WHAT ARE THE SALINE WETLANDS?

Saline wetlands are characterized by the levels of salinity found in the soil. Plants and animals that live in the wetlands are specially adapted to the salty conditions, creating one of the earth's most rare ecosystems. This unique phenomenon is thought to be a result of salt deposits in the ground left by seas that once covered the area. Although it is estimated that 20,000 acres of saline wetlands once existed, that number is down to less than 4,000 acres. Most people have little to no knowledge of the natural habitat and are therefore destroying existing wetlands through development. This makes conservation efforts all the more important. The saline wetlands kept by the Lower Platte South NRD are home to two endangered species shown below.

Salt Creek Tiger Beetle

Saltwort Plant

Detailed Rules and Regualtions can be found at www.lpsnrd.org > Recreation > Wetlands

ABOUT THE NRD

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District is one of 23 districts in the state of Nebraska formed in 1972 for the purpose of managing the state's natural resources, with an emphasis on watershed management. Programs and activities include all areas of natural resource management and development: tree planting, flood protection, wildlife habitat, stream bank stabilization, environmental education, land treatment, water monitoring and many others. The districts are partially funded by property taxes and governed by a board of directors—elected representatives who serve four-year terms. The NRD system is local government working to protect local natural resources. The Lower Platte South NRD includes nearly all of Lancaster and Cass counties and parts of Seward, Saunders, Otoe, and Butler counties.

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

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The Lower Platte South NRD is an
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

THE LPSNRD SALINE WETLANDS

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
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www.lpsnrd.org

LINCOLN SALINE WETLANDS NATURE CENTER

Restored in the early 1990s, the Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Center is an exceptional natural habitat in an urban setting. This wetland is open to the public, providing a wood chip walking path and a parking area. Also featured is historic Wyoming Bridge, moved to the wetland in 2004 from Otoe County.

WHITEHEAD SALINE WETLANDS

Located near 27th and Interstate 80, the Whitehead Saline Wetlands were initially donated in 1996 by the Whitehead Oil Company. This property acts as the center of what has become a complex of saline wetland properties. LPSNRD has acquired an easement on 22 acres of saline wetlands from Dial properties adjacent to White Head Saline Wetlands. The City of Lincoln has also acquired nearly 62 acres of saline wetlands connected to this site. Also in the area are the Schleich Wetlands. The observation deck near the east end of Whitehead Drive was another of many Eagle Scout projects sponsored by LPSNRD throughout the District. Interpretive signage has been added to the deck to increase understanding and enjoyment of saline wetlands.

LITTLE SALT FORK MARSH PRESERVE

This 180-acre nature preserve is located two miles east of Raymond, NE and is a popular stop-over for many migrating waterfowl. Its saline wetland and prairie features were restored by the Nature Conservancy between 1995 and 1997. LPSNRD purchased the property in 2013. There are many saline wetland plants found on the marsh, including the endangered saltwort plant.

MARSH WREN

Located south of 30th street and Arbor Road in Lincoln, Marsh Wren, is the District's latest saline wetland restoration. A Nebraska Environmental Trust grant to the City of Lincoln, through the Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership helped fund the project. The project utilizes salt water underground and flowing in adjacent streams. In addition, two salt water production wells and distribution systems have been installed, making the project highly experimental. The public may watch the changes, using a parking area and shaded observation deck.