

# KNOW YOUR NRD

## Lower Platte South Natural Resources District



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

Summer 2009

### NRD Protects Resources, Quality of Life

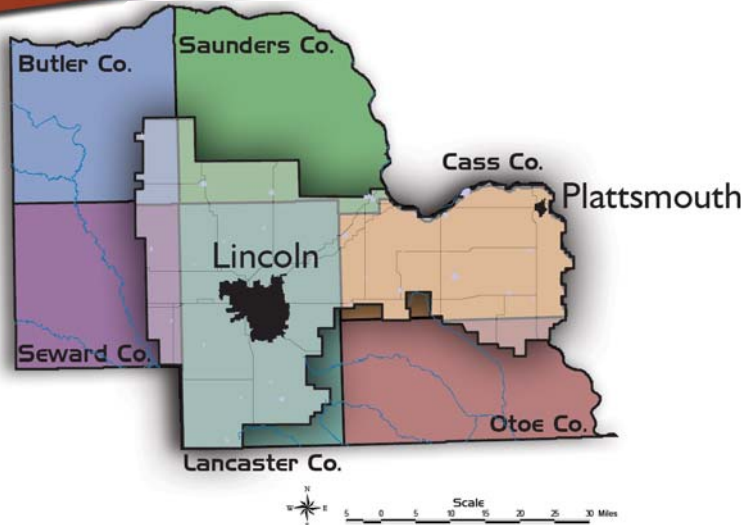
by LPSNRD Board Chair Ron Case

Our natural resources, particularly soil and water, play much more important roles in our lives than most of us realize. Since 1972, the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors, through programs for flood protection, stream-bank stabilization, wetland restoration, environmental education, land treatment, water monitoring and much more, has helped make sure those essential resources also enhance the lives of generations to come. It is truly an honor to be trusted with this important charge and citizens can be sure the Board's 21 members give them excellent representation.



Case

The NRD is local government protecting local natural resources. The board members you elect work hard to know the needs of the District and can act quickly toward those needs. Citizens can take good advantage of this local control by communicating their thoughts to Board members as we develop a budget for the 2009-10 Fiscal Year. See page three or the NRD web site, [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org), for a schedule of opportunities to submit your valuable input.



### LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NRD



## Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future

### Antelope Valley Protects Lincoln from Flooding

Lincoln is a stronger and safer community with a bright economic future because of the Antelope

Valley Project and the Lower Platte South NRD is proud to be playing a leadership role.

The Antelope Valley Project will protect over 400 acres, 800 dwellings and businesses and 1,200 residents by removing them from the 100-year flood plain in Lincoln when the flood reduction project is completed by the end of 2009. The Project involves construction of a two-mile long, open waterway in the east downtown area that will carry the 100-year flood

without it spilling over the banks of the channel. The vegetated and landscaped waterway will extend the current greenway along Antelope Creek and its linear trail will make connections with six other trails. It expands Trago Park and will create Union Plaza, a three-square block community park and festival center.

The NRD, the City of Lincoln and the University of Nebraska Lincoln are partners in the Antelope Valley Project, which, in addition to the flood reduction component, includes six miles of new roads in an improved transportation network, and the opportunity for revitalization of this economically depressed area. Motorists and pedestrians/bicyclists will have a safer experience with trail undercrossings of all bridges and the elimination of two train crossings.



Antelope Valley Project looking north toward Devaney Sports Center

## Look Out Below to Protect Ground Water

### New Ground Water Rules Keep NRD Proactive

Over more than 20 years, the NRD has developed a large network of wells across the district to monitor both the quality and quantity of ground water.



*NRD Water Sampling Truck*

It's one of the many tools we use to try and keep our drinking water within federal standards and safe.

New Ground Water Rules and Regulations adopted by the NRD Board in 2008 have become another valuable tool for the preservation and protection of our water. Thanks largely to what we've learned through our ground water monitoring network, new procedures to apply for a well permit now

depend on the location and the size of the well, instead of our using a "one size fits all" application process.

The new rules also require any new or replacement well the NRD approves be equipped with a flow meter that measures how much water has been pumped through the well. All existing registered wells designed to pump more than 50 gallons per minute must have meters by January 30, 2011. The usage information gathered annually from these meters will provide more valuable information to an ever-growing base of data on ground water in the district and throughout Nebraska.

The NRD places a high value on the data it will gain from its new flow meter rules, so a new cost-sharing program has been introduced to help well owners meet the new requirements. The NRD's Water Meter and Water Meter Maintenance Program provides 75% reimbursement to the well owner for the cost of the meter, up to \$675. Maintenance cost reimbursements of 75% or up to \$45 will also be made.

To satisfy another requirement, the NRD is preparing to help landowners in the district certify their irrigated acres before January 1, 2010. We'll be in touch! The NRD is proud to be playing a leading role in preserving and protecting ground water resources for generations to come.

### State Determines the Lower Platte River Basin is Not Fully Appropriated

This spring the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (State) reversed its preliminary decision and ruled that the lower Platte River is not fully appropriated. Fully appropriated basically means that all the available water in the river is spoken for by commercial, industrial, domestic, irrigation or instream flow purposes. The Lower Platte South NRD is very concerned about the Platte River and is also interested in making sure the science supports the management of the Platte River.



### New Ground Water Rules and Regulations Require:

- all registered wells to have meters by January 30, 2011
- certification of irrigated acres by January 1, 2010

A complete copy of the NRD's Ground Water Rules & Regulations is available at [www.Ipsnrd.org](http://www.Ipsnrd.org), click on Ground Water.

#### Wellhead Willy's

##### Ground Water Conservation Tips



1. Water lawns and gardens in the morning or evening to avoid evaporation.
2. Use drought-tolerant plants in your landscape. These plants need minimal amounts of water to thrive.
3. Fix or replace dripping nozzles and faucets.
4. Chill a pitcher of water in the refrigerator, instead of running tap water until it gets cold.
5. ALWAYS follow label directions when applying fertilizer to your lawn or crop.

## Local Government Protecting Local Natural Resources

### What We Do

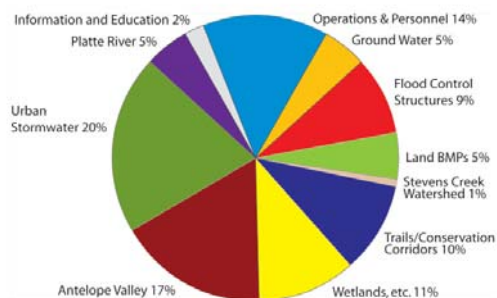
Under Nebraska Rev. Statutes, Section 2-2339, the NRD develops and administers plans, facilities, works and programs relating to:

- Erosion Prevention and Control
- Prevention of Damages from floodwater and Sediment
- Flood Prevention and Control
- Soil Conservation
- Water Supply for Any Beneficial Uses
- Development, Management Utilization & Conservation of Ground Water and Surface Water
- Pollution Control
- Solid Waste Disposal and Sanitary Drainage
- Drainage Improvement and Channel Rectification
- Development and Management of Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Development and Management of Recreational and Park Facilities
- Forestry and Range Management

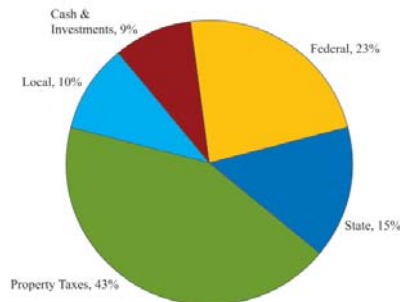
### NRD Budget

The FY 2008-09 NRD Budget totals \$20.3 million in revenue and expenditures and the property tax levy rate; \$0.041814 per \$100 in valuation; is unchanged from the previous budget.

NRD Expenditures, FY 2009 Budget



NRD Revenues, FY 2009 Budget

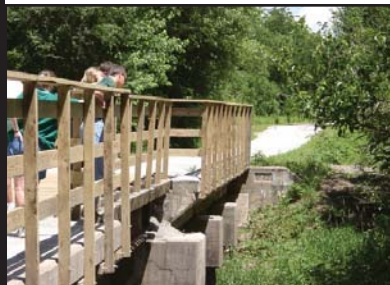


The FY 2009-10 NRD Budget is currently being drafted and there are several opportunities for public input:

- June 17th, 6pm - annual Budget Public Input Session
- July 22nd, 7pm - NRD Board meeting
- August 12, 7pm - Budget Public Hearing
- August 19, 7pm - NRD Board meeting & final consideration of Budget

All meetings are at the LPSNRD office, 3125 Portia Street, Lincoln. A map is available at [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org).

### MoPac East Trail is Seventeen!



The NRD's MoPac East Recreational Trail provides eastern Nebraska unique opportunities for fitness, education, adventure and solitude. Following abandonment by the Missouri Pacific Railroad, the NRD developed and opened the trail from 84th Street to Walton in 1992. Today the crushed limestone trail stretches to Wabash, a distance of 25 miles and the natural-surfaced Charles L. Warner Equestrian Trail has been added to the corridor to make "MoPac" one of the most used of all NRD lake, wetland and trail public use areas. Learn much more about NRD recreational opportunities at [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org). Click on Recreation.

### LPSNRD Board - by subdistrict

(map at [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org), click on Board & Staff)

- 1 Don Jacobson, Lincoln  
David Potter, Valparaiso
  - 2 Marsha Babcock, Elmwood  
David Nielsen, Weeping Water
  - 3 Larry Swanson, Lincoln  
Ron Case, Lincoln
  - 4 Phyllis Hergenrader, Lincoln  
Dean Petersen, Lincoln
  - 5 Greg Osborn, Lincoln  
Steve Larrick, Lincoln
  - 6 Doug Samuelson, Lincoln  
Elaine Hammer, Lincoln
  - 7 Russell Barger, Lincoln  
Dan Steinkruger, Lincoln
  - 8 Larry Hall, Lincoln  
Ron Svoboda, Lincoln
  - 9 Larry Zimmerman, Lincoln  
Bob Andersen, Lincoln
  - 10 Ken Reitan, Lincoln  
Jason Hayes, Lincoln
- At-Large  
David Landis, Lincoln

### Nebraska's NRDs

NRDs provide local control and local solutions for Nebraskans to manage natural resources. With boundaries based on watersheds and major Nebraska river basins, there are 23 NRDs across the state.

The Lower Platte South NRD is governed by a 21-member Board elected by registered voters in the District. The Board you elect works with staff to oversee all NRD operations and programs. The NRD staff works cooperatively with other local, state and federal agencies to promote the conservation of natural resources in our NRD.

## The NRD helps landowners...

### ...protect our lakes, rivers and wetlands

Every year, the NRD provides cost-sharing of over \$1 million dollars to 200 agricultural producers in the District, who, with help from the NRCS, implement best management practices that protect the soil and improve surface water quality. The NRD provides technical assistance to develop a plan that will work on their property. Having these practices in place prevents erosion into our lakes, rivers and wetlands.



### ...protect our safety and ground water

An abandoned well is a threat to the safety of people and animals and invites rapid pollution of ground water. The NRD helps landowners with the cost of having abandoned wells properly decommissioned. Recent program changes now allow landowners to have wells decommissioned by a licensed contractor at any time, following an inspection of the well by the NRD. The NRD will also provide funding to the landowner based on an established schedule. To learn more, see [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org) and click on Ground Water.

### ...protect ground water

The over-application of nitrogen fertilizer is a frequent cause of high nitrate levels in ground water, so the NRD cost-shares with farmers to purchase equipment that enables more accurate fertilizer applications AND reduces the amount of fertilizer farmers have to buy. The NRD will reimburse District farmers and/or landowners 50% of the cost of this fertilizer flow meter and manifold equipment, up to \$1,900.



### ...plant trees for wildlife & windbreaks

District landowners purchased more than 33,000 seedling trees and shrubs through the NRD in 2008-09. By combining orders with Nebraska's 22 other NRDs, the Lower Platte South is able to offer good-quality, low-cost seedlings in many different species suitable for windbreaks and wildlife habitat. The minimum order is 100 plants. We also offer special planting services.

### ...preserve native prairies, wetlands and forests

Landowners who want all or part of their land preserved for conservation purposes may talk with the NRD about establishing a conservation easement. A conservation easement is an agreement between the NRD and any current OR FUTURE landowner that the land can only be used for specific purposes. For instance, the agreement may say the land can only be managed in its natural state with no further development.



## Your NRD Provides:

- Tree seedlings at a reduced cost to landowners
- 800 Acres of NRD Community Wetlands
- 8 public areas with 357 acres of lakes
- 50 miles of trails, with 695 acres of trail corridor & 35 bridges

## Education:

Your NRD provides hands-on experiences and presentations to 10,000 people annually about the importance of natural resources:

### Youth

- Classroom presentations
- Field Trips to NRD areas
- After School Nature Clubs
- Family Nature Nights at Schools
- Summer Camps
- Teacher workshops
- Range & Land Judging
- earth wellness festival
- Arbor Day tree give-away
- Outdoor Classrooms

### Adults

- Nitrogen Management Certification
- Tree workshops
- Urban erosion and sediment control
- Presentations to civic groups

## First Edition

This is the NRD's first widely-distributed and expanded edition of "Know Your NRD". We think it is an efficient and cost-effective way of keeping residents of the District informed about NRD activities. Each of Nebraska's 23 NRDs have similar publications available through the web site of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, [www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org).

Find out more about  
Nebraska's NRDs at  
[www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org)  
or  
[www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org)