

Nemaha NRD Board of Directors & Staff	
Executive Members	Subdistrict
Russel Moss	2 - Burr
<i>Board Chair</i>	
Alan Romine	9 - Falls City
<i>Board Vice Chair</i>	
Tracy Ensor	At-Large - Unadilla
<i>Board Secretary Treasurer</i>	
Orval Gigstad	3 - Syracuse
<i>NARD Representative</i>	
Doug Iske	3 - Dunbar
<i>NRC Representative</i>	
Board Members	Subdistrict
Bob Lassen	1 - Firth
Tim Loseke	1 - Hickman
Todd Boellstorff	2 - Douglas
Patty Coates	4 - Nebraska City
Dan Hodges	4 - Julian
Kevin Thorne	5 - Nebraska City
Adam Howard	5 - Nebraska City
Ed Ehmen	6 - Sterling
Duane Sugden	6 - Sterling
Rob Bohling	7 - Johnson
Dan Stukenholtz	7 - Brock
Klark Knipe	8 - Auburn
Dick James	8 - Verdon
Kraig Coonce	9 - Rulo
Tim Schardt	10 - Steinauer
Eldon Snoke	10 - Humboldt
Staff	Position
Kyle Hauschild	General Manager
Jane Kuhl	Assistant Manger
Brooke Gerdes	Administrative Bookkeeper
MacKinze Gordon	Administrative Secretary
Chuck Wingert	Water Resources Manager
Charlie Pierce	Water Resources Specialist
Correy McClintock	Water Technician
Aaron Stalder	Resources Specialist
Steve Bartels	Watershed Coordinator
Mark McDonald	Watershed Coordinator
Tomas Chale	Watershed Coordinator
Ken Hatten	Field Technician
Maddie Million	I&E Coordinator
NRCS Clerks	Position
Geralynn O'Malley	Tecumseh NRCS
Kathy Harlow	Falls City NRCS
Deb Nelson	Syracuse NRCS
Toni Niedermeyer	Auburn NRCS
Vacant	Pawnee City NRCS

Summer 2026

Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Cost-Share

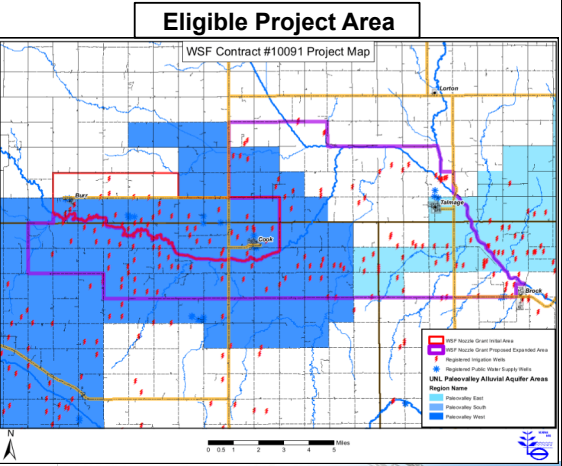
Improve your pivot. Save water.

The Nemaha NRD is offering 100% cost-share for approved center pivot nozzle conversions.

- ✓ Improve water distribution
- ✓ Reduce water loss
- ✓ Increase irrigation efficiency

Eligible pivots are within the designated project area. Funding available on a first-come, first-served basis. Approved projects are eligible for 100% cost-share funding. Producers are responsible for installation, maintenance, and replacement costs.

Contact the Nemaha NRD to learn more or determine eligibility.
(402)335-3325 • [nnrd@nemahanrd.org](mailto:nnrdsnemahanrd.org)



Insight is a publication of the Nemaha NRD. Requests to be placed upon the Insight mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to Maddie Million at 62161 Hwy 136 Tecumseh, NE 68450 or by email at mmillion@nemahanrd.org. For more information on the Nemaha Natural Resources District please visit our website at www.nemahanrd.org.



Summer 2026

nemaha

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

INSIGHT



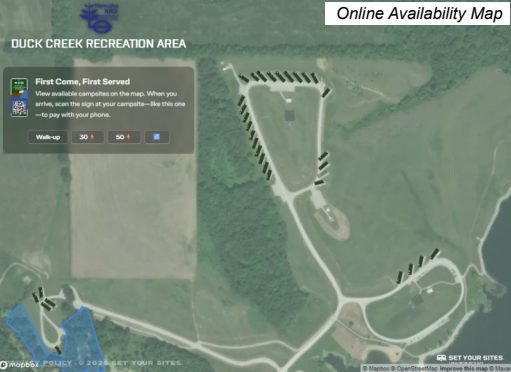
Upcoming Events

- Aug 13: Nemaha NRD Board of Directors Meeting
- Aug. 28-Sept. 3: Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island
- Sept. 7: Labor Day Holiday, NNRD Office Closed
- Sept. 10: Nemaha NRD Board of Directors Meeting
- Sept. 15-17: Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island
- Sept. 28-29: NARD Annual Conference, Kearney

Camp Smarter with Set Your Sites at Nemaha NRD Recreation Areas

Planning a camping trip to a Nemaha NRD recreation area just became more convenient. The Nemaha NRD has partnered with Set Your Sites, a modern campground management system that simplifies campsite registration while providing new tools to help visitors plan their stay before arriving.

Each campsite now features a unique QR code that allows campers to register and pay directly from a smartphone. After scanning the code, visitors can select their check-out date and complete payment using a credit or debit card—providing a convenient alternative to cash, checks, paper envelopes, and the traditional iron ranger system.



One of the biggest benefits of Set Your Sites is the ability to view campsite availability in real time. Before traveling to a recreation area, campers can visit the Recreation Areas page on the Nemaha NRD website, select a recreation area, and view an interactive map showing which campsites are occupied and which are available. This feature allows visitors to plan ahead and arrive with a better understanding of available camping options.

Daily and annual park permits are also available for purchase at each park entrance by scanning the posted QR code signs. Permits may also be purchased using the blue temporary envelopes, online at www.nemahanrd.org, or in person at the Nemaha NRD office during regular business hours.

In addition to improving the visitor experience, Set Your Sites provides Nemaha NRD staff with real-time campground occupancy information, allowing for more efficient campground management and improved visitor services. Whether planning a weekend getaway or an extended camping trip, Set Your Sites provides a simpler way to enjoy the outdoor recreation opportunities available at Nemaha NRD recreation areas.



Holiday Weekend Yields Master Angler Crappie

What started as a way to escape the Fourth of July weekend excitement turned into a fishing trip John Neville of Falls City, Nebraska, won't soon forget.

While camping at Kirkman's Cove Recreation Area over the holiday weekend, Neville decided to take his fishing boat out for a quiet afternoon on the water while the rest of the family enjoyed tubing behind a pontoon boat. His father-in-law joined him, looking for a little peace and quiet of his own.

The pair headed toward the lake's spillway, and after only a few casts, Neville hooked the fish of a lifetime—a crappie weighing 2 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 17¼ inches long, qualifying as a Nebraska Master Angler catch.



"It was a good thing my father-in-law came along so he could help net it into the boat," Neville said.

Although he originally planned to release the impressive fish back into the lake, his wife had other ideas.

"At the end of the day, I was going to put it back in the lake, but my wife talked me into keeping it," Neville said. "Now I'll be able to look at him on my wall in my man cave."

The catch serves as a reminder that memorable fishing opportunities can happen when you least expect them. Whether you're casting from the shoreline, fishing from a boat, or simply enjoying a weekend camping with family, Kirkman's Cove offers opportunities to slow down, enjoy the outdoors, and create memories that last a lifetime.

Congratulations to John on an incredible catch and a memorable Fourth of July weekend at Kirkman's Cove! His Master Angler crappie will certainly be a story—and a trophy—to remember for years to come.



Building Better Communities Through Urban Special Projects

The Nemaha NRD's Urban Special Projects Program continued to support improvements that enhanced outdoor spaces and promoted responsible resource management in communities across the district. Through cost-share funding, the program helped bring projects to life that focused on recreation, conservation, and long-term sustainability in more developed areas.



In Nebraska City, the first phase of a three-phase plan at Riverview Nature Park was completed. The first phase focused on improving trail conditions by grading and surfacing approximately 1,900 feet of the "Blue Trail" with chip rock, along with targeted improvements to sections

of the "Yellow Trail." The project improved accessibility while also supporting long-term trail stability and erosion control. The total project cost was \$20,000, with \$10,000 provided through NRD funding.



Another project at Wildwood Park in Nebraska City addressed shoreline stability through the replacement of a deteriorating limestone seawall. The project included installing 150 feet of new sheet piling, along with stabilization, backfilling, grading,

and seeding. The total project cost was \$101,368, with \$25,000 in support from the Nemaha NRD.

Interest in the program has continued to grow, with additional communities seeking support for conservation-focused projects that enhance local outdoor spaces in the next fiscal year. The continued participation from communities across the district demonstrated the value of the Urban Special Projects Program in supporting thoughtful, sustainable resource management while creating improved spaces for residents to enjoy.



Did You Know?

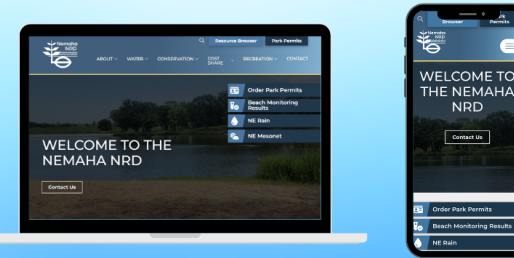
Private domestic wells are not tested or regulated like public water systems. As a well owner, you are responsible for monitoring your drinking water quality. Annual testing can help identify contaminants before they become a problem.

[Learn more about well testing:](#)
Nemaha NRD • (402) 335-3325

Our Website Has a Fresh New Look!

Discover new and improved features designed to help you quickly find the information and resources you need.

Visit us today at www.nemahanrd.org



Watershed of Wonders Inspires Outdoor Learning Once Again

Seventy-five area youth spent June 18 exploring, learning, and making memories at the Nemaha NRD's 2026 Watershed of Wonders youth day camp at Iron Horse Trail Lake.

Designed for youth ages 10–12, the camp provides hands-on experiences that introduce participants to Nebraska's natural resources while encouraging a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors. Throughout the day, campers rotated through interactive stations where they learned fishing techniques and fish identification, kayak and boat safety, archery, outdoor preparedness, and teamwork through fun group challenges.

From casting a fishing line to learning archery and riding in a boat, campers had the opportunity to build new skills, gain confidence, and experience the outdoors in new ways. Each participant received a NNRD goodie bag, and several lucky campers took home raffle prizes donated by generous supporters.

The success of Watershed



of Wonders would not have been possible without the support of volunteers, partners, and local businesses that generously donated their time, expertise, and resources.

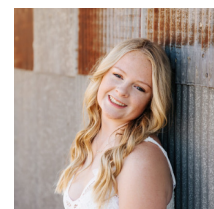
The Nemaha NRD extends its sincere appreciation to Alan & Freeda Romine, Andrew Falk and family, Big Indian Archers, Den's Country Meats, Elk Creek Firehouse, Family Dollar, Frito Lay, Highway 50 Smokehouse, Kayakjak, McGinness Game & Tackle LLC, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Scarlet & Green of Auburn, Scheels, Scouting America, Tecumseh Outdoor Store, and U-Stop/Dairy Queen for helping make this year's camp a success.

By connecting youth with nature through hands-on learning and outdoor recreation, Watershed of Wonders has continued to inspire the next generation to enjoy, appreciate, and care for Nebraska's natural resources. These experiences help plant the seeds for future conservation-minded citizens who understand the importance of protecting and preserving natural resources.



Board & Staff Updates

In July, MacKinze Gordon joined the NNRD headquarters staff as the new Administrative Secretary. She joins us from the NRCS office in Pawnee City, where she began her career earlier this year as a clerk.



Born and raised on a farm outside of Elk Creek, MacKinze developed a strong work ethic and appreciation for rural life from an early age. Outside of work, she enjoys riding horses, spending time with her dogs, and running her freshie business.

With MacKinze joining the team, Maddie Million has transitioned from the Administrative Secretary position into a full-time Information & Education Coordinator role. Maddie is excited to expand outreach efforts and bring new opportunities for education, engagement, and conservation

awareness to schools, communities, and residents throughout the district.

The Nemaha NRD also welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors this year, filling vacancies in Subdistricts 5 and 8. Adam Howard of Nebraska City was appointed to represent Subdistrict 5, and Klark Knipe of Auburn was appointed to represent Subdistrict 8.



Klark Knipe (left), Adam Howard (right)

Both bring valuable local perspectives and a shared commitment to protecting and managing natural resources in southeast Nebraska. We look forward to the experience, ideas, and leadership they will bring as they serve the communities and landscapes of the district.

Groundwater Management Update

The Nemaha NRD continues working toward long-term groundwater management solutions. In March 2025, the NRD Board of Directors implemented a temporary stay on new well permits, increases in historically irrigated acres, and groundwater transfers. The stay has been extended through subsequent Board actions as the District evaluated groundwater conditions, gathered public input through meetings and hearings, and revised its Groundwater Quantity Management Area (GWQMA) Rules and Regulations to help ensure the long-term sustainability of the District's groundwater resources.

In July 2026, the Board approved a final draft of proposed GWQMA Rules and Regulations updates after more than a year of review, discussion, and revision. Proposed changes include updated definitions, well spacing requirements, aquifer region designations, irrigation well and acre limitations, groundwater transfer guidelines, well permit ranking system updates, and guidelines for managing large water users. Previously approved and unexpired well permits, replacement wells, public water supply wells, qualifying lower-capacity wells, test hole drilling, and conversions from gravity to pivot irrigation remain allowed.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., prior to the monthly Board meeting, at

the Nemaha NRD office (62161 US Highway 136, Tecumseh, NE 68450) to receive written and oral testimony regarding the proposed changes. The draft Groundwater Quantity Management Area Rules and Regulations are available at www.nemahanrd.org. The Board will review all testimony received prior to taking final action.

2025 Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act

In 2025, the State of Nebraska launched the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA), a pilot program administered locally through Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts. The program provides incentive payments to producers who voluntarily reduce nitrogen fertilizer application rates on enrolled acres. Payment rates were \$10 per acre for dry land, \$12 per acre for irrigated land, and \$15 per acre for acres located within Wellhead Protection and Phase II Areas.

The Nemaha NRD had 21 producers participate in the 2025 program, with 10,696 acres approved for funding. Of those acres, 10,400 successfully met the required nitrogen reduction target—a 15% or 40-pound-per-acre reduction, whichever was less, from each producer's established baseline application rate. Only 296 acres did not meet the program requirements. In total, \$114,616.41 was distributed to participating producers who successfully fulfilled the program requirements.

without the need for excavation while significantly extending the life of each structure. This approach allows the NRD to preserve existing infrastructure while minimizing disturbance to the surrounding landscape. The nearly \$1 million investment reflects both the scale and importance of the project, costing approximately half as much as full pipe replacement while providing long-term benefits.

The Nemaha NRD continues to invest in the long-term maintenance of its watershed system. With 19 structures rehabilitated using UV-CIPP in 2026, the district has now completed rehabilitation on 42 structures since 2022—helping extend the life of aging infrastructure across more than 400 watershed structures.



Above: A Vertical outlet pipe after rehabilitation, the original corrugated metal pipe corroded and developed holes over time. An orange UV-CIPP liner forms a durable new pipe inside the existing structure.



Above: Workers install a UV-CIPP liner into an outlet pipe.

A Continuing Commitment to Watershed Maintenance

Each year, the Nemaha NRD prioritizes the upkeep of watershed structures that are essential to managing water across the landscape. In 2026, that work included repairing 19 aging structures in the Wilson Creek and Upper Big Nemaha watersheds. These dams and grade stabilization structures were designed to slow runoff, reduce erosion, and regulate water flow—functions that remain critical to maintaining the stability and health of our watershed system.

The 2026 project included structures in Otoe, Nemaha, and Lancaster counties, with the majority being grade stabilization structures along with several key flood control sites. Many of these structures were built more than 50 years ago, and as they age, deterioration of the outlet pipes becomes an increasing concern that must be addressed before it leads to more significant problems.

To complete these repairs, the Nemaha NRD utilized UV-CIPP (Ultraviolet Cured-In-Place Pipe), a trench-less rehabilitation method that restores pipes from within

This spring, 688 third graders across the district received a free tree to plant at home and learned about the importance of trees and conservation!



Groundwater Levels

A new system is being used to determine groundwater quantity. We are utilizing the District's AEM flight data to calculate the aquifer's saturated thickness. A network of 127 wells which include domestic, livestock, irrigation, public supply, and dedicated observation wells are measured annually the first week of April. This data is used to calculate the total rise or decline of that particular well. Once the decline reaches 15% of saturated thickness, additional evaluation is done to determine if there is an actual problem in a certain area. Of the 127 wells measured, five were excluded from the analysis because a minimum of five years of data is required. Of the remaining 122 wells analyzed, 27 (22%) were at or below the 15% cutoff. These wells were scattered throughout the District rather than concentrated in a single area, indicating no defined area of concern.

Well Abandonment

A total of 20 abandoned wells were decommissioned in the past fiscal year. \$9,265.67 toward cost share was paid out for this program.

Chemigation

In 2026, the District received 353 permit applications and inspected 138 systems for safety equipment and compliance with chemigation regulations. Out of the 353 applications received, 331 were renewals; 21 were new, and 1 was special.

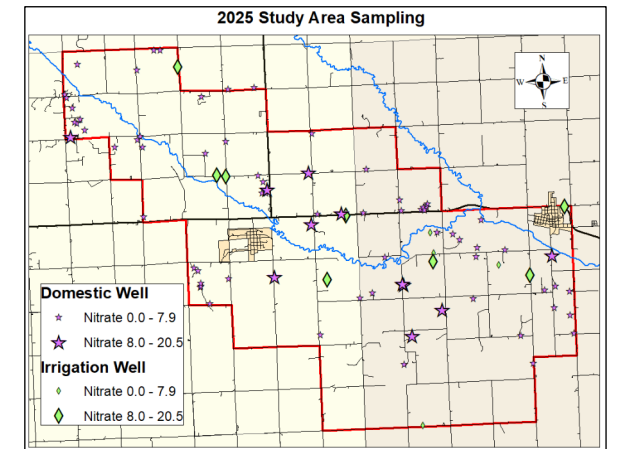
Injection sites must be inspected every three years, with all new chemigation sites requiring inspection to ensure safety equipment prior to issuance. Chemigators must complete training through UNL to become certified applicators, or to renew their certification license if expired. In-person trainings are typically held in the early months of the year, with an online training course available through [UNL's Chemigation Training and Certification Program](#). Chemigation application licenses are valid for four years and expire on January 1 of the fourth year after the license was issued. If you are unsure when your license expires, you can check your applicator license number and expiration date online through Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment's (DWEE) [Applicator Search List](#).

Nitrate Testing (Limit is 10ppm)

235 well samples were collected and tested for nitrate concentration in 2025. The district average nitrate concentration was 4.9 parts per million (ppm) with a median concentration of 2.2 ppm.

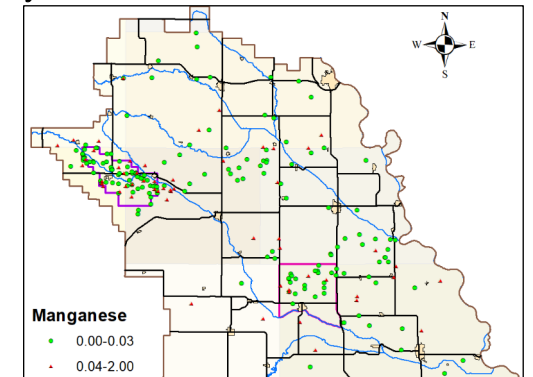
Of the 235 wells sampled, 154 were domestic and 81 were irrigation. Domestic wells had an average nitrate concentration of 5.8 ppm, with a median concentration of 3.9 ppm. Irrigation wells had an average nitrate concentration of 3.3 ppm.

90 of the wells sampled for nitrate testing were within the District's Phase II Groundwater Quality Management Area in northwestern Richardson county. Of these wells, 78 were domestic and 12 were irrigation wells. The average nitrate concentration for domestic wells was 3.6 ppm, irrigation wells was 9.8 ppm, and an overall concentration of 4.4 ppm. The results of this testing did not trigger a Phase II Management Area designation, but the district is exploring the establishment of an annual sampling program to proactively monitor nitrate levels in the area.



Manganese

Since 2022, the District has been testing domestic wells for manganese levels. Although not considered a primary contaminant, manganese has a secondary maximum contaminant level of 0.05 parts per million (ppm) in drinking water, established by the Environmental Protection Agency. Elevated manganese levels can affect the aesthetics of drinking water, often causing a somewhat metallic taste or smell, or an odd coloration of the water. Of the 222 domestic wells that had been tested for manganese from 2022 to 2025, the average manganese concentration was 0.08 ppm. Elevated levels can often be lowered through the installation and treatment of a reverse osmosis system.



Nemaha NRD Board Meetings

2nd Thursday of Every Month

- Committee Meetings — 6:00 p.m.
- Board Meeting — 7:00 p.m.

Open to the Public