

UNION DIKE FACT SHEET

January 2022



Finding Solutions

SERVING Sarpy, Douglas, Washington, Burt, Thurston and Dakota Counties.

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

THE MISSION of the Papio-Missouri River NRD is to wisely conserve, manage and enhance our soil, water, wildlife and forest resources.

- *Flood Control
- *Water Quality
- *Groundwater Resources
- *Soil Conservation
- *Outdoor Recreation
- *Domestic Water Supply
- *Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- *Forest Resources
- * Environmental Education

Project History

Union Dike was constructed in 1919 by the Western Douglas County Drainage District. The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District assumed maintenance of the levee in 1975 and expended more than \$800,000 through 2000. From 1913 through 2021, the area experienced 13 open water floods and 9 ice jam floods. A flood in March 1978 caused more than \$60 million in damages to property in Valley and western Douglas County. The flood in March 2019 caused more than \$2.5 million in damages to public property (e.g. sanitary sewers, storm water pumping station, streets) in Valley. There was also considerable private property damage in Valley area.

Project Description:

Union Dike is a 9.8 mile levee along the east bank of the Platte River from approximately Fremont to Valley. The 1990 Union Dike Improvement Project raised the dike to three feet about the 100-year flood level in five critical areas that were below that level. The base of the dike also was substantially broadened for its entire length to help insure that the dike can withstand the enormous force generated by high water in the Platte River. The project created 24 acres of wetlands. It included the construction of Platte River Landing, a river-access recreation area immediately south of Highway 64 during 1991.

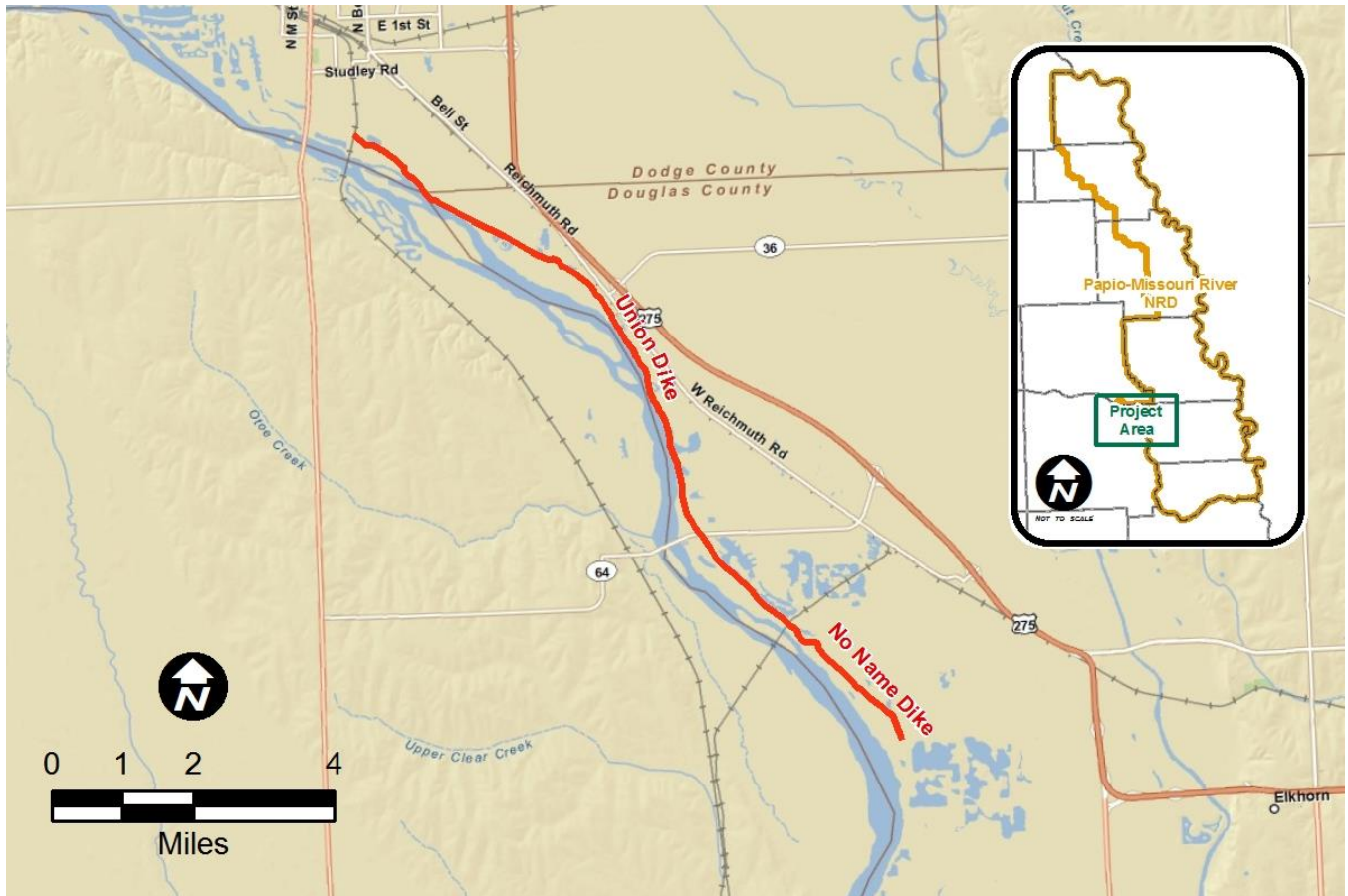
Project Cost:

The cost of the 1990 Union Dike improvements was \$1,872,000 with 10 percent of the construction and inspection costs paid by the Papio-Missouri River NRD and the remainder by the benefited landowners. This cost was approximately 19 percent lower than originally projected, which resulted in significant savings to benefited landowners through lower assessments. The \$50,000 recreation area development was paid entirely by the Papio-Missouri River NRD. The NRD also spent more than \$100,000 on designing dike improvements and will perpetually maintain the dike at an estimated cost of \$35,000 annually. Over 180 acres of free right-of-way easements were secured from 15 landowners.

The Corps of Engineers and NRD spent \$3,845,000 on levee repairs in 2019-2021 to restore the levee after the March 2019 Platte River flood overtopped and damaged the levee.

Benefits:

23,000 acres of land, including the City of Valley, numerous industries and commercial enterprises, agricultural land and transportation routes now receive increased protection from disastrous flooding such as occurred in March 1978. Project Construction – September 1989 to December 1990. Assessments to landowners – March 1991.



**Union Dike
Looking Upstream
from Hwy. 64**

