



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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3125 Portia St.
PO Box 83581
Lincoln, NE 68501-3581

p: 402.476.2729
f: 402.476.6454

www.lowerplatte.org

Monthly Report for April 2016

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

LPRCA Map Gallery & Mobile Information

The LPRCA and Papio-Missouri River staff met with USGS in April to discuss mobile availability of the real-time water quality data as well as stream flow data. The LPRCA is investigating opportunities to include the data in a mobile app or mobile web application to make the data easy to access for river users, water managers, or interested public. The water quality data would also be integrated with additional data about the river, cities, counties and other LPRCA (or partner) data sets. We are hoping that the first step in this can be utilizing the almost completed LPRCA Map Gallery hosted on an ESRI ArcGIS Online platform. HDR has been assisting the LPRCA with the transition and creation of the map gallery and we anticipate having it available to be reviewed by the LPRCA at the end of May with public launch to follow soon after.

DWFI Conference

At the end of April, I assisted with a Daugherty Water For Food Institute tour. The tour started in Lincoln with a discussion of the Antelope Valley Project as well as the various partnerships that LPSNRD is involved with. The tour then moved on to two stops in Upper Big Blue NRD before we headed to Valmont Industries in Valley. After a brief period of time in the tornado shelter at Valmont, we headed back towards Lincoln where I was fortunate to have the opportunity to discuss the LPRCA's success as a long term partnership.

Nebraska Watershed Network

The LPRCA partnered with the Nebraska Watershed Network based at UNO and directed by Dr. Alan Kolok on a grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 2015. The project's focus is to engage high school students as well as community groups in region-wide water quality monitoring. The monitoring portion of the project began on April 20th and will continue for ten weeks each Wednesday at ten different sites in the Omaha metro area, along the Platte River and the Elkhorn River. Platte River locations include Two Rivers SRA and near Louisville. The students/citizens have rapid water quality tests to determine atrazine load as well as nitrates and other nutrients. Additionally they collect samples to test for e-coli that are then collected within 24 hours by UNO graduate students and results run in a laboratory. All results are input into a database by the students that can be accessed by all the students or citizens involved to compare results. The project has multiple benefits including engaging youth and general citizens in water quality issues and in the Platte River and adjacent landscape. It also provides another dataset to further understand contaminant loads within the Platte River and its tributaries. We look forward to seeing the results from the students/citizens and determining how we can hopefully implement other similar efforts throughout the region.

Events

Event planning continued in April with the Kayak Tour registration on August 28th. The trip, scheduled for June 7th, filled in its usual very quick pace. We also continued with planning the Lower Platte River Summit scheduled for Tuesday, October 25th in Schuyler at the Oak Ballroom. We are working on a Nebraska

Environmental Trust PIE grant to help fund the Summit this year. Planning is also underway for the Water Quality Open scheduled for Thursday, August 25th. Look for more information on all of the events in the upcoming weeks!

Upcoming Events:

River Management Society & Society of Outdoor Recreation Planners National Symposium, May 16-20, Boise, ID

LPRCA Kayak Tour, June 7, 2016. *The LPRCA Kayak Tour has been included as a "Find your Park" event as part of the National Park Service Centennial celebration.*

NARD Blue River Basin Tour: June 13-14

Quarterly Meeting: August 9th, 9:00 a.m. TBD

Water Quality Open: August 25th. Quarry Oaks Golf Course

LPR Summit: October 25th, Oak Ballroom, Schuyler