

KNOW YOUR NRD



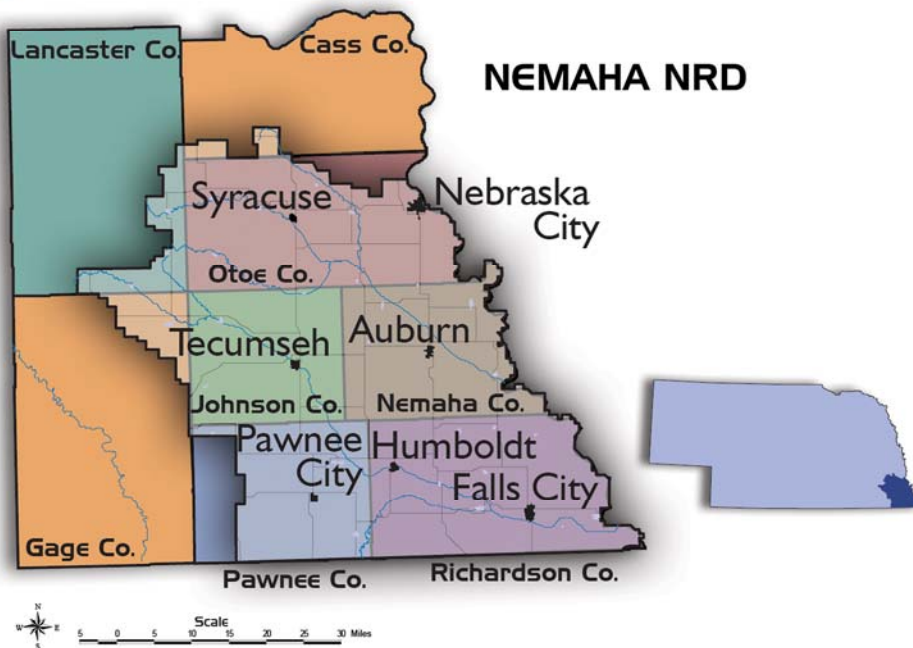
NEMAHA
Natural Resources District
Tecumseh, NE

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

Winter 2008

NRD QUICK FACTS:

- Over 1.4 million trees planted and distributed since 1977 (18,000 distributed in 2008)
- Water levels measured in 120 wells in 2008
- 88 wells sampled in 2008 for nitrates and bacteria
- 45 unused wells properly closed in 2008
- Four public lakes/recreation areas and one hiking/biking trail are provided by the Nemaha NRD
- 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

Flood Control = Safety

Over 470 flood control and grade stabilization structures are in place in the Nemaha NRD in order to protect lives and property. Earlier this summer their protection was tested in the Upper Little Nemaha Watershed in northwest Otoe and eastern Lancaster Counties. The 19 dams in this area held about 10,000 acre-feet of floodwater in storage for controlled release. Not only did farmland and roads benefit -- the City of Bennet realized a generous measure of flood protection too.

Two more flood control dams are planned in the Duck and Buck Creek Watershed near Peru, Nebraska, in Nemaha County. Though construction won't begin for another year or so, when complete these dams will provide over 100 acres of

Protecting property

permanent water storage and 250 acres of flood storage.

Saving Our Soil

Severe streambank erosion was the impetus for a grass roots effort in the Muddy Creek Watershed, which starts near the center of the District and stretches southeast through Richardson County. Erosion that was robbing precious soil and threatening land, livestock, infrastructure, and utilities was the impetus for a task force of local landowners, city, county, state, and NRD officials.

Now with funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, federal EQIP funds, Nemaha County, landowners, and the NRD, up to 20 grade and erosion structures plus a road dam will protect property and county roads in the upper reaches of the watershed.

Protecting the future

Water: Security for the Future

Southeast Nebraska is fortunate to have an adequate supply of quality water. The Nemaha NRD works to ensure this will continue through ongoing water testing, water level monitoring, wellhead protection, and chemigation inspection. Currently the District is updating its Groundwater Management Plan and associated rules.

In December, 2008, the NRD approved revisions to its groundwater rules, which address quantity issues that were not part of the original plan. A temporary stay on drilling new wells will be lifted February 1, 2009, the same date that the new rules take effect.

Contact our office or check our website for more details.

Recreation Opportunities

The Nemaha NRD provides a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities at its four public recreation areas and the 22-mile Steamboat Trace trail. Kirkman's Cove near Humboldt and Iron Horse Trail Lake near DuBois boast 160- and 80-acre lakes and allow a variety of activities including fishing, picnicking, hiking, swimming, camping, and boating. Wirth Brothers Lake north of Tecumseh and Prairie Owl near Dunbar are quaint areas that cater to those looking for a smaller, less developed atmosphere. Funds collected from the sale of Nemaha NRD vehicle permits at Kirkman's Cove, Iron Horse Trail Lake, and Wirth Brothers Lake help maintain these areas.



Kirkman's Cove



Steamboat Trace

Visitors to the Steamboat Trace can follow Lewis & Clark's footsteps along the Missouri River corridor from Brownville in Nemaha County to near Nebraska City in Otoe County.

Sharing the Costs

Annually the Nemaha NRD provides part of the cost for a variety of programs that enhance, improve, and protect people and their property. The District funds conservation measures such as terraces, waterways, small dams, grass seeding, tree planting, and educational or recreational projects in urban areas. Wells that are no longer used and have, therefore, become a threat to water quality and/or people and animals are properly closed using funding from NRD and state sources.



Urban Special Project, Syracuse

The Nemaha NRD serves as the conduit for state funds that are provided to install grass buffer strips, which help reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering adjacent waterways.

Educating Future Generations

To help our youth grow into knowledgeable adults, the Nemaha NRD sponsors or assists with programs that include the 5th grade Water Celebration at Peru each spring, Envirothon/Land Judging/Range Judging competitions for high school students, Watershed of Wonders day camp for 10-12 year olds, and 3rd grade Plant-A-Tree program each spring. NRD staff visit schools and help with hands-on workshops upon request.



Water Celebration @ Peru State College

Adult education is incorporated through field days, tours, workshops, a quarterly newsletter, and the District's website.

Your NRD:

•Protects lives and property through flood protection

- Over 470 watershed structures provide 4,735 acres of permanent water & 96,862 acre feet of flood storage

•Protects our future groundwater supplies

- 940 wells closed District-wide since 1994

•Uses taxpayer dollars effectively

- 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. In 2008-2009, for every \$1 of property tax, the Nemaha NRD collects another \$1.35 from other sources to carry out programs and projects.

The Nemaha NRD:

- is one of 23 NRDs.
- is governed by a 21-member board of directors elected by the voters in 10 subdistricts.
- meets monthly 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 and www.nemahanrd.org