



**Lower Platte River
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

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

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Monthly Report for May 2011

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

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

The ESA and LSA will be completed by the end of FY2011. Currently Chris Poole at LPNDRD is working 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 will be presenting the LSA viewer to the Nebraska Land Trust's Lower Platte Workgroup on June 28th. 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.

River Obstruction Removal

The design & permitting for the removal effort near Two Rivers State Recreation area began last summer. We are still working to negotiate some of the permitting requirements. Olsson Associates submitted some design and engineering revisions to the Corps of Engineers in early May. The revisions would address initial concerns from the Corps of Engineers to utilize a cause way for the removal. We are still awaiting a response from the Corps and USFWS as well as a time to schedule a meeting.

River Kiosks

Ten kiosks were constructed by LPSNRD maintenance personnel. The kiosks are currently in process of being placed throughout the corridor. During May we installed four kiosks bringing the total to 7 that are installed. The four installed in May are located at Louisville State Recreation Area, Louisville Boat Ramp at Highway 50, the day use area at Two Rivers State Recreation Area, and Platte River Landing. The three remaining are Schilling Wildlife Management Area (that might be awhile...), Fremont State Lakes, and the Hormel Park Boat ramp. The three installed in April are at the Lied Bridge, Platte River State Park and Mahoney State Park. A photo follows the report.

Kayak Tour

The Kayak Tour is planned for Tuesday July 19th. Registration opens Thursday, June 9th. We will have space for 30 kayakers and have already received many calls from interested participants. We plan to begin 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. We hope the water subsides by then! 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!

NARRP Conference

I attended the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners conference in Breckenridge from May 22-26. I also presented a poster focused on the recreational features of the Land Suitability Analysis. The conference focused on ways to connect individuals to the outdoors/natural resources through collaborations.



