

# KNOW YOUR NRD



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

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

Summer, 2009



## 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.

## Finding Solutions Today for a Secure Tomorrow

### 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. Near-flood events in the early summer of 2008 have highlighted the need to take action.

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 being designed and will help protect the City of Papillion and other downstream areas.



*Metro-area elected officials meet in Omaha to discuss critical flooding and water quality issues.*

### 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

### Family Fun awaits you at many NRD Multi-Purpose Projects

The NRD works with other agencies and groups to provide quality outdoor experiences for the entire family. Whether you push a stroller along on a hiking/biking trail or fish a nearby flood control reservoir like Wehrspann Lake, your time will be well spent. Many of our metro area's most popular trails encircle flood prevention reservoirs or sit atop NRD flood control levees.

Scenic exposure and canoe access to the Elkhorn River are being enhanced by new river access parks under construction by the NRD. Completed in 2006, is a site at West Maple Rd being managed by the Village of Waterloo. Another site, near West Dodge Rd, opened this fall!



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: Jim Thompson

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)

### Platte River flooding threatens water supply and transportation



The security of Omaha and Lincoln well fields, supplying water to nearly 50% of Nebraska's population, is 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, the State of Nebraska, and the NE Congressional delegation to see that a critically-needed Platte River levee improvement, bordering western Sarpy County and the Clear Creek area of Saunders County, becomes a reality.

Frequent Platte River flooding, the latest in 1993, also threatens critical communications and transportation corridors including Interstate 80 and Highway 6. It was recently announced that the project will receive \$9.36 million of stimulus funding through the Corps of Engineers to complete the final phases of this nearly \$30 million project. About 20 miles of levees will be improved along this stretch of the Platte River, one of the most flood-prone areas of the state. The elevation or removal of impacted cabins, plus environmental and wildlife enhancements are also an integral part of this project. Construction on the Sarpy County levee began this year.

### 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 the 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 Papio-Missouri River NRD.