

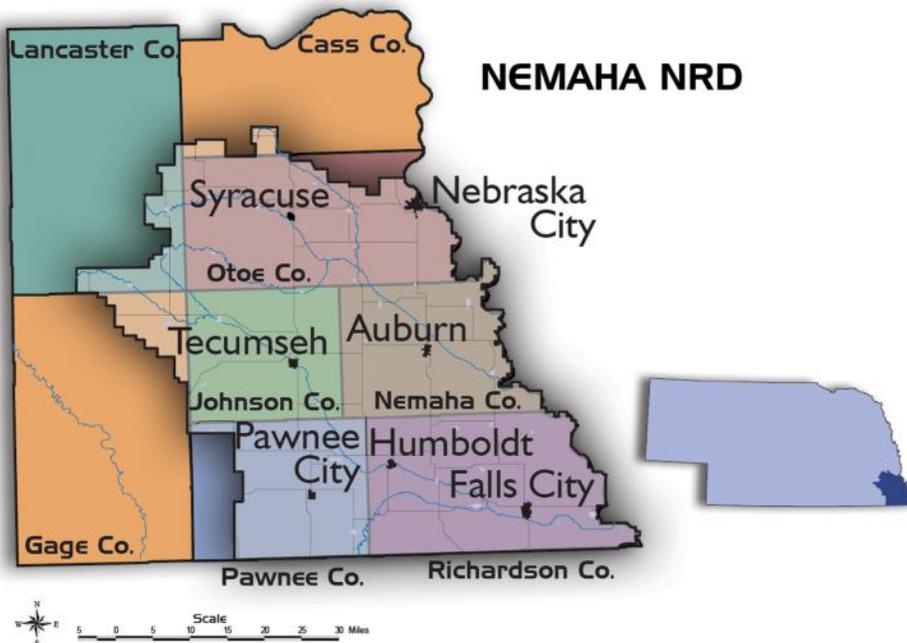
# KNOW YOUR NRD



**NEMAHA**  
Natural Resources District  
Tecumseh, NE

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

2013



### NEMAHA NRD QUICK FACTS:

- Over 470 flood and erosion control dams and structures provide 4,735 acres of permanent water & 96,862 acre feet of flood storage
- Since 1977 over 1.4 million trees and shrubs have been planted to provide wind protection, wildlife habitat, and erosion control
- More than 1,200 abandoned wells have been properly filled and sealed with cost-share assistance
- The Nemaha River basin encompasses all of the Nemaha NRD and a portion of the Lower Platte South NRD in Otoe & Cass Counties

## *Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future*

### **Proactive Steps for Responsible Water Management**

In January, 2013, the NNRD board voted to issue a temporary, 180-day stay on construction of new water wells pumping greater than 50 gallons/minute. The purpose: to allow time to develop a ranking system to use when evaluating new permits, particularly those involving high-capacity well development in marginal areas.

NNRD staff moved swiftly to develop the system under the watchful eye of the NRD board, who voted the system in on April 11. This allowed an early end to the temporary stay, which was subsequently lifted in May.

Changes that went into effect include not only a ranking system

for approving well permits but also the requirement that flow meters be installed and used on all new and replacement high-capacity wells. In addition no more than two high-capacity wells will be allowed to serve a single purpose. The ranking system takes into consideration criteria such as thickness of the aquifer, well density (irrigation, public water supply, domestic, or livestock), transmissivity, irrigation best management practices, and irrigation management.



### ***Chemigators Demonstrate Responsible Management***

NNRD crews have been busy this summer inspecting chemigation equipment on irrigation systems to ensure chemicals don't end up back in our precious water supplies. Farmers are required by law to use appropriate backflow prevention on their systems, and they must obtain or periodically update certifications through annual training sessions.

The Nemaha NRD applauds all those responsible cooperators for their diligent efforts to ensure the protection and safety of our water supplies!

### Work Begins to Increase Flood Protection

Prange Construction from Adams, Nebraska, began work in May on the \$475,000 rehabilitation of Wilson Creek flood control structure 8-H located just north of Nebraska Highway 2 between Nebraska City and Syracuse. Work was required to improve the structure after the relocation of the highway a few years ago bumped up the hazard classification of the structure. Upon completion later this fall, the dam will be higher with a concrete riser and will include a larger emergency spillway. Federal funds are picking up 65% of the cost with the NRD's share at 35%.



### Urban Taxpayers Benefit from Special Projects

In a partnership with the Village of Johnson and the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, the NRD provided \$25,000 toward a \$118,000 trail and landscaping project at their sports complex and park. The handicapped accessible trail provides opportunities for walking, running, biking, and use by the elderly and disabled. Native grasses and plants were combined with interpretive signage and benches to enhance an educational component of the project, which was completed this spring.



landscaping project at their sports complex and park. The handicapped accessible trail provides opportunities for walking, running, biking, and use by the elderly and disabled. Native grasses and



### Flood Control & Recreation at Future Dam Site

Protection for county roads, bridges, and cropland in the Peru area was the catalyst for two projects, one of which will provide public recreation too. Last year the Buck Creek Watershed flood control dam was completed just west of Peru in Nemaha County (this site does not allow public access).



Now plans turn to the nearby Duck Creek Watershed structure. Federal PL566 funds were allocated for the construction of both dams,

but a public recreation component was needed to push the benefit-cost ratio of the projects high enough for the funding approval. Work is slated to begin during the next year to obtain the land rights necessary for this project, which will include a 60-acre lake and public access for fishing, boating, camping, and picnicking.

Current projections put dam completion around the end of 2015 with recreation facilities to follow. Funds for the recreation and land rights components will come from both local and state sources.

## Your NRD:

- Protects lives and property
  - Free water testing for nitrates & bacteria
  - Continuing efforts to maintain & improve flood control projects
- Protects our future
  - Educating youth through workshops, contests, and school presentations
- Protects taxpayer dollars
  - Responsible budgeting pairs local tax dollars with other state and federal grants to fund important projects

### The Nemaha NRD:

- is one of 23 NRDs
- serves all or parts of eight counties in southeast Nebraska
- is governed by a 21-member board of directors elected by the voters in 10 subdistricts
- meets monthly on the second Thursday to carry out the responsibilities charged to NRDs by the Nebraska Legislature in 1972

Find out more about Nebraska's NRDs at [www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org) and [www.nemahanrd.org](http://www.nemahanrd.org)