

# KNOW YOUR NRD



**PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER**  
Natural Resources District  
Omaha, NE

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

Summer, 2013



## The NRD:

- Prevents loss of life and property through wise floodplain mgmt. and by building effective solutions to potentially catastrophic flooding.
- Patrols over 85 miles of levees and maintains 85 small dams.
- Provides Chalco Hills Recreation Area/Wehrspann Lake for flood control and public recreation.
- Protects water quality by working with hundreds of rural landowners to halt soil erosion.
- Provides high quality domestic water supply through rural water projects in Washington, Thurston and Dakota Counties.
- Builds new public-access recreation sites on local rivers.

## Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting Our Future

### The Papillion Creek Watershed Needs Immediate Attention!

The Papio-Missouri River NRD helps protect against the potential loss of lives and property that can occur due to flash flooding. Time is running out. Increased urbanization has added to already serious flood and water quality concerns in metro-Omaha's Papillion Creek Watershed. Recent studies show that the potential for loss of life and millions of dollars in property damage is high.

The NRD is an active participant in the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership. This group of seven cities, Sarpy County and the NRD are working to find cost-effective, tax-saving solutions to EPA-mandated water quality issues and the ever-increasing threat of disastrous flooding.

Cities in the partnership include Omaha, Papillion, Bellevue, LaVista, Gretna, Ralston and Boys Town. Visit [www.papiopartnership.org](http://www.papiopartnership.org).

A new flood prevention reservoir, WP-5, near 126<sup>th</sup> and Cornhusker, in Sarpy County, is under construction and will help protect the City of Papillion and other downstream areas. Another critically needed structure, Dam Site 15A, is being planned near 168<sup>th</sup> and Fort Streets.



WP-5 will offer flood control and water-based public recreation

### Erosion and Sedimentation affects both Soil Productivity and Water Quality.

For years, the NRD has placed a high priority on addressing soil erosion on rural lands and the resulting sedimentation of lowland streams. Millions of dollars in cost-sharing to build soil-saving, water quality practices has encouraged hundreds of local landowners to construct erosion-control dams and many miles of terraces.

A Special Watershed project is underway in the 32 sq-mile Pigeon and Jones Creek area in Dakota County. This effort addresses lowland sedimentation and flood control for the City of Hubbard and areas downstream. A similar project is underway for the Silver Creek Watershed in Burt County.

## More about the NRD

### Kramper Lake at Danish Alps Recreation Area to offer flood prevention and much more!

Construction of this multi-purpose project near Hubbard, NE began in 2012. The reservoir and downstream levee work is part of the comprehensive Pigeon/Jones Creek Watershed effort. Construction of the reservoir and downstream levee work will provide flood control, erosion control, and much-needed public recreation. The NE Environmental Trust joined with the NRD, NE Natural Resources Commission, NE Game and Parks Commission, NE Dept. of Environmental Quality and Dakota County to fund the reservoir and recreation area. Future features at the 750 acre park and 226 acre lake include hiking, biking and equestrian trails, fishing, no-wake boating and camping. The park is scheduled to be opened in 2015

### Papio NRD completes Western Sarpy Levee



The security of Omaha and Lincoln well fields, supplying water to nearly 50% of Nebraska's population, was at stake. Three NRDs, the Papio-Missouri River, Lower Platte South and Lower Platte North, are working diligently with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the State of Nebraska, to see that a critically-needed levee improvement on both sides of the Platte River bordering western Sarpy County and the Clear Creek area of Saunders County becomes a reality. The

Papio-Missouri River NRD recently completed its Western Sarpy Levee portion of the overall effort to offer increased flood protection. Frequent Platte River flooding, the latest in 1993, threatens critical communications and transportation corridors including Interstate 80 and Highway 6. The nearly \$30 million project received considerable federal funding along with state and NRD funds. About 20 miles of levees are being improved along this stretch of the Platte River. The elevation or removal of impacted cabins, plus environmental and wildlife enhancements are also an integral part of this project.

### Safe Water delivered in Rural Areas

Nearly 1,400 rural residents of Washington, Thurston and Dakota Counties, plus homes and businesses in the City of Fort Calhoun, rely on their NRD to convey a plentiful supply of high-quality domestic water. The NRD operates and maintains four rural water supply systems. The operation and maintenance of these projects assures residents that the water they consume tastes great and meets or exceeds all safety standards.



### Environmental Education is our Future

Getting our youth away from TV and video screens is no easy accomplishment. However, if we show our children the wonders of nature today, we will surely lessen the natural resources challenges of tomorrow. Nature day camps, field trips, water festivals, and helping teachers develop the tools required to teach about the outdoors are all available through the NRD.

**THE MISSION** of the Papio-Missouri River NRD is to wisely Conserve, Manage and Enhance our Soil, Water Wildlife and Forest Resources for the benefit of all citizens of the District.

The NRD makes valuable use of tax dollars by partnering with federal, state, other local agencies and groups - operating on less than 2% of local property taxes collected.

#### NRD QUICK FACTS:

##### Headquarters Office

8901 S. 154<sup>th</sup> St., Omaha, NE  
68138

Tel: 402-444-6222

**Board Chairman:** Fred Conley  
**General Manager:** John Winkler  
**Asst. Gen. Manager:** Marlin Petermann

##### Field Offices:

Sarpy/Douglas Counties - Omaha  
Washington County - Blair  
Burt County - Tekamah  
Thurston County - Walthill  
Dakota County - Dakota City

**Population:** 625,000

**Land area:** 1,790 sq miles

The NRD is governed by an elected, 11-member Board.

##### Ranking of top priorities:

1. Reduce Flood Damages
2. Maintain Water Quality and Quantity
3. Reduce Erosion and Sedimentation
4. Provide Outdoor Recreation
5. Provide Domestic Water Supply
6. Improve Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Forest Resources.

Find out more about Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts at [www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org) and the Papio-Missouri River NRD at [www.papionrd.org](http://www.papionrd.org)