

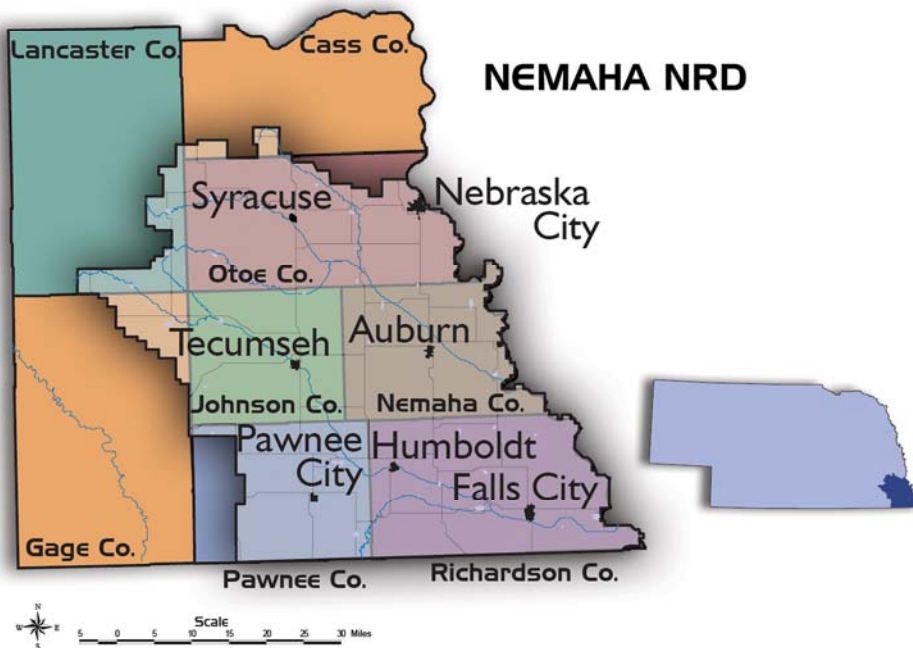
# KNOW YOUR NRD



**NEMAHA**  
Natural Resources District  
Tecumseh, NE

2011

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts  
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972



## NEMAHA NRD

### NEMAHA NRD QUICK FACTS:

- More than 470 flood control dams and erosion control structures provide 4,735 acres of permanent water & 96,862 acre feet of flood storage in the Nemaha NRD
- Over 1.4 million trees planted since 1977 provide wind protection, wildlife habitat, and erosion control
- 4 public lakes/recreation areas and 1 hiking/biking trail are operated by the Nemaha NRD; another public lake/recreation area is planned near Peru, Nebraska, in Nemaha County
- The Nemaha River Basin encompasses all of the Nemaha NRD and a portion of the Lower Platte South NRD in Otoe & Cass Counties

## Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future

### Partnerships Vital to Iron Horse Trail Lake Project Success

The recent re-opening of Iron Horse Trail Lake near DuBois in Pawnee County on June 25<sup>th</sup> is a prime example of the power of partnerships. Initially the NRD strived to protect the water quality of this 85-acre public recreation lake by partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality/EPA, Nebraska Environmental Trust, and 21 landowners to install best management practices within the watershed. After a \$1.5 million investment, 1,910 acres of cropland were terraced, 90 acres converted from crop to grass, and two sediment retention structures installed.

In 2009 yet another partnership formed with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, NDEQ/EPA, and NETF resulting in the restoration of the lake itself and improvement of fishing, camping, and hiking opportunities. These partners picked up nearly 95% of the tab on the \$2.2 million project leaving the NRD to pay only about \$138,000.

Iron Horse Trail Lake was originally built in 1983 with federal PL566 funds as a flood control project in the South Fork Watershed. Recreation was added in 1985 with help from the USDA Soil Conservation Service and Nebraska Resource Development Fund.

*(Pictured at right, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Deputy Director Jim Douglas (top) and EPA Region 7 Representative Pete Davis (below) participate in June 25<sup>th</sup> dedication ceremony for Iron Horse Trail Lake improvements.)*



## Projects & Programs

### Buck Creek Flood Control On It's Way

Construction is underway on an important flood control dam on Buck Creek just west of Peru in Nemaha County. This \$700,000 project is funded with federal PL566 monies. When finished the dam will contain a permanent pool of 43 acres with up to four times that much storage during maximum flood stage. A companion site planned just a few miles away on Duck Creek will combine public recreation with its flood control benefits.

These dams will protect county roads, bridges, and valuable cropland in the Peru bottoms providing an estimated annual benefit of \$355,000. Support from the Peru Drainage District, City of Peru, Nemaha County, Peru State College, Five Rivers RC&D, and our congressional representatives was key to moving these projects forward.



### Cooperation Nets Substantial Benefits on Muddy Creek



June, 2011, saw the close of a seven-year project to address stream degradation and severe erosion in the upper reaches of the Big Muddy Creek Watershed. Initiated in 2004 a task force of 24 folks representing city, county, and state officials, NRD, and landowners gathered to address the problems in the watershed. In the end 10 grade control structures, 1 road dam, and four county road projects

were added in Johnson and Nemaha Counties. Funding came not only from the NRD but also the NRCS/EQIP, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Nemaha County, and the landowners involved at a total cost of about \$1.3 million.

*The road dam pictured above replaces a one-lane wooden bridge, thus keeping a critical county road open; land rights donated by the major landowner involved made this project feasible.*

### Volunteers Vital to NeRAIN

Volunteers who faithfully check their rain gauges daily, rain or not, are the key to the success of the NeRAIN program. NeRAIN stands for Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network and is solely comprised of people throughout the state who simply check their rain gauges, provided by the NRD, each day and record the amounts on a statewide website. In the Nemaha NRD 52 stations are actively reporting rainfall on a regular basis, but we're always looking for more. The goal is to have one reporter in each township within the NRD's eight-county area. Data recorded may be used by anyone including farmers, irrigators, utility providers, resource managers, industry, and insurance companies, just to name a few.

If you're interested in becoming a part of the network of reporters, contact us. Or to check out the information available through NeRAIN, logon to our website, [www.nemahanrd.org](http://www.nemahanrd.org), and click on the NeRAIN icon in the center of the screen.



## Your NRD:

- Protects lives and property through flood control
  - Repair and rehabilitation of existing watershed dams is part of the District's annual work plan.
- Protects our future groundwater supplies
  - Free nitrate & bacteria testing
  - Cost-share funds to properly close abandoned wells
- Protects taxpayer dollars
  - Partnerships with other federal, state, and local entities as well as private sources supplement the property taxes collected throughout the Nemaha NRD's eight-county area.

### The Nemaha NRD:

- is one of 23 NRDs.
- serves all or parts of eight counties in southeast Nebraska
- is governed by a 21-member board of directors elected by the voters in 10 subdistricts.
- meets monthly on the second Thursday to carry out the responsibilities charged to NRDs by the Nebraska Legislature in 1972.

Find out more about Nebraska's NRDs at [www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org) and [www.nemahanrd.org](http://www.nemahanrd.org)