



LOWER PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Basin includes: most of Lower Platte North and Lower Platte South NRDs and portions of the Pappio-Missouri River NRD, south and west of Omaha

Lower Platte Basin NRDs:

- protect drinking water for one-half of Nebraskans
- monitor and maintain 280 dams and 27 miles of levees that protect lives and property
- provide 13 public access areas and 63 miles of trails for recreation and fitness
- cost-share annually on over \$1.2 million of surface water quality projects with more than 250 landowners

Local Leadership in Protecting Lives and Property

Lake Wanahoo

Lake Wanahoo, the culmination of a 40-year effort to provide flood control in central Saunders County, is currently under construction one mile north of Wahoo.

The 637-surface-acre lake will help protect Wahoo, Ithaca, Ashland and surrounding areas from flooding and will offer recreation.

The dam is scheduled for completion in 2010. Seven smaller upstream dams will also be built as part of a broader environmental restoration effort in the watershed.

Project sponsors are the Lower Platte North NRD, City of Wahoo, Saunders County, NE Dept. of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NE Dept. of Roads, NE Game and Parks Commission, NE Dept. of Environmental Quality and the NE Environmental Trust.



Western Sarpy/Clear Creek

The Lower Platte River is the area of our state most in danger of ice-jam flooding. After severe flooding in 1993, three NRDs pursued a major levee improvement on both sides of the Platte as it runs through Sarpy and Saunders Counties.



Levee Reconstruction will begin in 2009 for this project that will protect 18,000 acres of fertile agricultural land, NE National Guard facilities, national telecommunications lines, rail lines, plus Highway 6 and the Interstate 80 corridor and bridge. This project will also secure Omaha and Lincoln well fields, supplying nearly 50% of Nebraska's population.

Working with the Corps of Engineers and utilizing mostly federal dollars, the improvements will greatly enhance flood prevention for this **(continued on back)**

Antelope Valley

Upon completion by the end of 2009, the flood control component of the Antelope Valley Project will protect 800 dwellings and businesses and 1,200 residents by removing over 400 acres through the heart of Lincoln from the 100-year floodplain. The two-mile open waterway will carry runoff from the 100-year storm without flooding, provide links between six City of Lincoln trails, expand Trago Park and create Union Plaza; a three-square block community park and festival center.



The Lower Platte South NRD, City of Lincoln

and University of Nebraska Lincoln are partners in the project, which, also includes six miles of new roads and opportunities for revitalization in an economically depressed area.

Protecting Lives, Property and Future

Western Sarpy/Clear Creek (continued)

area. The \$21 million Western Sarpy/Clear Creek project includes nearly 20 miles of levees, as well as elevating or removal of river cabins located in the floodway. This important cooperative project also offers environmental and wildlife enhancements including improved habitat for the least tern, piping plover and pallid sturgeon.

Elected officials at local, regional and state levels and the Congressional delegation have long committed to this project's completion because of risk to critical water supplies and infrastructure.

Protecting Ground Water

While 20 percent of the state's population lives in the Lower Platte River Basin, the basin protects and preserves drinking water for 50 percent. The cities of Omaha, Lincoln and Fremont get at least part of their drinking water supply from wells along the river, along with many residents and businesses. Since the quality of ground water near the river is directly related to activity throughout the basin, it is important the NRDs maintain educational programs to preserve and protect ground water. Each NRD regularly monitors a network of wells for both quality and quantity. When either is threatened, the NRDs have a specific plan of action to reverse the threat. The plan may include increased education, project incentives or even regulation to help keep our supply of safe drinking water around to benefit many future generations.



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Protecting Our Growing Communities

NRDs in the Lower Platte River Basin are becoming increasingly involved in the management of urban stormwater. For instance, contractors may be required to use silt fences at key locations to minimize the spread of mud onto adjacent properties and streets. By working with municipalities to require that all new developments have sound drainage plans during and after construction, NRDs are protecting adjacent landowners and residents.

Protecting the Platte River Corridor

Each winter, the three basin NRDs and four counties (Cass, Sarpy, Douglas and Saunders) closely monitor ice conditions on the Lower Platte. If potentially dangerous ice jams form, the partnership contracts with explosives specialists to blast the jams loose and prevent flooding in the heavily-populated corridor between Fremont and Plattsmouth.

Protecting Surface Water

Every year, the basin NRDs cost-share over \$1.2 million dollars to landowners in the District, who, with technical help from the NRCS, implement best management practices that protect the soil and improve surface water quality. The NRDs work with over 250 landowners annually to install terraces, waterways and/or buffer strips. Having these practices in place prevents gully erosion, keeps silt out of our streams, rivers and lakes and keeps the soil where it belongs.



Terraces & Waterways

Contact Your Basin NRDs

Lower Platte North NRD
511 Commercial Park Road
P O Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066
(402)443-4675
www.lpnrd.org

Lower Platte South NRD
3125 Portia Street
P O Box 83581
Lincoln, NE 68501-3581
(402)476-2729
www.lpsnrd.org

Papio-Missouri River NRD
8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138
(402)444-6222
www.papionrd.org

Education

NRDs in the basin and statewide recognize the need to instill an appreciation for nature and the environment in young people. Presentations are made to more than 22,000 students in the basin each year on topics like ground water, flood management, animals, urban stormwater and many more. Contact your local NRD to learn how it can enhance your curriculum.

LPRCA

To try and help accommodate the many varied interests along the Platte River, the three basin NRDs have created the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance. The Alliance serves as a forum through which interests like tourism, agriculture, the sand and gravel industry, municipal water and more can obtain information, discuss points of conflict and hopefully find some middle ground for cooperation.

www.lowerplatte.org

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