sub-District 4
Dean Roehr
Beatrice—Sub-District 5
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Beatrice—Sub-District 5
Steven A. Kelley (Chairman)
Beatrice—Sub-District 6
Brent Katz
Beatrice—Sub-District 6
Jason Pohlmann (Vice Chairman)
DeWitt—At-Large Member

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Certification of Irrigated Acres

Certifying irrigated acres is part of the updated Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulations (Chapter 12) that was adopted by the Board of Directors on March 27, 2014. The acres certified were those acres irrigated by groundwater and surface water during the 2016 crop year. These acres will serve as the baseline data. Recently, certified producers received a mailing from the NRD, showing certified acres on record as well as requesting some supplemental information such as crop type, irrigation method and tillage practices. Please carefully review the acreage listed and notify the NRD of any changes. If no changes are required, please fill out the supplemental information and return the forms to us. Irrigators will only need to notify the NRD in the future if any changes are made. Changes are due by March 1st of each year. By knowing the location and number of irrigated acres, the NRD will be able to better protect current irrigators existing irrigation rights. Additional groundwater management decisions can also be made using this information to ensure that our most valuable resource is being used efficiently and effectively.

Well Decommissioning Cost-share

An abandoned water well can pose a serious safety concern if not properly sealed. Since all water wells provide a path from the surface directly to an aquifer, unused wells can allow pollutants to enter our groundwater. The Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District (LBBNRD) has cost-share available to landowners who have an unused well to decommission. The Lower Big Blue NRD will provide cost share in the amount of 60% of the actual cost to decommission a well, up to \$500 (this does not include the cost of pump or tower removal.) In order to be eligible for cost share, the well must be decommissioned by a licensed well driller or pump installer. Applicants will need to submit the well decommissioning form which is available from our office or on our website. In addition, original receipts, W-9 and a copy of the Notice of Water Well Decommissioning as submitted to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is required. Cost-share is available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Watershed Dams

276 dams and grade stabilization structures are strategically placed throughout the district. Most of these structures are on private property, however, the NRD holds a permanent maintenance easement with these landowners, this means that NRD staff have access to the site for inspection and maintenance. NRD staff inspects dams on an annual basis, however, we ask landowners to help us identify maintenance needs. If you have an NRD structure on your property, please take note of any trees, debris on trash racks or around tubes, rodent holes, or evidence of beaver activity. All of these things can affect the functionality of the structure. If you see any of these, please contact the office so we can conduct an inspection and address any issues.

Equal Opportunity Provider

The Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District, its offices, and employees, does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted, funded by, or administered through the Lower Big Blue NRD.

NDEE Beachwatch

What is Beachwatch?

Every summer, from May through September, officials with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy sample the water at 51 recreation areas across the state. They are testing for blue-green algal blooms and high levels of bacteria which can pose health risk to swimmers. Tests are conducted on a weekly basis. Typically, tests are conducted on Monday with online results available on Fridays. Within the Lower Big Blue NRD, beaches at Rockford Lake, Big Indian Recreation Area and Willard L. Meyer recreation are sample sites. Weekly results can be found at: <https://deq-iis.ne.gov/zs/bw/>. Users may also sign up to receive weekly alerts from the site.

How we Respond:

If a high concentration is found, the lake will be placed on mandatory health alert until tests register acceptable levels for two consecutive weeks. During this time, swimming beaches are closed and full body contact with the water is not advised.

What to Watch For:

- Water that has a neon green, pea green, blue-green or reddish-brown color.
- Water that has a bad odor.
- Foam, scum or a thick paint-like appearance on the water surface.
- Green or blue-green streaks on the surface.
- Areas with algae that look like grass clippings floating in the water.

What To Do:

If you suspect contact with algae, you should wash off with soap and fresh water

as soon as possible. Special attention should be paid to young children as they are more apt to swallow water during swimming activities. Additionally, they often take in a greater percentage of water than adults. Symptoms of skin exposure can include a rash or other skin irritation. Symptoms of ingestion can include headaches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. If any of these symptoms occur, contact your physician for treatment advice.

