



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

LEAD. ORGANIZE. INSPIRE. The voice of the Lower Platte.

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Monthly Report for April 2015

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Recreation Planning

A draft of the Recreation Master Plan was completed and made available in early April. The LPRCA and Corps are asking for public comment through May 8th. At the end of April we had received a variety of comments from LPRCA members and others interested in the plan. We hope to have a complete draft that incorporates identified changes at the end of May. The next steps for the plan are to: develop a recreation advisory committee; set up public meetings and meetings with cities and counties to “roll out” the plan; work with National Park Service, NGPC, NRDs and other stakeholders on site and funding identification; apply for funding for site development/improvement and educational tools.

Two Rivers Obstruction Removal

In April, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission committed \$200,000 from the Recreational Trail Program to assist with the removal of a portion of the abandoned bridge piers near Two Rivers State Recreation Area. Additionally in April Olsson Associates made some updates to the plans and specs and provided an updated cost estimate for the removal of the five concrete and rebar piers that begin at the bank of Two Rivers State Recreation Area and extend into the river through what is usually the primary channel. The Obstruction Removal project will be a topic of conversation at the LPRCA Quarterly Meeting on May 7th, 2015.

Corps Meeting/Lower Platte Watershed Program

In April, I along with staff of the three NRDs met with Omaha District Corps of Engineers representatives to discuss Lower Platte River projects. Conversation included discussion of the existing authority (Lower Platte River & Tributaries), additional planning or studies that could be done under the Planning Assistance to States program—including water quality, stream assessment, and recreation. A good portion of the conversation included the Lower Platte River Watershed Restoration Authority. The Omaha District has included the initiation of the Watershed Program as one of their top two priorities for the next fiscal year. The Watershed program enables the LPRCA/NRDs to do planning, studies and construction under the restoration authority rather than has separate authorizations. The local sponsors receive a reduced cost share rate. Additionally, the program enables plans, studies or construction to be done on a watershed level and can included water quality work, environmental restoration and multiple benefit sites. This topic was also a conversation with members of the Nebraska Delegation during our meetings in DC in mid-April. We hope to continue to work with the Omaha District on moving forward into the watershed program.

Upcoming Events:

LPRCA Kayak Tour. Monday, June 15th, 2015. TBD

Water & Natural Resources Tour: June 23-25, 2015, Republican River Basin.

NeFSMA Annual Conference, Nebraska City, July 29-30

LPRCA Water Quality Open. Thursday, August 27th, 2015. Quarry Oaks Golf Course, South Bend.