



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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Monthly Report for June 2011

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

Environmental Suitability Assessment (ESA) & Land use Suitability Analysis (LSA)

The ESA and LSA will be completed by the end of this month. Currently Chris Poole at LPNNRD is continuing to work with HDR to transition the MapMaker site to an ArcGIS server so the ESA Viewer and LSA Model can be incorporated into the MapMaker site. Matt Pillard, HDR, and I presented the LSA model and ESA viewer to the Nebraska Land Trust's Lower Platte Workgroup on June 28th. It was a diverse audience of representatives of city and counties, non-profit organizations, landowners, developers, sand and gravel mining and agencies. The tool was very well received and we also gained ideas for any future steps with the tool. Additionally, the Land Trust plans to utilize the tool as another evaluation tool for their easement acquisition in the Lower Platte River Corridor. Following completion of the ESA we will be meeting with LPRCA representatives to demonstrate the use of the tool.

Stakeholders that we met with during the development of the tool indicated a desire to have "predictive" or "what if" component of the LSA model. The scenarios will be developed through meetings with LPRCA members and other stakeholders and would show the impact that levels of development or other changes in current land use would have on the other factors and features (e.g. water quality, recreation, wildlife habitat, agriculture, etc). This would also continue to advance the mission of these tools—to provide timely and consistent planning information to stakeholders throughout the corridor. We plan to continue to develop this aspect of the LSA in the upcoming year.

I will be working with the Nebraska Environmental Trust during July to close out the grant.

Cumulative Impact Study

Currently the sediment budget analysis is on hold until the beginning of the new federal fiscal year. This is an outcome of the budget situation. The sediment budget analysis will be completed during fall and winter of this year.

We continue to work on the Conceptual Ecological Model portion of this phase of the CIS. We hope to conduct another meeting with the initial group of technical stakeholders during July or early August.

River Kiosks

Ten kiosks were constructed by LPSNRD maintenance personnel. The kiosks are currently in process of being placed throughout the corridor. Two of the remaining three—those at Hormel Park and Fremont State Lakes--were installed in June. The inserts will continue to be placed in the installed kiosks in early July. The remaining kiosk at Schilling may obviously be awhile before the flood waters recede.

Kayak Tour

The Kayak Tour is planned for Tuesday July 19th. Registration opened Thursday, June 9th and the tour was full in 90 minutes! It was very exciting to have such an outstanding response from a wide variety of people on only our second year! The tour will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. at Platte River

Landing. We will begin shuttling the kayakers up to Hormel Park at 830. At Hormel Park we plan to have a safety talk followed by a short presentation and plan to be on the water by 9:30. The approximately 9 mile float should end at around 12:30 at Platte River Landing where we will have lunch and presentations from a variety of organizations and agencies. Even if you aren't going on the float, you are welcome to join us for lunch at Platte River Landing. Thanks again to Tim Montgomery and NGPC for their assistance with the tour.

Water Quality Open

The Water Quality Open is planned for Thursday, September 1st at Quarry Oaks. Registrations will begin to be mailed out in late June. We look forward to another great event!



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