



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 that 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

Duck Creek Recreation Area Attracts Many

The long-anticipated opening of the Duck Creek Recreation Area northwest of Peru finally arrived in the spring of 2018. A formal grand opening and dedication ceremony capped several months of finishing touches on the 150-acre park and its 62-acre lake. Camping for RVs and tents, no-wake boating, superior fisheries with ample access for shoreline fishing, two picnic shelters and playgrounds, outhouses, running water, and 28 electrical hookup RV pads await those who visit the public area. With its uncharacteristic clear water, fishing and kayaking are popular almost any day of the week.

Work is not done at the park, however. Extending hiking trails, expanding the beach, and more grass seeding & picnic tables are in the plans.

A Nemaha NRD park entry permit is required but costs just \$5/day or \$15 for an annual pass. Reservations are not accepted for camping, which is first-come, first-served; electrical hookups cost \$12/night.



More Water Data Collected

In June, 2018, strange flying objects were reported in the skies of the Nemaha NRD. Though initiating interesting conversation, the low-flying helicopter with its suspended hoop was actually a device to gather geologic data from the ground far below. Referred to as Airborne Electromagnetic survey or AEM, it's really just another way of collecting data about the layers and thickness of silt, clay, sand, gravel, and bedrock below ground without drilling holes. The information will be used to help with groundwater delineation and future management decisions. Reports from the most recent flights are expected to be available sometime around February, 2019.



Rehab Aims to Strengthen Dam Safety

Southwest of the village of Adams in Gage County is dam site 25-C, also known as Doctor's Lake. Built for flood control back in 1974, the structure continues to uphold its purpose. Because it is considered a high-hazard dam, meaning a failure could result in loss of life, NRD and State officials regularly inspect and monitor the structure; and maintenance is ongoing. Though no issues exist to believe the dam could fail, current dam safety standards have called for rehabilitation of the site to further lessen the chance of dam failure. Bids will be let this fall to construct a concrete chute through the center of the dam as part of the project. Construction should take about a year with federal funds picking up 65% of the cost and the NRD funding the remainder.

Natural Resources Education Thriving

In 2018 youth throughout the Nemaha NRD have proved their interest in natural resources. In the spring 12 teams from 8 schools competed at the regional Envirothon contest where teams of high schoolers are tested in seven different natural resource related categories. The winner from the southeast area, Norris High School, went on to compete at the State Envirothon at Niobrara State Park in April. In May a Land Judging team from Johnson County Central competed at National Land Judging in Oklahoma City. Nick Goracke placed third out of 390 competitors while his 4-member team ended up 28th/100 teams.

Younger kids in the NRD learned about water at the annual Water Celebration held at Peru State College each spring. This year 375 fifth graders got hands-on, fun experience with all aspects of water at the event. In April classroom presentations at 14 schools about the importance of trees and how to plant & care for them prepared 720 third graders to take home their very own tree as part of the annual Plant-A-Tree program.

Watershed of Wonders is held each even numbered year in June, and this year 66 kids age 10-12 gathered at Iron Horse Trail Lake for a day of fun. They got to fish, take a boat ride, try archery, go on an amazing water race, and shoot water rockets.



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.nemahand.org