

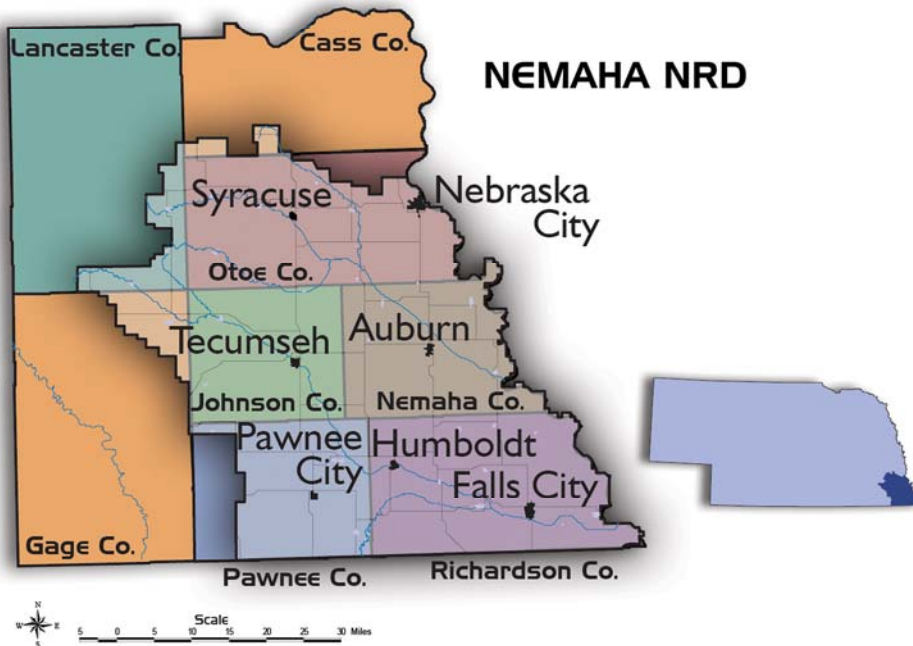
# KNOW YOUR NRD



**NEMAHA**  
Natural Resources District  
Tecumseh, NE

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

Fall, 2010



## 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

### Protecting Urban Landscapes

In 2009-2010 the Nemaha NRD provided grants to the communities of Falls City in Richardson County and Sterling in Johnson County to enhance their outdoor recreation areas.



Sterling Urban Special Project

Sterling developed a walking path around their park and football field. Falls City improved and developed a wetland area at the end of their Stanton Lake Park.

Both projects incorporated educational aspects into the areas by adding native plantings and interpretative signage. NRD Urban Special Project funds matched the communities' local funds for the projects.

### Protecting Soil & Water Resources

Over 150 miles of grass and/or riparian buffer strips are protecting soil and water resources in the Nemaha NRD. Funds provided from the Nebraska Buffer Strip program and administered by the Nemaha NRD, often combined with federal Conservation Reserve Program dollars, provide incentives for landowners to maintain these important vegetative filters along lakes, streams, and other waterways.

### Flood Protection Passes Test

June of 2010 will not soon be forgotten by those experiencing the torrential rainfall that just wouldn't stop. Within the Nemaha NRD, flood control dams constructed as many as 50 years ago continued to prove their worth.

NRD officials reported that while many structures in the Wilson Creek and Brownell Watersheds in northern Otoe and southern Cass Counties filled to overflowing, their purpose of collecting water and releasing it in a slower, more controlled manner prevented devastating damage to downstream property, businesses, homes, and lives.

In other parts of the District where rainfall was also generous, reports were similar. The over 470 structures in the Nemaha NRD remained in tact!

### Iron Horse Renovation Is Cooperative Effort

Work continues on the renovation of the lake at Iron Horse Trail Lake recreation area near DuBois in Pawnee County. Shanahan Brothers Construction worked as much as possible throughout the winter and spring to complete the main sediment basin, removal of sediment from the upper reaches of the lake, and construction of three islands. Work is anticipated to be completed no later than June, 2011.

Funding for much of the renovation of the lake is provided by a combination of grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission/Aquatic Habitat Fund, federal Motorboat Access funds, and EPA Section 319 Non-Point Source Pollution funds. Nemaha NRD funding will be required for only a fraction of the \$2 million project.

In addition to the lake renovation, the NRD has committed to installing 11 electrical RV camping pads, developing a new, primitive RV and tent camping area, and installing a barrier on the beach that will prevent aquatic vegetation from growing in the sand. These improvements are underway this fall while the park is still closed.

### More Flood & Erosion Control On Its Way!

Work in the Muddy Creek Watershed is nearing completion with the last two of the smaller, grade control structures finished this summer. Construction on the final project, a road dam structure, is set to begin this fall now that the existing bridge has been removed.

Much awaited flood control on Buck Creek near Peru in Nemaha County is on its way with the awarding of a contract to Shanahan Bros. Construction, Lincoln, to start work this fall. This is the first of two flood control dams planned for the Buck and Duck Creek Watershed.

### "Watershed of Wonders"

Fifty-seven youngsters gathered at Kirkman's Cove Recreation Area near Humboldt on June 16 to experience the "Watershed of Wonders". Started in 2002 to promote the conservation efforts in the Kirkman's Cove watershed, this was the fifth installment of the biennial day camp for 10-12 year olds from southeast Nebraska.

Participants tried their aim at archery, learned about fish and fishing skills, took a ride on a pontoon boat while learning about boat and water safety, and searched for "treasures" with the help of GPS equipment. On a warm day, the day-campers enjoyed shooting, chasing, and catching their own water rockets. Finally, teamwork paid off for those groups who sped through the NRD's own version of the Amazing "Water" Race by balancing bottles of water through a relay, matching geographical clues, or practicing their meteorological skills.

The camp was free to participants, who also received an official Watershed of Wonders t-shirt. Volunteers ranging from natural resource professionals to area high school/college students to members of the Big Indian Archers teamed with the Nemaha NRD to put on the camp. In addition some supplies, materials, and equipment were also donated. Watershed of Wonders...a truly cooperative effort in natural resources education!



## Your NRD:

### •Protects lives and property through flood control

- Construction is scheduled to begin in Fall, 2010, on the Buck Creek Watershed flood control dam

### •Protects our future groundwater supplies

- Free nitrate & bacteria testing

### •Protects taxpayer dollars

- Partnerships with other federal, state, and local entities as well as private sources supplement the property taxes collected through the Nemaha NRD's eight-county area.
- Less than 1% of property taxes paid by local taxpayers is used by the NRD.

#### 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)