The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District is one of 23 Natural Resource Districts in the state, and serves residents of Nebraska in counties that border the Missouri River, from Sarpy north to Dakota County. Our popular recreation areas and reservoirs at Chalco Hills, Danish Alps, Prairie View, and Flanagan Lake—are results of our important flood control projects—are enjoyed by many year-round. Equally significant are our many wildlife habitat restoration projects along the Missouri River.

All of these projects provide rich educational opportunities for schools, families, teachers, and youth groups in Douglas, Sarpy, Thurston, Burt, Dakota, and Washington Counties.

Chalco Hills Recreation Area and its Wehrspann Lake at the NRD’s main office site allow valuable hands-on, close-up interaction with nature in progress.

Teachers love us.
Programs are developed by professional environmental educators and are individually tailored to students K through 12. Many programs are designed to accommodate class schedules and choice of presentation site (Chalco or a regular classroom). Choose among:

- Environmental Programs and Presentations
- Envirothon Competition
- WaterWorks Field Days
- Seeds and Trees

To help make things happen, we offer several scholarships and grants, as well as a free lending library of resources, all of which are detailed here.

The NRD is an active member of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) and the Nebraska Alliance of Conservation and Environmental Education (NACEE).

Since 1972, your NRD has been providing educational opportunities for District residents. Each year we engage more than 10,000 youth with nature. Many return again and again.

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
8901 S. 154th St., Omaha, NE 68138
(402) 444-6222  Fax: (402) 895-6543
www.papionrd.org
Scaled Tails
Scaled animals come in all shapes and sizes. Did you know, before snakes were feared…they were worshipped? And what makes a lizard…a lizard? Learn about these interesting ectotherms, with help from our animal educators and some special Nebraska residents.

Wildlife Wonders
Animal Tracks, Pelts, and Skulls
Explore the life history of common Nebraska mammals. Through the hands-on use of pelts, skulls, and tracks, kids will acquire a better understanding of how these animals live.

The Nature of Water
Surface Water
Through the use of hands-on models, students learn about watersheds, erosion, and pollution to help understand current water quality problems facing the Metro.

Groundwater
It can be tough to grasp what you cannot see, which explains why groundwater is an often-misunderstood resource. Using a cross-section ground model, students get a better insight into the hydrology and issues affecting this essential resource.

Wetlands and Macro Invertebrates
Let’s get our hands a little dirty as we investigate a wetland up close. Using sampling equipment, students will dip for macroinvertebrates to get a better understanding of the health of area ponds and lakes.

I Dig Soil
One single tablespoon of soil has more organisms in it than there are people on earth! Soil plays an essential, not so glamorous role in our everyday lives. In this presentation, we explore the fascinating life beneath our feet and just how important healthy soil is.

Pollinating Nebraska
Did you know approximately 1/3 of every bite of food we eat requires pollination by an animal or insect? Discover some of our local pollinators and experience firsthand the process of pollination through an interactive demonstration!

Animal Adaptations
Through various educational animals, students will learn about some unique adaptations that allow these animals to survive.

Tree Planting
Discover what a tree needs to survive, as well as how trees help us to do the same. Get your own tree to take home and plant and continue the Nebraska tradition of Arbor Day—see Seeds and Trees, below.

Recycle Relay
Conservation, natural resources, and recycling are all topics of the day! Learn what makes something a natural resource, decide what common household waste is recyclable, and find out how to determine water quality.

Analyze Your River
Let us bring the water to your classroom! Students will collect, sort, classify, identify, and evaluate a sample of ordinary materials representing aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Incredible Insects
Insects are mysterious and often misunderstood. With the aid of live insects, we will explore the wonderful world of six-legged animals.

All About Owls
With the aid of feathered teachers, students will learn about predator/prey relationships, adaptations and owl pellets, providing students and teachers with an up close view of raptors that many never get the opportunity to see.

Geocaching
This high-tech program combines technology with the natural world. Using GPS devices to find “hidden treasure” at an area park (or your school grounds), students will gain experience with GPS technology.

Seeds and Trees
Trees and seeds are available at no cost for your classroom or youth group upon request. Every year the Papio-Missouri River NRD gives away thousands of trees and wildflower seed packets. The trees are small seedlings and the flowers are a wildflower mix. The seedlings will be distributed in mid-April, in time for Arbor Day and Earth Day festivities.

Consider combining your order with our Tree Planting Program above!

To order
Email Kaylyn starting in January to place your order.

Cost:
Free

Contact:
Kaylyn Kelley at kkelley@papionrd.org
Envirothon Competition (Metro Regional Envirothon)

Envirothon is a competition for teams of five high school students. The teams compete on seven different environmentally-themed tests, including aquatics, forestry, policy, range, soils, wildlife, and current environmental topics.

All teams that compete receive a $200 grant to be used towards environmental projects at their school. Schools can send multiple teams.

Teams compete at the Metro Regional, and the winning team moves on to the Nebraska State Envirothon. The winning team from the State Envirothon moves on to the National competition.

Study guides are available for many topics, listed at the link below.

Ages: High School
When: Tuesday, February 26, 2019
10:30 am or 4:00 pm competition time
Where: Chalco Hills Recreation Area
Cost: Free
To register: Contact Austen Hill with team names.
Contact: ahill@papionrd.org or 402-315-1777
More info: nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon

Water Works Field Days

Fifth-graders in Sarpy and Douglas County can attend one of our Water Works Field Days on May 7 or 8, 2019. Classes attending will participate in six water-related sessions throughout the day, learning about everything from pollution to drinking water, to water recreation and the great outdoors. The sessions are taught by experts in the field from a variety of agencies.

Teachers must apply on-line at www.papionrd.org on the Water Works page, and each 5th-grade class from the school must register. Classes are selected by school, but rotate separately at the event.

Ages: 5th Grade
When: May 7 or 8, 2019; all day
Where: Schramm Park
Cost: $2 per student, day of event
To apply: Register from January 14–February 22 at www.papionrd.org/education/water-works
Attendance is limited. Each class wishing to attend must register individually.
Contact: Austen Hill at ahill@papionrd.org, or call 402-315-1777.
More info: papionrd.org/education/water-works

Resources, Scholarships & Grants

Media Resources
The Papio-Missouri River NRD has materials available for online and onsite check-out by teachers and students. We have a wealth of books and videos on natural resource topics, including starting an outdoor classroom, composting, trees, and wildlife.
Cost: Free
Location: Chalco Hills Recreation Area

Scholarships
Scholarships are available and awarded throughout the year to teachers attending a class or training on a natural resources topic.
Amount available: $250 per fiscal year (July 1–June 30)

Outdoor Classroom Grants
Outdoor Classroom Grants can apply to a range of projects, such as butterfly gardens, prairie grass plantings, ponds, vegetable gardens, arboreturns, trails, and many other ideas. Our Outdoor Classroom Guide packets are available free of charge to get you started. Examples of completed projects can be found throughout the District and are used to teach math, science, language arts, and many other curriculum standards.
Amount available: $1000 per fiscal year

Mini-Grants
Apply for a mini-grant to work on some fun environmental science projects in your classroom. Have all your grade level teachers apply and receive $50 per classroom to go towards your project.
Amount available: $50 per fiscal year, per teacher
Contact: Austen Hill at ahill@papionrd.org or 402-315-1777.
For more info and to apply: papionrd.org/education

Third- through fifth-graders learn about water quality and erosion.
Mark your Calendar:

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January+</td>
<td>Place <strong>Seeds &amp; Trees</strong> order</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan–Feb</td>
<td><strong>Book Environmental Programs</strong> for spring and fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td><strong>Deadline to register for Water Works Field Day</strong></td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td><strong>Metro Regional Envirothon</strong></td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td><strong>Education Tree Pick-up</strong></td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td><strong>Earth Day Omaha</strong> (Elmwood Park, 11 am–6 pm)</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td><strong>Arbor Day</strong></td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td><strong>Sarpy County Earth Day</strong> (12–4 pm)</td>
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<td>May 7–8</td>
<td><strong>Water Works Field Days</strong></td>
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<td>September 7</td>
<td><strong>World Of Water Festival</strong></td>
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<td>Year-round</td>
<td><strong>Apply for Educational Scholarships and Grants</strong></td>
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**Papio-Missouri River NRD**
8901 S. 154th St.
Omaha, NE 68138

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District is an equal-opportunity employer and educator.

**www.papionrd.org**