



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581  
P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org)

### MEMORANDUM

Date: September 9, 2021

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Ariana Kennedy, Resources Conservationist *AK*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Wednesday, September 8, 2021, the Recreation, Forestry and Wildlife subcommittee met in the Large Conference Room at 5:30 p.m. Subcommittee members present; Anthony Schutz – Chair, Susan Seacrest and Ray Stevens. A quorum was not present at the subcommittee meeting. Other attendees were Bill Oberg (Prairie Preservation), Deb Eagan, Paul Zillig, Tom Malmstrom, Jay Seaton, Dan Schulz and Ariana Kennedy.

Jay Seaton, District Forester, reported on the status of the Natural Resources District (NRD) Windbreak Renovation Program. Seaton informed the subcommittee the Agreement between Nebraska Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service has not been finalized. Practices for the program will include; windbreak establishment, windbreak renovation, tree/shrub replacement and tree/shrub site preparation. Seaton is hopeful the Agreement will be finalized this fall to allow the program to begin in Spring 2022.

Next, Seaton discussed the proposed program rules and District administration guidelines for the NRD Tree Voucher Program. Seaton covered the 'NRD TREE VOUCHER PROGRAM' document that was provided to the subcommittee. Document is attached to this memo. Seaton's next steps will be to contact and work with local nurseries on the program, designate a list of trees for the program, and set cost-share amounts for the program. Seaton will return to the subcommittee with this information and final recommendations for the program at a future subcommittee meeting.

Third topic discussed at the subcommittee was the Prairie Preservation request letter from Jon Oberg and Bill Oberg. Bill Oberg informed the subcommittee they are concerned about the threat of development on 17-acre parcel of prairie that may be designated as a blighted area. Oberg referenced the Nine-Mile Prairie Environs Master Plan and that the properties identified in the Master Plan are part of the tall grass prairie system of Eastern Nebraska. The property is adjacent to land owned by them and close to Nine-Mile Prairie. There is no action from the subcommittee at this time, Oberg stated he wanted to at least get the conversation started with the subcommittee on the 17-acre property as well as the possibility of exploring conservation easements in the future. Letter from Jon Oberg and Bill Oberg is attached. Map titled: 'Review Parcel near Nine-Mile Prairie' also attached.

The first action item on the agenda was the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership acquisition for the Kreiner property. Malmstrom reviewed the 'KREINER PROPERTY (156.98 acres)' document that was provided to the subcommittee (document is attached to this memo). He mentioned the property has saline wetlands and designated critical habitat for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle. The property lies between the Glacial Hill property and Frank Shoemaker Marsh property (see attached map, 'Illustration 1 – Area Map'). Proposed funding for the acquisition is NRD (\$200,000), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission – Federal, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 funds (\$357,806), and Lincoln Parks Foundation (\$325,000 - \$400,000 plus \$100,000 for a land management endowment). There is \$200,000 in the NRD Fiscal Year 2022 budget for a Saline wetland conservation easement or fee title acquisition. Malmstrom stated this is a willing seller, the City of Lincoln would negotiate with the Kreiners, and the City of Lincoln would own the property.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Schutz and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors provide \$200,000 of District funds towards the acquisition of the Kreiner saline wetland tract located in the SE ¼ of Section 13, Township-11-North, Range-6-East, Lancaster County, Nebraska.**

**A quorum was not present, a motion will need to be placed on the floor and seconded in order for the Board to take action on this item.**

Last agenda item was the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Grant application for the City of Lincoln Greenways Project. Malmstrom explained the City of Lincoln will be submitting a grant application to NET that will include funding for Nebraska Saline Wetlands and for the removal of cedar trees at Wilderness Park. The NRD would provide \$50,000 for Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership per the inter-local agreement and \$50,000 of in-kind services from seasonal employees or cash match. An additional \$40,000 of cash match would be for tree removal at Wilderness Park. Letters from the City of Lincoln (Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director) and the NRD (Paul Zillig, General Manager) are attached to this memo.

**It was moved by Stevens and seconded by Seacrest and unanimously approved to recommend the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors agree to provide up to \$140,000 of Nebraska Environmental Trust grant match including the \$50,000 commitment in the Saline Wetland Conservation Partnership agreement, \$50,000 of in-kind services from seasonal employees or cash for saline wetlands and \$40,000 of cash match for wetland restoration in Wilderness Park during the grant period.**

**A quorum was not present, a motion will need to be placed on the floor and seconded in order for the Board to take action on this item.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file

## NRD TREE VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (“District”) has budgeted funds for the purpose of sharing the total cost of trees for the good of urban forest. Below is the program rules and District administering guidelines.

- Applications will be awarded on a “first come, first serve” basis.
- Maximum of 1 tree per applicant AND location per year.
- Applications will be accepted year around until available funds are expended.
- Applications will be reviewed and approved by the District Forester.
- Applicants give permission for District Forester to visit site to inspect planting area and planted tree.
- Tree planting location must be within the District. [See map.](#)
  - Can be planted on rights-of-way, common areas, etc., with proper approval.
  - Can be on private ground residential & commercial.
  - Land cannot be owned by the United State government, the State of Nebraska, and/or any division of government of the State of Nebraska (i.e. county, city, local government).
- The address of tree planting must be accurate with:
  - Detailed map of exact location of future tree placement.
  - Pictures of tree placement location.
- Confirmation of request for tree planting, via email receipt, from Digger’s Hotline, 811.
  - Applicants are required to call Digger’s Hotline (811) prior to any planting.
- No shrubs, grass, flowers and orchard trees.
  - Species not recommended for the District will NOT be approved. [See list.](#)
- District will provide technical expertise for tree planting location, tree selection, proper planting and maintenance.
- No cost share will be for the nursery to plant.
- Applicant is responsible for nursery planting cost.
- Establish agreement with a local nursery to provide trees for Applicants.
  - Agreement will be to offer a diverse range of tree species.
  - Size of trees will be the same as Community Forestry Program guidelines.
  - Applicant will pay their portion to the nursery for the tree.
  - District will pay the nursery the remaining portion.
  
- Applicants must sign and date application prior to planting.
- Applicants after planting will provide District confirmation of tree planting, via email receipt from nursery, receipt from Digger’s Hotline, 811 and pictures of planted tree.

All approved projects must be completed before June 1<sup>st</sup>. This allows the District Forester the month of June to inspect the plantings and issue payment before the end of the fiscal year, which is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

August 20, 2021

Chairperson Deborah Eagan  
2021 Indigo Ct.  
Lincoln, NE 68521

**RE: Prairie Preservation**

Dear Chairperson Eagan,

We are contacting the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District ("District") regarding a 17-acre parcel of prairie land that is presently held by the Lincoln Airport Authority ("LAA"), and slated to be sold and developed in the near future. The parcel is identified as: Lancaster County parcel 1106308005000, a 17-acre tract west of Arnold Elementary School. This property is adjacent to prairie lands separately owned by us, and only a short distance from Nine-Mile Prairie. These properties, and surrounding properties, were the subject of the "Nine-Mile Prairie Environs Master Plan" which was initiated by the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (IANR) Center for Grassland Studies and only recently completed in April of 2020. A copy of the Master Plan can be found at: <https://grassland.unl.edu/nine-mile/nine-mile-plan.pdf>. The properties identified in the Master Plan, individually and collectively, are representative of the unique tall-grass prairie ecosystem of eastern Nebraska and, as such, are important to the environmental, social, and historical character of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

We are concerned by the threat of development of this 17-acre parcel and are actively working to take measures for its protection. To that end, we are seeking the assistance of the District in several ways. First, we think it is important for the District to publicly advise the LAA and Lincoln City Council of the environmental, social, and historical significance of this property as undeveloped prairie. We believe this can be accomplished in several ways. Second, we would like to receive the assistance of the District in providing financial assistance to acquire this property and protect it via conservation easement issued to the District. We also believe this can be achieved in several ways.

To fully explore how this importance prairie remnant can be protected for future generations, we ask that this matter be assigned to the Recreation, Forestry, and Wildlife subcommittee for further consideration. We would be delighted to attend the subcommittee meeting to provide additional information to move this matter along. Unfortunately we are short on time and ask that this matter be advanced as quickly as possible.

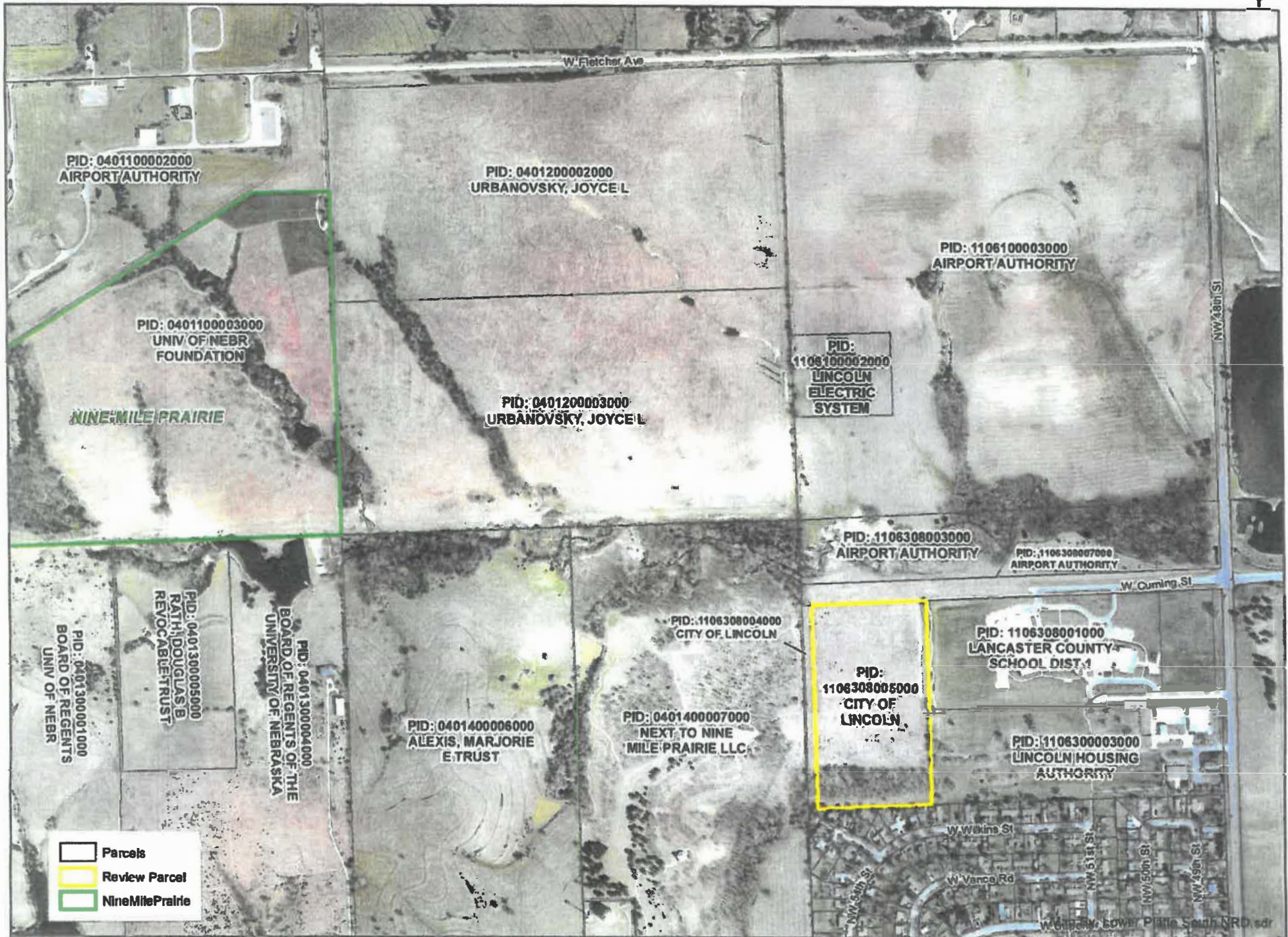
*Thank you in advance for your assistance,*

Sincerely,

  
Jon Oberg and Bill Oberg

cc: Director Anthony Schutz; Director Christine Lamberty; Director Lisa Lewis; Director Susan Seacrest; Director Ray Stevens; Director John Yoakum; and Manager Paul Zillig.

# Review Parcel near Nine-Mile Prairie



Legend:

- Parcels (black outline)
- Review Parcel (yellow outline)
- Nine Mile Prairie (green outline)

Map Created: September 2021 - LPSNRD, sdr

**KREINER PROPERTY (156.98acres)**

Location – Approximately 1.5 miles north of Interstate 80 along north 27<sup>th</sup> Street; southern boundary of the quarter section is in line with Bluff Road and lies between Glacial Hill & Frank Shoemaker Marsh (See Illustration 1 – Area Map).

Property consists of:

- 27.03 acres - unrestricted use
- 94.26 acres – floodplain/floodway land
- 35.69 acres – severed land (non-floodplain)

Total 156.98 acres

Proposed Ownership – City of Lincoln

**Proposed Funding**

Lower Platte South NRD - **\$200,000** (see attached from 2022 Long Range Implementation Plan)

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission – Federal, US Fish & Wildlife Service Section 6 funds - **\$357,806**

Lincoln Parks Foundation - Private donor - **\$325,000 to \$400,000 plus \$100,000 for a land management endowment.**

**Property Facts** (See Attachments)

Approximately 95 acres in the floodplain

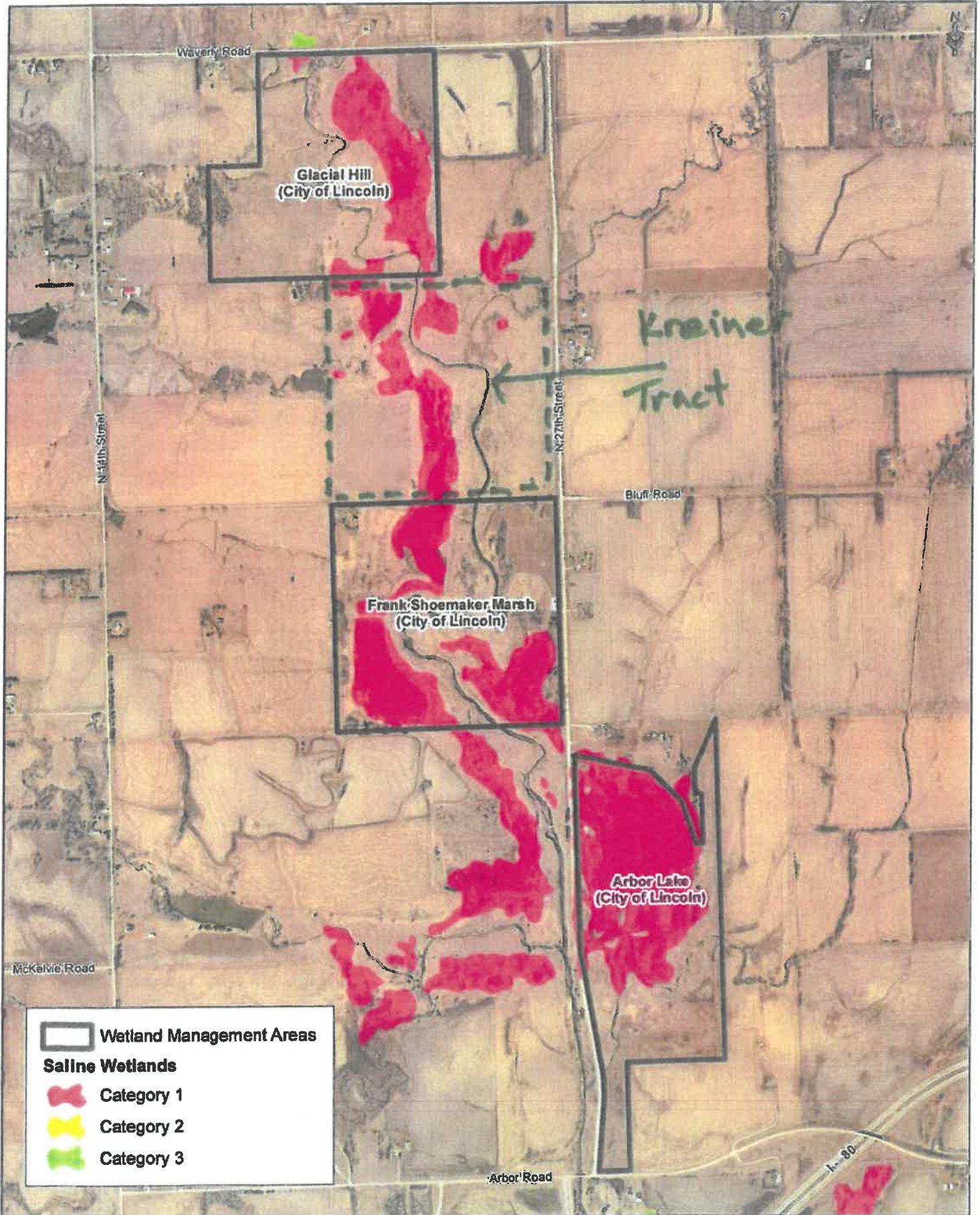
Approximately 32 acres of saline wetlands

Approximately 20 acres of designated critical habitat – Salt Creek Tiger Beetle

Approximately 27 acres of Conservation Reserve Program grasslands expires end of 2021)

Approximately 78.92 acres of grasslands

# Illustration 1 - Area Map





LINCOLN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
3131 "O" Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68510-1514  
402-441-7847 fax: 402-441-9249 lincoln.ne.gov

September 2, 2021

Paul Zillig  
General Manager  
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District  
3125 Portia Street  
P.O. Box 83581  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68521-3581

RE: Matching funds for Wilderness Park Greenways grant

Dear Paul:

The City of Lincoln recently submitted a 2022 Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) grant. As part of this grant application, we are requesting funds for the removal of cedar trees and other woody vegetation encroaching into wetland and open grassland areas within Wilderness Park. The priority areas for tree remediation are wetlands, which were restored in 2008 with a NET grant. The City and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) partnered on this 2008 project by providing matching cash funds.

It was noted in the 2022 grant request the City would reach out to the LPSNRD for funding assistance to help with the tree removal project through the two-year grant period. I am inquiring if the LPSNRD Board of Directors would be willing to provide up to \$40,000 over a two-year period (July 2022 – June 2024) to assist with this project. These funds would be contingent upon the City 2022 NET grant being awarded.

The City, along with other partners have committed funding to assist with tree removal for approximately 50 acres of land around six restored wetlands and adjacent grassland. The NET grant request for this project was \$75,000. Committed matching funds include \$5,000 from the Friends of Wilderness Park, \$10,000 for native seeding of areas cleared of trees through the City "Prairie in the Parks" program, and up to \$25,000 in-kind service from City Greenways Section staff.

Wilderness Park is approximately seven miles long and consists of nearly 1,500 acres of floodplain with woodland or riparian habitat and some areas of grassland including old agricultural fields. The area provides public accessibility to a natural environment for the community. Wilderness Park is predominately owned by the County and managed by the City of Lincoln.

We appreciate your continuing partnership and support of efforts to conserve and manage natural resource areas and look forward to future opportunities to work with you in these efforts. Thank you for your consideration of this request and please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Johnson".

Lynn Johnson  
Parks and Recreation Director







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**COPY**

September 1, 2021

Tom Malmstrom  
Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department  
3131 O Street, Suite 300  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510

RE: Grant Application – City of Lincoln Greenways

Dear Tom:

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) is pleased the City of Lincoln will submit a grant application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) to protect and restore the rare and unique Eastern Nebraska Saline Wetlands as well as other greenway resources within Lancaster County. The LPSNRD supports the 2022 NET application entitled City of Lincoln Greenways Project and will be a contributing partner toward these efforts. The projects benefit these resources and the public who enjoy them.

Our agency agrees to provide a total of \$100,000 as match toward this grant. This match includes \$50,000 committed toward the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership through an inter-local agreement and \$50,000 of in-kind services from seasonal employee land management work during the grant period or cash match if approved by the Board of Directors at a future date.

In addition, the Board of Directors will consider up to \$40,000 of matching cash funds for Wilderness Park tree removal to enhance wetland restoration identified in this grant application at the September 2021, Board of Directors meeting.

We appreciate the willingness of the City of Lincoln to partner on these projects and look forward to continuing to work with you and the other partners to help protect and restore saline wetlands and other natural resources located in Lancaster County.

Please feel free to contact me, if you have any questions regarding our commitment to the projects identified in this grant application.

Sincerely,

Paul Zillig  
General Manager  
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District