



Lower Platte River  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

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

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

p: 402.476.2729  
f: 402.476.6454

[www.lowerplatte.org](http://www.lowerplatte.org)

## Monthly Report for October 2011

Meghan Sittler, Coordinator

### **Environmental Suitability Assessment**

The Environmental Suitability Assessment and Land Suitability Analysis went “live” on the NRD Mapmaker site during September. I had the ESA viewer on display at the UNL Climate & Water Ecosystem Symposium on October 13<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln. Many of the attendees took the opportunity to spend a few minutes exploring the tool and the large variety of quantity of information contained within the tool. I received very positive feedback as well as suggestions for ways to get the viewer more attention from stakeholders and other data sets that could potentially be included. Matt Pillard of HDR demonstrated the tool to LPRCA representatives at the October Quarterly Meeting. Several suggestions were made during that demonstration. Following the Quarterly Meeting I participated in a conference call with HDR representatives as well as LPNNRD personnel to address all the suggestions and minor adjustments to the viewer. LPNNRD & HDR personnel continue to work out those minor tweaks within the viewer. But the tools can be found at: <http://www.nrdmapmaker.org/lpresa/>

### **River Obstruction Removal at Two Rivers**

During September, discussions about the design and permitting of the removal of the obstructions located near Two Rivers State Recreation area commenced again. A meeting between the NRDs, LPRCA, NGPC, USFWS and USACE was scheduled for the afternoon of October 20<sup>th</sup>. However, after several discussions it was decided to postpone the meeting to allow Olsson Associates a bit more time to develop the requested redesign and for preliminary discussions to occur. The revised scope will be sent to the USACE and USFWS in November and following its review by USACE, USFWS, LPRCA and the NRDs a meeting will be rescheduled.

### **Water Trail**

The LPRCA is helping the NGPC in mapping, exploring funding and eventually development of educational material to formalize and/or expand the lower Platte River water trail. This is a great opportunity to continue our collaboration, expand opportunities to get stakeholders on the river and increase visibility of the LPRCA. In October I sent preliminary names to the NGPC for the segments of the canoe water trail to the NGPC. Over the winter I will be meeting with NGPC personnel and others to explore funding and planning opportunities for potential additional access points. Further mapping will commence again in the spring.

### **Cumulative Impact Study**

During October, I met with the USACE to discuss the completion of the sediment budget analysis. This summer, following the completion of the sediment sampling and GIS work done by USGS a decision was made to postpone the completion of the sediment budget analysis until the new federal fiscal year which began October 1. It was decided that the USACE would be contracting out the sediment budget analysis work to an external party. A decision on who will receive that contract will be made during November.