



NEMAHA NRD QUICK FACTS:

- Over 470 flood and erosion control dams and structures provide 4,735 acres of permanent water & 96,862 acre feet of flood storage
- Since 1977 over 1.4 million trees and shrubs have been planted to provide wind protection, wildlife habitat, and erosion control
- Abandoned wells have been properly filled and sealed with cost-share assistance totaled more than 1,200!
- 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

NNRD Hosts Solar Eclipse Visitors

Nemaha NRD recreation areas, mainly Kirkman's Cove near Humboldt, Iron Horse Trail Lake by DuBois, and even Wirth Brothers Lake north of Tecumseh, became staging grounds for the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse on August 21. With the optimum line of totality cutting through the District, calls began coming in as early as



January about opportunities to view the event. All electrical camping hookups were reserved by July along with some of the other primitive spots. NRD staff were on hand at Kirkman's Cove and Iron Horse during the weekend and on August 21 to answer questions, direct traffic, and ensure a positive experience for all. Estimates were that nearly 1,000 visitors came to Kirkman's Cove with fewer at Iron Horse and Wirth Brothers; over \$1,000 in park fees were collected that weekend alone at the three sites.

NRD staff reported that visitors were gracious, appreciative, and respectful of the parks. Some groups who brought telescopes and other equipment readily shared their expertise with anyone who wished to take a peek through their lenses. Though totality at Kirkman's Cove was a fleeting few seconds, most agreed that the experience was still remarkable.

Work Continues on Water Issues

NRD staff is working with an engineering firm to identify different aquifer regions within the District to allow rules to be more accurately applied based on the needs and concerns in each area. It's no small task to develop these boundaries and, subsequently, craft rules that will provide the best management of the water for everyone. Preliminary information has been reviewed, and the District continues to move forward with this plan.

An effort to work with communities and water suppliers to promote and fund management practices to benefit water quality and quantity in wellhead protection areas is also underway. A few entities have expressed interest, and the District is assisting with grant applications and other ideas for each group.

Middle Big Nemaha Watershed a Success

The Middle Big Nemaha Watershed includes the communities of Tecumseh, St. Mary, Crab Orchard, Vesta, and Elk Creek. A watershed plan completed by the federal government in 1987 called for the construction of eight large watershed dams for flood control, which were completed from 1994 through 2004.

After completion of federal flood control projects, a 10-year timeframe is allowed to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan and to determine if additional flood control dams are needed. This past year the District accepted a recommendation by the federal government that the Middle Big Nemaha Watershed plan be considered complete and officially closed out.

Duck Creek Inches toward Opening in 2018

Once the dam was completed in 2016, work proceeded to construct and install the recreation component of the Duck Creek Recreation Area. Over the past year interior roads, parking areas, and RV pads were constructed and the boat dock installed. Nebraska Game & Parks Commission continues to stock fish in the lake according to a predetermined schedule. A well for drinking water, water lines and hydrants, and electricity for RV hookups and lighting at the boat dock have been added. Seeding of some areas is complete with more to be done in the fall of 2017.

NRD crews are working on setting the picnic tables, grills, and fire rings as well as planting shade trees. Picnic shelters and concrete restrooms will be placed this fall. A contract for concrete flat work to include sidewalks/trail surface, stairs, and handicapped parking pads and access will be awarded this fall. Tentative opening of the park is scheduled for early summer, 2018. However, fishing will likely still be limited until the stock has time to achieve catchable size. Until its opening, the park's gates will remain locked; and visitors are warned against trespassing.



Your NRD:

- **Protects lives and property**
 - Free water testing for nitrates & bacteria
 - Continuing efforts to maintain & improve flood control projects
- **Protects our future**
 - Educating youth through workshops, contests, and school presentations
 - Providing funds for outdoor education & recreation in urban areas and schools
- **Protects taxpayer dollars**
 - Responsible budgeting pairs local tax dollars with other state and federal grants to fund important projects

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 and
www.nemahard.org