

# **PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

**MASTER PLAN  
June 2021**



Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District  
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[www.PapioNRD.org](http://www.PapioNRD.org)

## Table of Contents

I.	Introduction .....	3
A.	Natural Resources District Authorities .....	3
B.	Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.....	4
II.	Inventory of Resources .....	10
A.	Geography .....	10
B.	Topography .....	11
C.	Soils.....	11
D.	Climate.....	12
E.	Land Use .....	13
F.	Demographics .....	13
G.	Surface Water.....	14
H.	Groundwater .....	14
I.	Recreational Facilities.....	16
J.	Cooperating Agencies .....	16
III.	Resource Management Needs.....	18
A.	Reduce flood damages. ....	18
B.	Maintain Water Quality and Quantity.....	21
C.	Reduce Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Damages.....	23
D.	Provide Outdoor Recreation Facilities.....	25
E.	Provide Domestic Water Supply.....	26
F.	Develop and Improve Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Forest Resources.....	26
G.	Participate Solid Waste Management and Pollution Control .....	27
IV.	The Master Plan .....	28
A.	Reduce flood damages. ....	28
B.	Maintain water quality and quantity. ....	29
C.	Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation damages.....	30
D.	Provide outdoor recreation facilities.....	31
E.	Provide domestic water supply. ....	32
F.	Develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat and forest resources.....	32
G.	Participate in solid waste management and pollution control. ....	33
H.	Develop programs, policies, and other resources to implement the Master Plan. ....	34
V.	Public Input.....	35
VI.	Appendix (attachments and maps need to be collected).....	38

## **I. Introduction**

Each of the State's Natural Resources Districts is required to update their Master Plan every ten years. This update process offers an opportunity to look back over the last ten years and reflect upon how well the District addressed the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the last Master Plan. It also offers an opportunity to take stock of where the District currently is, consider if it is addressing the needs of a changing District, and to project where the District should be in the next ten years. It is also a critical time to re-evaluate the goals of Natural Resources Districts and what they might look like in the next ten years.

The Master Plan is intended to provide an overall framework for the management of the District's natural resources.

### **A. Natural Resources District Authorities**

In July of 1972, over 150 special purpose districts, each dealing with a variety of different and in some cases overlapping responsibilities, merged to form 24 Natural Resources Districts.

On January 5, 1989, the Papio Natural Resources District and the Middle Missouri Tribes Natural Resources District were merged to form the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District. The current 23 Natural Resources Districts are shown in Figure 1 in the Appendix.

Under Nebraska State Law, the Natural Resources Districts have been given specific authority and powers as described in Chapter 2-3229 of the Statutes relating to the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission:

“The purpose of the Natural Resources Districts shall be to develop and execute, through the exercise of powers and authorities contained in this act, plans, facilities, works, and programs relating to:

1. Erosion prevention and control
2. Prevention of damages from flood water and sediment
3. Flood prevention and control
4. Soil conservation
5. Water supply for any beneficial uses
6. Development, management, utilization, and conservation of groundwater and surface water
7. Pollution Control
8. Solid waste disposal and sanitary drainage
9. Drainage improvement and channel rectification
10. Development and management of fish and wildlife habitat
11. Development and management of recreational and park facilities
12. Forest and range management.”

When NRDs were created, they were given the authority to levy a property tax to finance District programs and projects. Property taxes are still the primary source of revenue; however, the District can receive funds from other state, federal, and private sources for specific projects.

In 2009, the District was granted the authority to issue general obligation bonds to finance flood control and water quality enhancement projects including, but not limited to dams, levees, reservoir basins, floodplain buyouts, and low impact development best management practices. In 2019, the state legislature extended the authority through December 31, 2024.

## **B. Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District**

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (District) encompasses approximately 1,790 square miles within seven counties of eastern Nebraska (see Figure 2 in the Appendix). The District includes all of Washington, Douglas, and Sarpy Counties, most of Dakota County, and the eastern 60% of Thurston County, the eastern 55% of Burt County, and a small portion of southeast Dodge County.

The District is the most populous district containing over 41% of Nebraska's total population, or approximately 812,969 people (2019 estimate). It also has the highest tax base of \$70.56 billion (2019), or approximately 27.7% of the total taxable real estate base of Nebraska. It is the only district that contains a metropolitan class city (Omaha).

Portions of three major river basins are contained within the District: The Missouri, the Platte, and the Elkhorn. The District is bounded by the Missouri River on the east and north, by the Platte on the south and west, and by tributaries to both on the west.

To facilitate the implementation of the twelve legislative authorities listed in Part A, the District combined the authorities into the following seven general resource management needs:

1. Reduce flood damages.
2. Maintain water quality and quantity.
3. Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation damages.
4. Provide outdoor recreation facilities.
5. Provide domestic water supply.
6. Develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat and forest resources.
7. Participate in solid waste management and recycling efforts.

The District is governed by an elected Board of Directors. There are currently eleven (11) subdistricts, each representing approximately the same number of people. The following are the current District Directors and their subdistricts (see maps on pages 8 and 9):

<u>Sub-district</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>County(ies)</u>	<u>Address</u>
1	Ted Japp	Washington, Burt, Thurston, Dakota	Blair, Nebraska
2	Fred Conley	Douglas	Omaha, Nebraska
3	Larry Bradley	Douglas	Omaha, Nebraska
4	Tim McCormick	Douglas	Omaha, Nebraska
5	Richard Tesar	Douglas	Valley, Nebraska
6	James Thompson	Douglas	Omaha, Nebraska
7	Danny Begley	Douglas	Omaha, Nebraska
8	Tim Fowler	Douglas	Omaha, Nebraska
9	Patrick Bonnett	Douglas	Omaha, Nebraska
10	Kevin Sopinski	Sarpy	Omaha, Nebraska
11	Phil Davidson	Sarpy	Bellevue, Nebraska

The District operates daily with both full and part-time employees. The staff is maintained to implement the District's various programs and projects. The staff is divided into three departments: Administrative Services, Program and Project Services, and Information and Education Services (see chart on page 10).

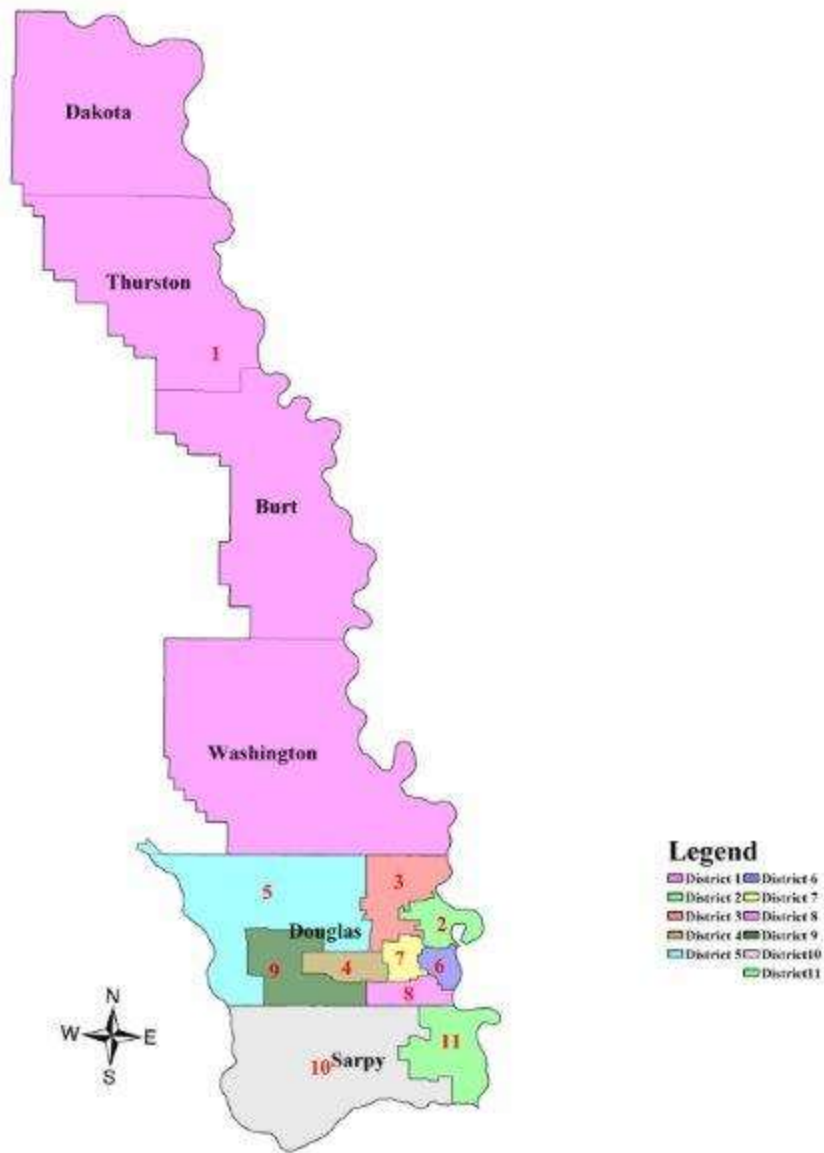
Administrative Services:

John Winkler	General Manager
Jean Tait	Administrative Coordinator
Nicole Gust	Purchasing Agent/Files Administrator
Tracy Thompson	District Secretary/HR Assistant
Carey Fry	Senior District Accountant
Kyra Peterson	District Accountant
Bekki Merklin	Accounting Assistant
Bill Brush	Information Technology Manager
Curtis Williams II	Information Technology Technician
Randy Lee	Natural Resources Center Building Manager

Programs and Project Services:

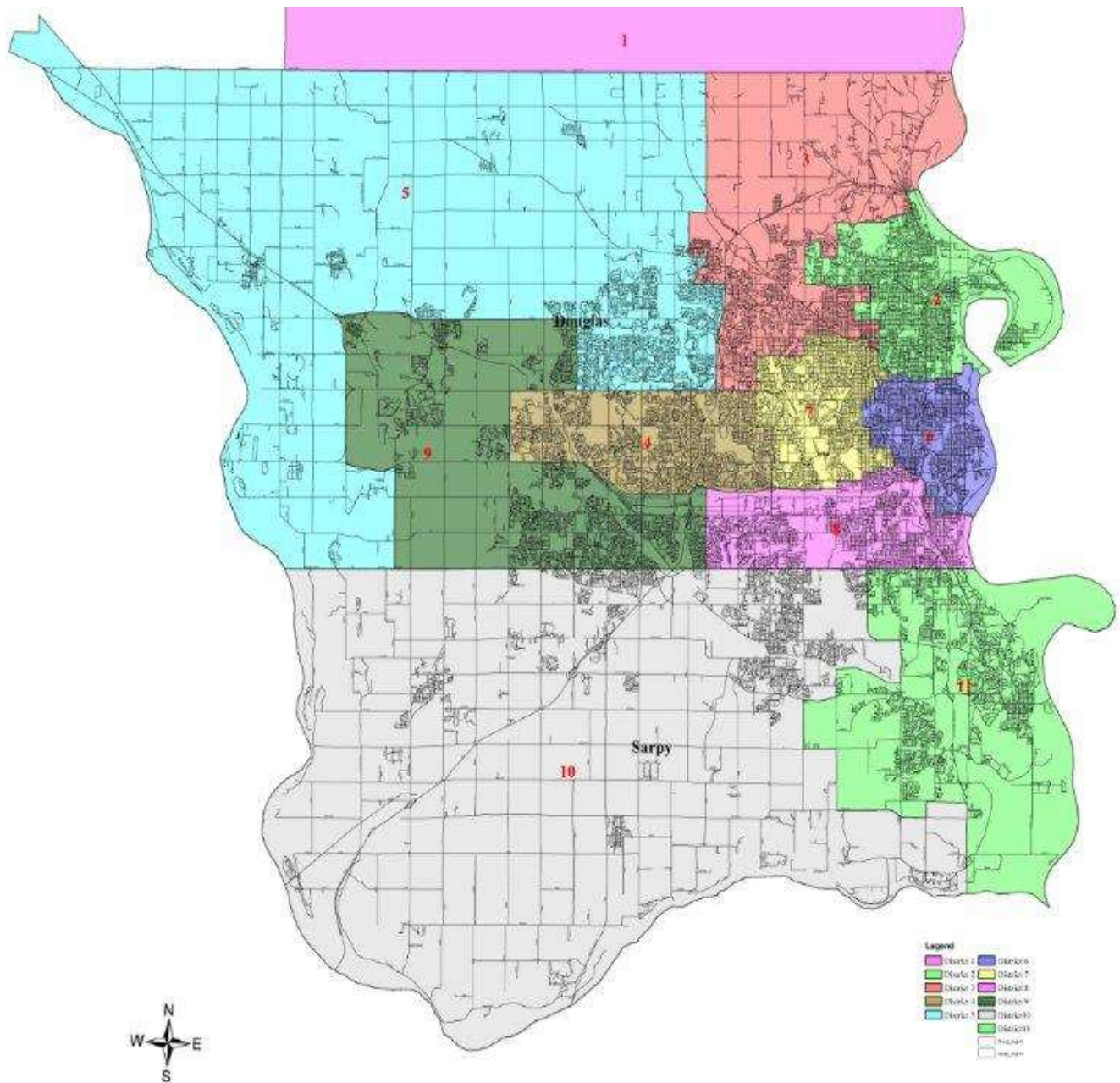
Marlin Petermann	Assistant General Manager
Jim Becic	Environmental Coordinator
Eric Williams	Natural Resources Planner
Amanda Grint	Water Resources Engineer
Lori Laster	Stormwater Management Engineer
Paul Woodward	Groundwater Management Engineer
Martin Cleveland	Construction Engineer
Mike McNaney	Survey Coordinator
Joe Riebe	Survey Crew Chief
Shawn French	Survey/GIS/AutoCAD Technician
Marty Nissen	Draftsman
Terry Schumacher	Land and Water Programs Coordinator
Jon Krause	Field Representative (Dakota/Thurston)
Jonathan Hansen	Field Representative (Burt)

John Zaugg	Field Representative (Washington)
Kalani Fortina	Conservation Program Support Specialist (Washington)
Kyle Madsen	Papillion Creek Watershed Coordinator (Washington)
Darlene Hensley	Program Assistant (Washington)
Kelly Fravel	Program Assistant (Dakota)
Deb Ward	Program Assistant (Tekamah)
Vacant	Program Assistant (Thurston)
Jennifer Stauss-Story	PR/Education Coordinator
Austen Hill	Education Programs Supervisor
Kaylyn Kelley	Natural Resources Educator
Justin Novak	Project Manager
Lance Olerich	Water System Superintendent (Dakota)
Bill Woehler	Water System Operator (Dakota)
Marge Stark	Water System Bookkeeper (Dakota)
Lowell Roeber	Water System Superintendent (Thurston)
Kevin Schoepf	Water System Operator (Thurston)
Kyle Winn	Water System Superintendent (Washington)
Bruce Sill	Water System Operator (Washington)
Bill Warren	Operation and Maintenance/Park Superintendent
Tom Pleiss	Assistant Park Superintendent
Chuck Wiegand	Lead Land Steward
Doug Bithell	Land Steward
Bill Benda	Land Steward
Ryan Trapp	Assistant Operation and Maintenance Superintendent
Keith Butcher	Heavy Equipment Operator
Joshua Matthies	Heavy Equipment Operator
Terry Keller	Medium Equipment Operator
Jason Schnell	Medium Equipment Operator
Mark Wille	Medium Equipment Operator



## Papio-Missouri River NRD Subdistricts



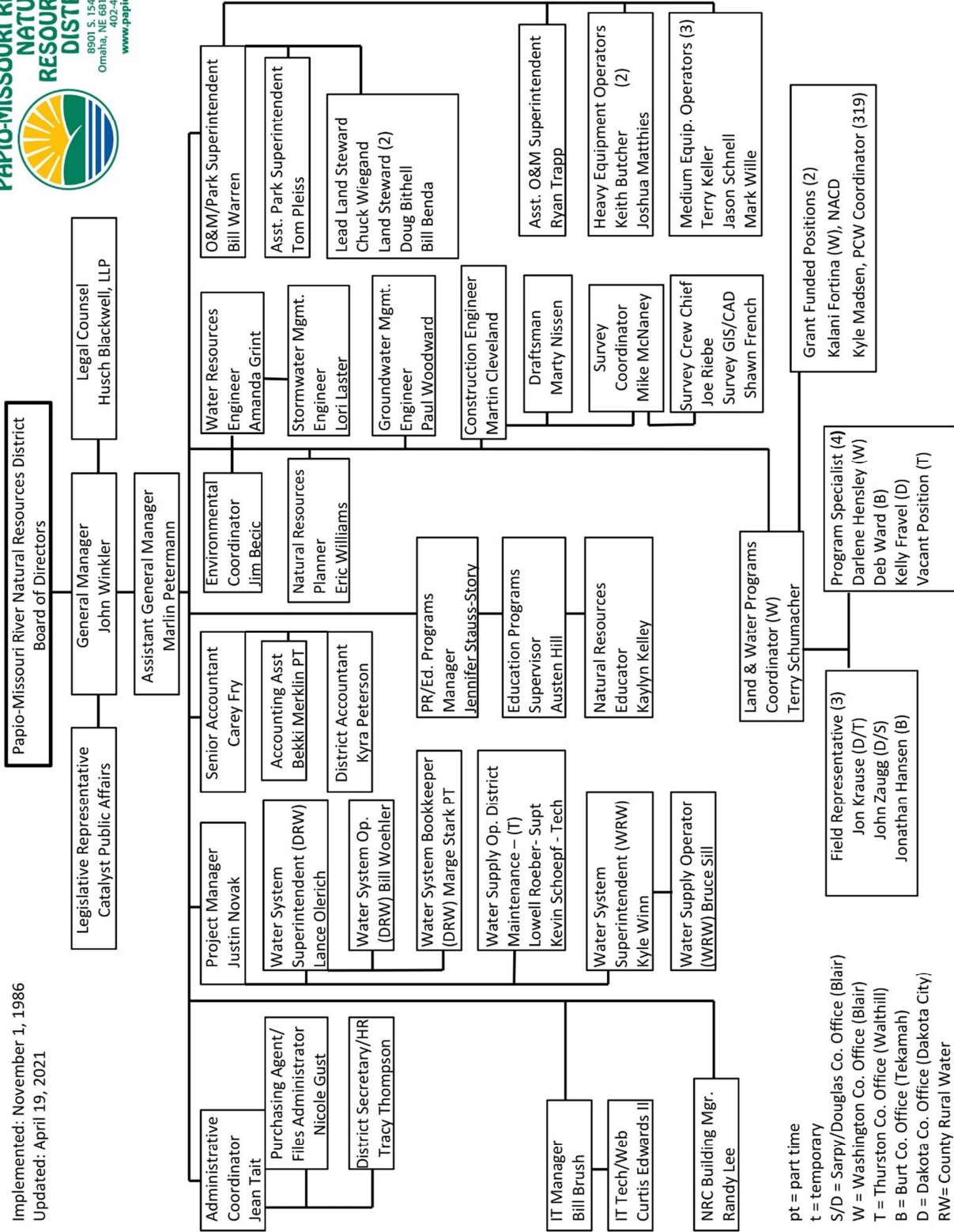


**Papio-Missouri River NRD Subdistricts**





Implemented: November 1, 1986  
Updated: April 19, 2021



pt = part time  
t = temporary

S/D = Sarpy/Douglas Co. Office (Blair)  
W = Washington Co. Office (Blair)  
T = Thurston Co. Office (Walthill)  
B = Burt Co. Office (Tekamah)  
D = Dakota Co. Office (Dakota City)  
RW = County Rural Water

## II. Inventory of Resources

### A. Geography

The District is located in eastern Nebraska and occupies all or parts of seven counties. The total area is approximately 1,790 square miles. The District includes portions of three major river basins (see Figure 3 in the Appendix):

1. Missouri River
  - a. Papillion Creek
    - Big Papillion Creek
    - West Papillion Creek
    - Little Papillion Creek
  - b. Mill Creek
  - c. Ponca Creek
  - d. New York Creek
  - e. Tekamah Creek
  - f. Elm Creek
  - g. Blackbird Creek
  - h. Omaha Creek
  - i. Pigeon Creek
  - j. Jones Creek
  - k. Fiddler Creek
  - l. Silver Creek
  - m. Elk Creek
  - n. Platte River
2. Platte River
  - a. Springfield Creek
  - b. Turtle Creek
  - c. Buffalo Creek
  - d. Elkhorn River
  - e. Zweibel Creek
3. Elkhorn River
  - a. Rawhide Creek
  - b. Bell Creek

The District is the most populated NRD in the state and contains over 41% of the state's population, and 70% of the District's population resides in Douglas County. Omaha, located in eastern Douglas County is the largest community in the District. Omaha serves as a major center for agricultural processing, industry, manufacturing, retailing, and wholesaling. Within the District, those population centers having a population greater than 1,000 residents include South Sioux City, Dakota City, Tekamah, Arlington, Blair, Bellevue, Gretna, LaVista, Ralston, Papillion, and Valley.

## **B. Topography**

The topography of the District is characterized by broad, flat floodplains adjacent to the three major rivers. These floodplains sometimes extend up to five miles in width and are used extensively for highly productive agricultural uses. Beyond the floodplains, are generally steep, precipitous bluff lines rising abruptly. The bluff lines range in height from small banks to 200 foot cliffs. The areas behind the bluff lines consist of open and rolling hills. The majority of the rolling hills are devoted to pasture and row crops. Woodlands are common throughout the numerous stream courses, bluffs, and some floodplain areas (See Figure 4 in the Appendix).

## **C. Soils**

The soils vary considerably in types, textures, and relief. The majority of soils are deep, well drained to excessively drained, gently sloping to very steep, silty and loamy, formed in loess and colluvium on the uplands and foot slopes. A portion of the soils are deep, well drained to excessively drained, strongly sloping to very steep silty and loamy, formed in loess and glacial till on the uplands. There are some small areas of shale and sandstone outcrops in the uplands. The soils of the Missouri River bottom are deep, poorly drained to excessively drained, nearly level and gently sloping, silty, clayey and sandy, formed in alluvium on bottom lands (see Figures 5, 6, and 7 in the Appendix).

The various soil association areas are listed below:

1. Albaton, Onawa, Haynie, Sarpy, Blake (OHA) – Poorly drained and moderately well-drained, nearly level, clayey to loamy soils on river bottoms.
2. Aowa, Alcester, Kennebec, Josburg (KAA) – Moderately well-drained and well-drained, nearly level to gently sloping, silty soils on bottom lands and foot slopes.
3. Blyburg, Blenco, Luton, Forney, Omadi (LBB) – Moderately well-drained to poorly drained, nearly level, silty and clayey soils on high bottom lands.
4. Inavale, Cass, Barney, Platte, Boel (ICB) – Deep, somewhat excessively drained to somewhat poorly drained, nearly level loamy and sandy soils on bottom lands.
5. Crofton, Alcester, Nora, Aowa (NCA) – Well-drained, gently sloping to steep, silty soils on bluffs, uplands and foot slopes.
6. Gibbon, Luton, Saltine, Wann, Zook (LG) – Deep, poorly drained to well-drained, nearly level silty and clayey soils on bottom lands.
7. Ida, Monona, Napier, Hobbs (MI) – Well-drained, sloping to very steep, silty soils on uplands.

8. Kennebec, Wabash, Zook, Nodaway, Colo (ZWK)– Well-drained to somewhat poorly drained, nearly level to gently sloping, silty soils along bottom lands and upland drainageways.
9. Luton, Forney, Solomon, Malvern, Salix (SLF) – Deep, poorly drained, nearly level, clayey soils formed in alluvium on bottom lands.
10. Marshall, Ponca, Johnson, Kennebec, Nodaway (MP) – Deep, well-drained, nearly level to moderately steep silty soils on loess uplands.
11. Monona, Ida, Judson, Kennebec, Nodaway (MI) – Well-drained, sloping to very steep, silty soils in uplands.
12. Moody, Nora, Judson, Belfore, Colo (NMJ) – Deep, well-drained nearly level to strongly sloping, silty soils formed in loess and colluvium on uplands and foot slopes.
13. Nora, Crofton, Moody, Alcester, Aowa (NMC) – Well-drained, gently sloping to steep, silty soils on uplands.
14. Nora, Crofton, Judson, Moody, Aowa (NJC) – Well-drained, gently sloping to moderately sloping, silty soils on uplands and foot slopes.
15. Sarpy, Onawa, Haynie, Grable, Albaton (SOH) – Deep, moderately well-drained, poorly drained and excessively drained, nearly level and gently sloping, silty, clayey and sandy soils on bottom lands.
16. Steinauer, Pawnee, Burchard, Sharpsburg, Shelby (SPB) – Deep, well-drained to excessively drained, strongly sloping to very steep, silty and loamy soils formed in loess and glacial till on uplands.

#### **D. Climate**

The climatic conditions of the District are a typical Midwestern temperate zone climate. The District experiences seasonal changes characterized by warm, humid summers with southerly winds, and cold, dry winters with northerly winds. The majority of the annual precipitation occurs between April and September.

Average daily temperatures range from lows of 18-22° F in January, to highs of 76-77° F during July. The mean temperature for the District is 48° F in South Sioux City in the north, and 51° F in the Omaha area. Annual precipitation averages between 28 inches in the north to 32 inches in the Omaha area (see Figure 6). Frost free days average 184 days generally between the end of April and the middle of October.

Due to global climate change, the conditions in the District are expected to become generally warmer, dryer, and with increased potential for significant and potentially catastrophic weather including both major rain events and drought.

## E. Land Use

The majority of the District is utilized for agricultural uses (see Figure 8 in the Appendix). The large metropolitan area of Omaha is a small percentage of the overall District. The following is a general breakdown of the 1,790 square miles of the District based on 2016 estimates from the National Land Cover Database:

Land Use	Square Miles	Percentage
Cropland	962	54%
Irrigated Cropland	132	7%
Pasture/Rangeland	227	13%
Woodlands	105	6%
Water/Wetlands	80	4%
Urban/Other	284	16%
Total	1,790	100%

## F. Demographics

Based upon the 2019 update to the 2010 Census, the population of the District is approximately 812,969, an increase of 16.1% over the 2010 Census. The population estimates by county are as follows:

County	2010 Census	2019 Estimate	Change	Percent change
Douglas	517,110	571,327	54,217	10.48%
Sarpy	158,840	187,196	28,356	17.85%
Washington	20,234	20,729	495	2.45%
Burt	6,858	6,510	-348	-5.07%
Thurston	6,940	7,181	241	3.47%
Dakota	21,006	20,026	-980	-4.67%

The largest increase in population has occurred in Sarpy County, with the greatest increase in the City of Papillion. Bellevue, Gretna and LaVista also recorded increases. In Douglas County, Omaha showed the greatest increase, while other communities showed minimal growth. The unincorporated part of Douglas County showed a decrease in population. Washington County showed a minimal growth with the greatest increase in the City of Blair and the unincorporated part of the county.

Decreases in population were recorded in Burt and Dakota Counties, with Thurston County showing a slight increase.

## **G. Surface Water**

1. Missouri River – The Missouri River forms the eastern boundary of the District and lies in a broad, flat valley which averages about five miles in width. The channel averages 700 feet wide and 8.5 feet deep with an average daily discharge of 30,140 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Omaha, Nebraska. The river gradient averages one foot per mile. During major spring flooding periods, the Missouri River has reached 250,000 cfs. Major uses of the river are domestic water supply, recreation, wildlife habitat, and commercial barge traffic. The District contains 140 miles of Missouri River frontage. The Missouri River saw record high stages in 2011 and 2019.
2. Platte River – The Platte River is a major right bank tributary of the Missouri River and is the principal river in Nebraska. It drains an area of 89,100 square miles which includes the more populous and highly developed areas of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. The Platte is the western boundary of the District in Douglas County, and the western and southern boundary in Sarpy County. The channel capacity of the Platte ranges from 40,000 cfs to 44,000 cfs, and the river bank ranges from four to eight feet in height. The river gradient averages 4.6 feet per mile. Major uses of the river are recreation, irrigation, wildlife habitat, and groundwater recharge. The District contains the lower 50 miles of the Platte River. The Platte River saw a record high stage in 2019 reaching 250,000 cfs.
3. Elkhorn River – The Elkhorn River is a major left bank tributary of the Platte River. The Elkhorn drains about 6,960 square miles and joins the Platte at the western edge of Sarpy County. The channel capacity ranges from 30,000 cfs to 35,000 cfs, with banks typically 10-15 feet in height. The river gradient averages two feet per mile. The major uses of the river are recreation, wildlife habitat, and irrigation. The District contains the lower 35 miles of the Elkhorn River. The Elkhorn River saw a record high stage in 2019 reaching 117,000 cfs.
4. Lakes – There are many small lakes and farm ponds in the District. The largest lakes were constructed as flood control reservoirs surrounding Omaha. These are Cunningham Lake, Standing Bear Lake, Wehrspann Lake, Zorinsky Lake, Candlewood Lake, Walnut Creek Lake, Newport Landing Lake, Shadow Lake, and Youngman Lake, Prairie Queen, Flanagan Lake, Big Elk Lake and Portal Recreation Area. Summit Lake, located west of Tekamah, was built as a part of the Tekamah-Mud Watershed Project. Kramper Lake located near Hubbard, was built as part of the Pigeon-Jones Watershed Project.

Other lakes formed as the result of sand and gravel quarry excavation. These include Hansen Lakes, Chris Lake, Ginger Cove, Ginger Woods, Hawaiian Village, Villa Springs, Riverside Lakes, and Grey's Lake. The predominant use of these lakes is for private recreation.

## **H. Groundwater**

Groundwater quantities in the District are extremely diverse in nature (see Figures 9, 10, 11, and 12 in the Appendix). Wells located in the floodplains of the Missouri, Platte, and Elkhorn Rivers

produce large quantities of water. Groundwater supplies in the upland areas are scattered with many wells drilled into perched or confined aquifers. Some wells in the upland area can produce for only short periods of time, while others produce a constant supply of water. Figure 13 in the Appendix shows the locations of the District's water level monitoring wells.

In 2012, the District prepared a voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP) in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) for the Lower Platte River Basin. The [IMP](#) was adopted by the District and NDNR in August 2014. The IMP includes all surface water drainage area to the Platte or Elkhorn River and the hydrologically connected groundwater to both rivers as of 2014. The plan limits the amount of new groundwater and surface water use, including new irrigated acres, developed each year.

The District joined the Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition in 2013 along with NDNR and six other NRD's within the Lower Platte Basin, including Lower Platte South, Lower Platte North, Lower Elkhorn, Upper Elkhorn, Lower Loup and Upper Loup. The objective of the Coalition was to develop a Basin Water Management Plan (BWMP) which evaluated existing water demands and available water supplies to determine allowable new water development which could be cooperatively managed by each NRD and NDNR. This [BWMP](#) was completed in October 2017 and subsequently adopted by all NRDs and DNR. Annual reporting for the [Basin Water Management Plan](#) ensures that each NRD is not actively developing more than its share of depletions to streams or rivers.

Groundwater quality is generally good throughout the District. Historically, groundwater in the Missouri River Valley is high in dissolved solids, particularly iron and manganese, which produce taste and odor problems in the water. Following the adoption of a newly revised Groundwater Management Plan in 2018, the District created two new Phase II Groundwater Quality Management Areas near Tekamah and Springfield to better address moderate nitrate contamination issues in these areas (Figure 14).

The District has installed dedicated monitoring "well nests" as shown in Figure 14 in the Appendix. Eleven of these fifteen sets of monitoring wells are located within community Wellhead Protection Areas and can provide early warning of water quality changes to municipal groundwater supplies. Each dedicated monitoring well is sampled every two years and reported to the Nebraska Dept. of Environment and Energy as part of their state-wide groundwater quality monitoring network.

Wells in the Platte Valley produce large amounts of good quality groundwater. The Cities of Omaha, Papillion, Valley, Lincoln and Fremont maintain municipal well fields in the Platte Valley. However, the District joined NDNR, Lower Platte South, Lower Platte North, Lincoln Water, and Metropolitan Utilities District (Omaha Metro) in a collaborative effort to develop a [Drought Contingency Plan](#) for the Lower Platte River (with funding from the US Bureau of Reclamation). This plan is now available [online](#).

The District's Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) was newly adopted in March 2018. Data collection is a major component of the plan. The new GMP include "triggers" for additional action by the District should groundwater quality or quantity levels meet these specified levels. New groundwater management regulations associated with the revised GMP impose new non-

organic fertilizer application restrictions in certain areas of the District and require wells permits for all new wells pumping over 50 gpm.

## **I. Recreational Facilities**

The District has significant diversity of land use and population distribution, including sparsely populated rural areas and the highly urbanized areas of metropolitan Omaha. A variety of recreation opportunities are available across the District, from passive natural areas to highly organized sports. The latest Nebraska State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) from 2020 indicates that there is a need for more facilities to meet existing demand.

Over the past 10-15 years, the types of recreation activities which the majority of the population is involved with have not changed significantly. Those activities which provide the ability to be outside, closer to a more natural environment, are generally preferred.

Trails, picnic areas, camping, boat launch facilities, and fishing appear to be the most appropriate recreational activities for large resource areas. They are an integral part of these resources and provide the facilities which are participated in by the largest part of the population.

A particularly high priority for recreational opportunities is multi-use trails. Trails provide recreation, active transportation, and access to natural resources for people across the District. Newly constructed recreation areas provide a variety of experiences, and the trail network provides connection from neighborhoods to recreation areas, as well as places where people work, play, shops, and meet with other members of the community. The District has either constructed or provided cost share to support over 130 miles of trails in the Omaha area alone. Other communities have established similar trail networks serving the same purposes.

## **J. Cooperating Agencies**

The District cooperates regularly with a variety of state, federal, and local agencies to accomplish its mission. The following agencies are important partners of the District.

1. Federal
  - a. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - b. USDA Farm Services Agency
  - c. US Army Corps of Engineers
  - d. US Environmental Protection Agency
  - e. US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - f. National Park Service
  - g. US Geological Survey
  - h. Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - i. Federal Highway Commission
2. State
  - a. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
  - b. Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy



- c. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
  - d. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
  - e. Nebraska Department of Transportation
  - f. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
  - g. Board of Educational Lands and Funds
  - h. Nebraska Department of Economic Development
  - i. University of Nebraska – Lincoln Cooperative Extension
3. Local
- a. City and Village Governing Bodies
  - b. County Governing Bodies
  - c. Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
  - d. Metropolitan Utilities District
  - e. Omaha Public Power District
  - f. Sanitary and Improvement Districts
  - g. Sarpy County and Sarpy Cities Wastewater Agency
4. Cooperating Organizations
- a. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
  - b. Nebraska Water Resources Association
  - c. Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce
  - d. Nebraska League of Municipalities
  - e. Nebraska County Officials Association
  - f. Nebraska Rural Water Association
  - g. Association of State Floodplain Managers
  - h. Nebraska Stormwater and Floodplain Managers Association
  - i. Nebraska Groundwater Federation
  - j. National Association of Conservation Districts
  - k. Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers
  - l. Omaha Safety Council
  - m. Back to the River, Inc.
  - n. Nebraska Land Trust
  - o. Friends of Heron Haven, Inc.

### **III. Resource Management Needs**

In the Introduction to this Master Plan, the various authorities resting with Nebraska's NRD's were outlined. As stated earlier, each NRD decides how these authorities will be addressed and prioritized. The District has combined these twelve authorities into seven resource management needs. These needs are prioritized by the District's Board of Directors from time to time to meet current issues and needs of the District.

Based on current needs, the District's Board of Directors have prioritized these resource management needs as follows:

1. Reduce flood damages.
2. Maintain water quality and quantity.
3. Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation damages.
4. Provide outdoor recreation facilities.
5. Provide domestic water supply.
6. Develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat and forest resources.
7. Participate in solid waste management and recycling.

Each of these needs will be discussed in more detail below.

#### **A. Reduce flood damages.**

Flood control is a major function of the District, especially in the Papillion Creek Watershed. The District has sponsored numerous channel, reservoir, and levee projects in the area, and will continue to operate and maintain these projects into the future.

In response to the 1987 Water Quality Amendments to the Clean Water Act, EPA published the rules for Phase I of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater program in 1990. The Phase I program requires municipalities with populations of 100,000 or greater to implement a stormwater management program as a means to control discharges from the "Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System" (MS4). The NPDES stormwater program is a permit based program that established requirements that municipalities must meet to discharge storm water from MS4s to the nation's surface waters. The City of Omaha is operating under a Phase I permit issued April 1, 2018.

In March 2003, EPA initiated the Phase II program, which required smaller MS4s located in urbanized areas to implement a stormwater management program. Douglas County, Sarpy County, La Vista, Ralston, Bellevue, Papillion, Boys Town, and Gretna are operating under a Phase II permit issued July 1, 2017.

Storm water management programs for both Phase I and Phase II, require that communities reduce the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable". The regulations require that the management program address (at a minimum) six elements, that when implemented are expected to result in significant water quality benefits.

In response to this requirement, the Cities of Omaha, LaVista, Ralston, Papillion, Bellevue, Bennington, Boys Town, and Gretna, plus Douglas and Sarpy Counties formed the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership (PCWP). In 2009, Douglas County and Bennington decided not to remain in the PCWP. Although each member of the partnership is required to have its own NPDES Stormwater permit, the partnership provided a means to standardize the requirements for the whole area. The District is included in the partnership due to its jurisdiction over the entire Papillion Creek Watershed, and for its authorities in flood control and water quality. The interlocal agreement that forms the PCWP was renewed in 2014 and 2019.

In 2019, the District adopted the recommended PCWP Stormwater Policies (included in the appendix). The six policy areas address both stormwater quantity and quality and are listed below:

1. Water Quality
2. Peak Flow Reduction
3. Landscape Preservation, Restoration, and Conservation
4. Erosion and Sediment Control and Other BMPs
5. Floodplain Management
6. Stormwater Financing

The policies aim to reduce stormwater quantity and to improve water quality. To address quantity, fifteen regional stormwater detention basins have been proposed for implementation (See Figure 15 in the Appendix). Additionally, PCWP members are requiring a no net increase in runoff from the 2-year storms.

Additionally, PCWP partners added a requirement that the first ½ inch of runoff from all new developments and significant re-development in the watershed be controlled on site. In many cases, the ½ inch retention can be accomplished using Low Impact Development techniques and include practices such as rain gardens and bio-swales.

As development in the urbanized area of Sarpy County has grown, the District worked with municipalities south of the Papio Watershed to develop similar standards and policies. In 2016, the Southern Sarpy Watershed Partnership (SSWP) was formed by an interlocal agreement among the cities of Bellevue, Gretna, Papillion, Springfield, Sarpy County, and the District. This interlocal agreement was renewed in 2019. The SSWP is in the process of developing a watershed management plan to address water quality and quantity issues before the area is fully developed. The plan will be completed in late 2021 or early 2022.

The following programs and projects address flood control in the District.

1. Channel Maintenance Program (CMP) – The District maintains channels and levees along the Papillion Creeks in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.
2. Missouri River R-613 Levee – The District, as local sponsor, maintains this Corps of Engineers levee along the Platte and Missouri Rivers, and the lower Papillion Creek in Sarpy County. This project is being upgraded/modified in 2019-2022 to allow for the project to be certified by FEMA.

3. Missouri River R-616 Levee – The District, as local sponsor, maintains this Corps of Engineers levee along the Missouri River north of the Papillion Creek outlet. This project is being upgraded/modified in 2019-2022 to allow for the project to be certified by FEMA.
4. Union Dike and No Name Dike – The District maintains this levee along the left bank (north side) of the Platte River between Valley and Fremont.
5. Papio Reservoirs and Water Quality Basins – The District has constructed several of the Corps' original 21 flood control structures in the Papillion Creek Watershed. These include Newport Landing (Site 6), Walnut Creek (Site 21), Youngman (Site 13) and Flanagan Lake (Site 15A). Operation and maintenance will continue on these structures. In addition, the District has constructed Shadow Lake, Prairie Queen (WP-5), Portal Recreation Area (WP-6) and Big Elk Lake (WP-7) which are part of the Papillion Creek Watershed Management Plan. Currently regional detention basins WP-1, WP-2, WP-4, DS-7, DS-12, and DS-19 are in the planning stages. The PCWP updates the Implementation Plan for the Papillion Creek Watershed Management Plan every five years and prioritizes projects for the next five years.
6. Little Papillion Creek Channel Project – The District maintains the channel improvement project along the Little Papillion Creek between Boyd and Q Streets in Douglas County. Douglas County was the original sponsor of this Corps of Engineers project.
7. Floodplain Management Program – The District provides technical assistance to communities, developers, and individuals concerning the wise use of designated floodplains in the District.
8. Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Levee Project – The District merged with the Western Sarpy Drainage District in 1999. Following the severe flooding in 1993, the District, along with the Lower Platte South NRD and the Lower Platte North NRD sponsored a levee improvement project with the Corps of Engineers. Western Sarpy Levee is in Sarpy County. Construction of the overall project was completed in 2018. The District will maintain the Western Sarpy Levee into the future. This project is in southwest Sarpy County along the Platte and Elkhorn Rivers.
9. Floodplain Purchase Program – The District participates in the buyout of structures in the floodplain to lessen flood damages and prevent loss of life during flood events.
10. Flood Mitigation Planning and Mapping Assistance Program – The District maintains and updates a Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years. The District also provides funding assistance to communities for preparation of, or revisions to, NFIP Flood Hazard studies and maps.
11. Pigeon/Elk Creek Improvement Project Area – The District merged with Drainage District #5 in Dakota County encompassing the Elk Creek and Pigeon Creek Watersheds. The project includes levee improvement and maintenance, plus measures to reduce sedimentation. Grade stabilization structures are planned for the area.

12. Pigeon/Jones Site 15 – This is a multi-purpose flood control, sediment retention, and recreation facility in Dakota County. This project was completed in 2015 and is now managed as the Danish Alps Recreation Area at Kramper Lake by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC).
13. Small Flood Control Program – This program provides technical and financial assistance to landowners for the installation of small flood control structures in the Papillion Creek Watershed. One structure, Sachs Palmer Dam has been built in Papillion Creek Watershed. The program was updated in 2021.
14. Urban Stormwater Program – This program encourages wise management of stormwater in urbanized and developing areas in the District. The PCWP was an outgrowth of this program.
15. Bellevue/Offutt Drainageway Project – The District, in cooperation with the City of Bellevue and Offutt Air Force Base, improved a drainage channel from the base to Missouri River Levee R-616 in Sarpy County. The District maintains the project.
16. Flood Mitigation Assistance Program – The District provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities and other units of government to mitigate flood losses through structure flood control projects in developed, urban areas.
17. Elkhorn River Breakout Improvement Project Area – The District is cooperating with the Lower Platte North NRD on this flood control project. The project itself is along the Elkhorn River in Dodge County, but a portion of the benefited area is in Douglas County. The Lower Platte North is the lead agency on this project.
18. Western Sarpy Drainage Improvement Project Area – The District merged with the Western Sarpy Drainage District in 1999 and acquired this project and will maintain it into the future. The Western Sarpy Drainage Project extends from Schram Road to I-80 in Western Sarpy County, west of Gretna, Nebraska. The District maintenance of this improvement project area drainage main ditch and lateral ditches is funded via annual drainage assessments on benefited land parcels.

## **B. Maintain Water Quality and Quantity**

Groundwater and surface water quality serve as an important natural resource. The District plans to ensure that an adequate and high-quality supply of both surface and groundwater remains available for all beneficial uses.

The District's Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) was newly adopted in March of 2018. This plan includes "triggers" for additional action by the District if groundwater quality declines. New groundwater management regulations associated with the revised GMP impose new non-organic fertilizer application restrictions in certain areas of the District and require wells permits for all new wells pumping over 50 gpm.

The interconnectedness between surface and groundwater, called conjunctive use, must be considered in water planning efforts. The Legislature directed the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to conduct evaluations of the state's major river basins to determine if the water resources are either "not fully appropriated", "fully appropriated", or "over appropriated" based on the impacts of continued pumping of groundwater on stream flow.

Currently, there are no fully or over appropriated basins in the District. However, the lower Platte River Basin is currently of concern. Should any basin be declared fully or over appropriated, an integrated water management plan must be developed.

The following programs and projects address water quality and quantity issues.

1. Groundwater Monitoring Program – As required in the Groundwater Management Plan, the District gathers monitoring data, for both quantity and quality, on over 100 wells in the District in five groundwater areas; Missouri, Platte, Elkhorn, Dakota, and Upland areas.
2. Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment Project (ENWRA) – The District is cooperating with five other NRD's (Lower Platte South, Lower Platte North, Lower Elkhorn, Lewis and Clark, and Nemaha NRD's) to assess the groundwater resources in Eastern Nebraska. This long term project will characterize the geology and water bearing formations to assist the NRD's in implementing their GWMP's.
3. Chemigation Certification Program – Center pivot irrigators who apply chemicals through these systems are required to obtain an annual permit from the District. In order to obtain the permit, operators must demonstrate that the required safety equipment has been installed and is operational, and they must complete individual education and certification requirements every 4 years.
4. Well Abandonment Program – The District cost-shares with landowners to properly decommission any well that is no longer in use.
5. Water Quality Management Plans – 319 Water Quality Management Plans for the District were recently developed and adopted through coordination with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. One plan covers the Platte River watershed portion of the District, and the other plan covers the remainder of the District.
6. Papillion Creek 319 Watershed Program – The District is the local sponsor of the Papillion Creek 319 Watershed Program located in Douglas and Washington County. The District received grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to offer incentive programs to address the e coli loading in the Papillion Creek Watershed.
7. Lake Dredging Program – The District cost-shares with units of government to dredge sediment basins in watersheds above recreation lakes.
8. Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance – The Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) was formed in 1996 between the District, the Lower Platte South, the Lower

Platte North NRD's and the Nebraska Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality, Game and Parks Commission, and the Health and Human Services. The LPRCA attempts to coordinate the development of land and water resources in the Lower Platte River Basin. The efforts are primarily aimed at protecting the natural resource base in the corridor.

9. Stormwater BMP Program – This District program provides technical and financial assistance to communities for the installation of innovative best management practices to control stormwater and to improve water quality.

### **C. Reduce Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Damages**

One of the most visible detriments to water quality is erosion following heavy rain events. Erosion transports sediment making the water murky. Sediment carried by stormwater is deposited in lakes, streams, roadside ditches, city streets, and many other places.

Control at the source is the most economical means to control erosion and reduce sedimentation.

The following District programs and projects address erosion and sedimentation:

1. Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) – The District cost-shares with landowners on agricultural best management practices to control erosion. In addition, certain watershed areas are designated for special land treatment, including terraces, waterways, and grade stabilization structures. Silver Creek Watershed in Burt County and Pigeon/Jones Watershed in Dakota County are two examples.
2. Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program – The District administers this state cost-share program on the local level. Agricultural best management practices, including terraces and waterways are the primary practices.
3. NRCS Assistance Program – The District provides staff to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide technical assistance to landowners in the installation of best management practices, and to help administer District programs.
4. Urban Conservation Program – The District provides technical assistance to units of government in the review of new developments for erosion and sedimentation issues, drainageway concerns, and floodplain considerations.
5. Urban Conservation Assistance Program – The District cost-shares with units of government to install urban best management practices for erosion and stormwater management.
6. Urban Drainageway Program – The District provides technical and financial assistance to units of government to solve major erosion and stabilization concerns on drainageways in urban areas.

7. Papillion Creek P.L. 566 Watershed Project – The District is local sponsor of this special project to address grade control (gully erosion) problems in the Papillion Creek Watershed in Douglas, Washington, and Sarpy Counties. Twenty-eight of fifty-two structures have been constructed. The District operates and maintains twenty-five of the completed structures. The District is currently in the planning stage on the remaining seven viable sites in the PL 566 Watershed Plan.
8. Tekamah-Mud P.L. 566 Watershed Project – The District is the local sponsor of this special project to provide grade stabilization in the Tekamah and Mud Creek Watersheds in Burt County. All fifteen structures have been installed and are operated and maintained by the District. Site 5A is the Summit Lake Recreation Area which is managed by NGPC.
9. Turtle Creek P.L. 566 Watershed Project – The District is the local sponsor for this special project to provide grade stabilization in the Turtle Creek watershed in Sarpy County. Both structures have been installed and are operated and maintained by the District.
10. Buffalo Creek Watershed – This special watershed project in Sarpy County addressed grade stabilization problems. All ten structures have been installed and are operated and maintained by the District.
11. Elkhorn River Improvement Project Area – Landowners along the Elkhorn River in Douglas County petitioned the District to help solve a severe streambank erosion problem in the reach between King Lake and Highway 36. Financial assistance was obtained from the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (75%). The District contributed 15% and the landowners contributed the remaining 10%. The project was completed in 1999. The District operates and maintains the project, with the costs paid by the landowners through a special assessment.
12. Erosion and Sediment Control Program – The Nebraska Erosion and Sediment Control Act of 1986 provides for a complaint system whereby landowners whose property is damaged by sediment from soil erosion on adjacent lands, can get this erosion controlled. The District administers this program on the local level.
13. Silver Creek Watershed Project: The District is the local sponsor of this special project to provide grade stabilization in the Silver Creek Watershed in Burt County. All twenty-two structures have been installed and are operated and maintained by the District.
14. Pigeon Jones Creek Watershed Project: The District is the local sponsor of this special project to provide grade stabilization in the Pigeon Jones Creek Watershed in Dakota County. All twelve structures have been installed and are operated and maintained by the District.



## **D. Provide Outdoor Recreation Facilities**

The majority of recreational facilities built, operated, and/or maintained by the District are part of a larger project, usually a flood control facility, or habitat restoration project. Recreational facilities usually include trails, camping, boating, and picnicking.

The District also encourages other units of government to install and maintain recreational facilities through cost share programs.

The following programs and projects involve outdoor recreation.

1. Chalco Hills Recreation Area – The District is the recreation sponsor of this Corps of Engineers flood control project. The recreation area surrounds Wehrspann Lake in Sarpy County and was originally referred to Dam Site 20. The dam is maintained by the Corps while the recreation facilities are operated and maintained by the District.
2. Elkhorn Crossing Recreation Area – This area was built as a part of the Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization Project. It contains a boat ramp for canoes and airboats, and provides space for primitive camping along with RV pad sites, playground and other amenities.
3. Platte River Landing Recreation Area – This relatively small recreation area is located west of Valley on the Platte River to provide a public access to the river.
4. Prairie View Recreation Area – The reservoir for this area was built by a private developer as a water quality basin above Newport Landing (Dam Site 6). The District constructed recreational facilities, including a trail and a boat ramp.
5. West Maple Elkhorn River Access Area – The District built the canoe launch site in 2006. The site provides a public access to the Elkhorn River at Waterloo, Nebraska. The Village of Waterloo operates and maintains the site.
6. Elkhorn River Access at Graske Crossing – The District built, operates and maintains this canoe access site on the Elkhorn River at West Dodge Road.
7. Papio Trails Project – The District has added a recreational trail to some of the levee projects. Trails are planned, designed, and constructed under this program.
8. Trails Assistance Program – The District cost shares with communities to construct trails within communities.
9. Recreation Area Development Program – The District cost shares with communities to acquire, develop, and improve recreational facilities in local jurisdictions.

## **E. Provide Domestic Water Supply**

The legislation that created natural resources districts allowed existing rural water districts to be included or not. The legislation also noted that any future rural water districts had to be formed by NRD's. Those rural water districts that chose to remain independent are still operational in the state.

The District operates four rural water districts; Dakota County, Thurston County, Washington County #1, and Washington County #2. These projects are operated separately and independently with no District funds.

The following projects address this resource management need.

1. Washington County Rural Water Project #1 – The District has operated this project since 1980 in southeast Washington County. The project purchases treated water from the Metropolitan Utilities District. The City of Fort Calhoun and 664 rural water customers are served by the project.
2. Washington County Rural Water Project #2 – This system located between Blair and Fort Calhoun was established in 2005. Treated water is purchased from Blair and serves 404 rural households and Lakeland Estates. In addition, this system was designed to connect the municipal water systems of Blair and Omaha such that either could provide water to the other in the event of a catastrophe.
3. Dakota County Rural Water Project – This system purchases treated water from Dakota City and serves 706 rural households. Key system upgrades to the pump house, standpipe and 18 miles of water lines are being made to increase water capacity and supply for customers and the Danish Alps Recreation Area. An interconnection exists between the municipal systems of Dakota City and South Sioux City such that either could provide water to the other in the event of a catastrophe.
4. Thurston County Rural Water Project – This system, located in central Thurston County, purchases treated water from Pender and serves 158 rural customers and the Village of Rosalie.

## **F. Develop and Improve Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Forest Resources**

Fish and wildlife habitat is a natural outcome of many District programs and projects. It may not even be the primary purpose of the project. Grass cover on a levee, windbreak trees, permanent water in a reservoir, and water quality wetlands all create habitat for wildlife.

The following programs and projects address habitat and forest resources.

1. Missouri River Corridor Project – Approximately 140 miles of the Missouri River borders the District. This project was started to acquire and/or restore, renovate, and create wetland habitat along the river, as well as reconnecting oxbow lakes and other backwater areas.

Additionally, cultural and historic resources are also identified and restored where practical. The District works with various agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, Ducks Unlimited, Back to the River, Inc. and the Fish and Wildlife Service, tribes, and other private entities on these projects.

2. Back to the River– This was originally an outgrowth of the Missouri River Corridor Project and is aimed at getting people “back to the river”. Back to the River, Inc. has since formed as its own non-profit organization made up of individuals representing a multitude of Missouri River related issues and has been focused on both the acquisition and restoration of Missouri River habitat, planning, environmental education. Many recreational measures have been planned and installed under this program, including trails and cultural resource facilities.
3. Rumsey Station Wetland – The District acquired this property as a part of the West Branch Channel Improvement Project. The wetland area has been enhanced to provide mitigation for the channel project, as well as the establishment of a wetland bank to offset wetland losses on other District projects.
4. Heron Haven Wetland – The District cooperated with the Omaha Chapter of the Audubon Society to acquire and develop this wetland in west central Omaha. Currently, the Friends of Heron Haven, Inc. operate and maintain the site as an educational center.
5. Wetland Mitigation Bank – The District established its first wetland bank at Rumsey Station. This program identifies and constructs wetland and channel mitigation banks for use on District projects, or providing units for sale to others as mitigation sites.
6. Conservation Easement Program – Under this program, the District can acquire a conservation easement over a piece of property protecting natural resources on the site from destruction, or development. The District works closely with the Nebraska Land Trust on Conservation Easements throughout the state.
7. Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program – This project works to create and improve wildlife habitat on private lands.
8. Tree Planting Program – The District works with individual landowners to plant trees for windbreaks, shelterbelts, and/or wildlife habitat. This program is also used in urban areas.

## **G. Participate Solid Waste Management and Pollution Control**

The District’s involvement with solid waste is limited to household hazardous waste and the use of recycled products. The following program addresses this need.

1. Solid Waste and Recycling Program – The District cooperates with the Nebraska Recycling Association, MAPA, and other agencies to develop markets for recycled products and alternative means to disposal of solid waste.

## **IV. The Master Plan**

The purpose of this Master Plan is to outline an action plan for the District for the next ten year period. The Plan sets a direction for the future, but does not address the specifics of day-to-day operations.

Currently:

- Concern for the environment and related natural resources issues are a high priority for the general public.
- Conversion of agricultural lands to urban uses continues to be a challenge for resource management.
- NRDs address a wide variety of natural resources issues and concerns.
- Since NRDs are formed along hydrologic boundaries, they are not limited by jurisdictional boundaries.

Given the specific issues related to the District, the following goals and objectives represent the master plan through the year 2030. While goals are listed according to the priorities established by the Board of Directors, the objectives for each goal are not listed in any particular order.

### **A. Reduce flood damages.**

The District will reduce losses due to flooding through the following measures:

- Watershed planning and management.
- Construction of structural measures such as levees, dams, and/or channels to contain flood waters.
- Promote sound floodplain management and implement other non-structural measures such as floodway/floodplain buy-outs.

Objectives:

1. In cooperation with the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership (PCWP), construct regional flood control reservoirs.
  - a. 2021-2024 – Structures West Papillion #4 (WP-4), West Papillion #1 (WP-1), and West Papillion #2 (WP-2)
  - b. 2024-2031– Structures Dam Site 19
2. Develop, maintain, and improve flood control levees and channels in the Papillion Creek Watershed.
  - a. Locally coordinate a US Army Corps of Engineers Reevaluation of the Papillion Creek Watershed and facilitate planned implementation.
3. Certify and obtain accreditation by FEMA of the following flood control levees:
  - a. Missouri River Levee R-613
  - b. Missouri River Levee R-616

- c. West Papillion Creek (42<sup>nd</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> Streets)
  - d. Other priority projects that may be identified.
4. Cooperate with communities to certify and obtain FEMA accreditation of flood control levees meeting 44 CFR 65.10 criteria.
5. Operate, maintain, and repair flood control levees and channels on the Papillion Creek System:
  - a. Big Papillion Creek (Capehart Road to Blondo Street)
  - b. West Papillion Creek (36<sup>th</sup> Street to Giles Road, 144<sup>th</sup> to 153<sup>rd</sup> Street, W. Center Rd. to Frances Circle)
  - c. Little Papillion Creek (Q to Pratt Streets)
  - d. Other priority projects that may be identified.
6. Operate, maintain, and repair flood control levees along the Platte River.
  - a. Union and No Name Dike
  - b. Western Sarpy Levee
  - c. Other priority projects that may be identified.
7. Explore feasibility of legislative authorities to create stormwater utilities or other stormwater management entities.
8. Implement removal of structures within the floodway/floodplain through voluntary purchase programs.
9. Provide technical assistance to individuals and units of government for sound floodplain management.
10. Provide technical and financial assistance to units of government for the installation of structural flood control measures.
11. Provide technical and financial assistance to units of government for the installation of non-structural flood control measures.
12. Continue to coordinate a Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan open to participation for all eligible communities within the District.
13. Continue to re-evaluate and update flood insurance studies for creeks, streams, and rivers in the District.
14. Merge with existing drainage districts upon request.

## **B. Maintain water quality and quantity.**

The District will implement programs and projects designed to protect and improve surface and ground water, so that water is available for all beneficial uses through the following measures:

- Watershed planning in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies.
- Promotion of low impact development techniques in developed and developing areas for water quality improvement.
- Establish groundwater management areas, as needed, to protect groundwater.
- Establish programs and projects to address non-point sources of pollution.
- Provide technical and financial assistance to individuals, groups, and units of government to improve water quality.

Objectives:

1. In cooperation with the PCWP, construct regional water quality basins.
2. Fully implement the District's Groundwater Management Plan, including updating the plan as necessary. Improve monitoring of groundwater quality and quantity as necessary to better access groundwater "triggers" and drought.
3. Continue to provide technical and financial assistance toward the protection of drinking water sources through active management of wellhead protection areas surrounding municipal well fields.
4. Continue to provide technical and financial assistance in the proper decommissioning of abandoned wells.
5. Continue co-sponsorship of the Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Project with the Lower Platte South, Lower Platte North, Nemaha, Lower Elkhorn, and Lewis and Clark NRDs.
6. Take an active role in the development and implementation of the Environmental Element of the City of Omaha's Master Plan.
7. Work with sponsors of publicly-owned recreational lakes and reservoirs to install water quality basins and other measures to improve and protect water quality.
8. Continue to participate in the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance and its various programs and projects.
9. Implement and update the 319 Water Quality Management Plans for the Papio-Missouri River NRD.

**C. Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation damages.**

The District will promote programs and projects to control erosion and sedimentation in the District through the following measures:

- Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation on agricultural lands.
- Control gully and ephemeral erosion.

- Reduce sedimentation from developed and developing areas.
- Control streambank erosion.

Objectives:

1. Provide technical and financial assistance to rural landowners for the installation of best management practices for erosion and sediment control, including terraces, waterways, and conservation tillage.
2. Assist units of government with the implementation of NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit requirements on developing urban areas.
3. Provide accelerated technical and financial assistance to units of government in the restoration of urban streams to a more natural configuration and function to control erosion and improve water quality.
4. Provide accelerated technical and financial assistance in priority watershed areas including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Blackbird Creek
  - b. Silver Creek
  - c. Omaha Creek
  - d. Pigeon/Jones
  - e. Papillion Creek
  - f. Davis-Hill Creek
5. Administer the Nebraska Erosion and Sediment Control Program.
6. Provide technical assistance to landowners to address streambank erosion.
7. Continue to cooperate with USDA agencies, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency, in the development and implementation of soil conservation programs and projects.

**D. Provide outdoor recreation facilities.**

The District will continue to provide outdoor recreational opportunities through the following measures:

- Construction of recreational trails throughout the District.
- Continue to construct multi-purpose projects that include recreation as an equal purpose.

Objectives:

1. Operate, maintain, and repair the following public recreation projects:
  - a. Chalco Hills Recreation Area
  - b. Elkhorn Crossing Recreation Area
  - c. Platte River Landing Recreation Area

- d. Prairie View Recreation Area
  - e. Elkhorn River Access at Graske Crossing
  - f. West Maple Elkhorn River Access Area
  - g. Danish Alps Recreation Area
  - h. Summit Lake Recreation Area
2. In cooperation with other units of government, continue the implementation of the Metropolitan Area Trails Plan, updating the plan as necessary. New projects to provide additional access to the existing trails will be investigated, with a priority on increased connectivity for recreation, active transportation, and access to natural resources.
  3. Establish a third canoe access point along the Elkhorn River in southwestern Douglas County or northwestern Sarpy County.
  4. Monitor status of railroad abandonments in the District for acquisition and possible conversion to recreational trails.
  5. Provide technical and financial assistance to units of government in the development and improvement of public recreation areas.

#### **E. Provide domestic water supply.**

The District will continue to investigate, develop, operate and maintain potable water supply systems for areas within the District upon request.

Objectives:

1. Continue to operate and maintain the following rural water projects:
  - a. Washington County Rural Water Project
  - b. Dakota County Rural Water Project, including expansion to the Danish Alps Recreation Area
  - c. Thurston County Rural Water Project
2. Evaluate requests from groups and communities to provide a dependable source of potable water, and implement feasible water supply systems.
3. Cooperate with other entities to provide water service in rural areas.

#### **F. Develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat and forest resources.**

The District will continue to promote best management practices that will:

- Provide adequate habitat for wildlife, including food and shelter.
- Establish and maintain woodland areas in both rural and urban areas.
- Preserve, protect, and enhance wetlands and other natural features.



Objectives:

1. Continue the implementation of the Missouri River Corridor Project, to acquire and restore various habitat and wetlands areas. One such area is an approximately 540-acre site at the confluence of the Platte/Missouri River in Sarpy County. The District is attempting to secure partial funding to acquire this area from a private entity and is working with the City of Bellevue, Sarpy County, the Nebraska Environmental Trust and others on this habitat/economic development project.
2. Continue as a member of “Back to the River, Inc.”.
3. Continue as a member and sponsor of the Nebraska Land Trust.
4. Identify, develop, operate, and maintain wetland mitigation banks in the District.
5. Identify, develop, operate, and maintain urban forests for air quality purposes.
6. Evaluate areas proposed for conservation easements in the District, particularly along the Platte, Elkhorn and Missouri Rivers.
7. Provide technical and financial assistance to landowners, both rural and urban, in the establishment and management of woodland areas.
8. Provide technical and financial assistance to landowners in the establishment, improvement, and management of wildlife habitat areas.
9. Cooperate with other federal, state, and local agencies to prepare a detailed natural resources inventory of the District to identify ecologically unique areas.

**G. Participate in solid waste management and pollution control.**

The District will continue to assist other units of government with:

- pollution control
- the proper disposal of solid, household, and hazardous wastes

Objectives:

1. Establish a carbon sequestration bank to store and dispense credits for air quality.
2. Cooperate with other local, state and federal agencies to address and contain pollution from point sources.
3. Evaluate requests for assistance from communities desiring to participate in regional wastewater treatment operations.
4. Promote proper disposal of solid wastes, including sponsoring recycling events.

5. Promote expanded development of markets for recycled products.

#### **H. Develop programs, policies, and other resources to implement the Master Plan.**

The District will continue to develop innovative programs and policies to help the District implement this Master Plan.

##### **Objectives:**

1. Continue to pursue a vigorous public information and education program about natural resources conservation and the various NRD programs and projects.
2. Continue to evaluate personnel needs to fully implement the master plan.
3. Continue to seek outside funding sources, such as the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources' Water Sustainability Fund, and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy non-point source pollution control funds (Section 319 Program) for various programs and projects.
4. Pursue funding from private foundations.
5. Continue to utilize public-private partnerships in the development of major projects.