2012

Biennial Report

on the

Nebraska Resources Development Fund

presented to the

Governor and the Legislature

Published by the
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
September 2012

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Biennial Report
July 1, 2010-June 30, 2012

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It is a pleasure to present the **2012 Biennial Report** for the **Nebraska Resources Development Fund.** People often say the test of a good decision is the test of time. As we dealt with flooding issues during 2011 and drought and heat related issues this past summer, the wisdom that Nebraska's elected officials have demonstrated for the past 38 years was yet again confirmed. While protection and benefits derived from most of the 64 projects already completed often go unnoticed or are taken for granted; additional projects continue to be implemented. These projects protect and enhance infrastructure, public health and safety, property rights, natural resources habitat and recreational opportunities.

As we look forward, we must assess the benefits derived from past decisions. A brief reflection upon past accomplishments and the related benefits which have accrued as a result of this funding mechanism will clearly support and justify continued funding to pursue the best of countless other natural resources development opportunities.

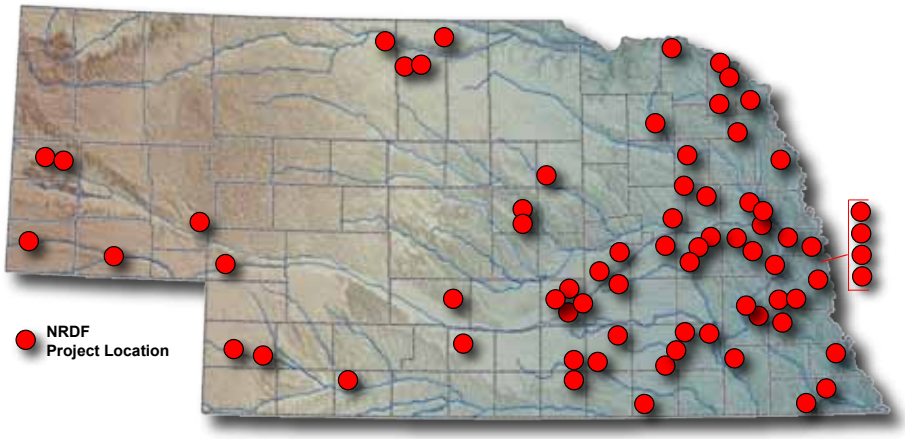
On behalf of the small number of people who work with this fund and these projects who are well aware of their reoccurring benefits to the citizens of Nebraska, please accept our thanks and gratitude for continuing to fund this valuable program.

Brian P. Dunnigan

Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E., & Director
Department of Natural Resources

Nebraska Resources Development Fund

was created in 1974 to assist with the development and wise use of Nebraska's water and land resources.



Location map for **Resources Development Fund Projects**

Benefits from
Resources Development Fund projects,
located across Nebraska,
are many and varied.
These projects often emphasize
the benefits of
flood damage reduction,
sediment and erosion control,
recreation opportunities,
fish and wildlife enhancement,
groundwater recharge
as a result of stored water,
and **irrigation water management**.

Introduction

The Nebraska Resources Development Fund Act of 1974 created a fund to assist with the development and wise use of Nebraska's water and land resources. The Nebraska Resources Development Fund can be used to provide grants and/or loans to political subdivisions of the state or an agency of the state, or it can be used by the Department of Natural Resources to acquire an interest in a project in the name of the state. The Act created a conjunctive administrative system with certain responsibilities delegated to the Natural Resources Commission (Commission), and other responsibilities delegated to a statutorily created "Advisory Board." On February 15, 1985, the Director of Natural Resources assumed the responsibilities and duties of the Advisory Board in accordance with the provisions of L.B. 1106.

The primary function of the Director is to determine project and program eligibility for Nebraska Resources Development Fund (NRDF) assistance. The Director must also determine the type of assistance appropriate: Grant, loan or a combination thereof. To accomplish these responsibilities, the Director and Commission have adopted rules, policy statements, and guidelines. The Director and his staff, along with personnel from other state agencies as appropriate, review each application and the Director must find that a project is economically, financially and technically feasible as well as environmentally acceptable in order for it to be eligible for assistance through the Fund.

The Commission reviews project proposals and, after receiving recommendations from the Director, advises project sponsors whether to proceed with an application and feasibility report. The Commission's primary administrative functions begin once the Director has reviewed the application, determined eligibility, and referred eligible projects to the Commission.

Determination of funding priorities for eligible programs or projects is the sole responsibility of the Commission. Prior to any allocation of funds, the Director must enter into an agreement and negotiate other necessary documents to be assured that the state investment is protected. Once this is accomplished, the Director has responsibility for administering the grant and/or loan and for administering the repayment provisions of a loan.

The application procedure established jointly by the Director and the Commission is a two-step process. The first step involves the submittal of a project proposal by a sponsor, and the second step is a project application. A sponsor may bypass the project proposal and initiate the request by submitting an application; however, in such case the sponsor forfeits the possibility of cost-sharing on the cost of preparation of the application and accompanying feasibility study.

A set of *"Guidelines"* has been distributed for use by project sponsors in fulfilling the requirements of the *"Project Proposal"* and the *"Project Application and Feasibility Report."* The *"Project Proposal"* is a brief document which outlines the nature of the project, includes a preliminary estimate of project costs, and gives an indication of the sponsor's plans for the project. The Director, reviews all project proposals within 90 days of submission and recommends to the Commission whether or not the sponsor should be authorized to proceed with an application; and indicates the likely type and range of NRDF assistance if the project is later found to be eligible. The Commission may provide the sponsor with additional guidance regarding the contents of the application. This process helps ensure that a sponsor covers all areas of concern to the Director and Commission and prevents the inclusion and preparation of unnecessary material.

The *"Project Application and Feasibility Report"* must include the necessary project description, cost estimates, preliminary design information, description of the manner in which the project will be operated, as well as the statutorily required information to determine whether the project is financially, economically, technically feasible, and environmentally acceptable. If the Director determines a given project satisfies requirements and is an eligible project under the law, he submits a recommendation containing those findings to the Commission. That recommendation also includes input on the type of assistance (grant and/or loan) and amount of assistance.

The Commission, is briefed by staff and project sponsors on all projects for which applications were submitted. The briefing includes a summary of characteristics for each eligible project and may include a ranking based on criteria established by the Commission if more than one is being considered at the same time. An assessment of funds available to allocate and recommendation for allocation may also be presented. The Commission's Program Committee evaluates staff information and presents recommendations to the full Commission at the second Commission meeting following the Director's recommendation letter.

Approval of a project by the Commission constitutes only acceptance or endorsement of the project but does not in itself entitle the sponsor of that project to receive any money from the Development Fund. Funds must first be allocated, and later obligated by setting aside a given amount of money before reimbursement is authorized to a project. Thus, after approving a project, the Commission has multiple decision points for managing cash flow of projects which may span many budgetary years. It may obligate funds for a project only if funds are available.

Members of the Natural Resources Commission & their represented basins or specific interests as of June 30, 2012

Members & River Basins represented

Garry A. Anderson, Elkhorn River Basin
Dave Deines, North Platte River Basin
Beverly Donaldson, Missouri Tribs River Basin
N. Richard Hadenfeldt, Loup River Basin
Joseph Hergott, Little Blue River Basin
Clinton Johannes, Lower Platte River Basin
David E. Kadlecek, Niobrara-White-Hat River Basin
Jeff Steffen, Missouri Tribs River Basin
Ken Brockman, Big Blue River Basin
Dan Nelson, Republican River Basin
Ladd M. Reeves, Middle Platte River Basin
Keith Rexroth, South Platte River Basin - Chairperson
Dan Watermeier, Nemaha River Basin - Vice-Chairperson

Members Appointed by Governor and interest

Thomas L. Knutson, Surface Water Irrigators
Stan Clouse, Municipal Water Users
Dick Mercer, Groundwater Irrigators

Other citizens who served as Commissioners during the Biennium:

Vince Kramper, Jim Van Marter and Larry Moore

Project Review

As of June 30, 2012, 71 water resources projects have been approved for financial assistance from the Resources Development Fund. Several of the funded projects were planned and received substantial additional funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Public Law 566 Watershed Program, its Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program, or the Corps of Engineers' Section 205 Flood Control Program. The total allocation for these projects is $103,763,373.84

The majority of funded projects provide for the storage of water and the beneficial uses of that water. Flood damage reduction, sediment and erosion control, groundwater recharge, irrigation water management, fish and wildlife enhancement, and recreation, including fishing, boating, and swimming, have been the primary benefits. During fiscal years 2011 and 2012 one project was completed (Maple Creek Recreation Area) and one project proposal (Buck and Duck Creek) was approved.

Breakdown of the Total Costs for Resources Development Fund Projects

The total cost of the **71 projects** that have been approved for Resources Development Fund assistance is approximately **$251 million**.

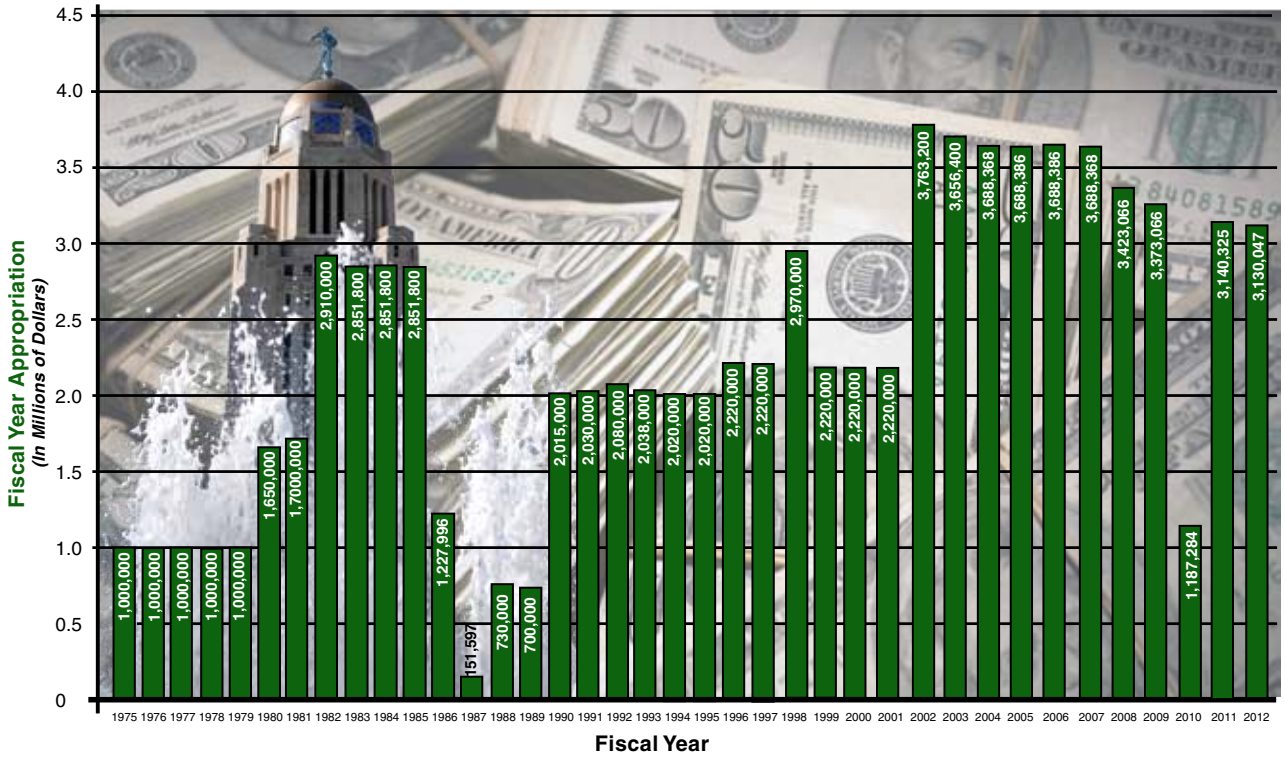
Of this amount, the
Resources Development Fund has provided nearly $104 million (42%),
federal programs over $81 million (32%)
and local entities and others approximately $66 million (26%).

Resources Development Fund Financial History

From its inception, the **Resources Development Fund** has depended upon **general fund appropriations** to provide state financial assistance to local project sponsors. The annual appropriations have been:

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
1975	1,000,000.00
1976	1,000,000.00
1977	1,000,000.00
1978	1,000,000.00
1979	1,000,000.00
1980	1,650,000.00
1981	1,700,000.00
1982	2,910,000.00
1983	2,851,800.00
1984	2,851,800.00
1985	2,851,800.00
1986	1,227,996.73
1987	151,597.00
1988	730,000.00
1989	700,000.00
1990	2,015,000.00
1991	2,030,000.00
1992	2,080,000.00
1993	2,038,000.00

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
1994	2,020,000.00
1995	2,020,000.00
1996	2,220,000.00
1997	2,220,000.00
1998	2,970,000.00
1999	2,220,000.00
2000	2,220,000.00
2001	2,220,000.00
2002	3,763,200.00
2003	3,656,400.00
2004	3,688,368.00
2005	3,688,386.00
2006	3,688,386.00
2007	3,688,368.00
2008	3,423,066.00
2009	3,373,066.00
2010	1,187,284.00
2011	3,140,325.00
2012	3,130,047.00



Project Status

As of June 30, 2012, a total of 61 projects that have received financial assistance from the Resources Development Fund have been completed. Three other funded projects (School Creek, Deshler, and Weeping Water Site 7g) were suspended by their sponsor prior to land rights acquisition due to unanticipated cost increases and/or public opposition. One project, Enders, was suspended by the sponsor before any funds were used.

It is estimated that **approximately $1.41 Billion in benefits will accrue from the funded projects** during their project life periods (estimated at the minimum 50 years). These benefits can be separated into three categories:

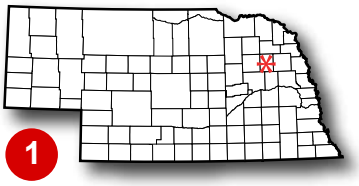
1. **Flood Reduction/Erosion and Sediment Control - $1,101,546,385 - 78%**
2. **Recreation/Fish and Wildlife - $251,174,757 - 18%**
3. **Groundwater Recharge/Irrigation Water Management - $56,200,000 - 4%**

Flood Reduction/Erosion and Sediment Control
$1.1 Billion

Recreation/Fish and Wildlife
$251 Million

Groundwater Recharge/Irrigation Water Management
$56 Million

Completed Resources Development Fund Projects

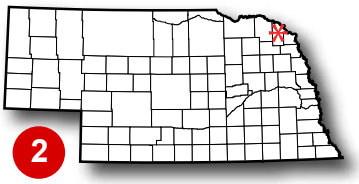


Maskenthine Project

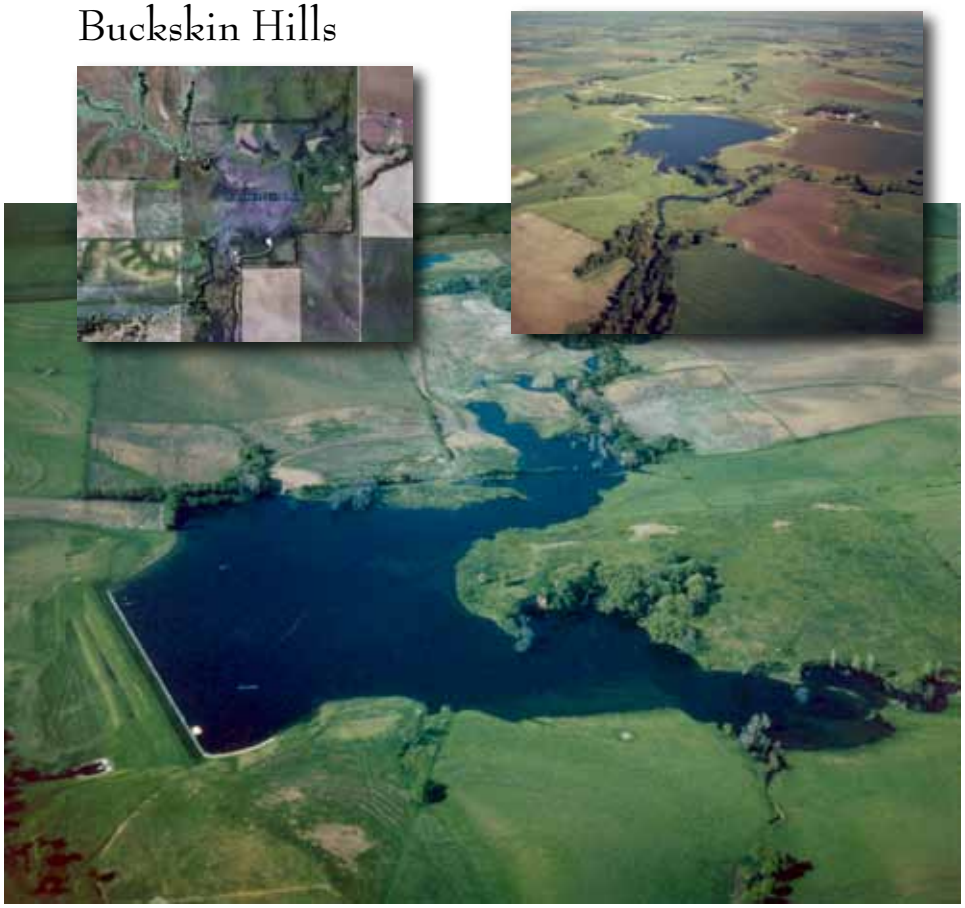
Maskenthine Lake Recreation Area was the first Nebraska Resources Development Fund project assisted with state funds. Recreational activities at the area include hunting, boating, picnicking, hiking, camping and swimming. An arboretum was established on the east side of the lake with additional tree plantings and windbreaks are located throughout the recreation area. No park permit or fee is required for entrance to the site. Additional information can be found on the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources Didtrict's website at http://www.lenrd.org/maskenthine-lake-recreation-ar/ .

Sponsor: Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Location: Stanton County, North of the City of Stanton
Project Size: 680 Total Acres with a 100 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement, Sediment Control, Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
Completed: 1976
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $269,978

Aowa Creek



Buckskin Hills



The project involved Structure 6-7A of the Aowa Creek P.L.566 watershed Project. Buckskin Hills was built in 1980 as an erosion and flood control structure for the Aowa Creek Watershed Project. Buckskin Hills is the second largest structure in the watershed project which has a total of 50 structures. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission maintains the area under lease from the Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District. The structure was made possible with funding provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources-Resource Development Fund.

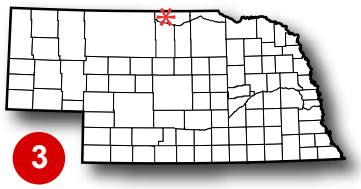
This structure was built with outdoor in mind. Centered in 340 acres is a dam that stands 57 feet high and holds 75 acres of water with a maximum depth of 35-feet. Numerous gullies in the reservoir form an irregular bottom with sharp drop-offs that deserve caution. The lake is stocked with Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Northern Pike, and Walleye. For the hunter there is a very diverse habitat in rolling hills of grass and woodland with pheasants, quail, deer, waterfowl and dove. Buckskin Hills is located 2 miles west and 2 miles south of Newcastle, NE.

Other amenities include a boat ramp and primitive toilets, with ample areas for hiking around the lake.

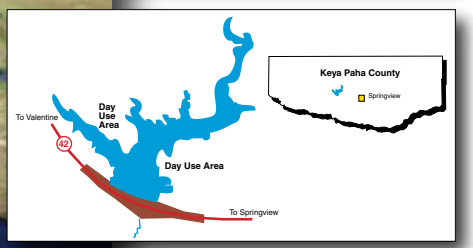
Additional Information on Buckskin Hills can be found on the Lewis and Clark's website at http://www.lcnrd.org/recreation/buckskin/ .

Sponsor: Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District
Location: Dixon, County four miles southwest of Newcastle
Project Size: Total of 340 Acre with 75 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement,Grade Stabilization, and
Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
Completed: 1979
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $144,650

Cub Creek

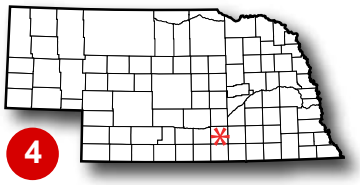


The project was developed in conjunction with improvements to Highway 12. A road structure on Hwy 12 west of Springview now impounds a 33 acre reservoir that offers outdoor opportunities.



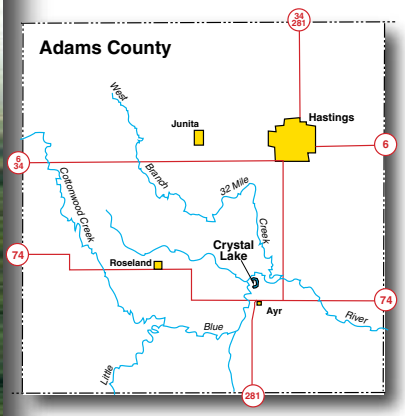
Sponsor: Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District
Location: Keya Paha County, west of Springview on Hwy. 12
Project Size: 320 Total Acres with a 33 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, and Recreation Opportunities
Completed: 1979
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $87,489

Crystal Lake



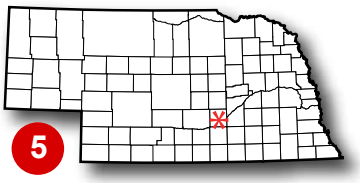
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission now manages this site as a state recreation area. Additional information can be found on Game and Parks website at http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/parks/guides/parksearch/showpark.asp?Area_No=56 and http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/parks/places/campmaps/maps/crystallake.pdf .

This project consists of a renovated older public recreation area located along the Little Blue River near Ayr south of Hastings. The deeping and enlargement of an oxbow and the renovation of a changing house and several older rock shelters were the major features of this project. Crystal Lake has 20 campsites with electrical hookups and 50 without.

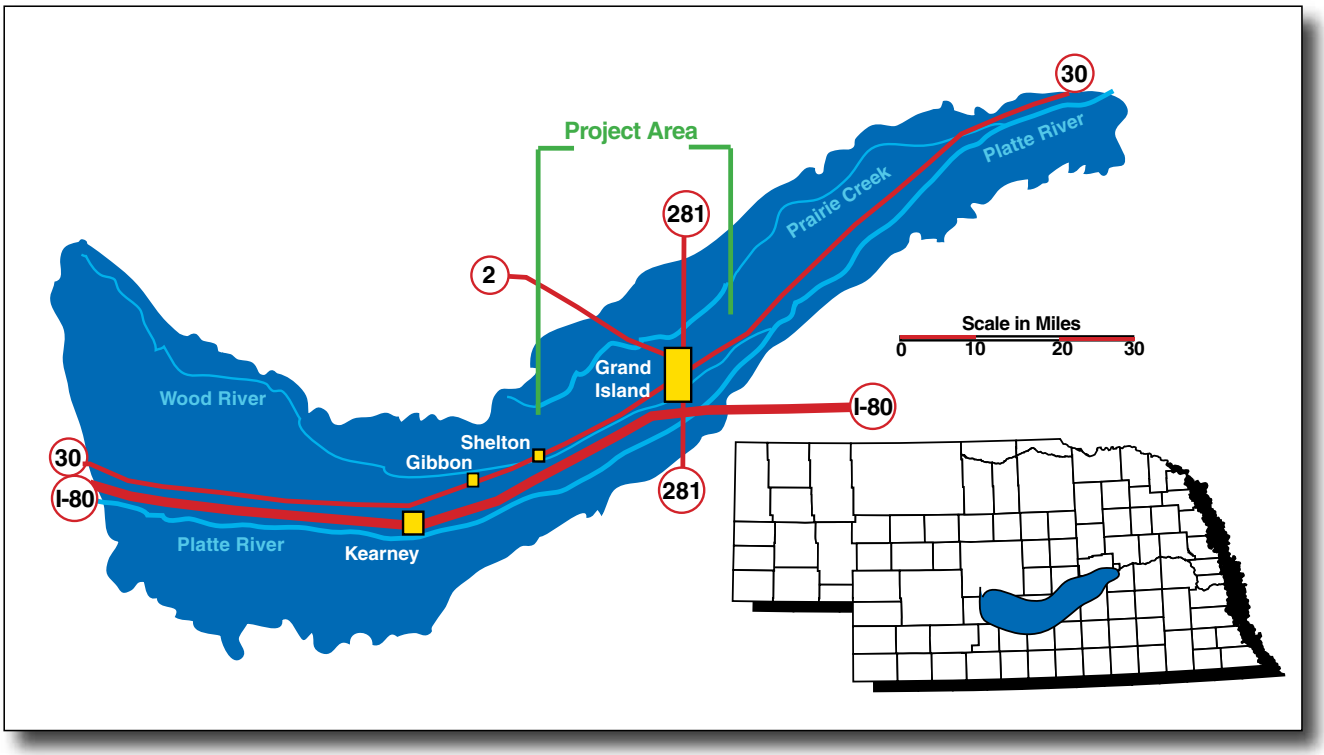


Sponsor: Adams County
Location: Adams County, near Ayr south of Hastings
Project Size: 33 Total Acres with a Renovated Oxbow
Purposes: Recreation
Completed: 1980
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $67,806

Prairie Creek

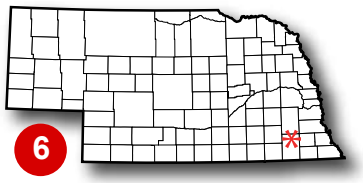


Additional information on Prairie Creek can be found on Central Platte Natural Resources District's website at http://www.cpnrd.org/projects.html .

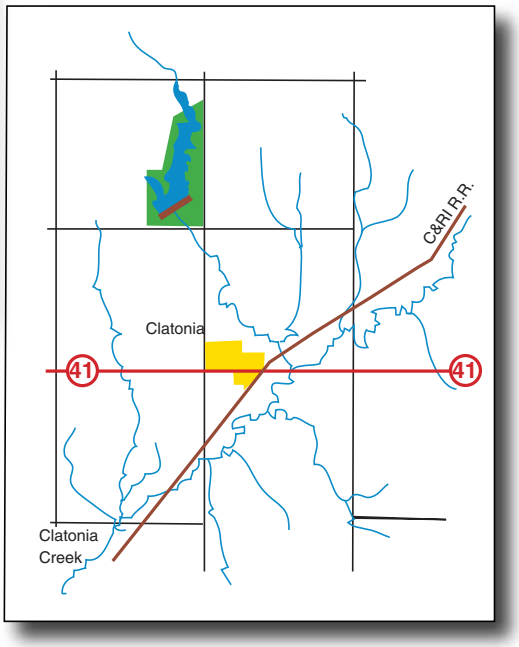


Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Hall County, Along Prairie Creek
Project Size: A 42 Mile Reach of Praieie Creek
Purposes: Snagging and Clearing Operation to Proide a More Open Floodway
Completed: 1980
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $243,975

Clatonia Creek

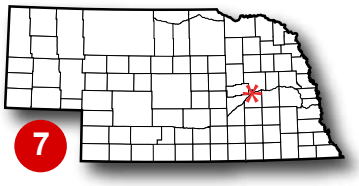


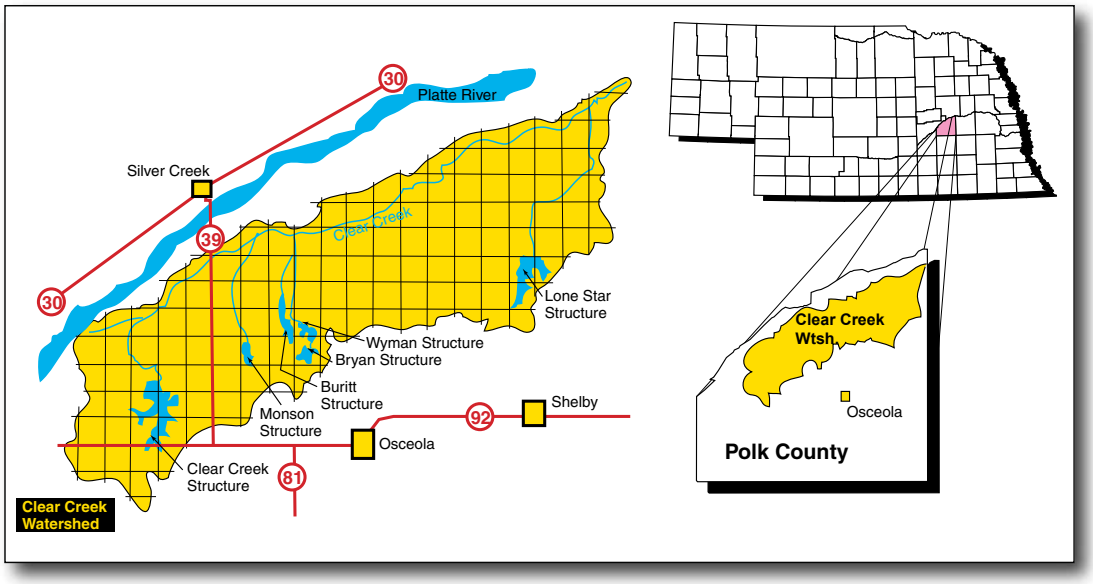
Located one mile north of Clatonia, this project involved a Natural Resources Conservation Service P.L.566 Watershed multi-purpose structure. Additional information on Clatonia Creek can be found on the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District's website at http://www.lbbnrd.org/Recreation/recreation.htm .



Sponsor: Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District
Location: Gage County, North of Clatonia
Project Size: 155 Total Acres with a 46 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, Sediment and Erosion Control, and Flood Abatement
Completed: 1981
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $243,975

Clear Creek Watershed Project

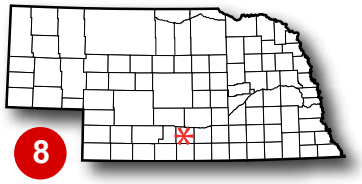


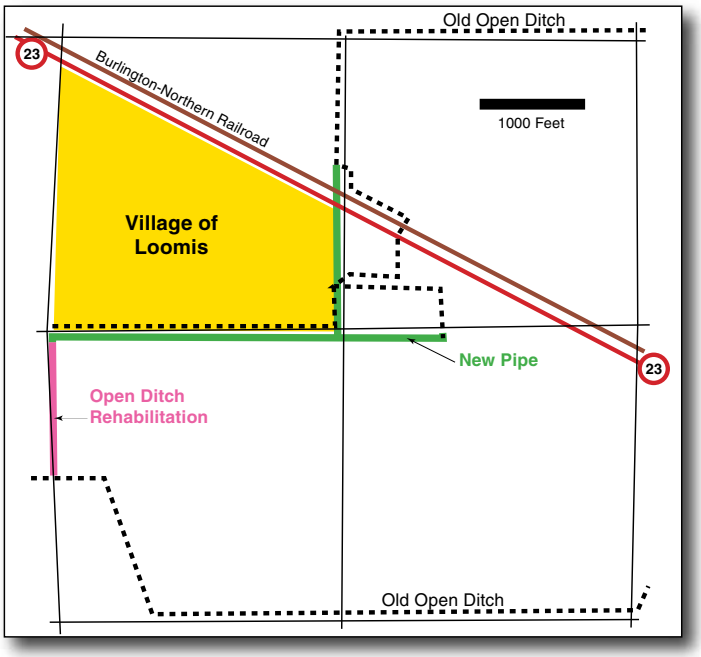


Located in Polk County, this watershed encompasses nearly 75,700 acres with 15 flood control structures completed with a long history of flooding. Cost-share from the Natural Resources Development Fund was received on 5 of the larger structures and Polk County provided cost-share funds for additional smaller structures. Construction of smaller structures are performed as needed. Additional information on the Clear Creek Watershed Project can be found on the Central Platte Natural Resources District's website at http://www.cpnrd.org/projects.html .

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Northern Polk County
Project Size: Six Flood Water Retarding Structures
Purposes: Flood Abatement, and Sediment and Erosion Control
Completed: 1981
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $343,126

Loomis Pipeline

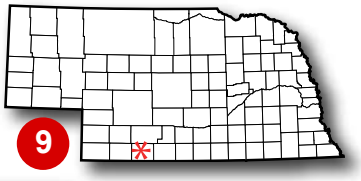




Located in Phelps County the project involved enclosing a portion of an open irrigation lateral with buried pipe. Improved water conveyance and protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of Loomis residents resulted from the project.

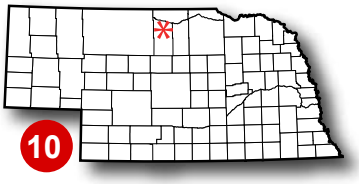
Sponsor: Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and the Village of Loomis
Location: Phelps County, in the Village of Loomis
Project Size: 4,000 feet of Buried Pipeline
Purposes: Improved Water Conveyance and Safety
Completed: 1981
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $33,750

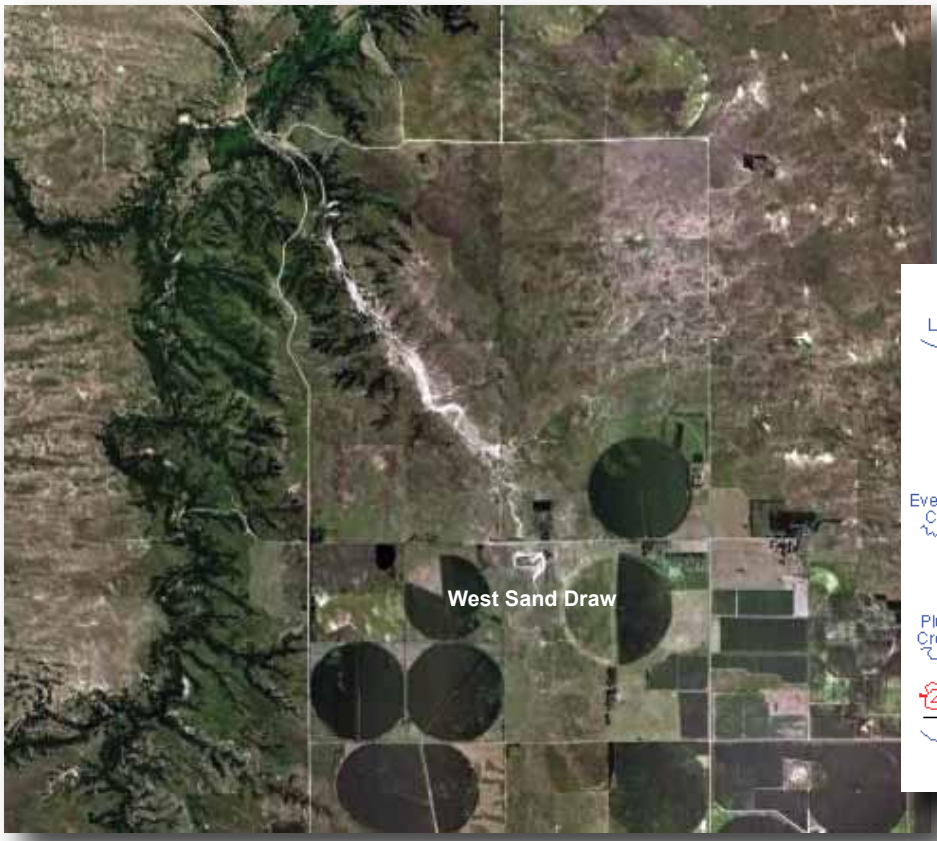
McCook Kelley Canyon



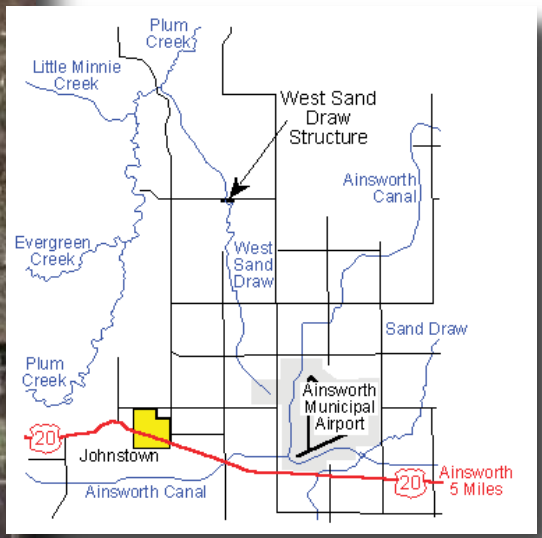
Sponsor: Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Location: Red Willow County, City of McCook
Project Size: Flood Water Retarding Structure
Purposes: Flood Abatement, Drainageway Improvements, and Bridge Replacement
Completed: 1981
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $512,000

West Sand Draw



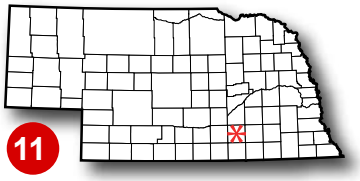


Project traps sediment which otherwise would be carried to Plum Creek, a cold water tributary of the Niobrara River.

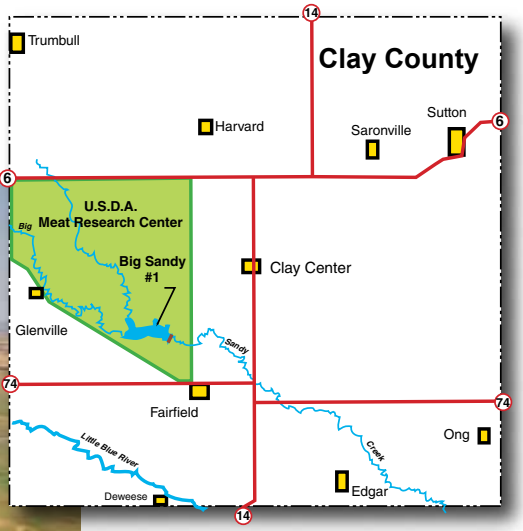


Sponsor: Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District
Location: Brown County, Northwest of Ainsworth
Project Size: 29.53 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Sediment Reduction and Water Quality
Completed: 1981
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $36,364

Big Sandy #1

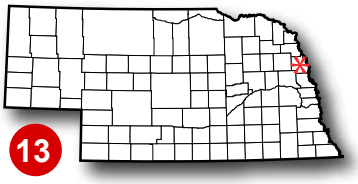


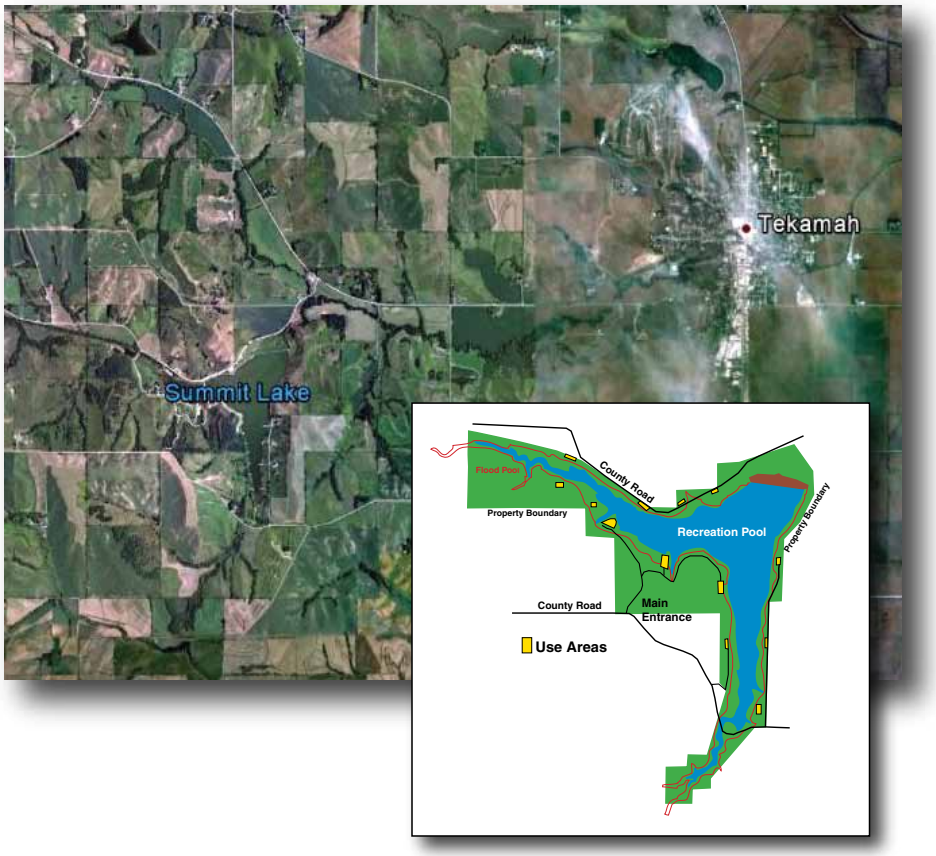
Big Sandy #1 is the first of seven potential structures to be constructed in the Big Sandy watershed. The project is located on the U.S.D.A. Meat Animal Research Center west of Clay Center and has been used to monitor groundwater recharge. The project consists of a floodwater retarding structure with a conservation pool of 330 acres.



Sponsor: Little Blue Natural Resources District
Location: Clay County, West of Clay Center on the U.S.D.A. Animal Reasearch Center
Project Size: 42 Square Mile Drainage Area with a 330 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Floodwater Retarding and Groundwater Recharge
Completed: 1982
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $396, 573

Summit Lake



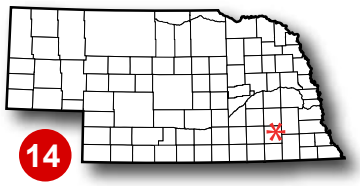


Summit Lake is a 190-acre lake with 345 acres of land that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission manages as a state recreation area.. This area offers fishing, hiking, hunting, picnicking, trailer dump station and a swimming beach. There are 26 camper pads and an additional 31 non-designated campsites. Summitt Lake has playground equipment consisting of swing set, jungle gym and a teeter totter. In addition a horseshoe pit, and sand volleyball have been added.

The lake offers excellent fishing opportunities for all anglers; the addition of jetties gives bank anglers access to deeper water. Species of fish are bass, bluegill, catfish, crappie and walleye. A group camping area is available by contacting the site. Additional information can be found on the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission website at http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/parks/guides/parksearch/showpark.asp?Area_No=247 .

Sponsor: Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Location: Burt County, 4.5 Miles West and .5 Miles South of the City of Tekamah
Project Size: 535 Total Acres with a 190 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Floodwater Retarding and Water-based Recreation
Completed: 1982
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $329,191

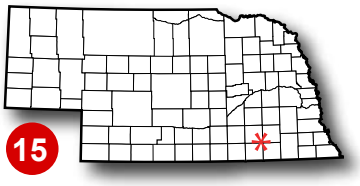
Walnut Creek Project



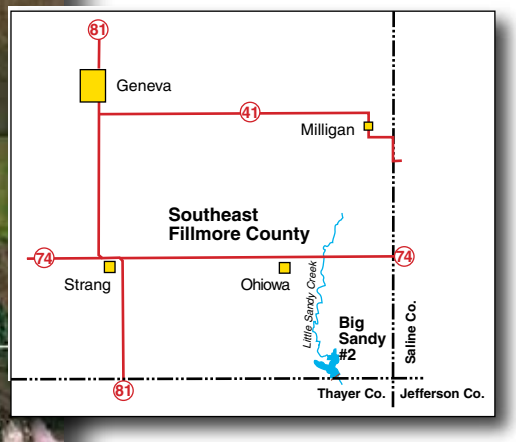
The Walnut Creek Project consists of four structures located east and north of the city of Crete in Saline County. The structures have conservation pools that range in size from 16 to 26 acres. Site #2 located east of Highway 103, north of Crete was developed to provide recreation to local area residents. Additional information can be found on the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District's wensite at http://www.lbbnrd.org/Recreation/recreation.htm .

Sponsor: Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District
Location: Saline County, Northeast of Crete
Project Size: Four Floodwater Retarding Structures
Purposes: Flood Abatement, Grade Stabilization, Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
Completed: 1982
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $264,225

Big Sandy #2

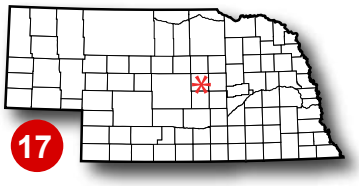


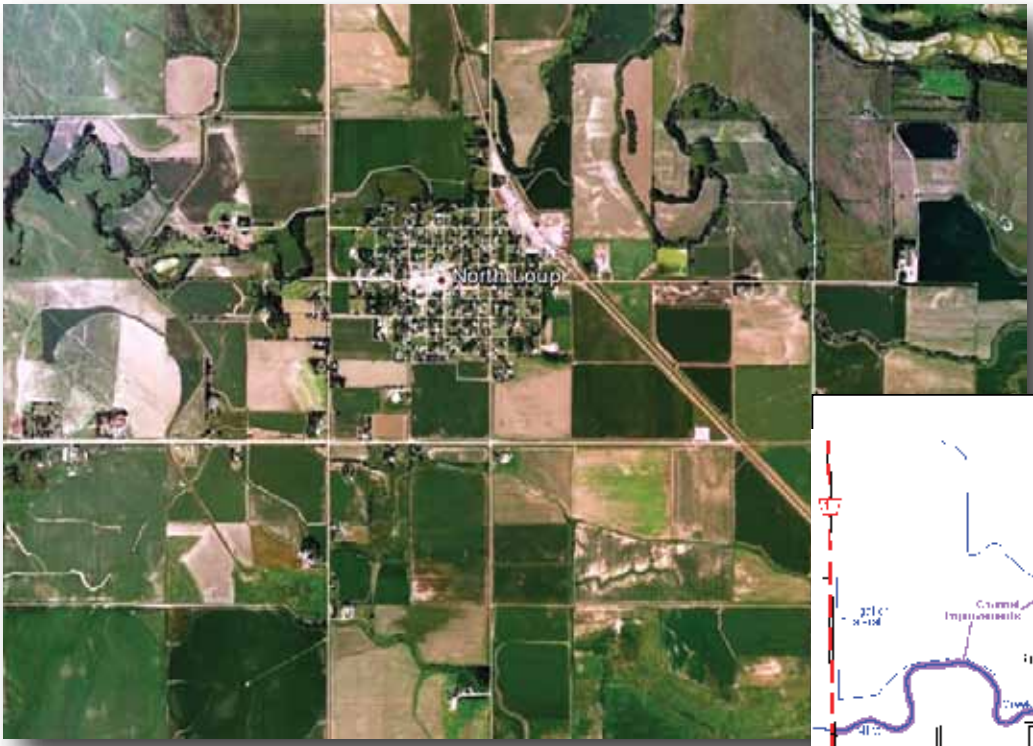
The structure is the second constructed in the Big Sandy Creek Watershed and has been used to monitor groundwater recharge.

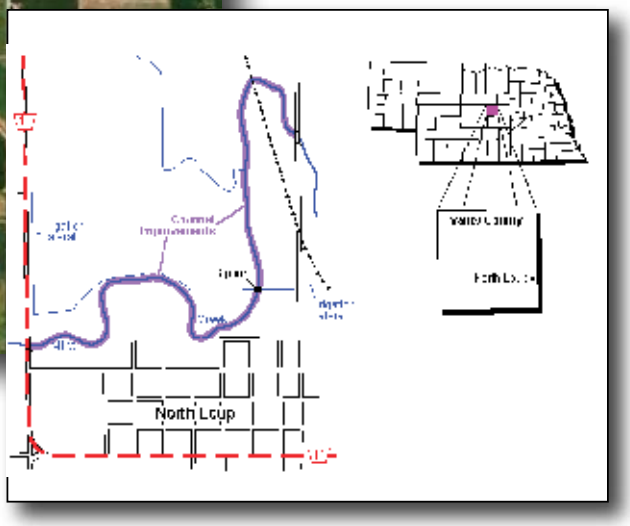


Sponsor: Little Blue Natural Resources District
Location: Fillmore County, Four Miles Northeast of Bruning
Project Size: 250 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Floodwater Retarding and Groundwater Recharge
Completed: 1985
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $864,603

Mira Creek



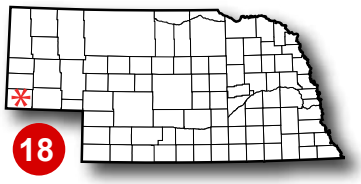




The clearing and snagging project was carried out to improve the channel capacity of Mira Creek adjacent to the village of North Loup in order to reduce flooding in that community. The project also included the replacement of an irrigation lateral flume with a siphon.

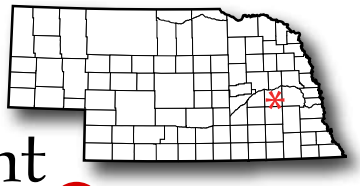
Sponsor: Lower Loup Natural Resources District
Location: Valley County, Village of North Loup
Project Size: Approximately 1/2 Mile Channel and Over Bank Clearing
Purposes: Floodwater Retarding
Completed: 1985
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $68,952

Oliver Reservoir



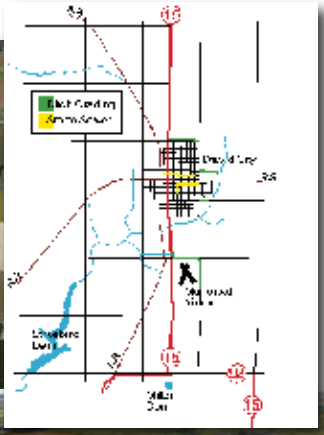
This project involved the reconstruction of an existing dam on Lodgepole Creek that was built in 1912 to store irrigation water. As a recreational area, Oliver Reservoir offers good opportunities as a fishery and remains a favorite local destination for walleye each spring. Yellow perch, largemouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill and even a few rainbow trout have been caught from its waters. Facilities include camping areas, drinking water, rest stations, picnic tables, shelters, grills, lighting, a handicapped-accessable fishing dock and parking lots. Numerous tree plantings have add to Oliver Reservoirs appeal. Currently operated by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Oliver Reservoir is the only recreation area of its kind in the southern Panhandle. For additional Information on Oliver Reservoir see the South Platte Natural Resources District's website at http://www.ci.kimball.ne.us/oliver.htm or the Nebraska Game and Parks website at http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/parks/guides/parksearch/showpark.asp?Area_No=255 .

Sponsor: South Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Kimball County, West of Kimball
Project Size: 970 Total Acres with a 270 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Floodwater Retarding and Recreation
Completed: 1985
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $1,008,476



Central Butler Water Management

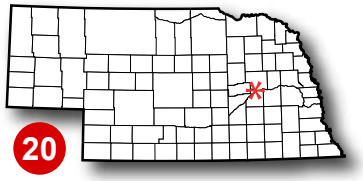
19



The primary purposes of the project were to reduce flooding and improve surface water drainage near David City. The project included the construction of two earthen dams, the construction and improvement of drainage ditches, and the installation of storm water drainage structures in David City.

Sponsor: Lower Platte North Natural Resources District
Location: Butler County, near David City
Project Size: Struebing Dam has a 71 Acre Reservoir and Miller Dam has a Permanent Pool of a Several Acres
Purposes: Floodwater Retarding
Completed: 1986

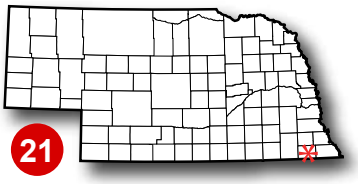
Lost Creek Flood Control Project



20

The project consists of of an excavated floodway and a training levee that intercepts storm runoff west and north of Columbus and convey the runoff to the Loup Power Canal. The Project can handle a 100-year flood event.

Sponsor: City of Columbus
Location: Platte County, in the City of Columbus
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 1986
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $465,823
Loan of $155,274
which was retired in 1995



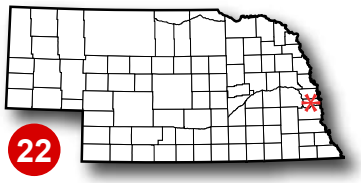
South Fork 2-A

Iron Horse Trail Lake

This project is part of the South Fork Watershed flood control project. For additional information on Iron Horse Trail Lake visit the Nemaha natural Resources didtrict's website at http://www.nemahanrd.org/iron_horse.htm .

Sponsor: Nemaha Natural Resources District
Location: Pawnee County, 1/2 mile north and 2 miles west of DuBois
Project Size: Total 360 Acres with an 85 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement, Sediment and Erosion Control, Wildlife Habitat, and Recreation
Completed: 1986
NRDF Assistance: Loan of $266,632

Thompson Creek



This project resulted in the construction of a floodwater retarding structure in the City of LaVista that provides flood protection to homes that were constructed prior to the adoption of the city's floodplain ordinances. The structure was designed to drain slowly after a storm event.

Harrison

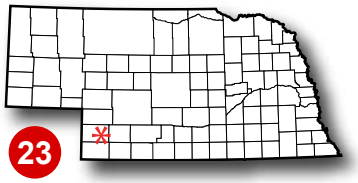
Giles

84th Street

72 Street

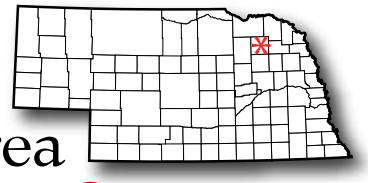
Sponsor: City of LaVista
Location: Sarpy County, in the City of LaVista
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 1986
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $240,581

Wauneta



This project consists of the realignment and enlargement of the Frenchman Creek channel and the replacement of two bridges provides flood protection after storm events.

Sponsor: Village of Wauneta and Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Location: Chase County, Village of Wauneta
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 1986
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $556,084



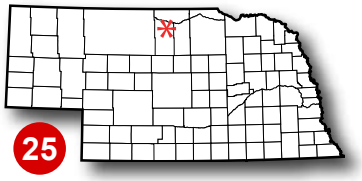
Willow Creek State Recreation Area

24

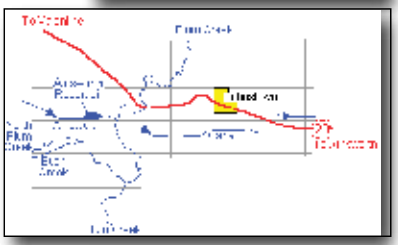
The Willow Creek project is primarily a water storage, recreation, and fish and wildlife project. Camping stays are limited to 14 days, there are 100 pads with 64 electrical hookups. Facilities also include a modern shower house, laundry facilities, and a dump station. Fees are charged for camping, with an additional cost for electricity. Campers are asked to self-register on arrival and deposit the appropriate fee in the drop box. Drinking water and vault toilets are available at the campground.For additional information on Willow Creek visit the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District's website at http://www.lenrd.org/willow-creek-state-recreation/ .

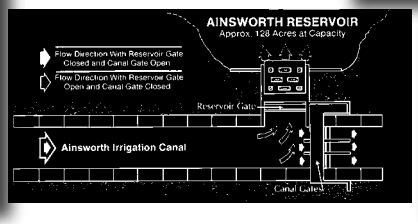
Sponsor: Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Location: Pierce County, Southwest of the City of Pierce
Project Size: 1,700 Total Acres with a 700 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement, Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
Completed: 1987
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $3,828,455

Ainsworth Reservoir Project

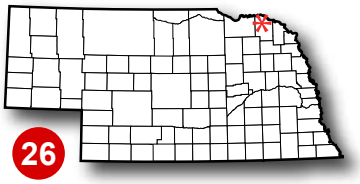


The Ainsworth Reservoir serves as a secondary storage reservoir for irrigation water in the Ainsworth Canal that is not needed following unexpected rainfall events. The project serves to improve water quality and trout fishing, in Long Pine Creek, Plum Creek and Sand Draw and contributes to groundwater recharge.





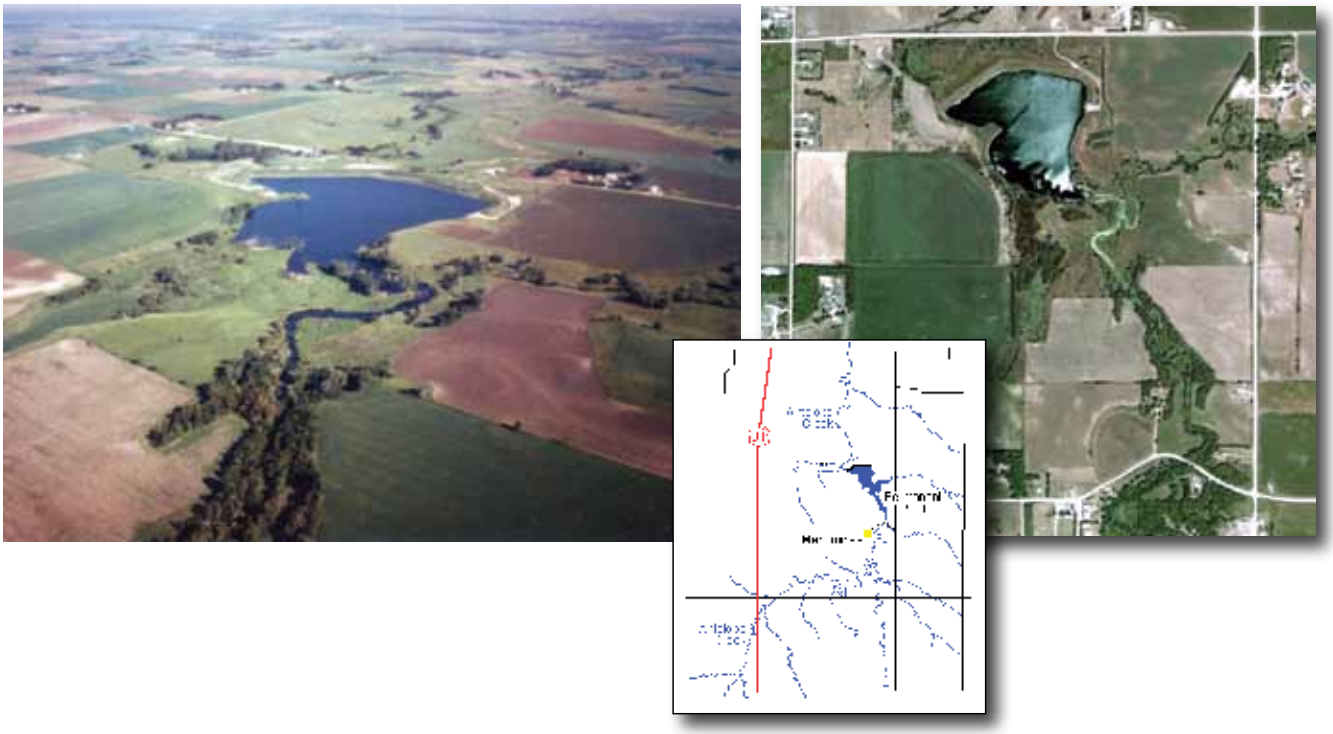
Sponsor: Ainsworth Irrigation District
Location: Brown County, Four Miles Southwest of Johnstown
Project Size: Reservoir Capacity Approximately 128 Acres
Purposes: Irrigation Water Management, Sediment and Erosion Control, Water Quality, Recreation Improvement, and Groundwater Recharge
Completed: 1987
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $30,862



Antelope Creek

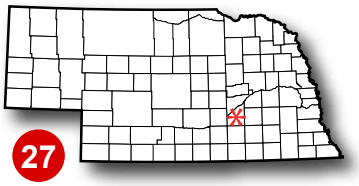
Chalkrock Lake

This project involved the construction of an earthen dam on Antelope Creek in northwestern Cedar County. The reservoirs excellent water quality supports an excellent fishery.



Sponsor: Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District
Location: Northwestern Cedar County
Project Size: 44 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement, and Recreation
Completed: 1987
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $377,578

Aurora 35-11-6

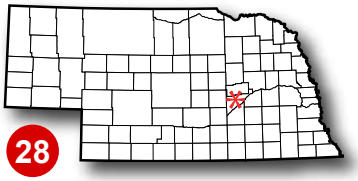


Pioneer Trails

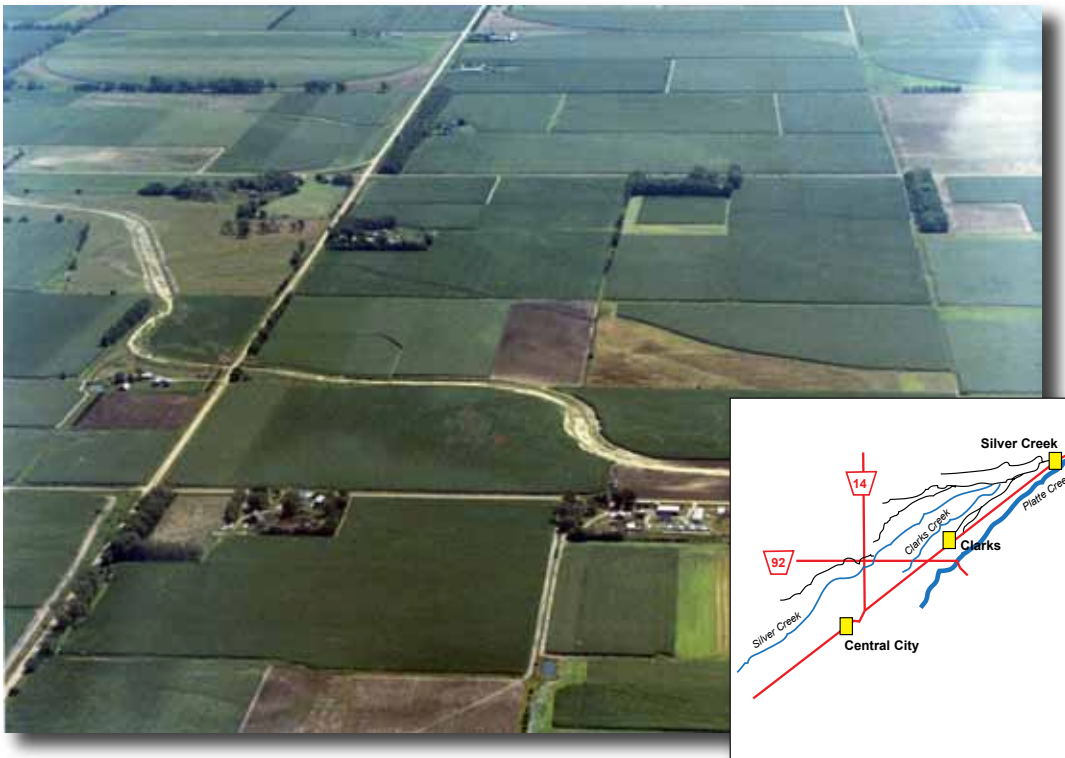
This project involved the construction of an earthen dam on Lincoln Creek northeast of Aurora. The resulting reservoir was designed to have a conservation pool of approximately 40 acres and provide both recreational and recharge benefits. Recreational use at this project has been limited due to the excessive seepage losses and high turbidity in the reservoir. Additional information on Pioneer Trails can be found on the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District's website at http://www.upperbigblue.org/nrdwebsite/dept_parks_rec/MAPS_AERIAL/AERIAL%20PioneerTrails.pdf .

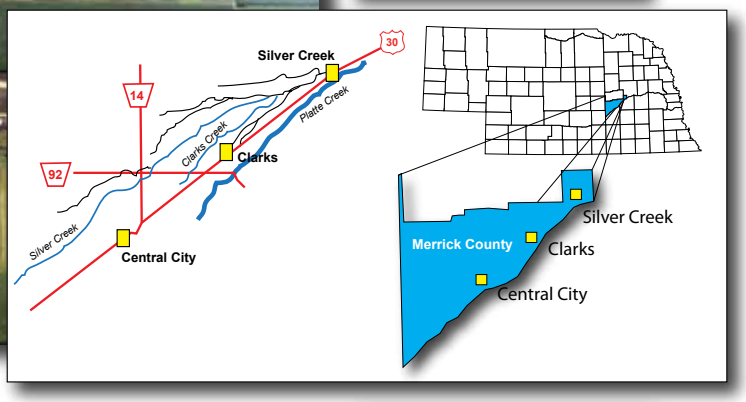
Sponsor: Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District
Location: Hamilton County, Northeast of Aurora
Project Size: 40 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Recreation and Groundwater Recharge
Completed: 1987
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $335,364

Silver Creek Project



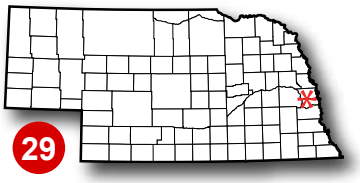
The Silver Creek Project is designed to convey runoff water from agricultural land reducing flooding and improving crop production. Additional information the Silver Creek Project can be found on the Central Platte Natural Resources District's website at http://www.cpnrd.org/projects.html .





Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Merrick County
Project Size: Elevated Floodway along Silver Creek and Clarks Drain
Purposes: Flood Abatement, Sediment Control, and Groundwater Recharge
Completed: 1987
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $2,307,175

Chalco Hills Recreation Area

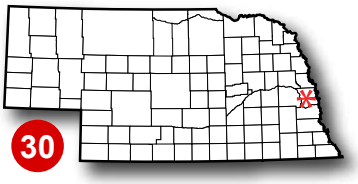


Papio Site 20 Wehrspann Lake

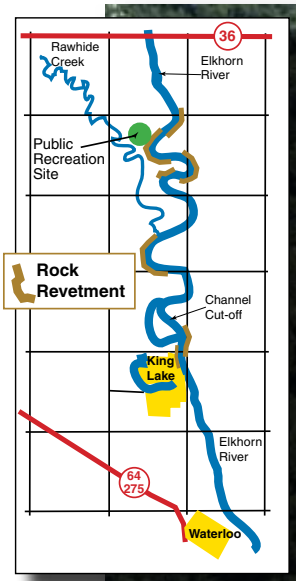
Located in southwest Omaha this project site is headquarters for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District along with several state and federal resource-related agencies and departments. Additional information on Chalco Hills can be found on the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District's website at http://www.papionrd.org/recreation_and_wildlife/chalco_hills.shtml

Sponsor: Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Location: Sarpy County, along Interstate 80 in Southwest Omaha
Project Size: 245 Acre Reservoir Surrounded by 940 Acres
Purposes: Flood Abatement and Recreation
Completed: 1988
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $848,123

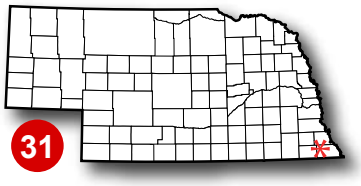
Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization



The Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization Project involves a channel cut-off and the placement of rock reventment at severly eroded sites along the Elkhorn River between King Lake and Highway36. Part of the project includes a rustic 23-acre Elkhorn Crossing Park, managed by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District. The public-access site includes a boat ramp, camping facilities, restrooms, and additional day-use facilities.



Sponsor: Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Location: Douglas County
Project Size: Along a Seven-mile Reach of the Elkhorn River
Purposes: Help Control Rapidly Advancing Meanders, and Erosion Prevention
Completed: 1988
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $1,164,964
Loan of $135,741
which was retired in 1998



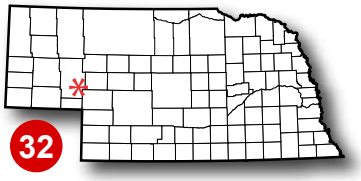
Long Branch-Site 21

Kirkman's Cove

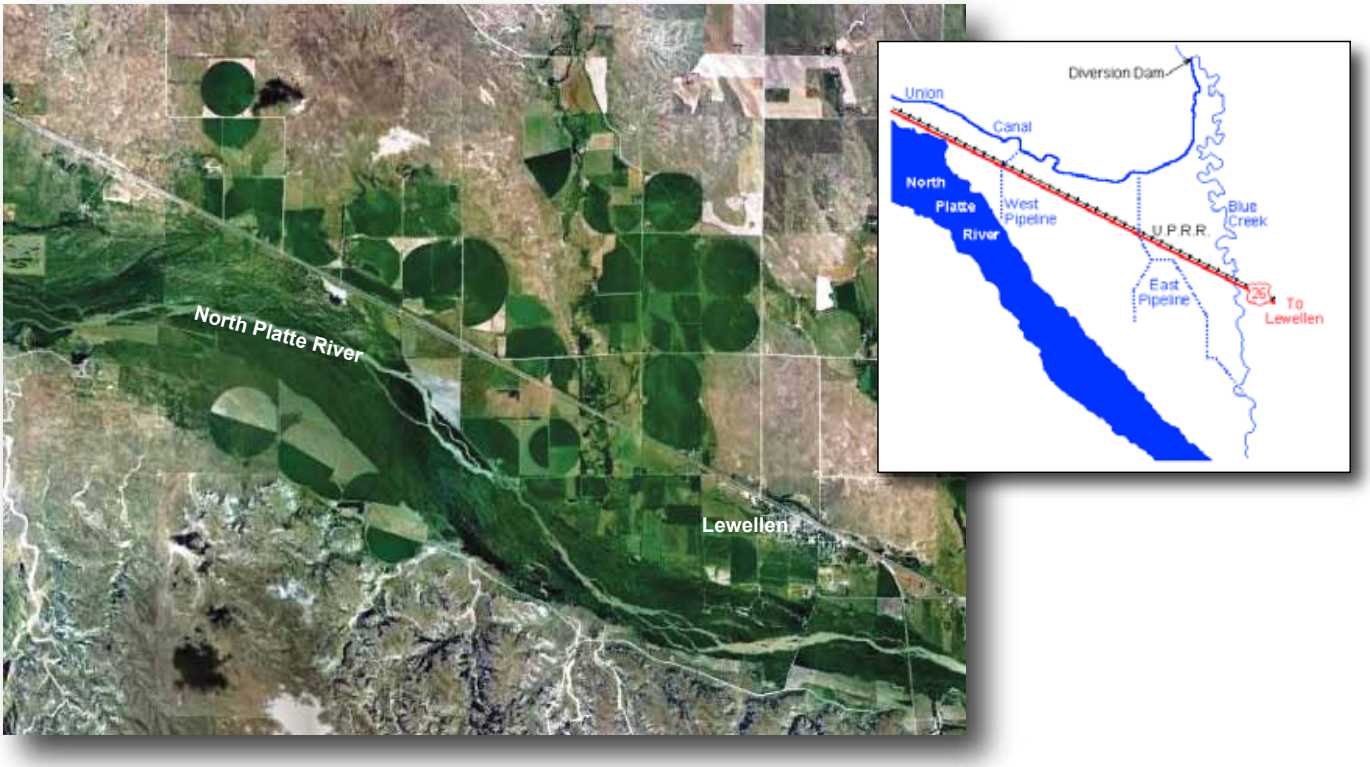
In 1995 the sponsor conducted the Kirkman's Cove Clean Lakes Project which included the construction of a sediment basin directly above the reservoir and installed riprap on the shoreline to further reduce erosion. For additional information on Kirkman's Cove visit the Nemaha Natural Resources Didtrict's website at http://www.nemahanrd.org/kirkman.htm .

Sponsor: Nemaha Natural Resources District
Location: Richardson County, Northwest of Humboldt
Project Size: 511 total Acres with a 160 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement, Grade Stabilization, Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
Completed: 1988
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $441,379

Union Irrigation District

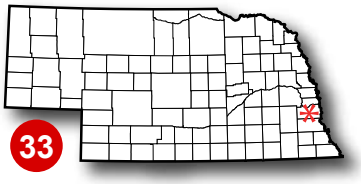


The project provided for the rehabilitation of the irrigation district's water delivery system as earthen laterals were replaced with underground PVC pipe. The project was planned and designed by the NRCS as a RC&D project.



Sponsor: Union Irrigation District and North Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Garden County
Project Size: Union Irrigation District
Purposes: Rehabilitation of Union Irrigation District's Water Delivery System
Completed: 1989
NRDF Assistance: Loan of $82,500 which was retired in 1999

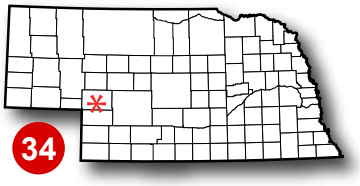
Mill Creek



The Mill Creek Project is a flood control project near Louisville that involved the construction of a bypass for Mill Creek flood flows along Highway 50, bridge clean-out work, and the enlargement of an existing berm.

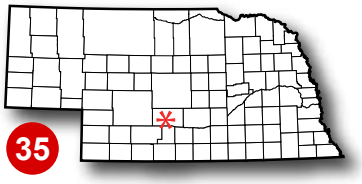
Sponsor: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Location: Cass County, near Louisville
Project Size: 1,200 feet of Channel Improvement
Purposes: Flood Adatement
Completed: 1990
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $66,850

Ogallala Project



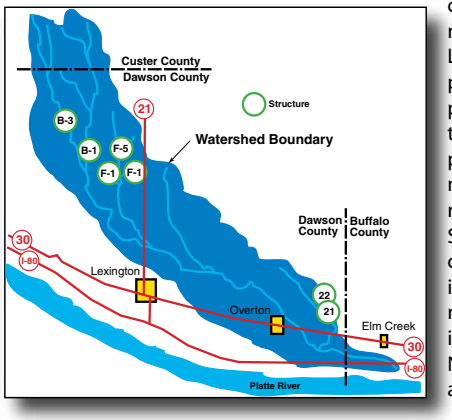
The Ogallala Creek Project consisted of the reconstruction of two existing dams located on the north side of Ogallala to meet "high hazard" engineering standards. Urban stormwater facilities, consisting of two trunk lines and collectors and associated outfalls to the South Platte River were also constructed in order to attain comprehensive control of stormwater in the city.

Sponsor: City of Ogallala
Location: Keith County, City of Ogallala
Project Size: Within the City of Ogallala, See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Adatement
Completed: 1990
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $600,793

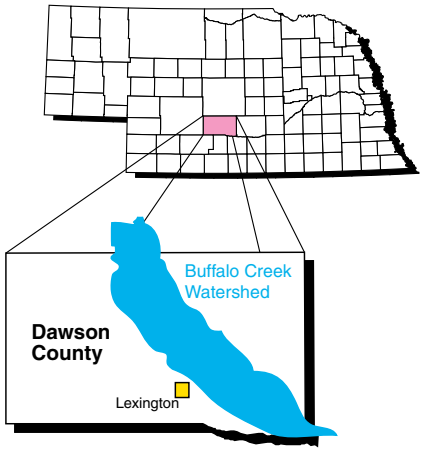


Buffalo Creek

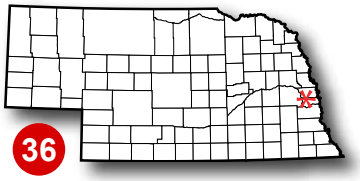
Dawson County



The Buffalo Creek Watershed Project consists of several flood water retarding structures north of Lexington. The major purpose of the project is to provide flood protection for the lowland areas of the watershed. The structures also provide fish and wildlife enhancement, recreation, and groundwater recharge benefits. The design for Structure B-1 was altered to add a canal fron an existing irrigation canal in order to improve its groundwater recharge capability. For additional information check the Central Platte Natural Resources District's website at http://www.cpnrd.org/



Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Dawson County, North of Lexington
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Adatement
Completed: 1991
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $2,145,637



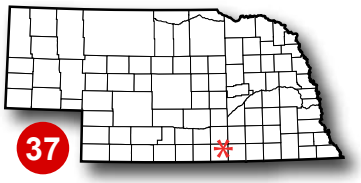
Buffalo Creek

Sarpy County

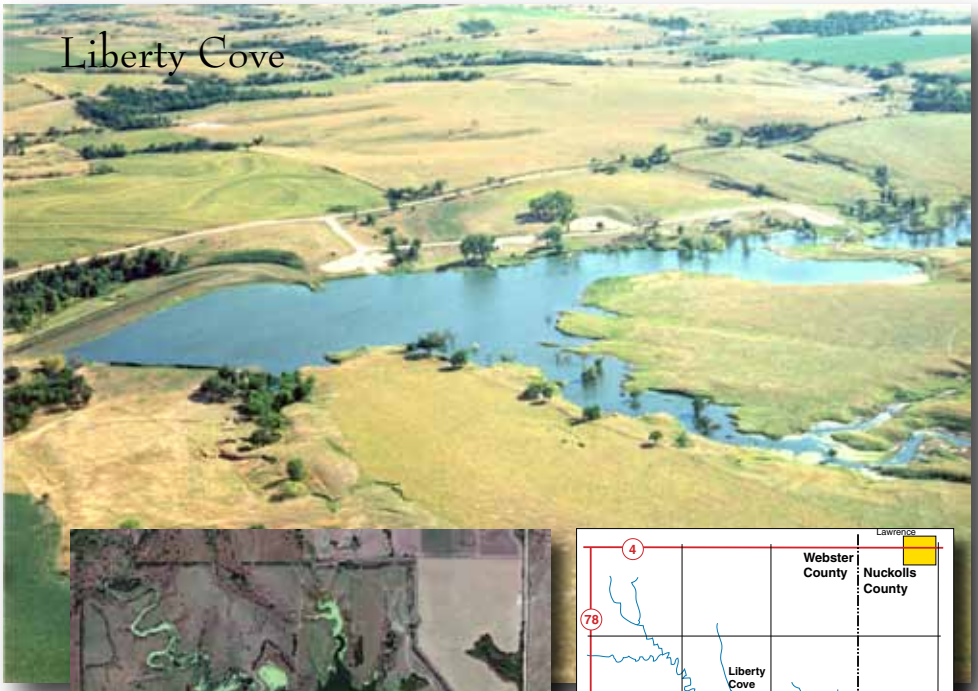
The Buffalo Creek Watershed Project in Sarpy County consists of 10 structures. The benefits of the project include grade stabilization and erosion control, flood abatement, and water quality improvement. For additional information on the Buffalo Creek Watershed visit the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District's website at http://www.papionrd.org/ .

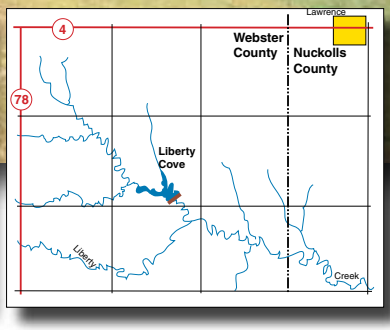
Sponsor: Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Location: Sarpy County
Project Size: 10 Total Structures
Purposes: Flood Adatement and Water Quality Improvement
Completed: 1991
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $628,712

Liberty Creek



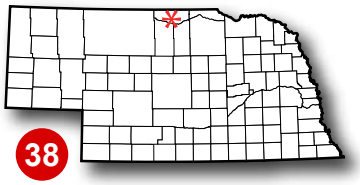
Liberty Cove Recreation Area, located 2 miles west, 2 miles south and 1/4 mile west of Lawrence. Facilities include eight RV camper pads with electrical hookups, two shelters, two restrooms, boat ramp, boat dock, fishing, swimming, beach, picnicking, grills, camping, playground, well water, hiking trails, horse riding trail, arboretum, small game hunting and boats less than 5 mph. For additional information on Liberty Cove Recreation Area visit the Little Blue Natural Resources District's website at http://www.littlebluenrd.org/Recreation/liberty.html .



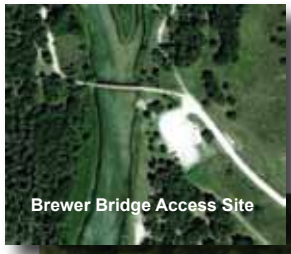


Sponsor: Little Blue Natural Resources District
Location: Webster County, Southwest of Lawrence
Project Size: 296 Total Acres with a 36 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Adatement and Recreation
Completed: 1991
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $223,162

Niobrara River Acess



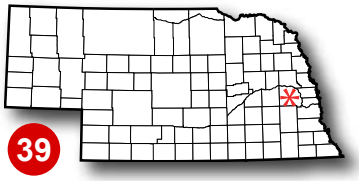
The Niobrara River Access Project provided for the development of one public access site along the Niobrara River northeast of Valentine and the expansion of another access point at Brewer Bridge. The facilities at the Cornell Bridge access site, at the enterence of the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, include a restroom, well, picnic tables, a parking area, and canoe access point. The improvements at Cornell Bridge were made in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Brewer Bridge access site south of Sparks was enlarged and improved to included a restroom, well, parking and canoe access to the Niobrara River. Both of these facilities are used extensively.


Brewer Bridge Access Site

Cornell Bridge Access Site

Sponsor: Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District
Location: Cherry County, East of Valentine
Project Size: Two Areas along the Niobrara River
Purposes: Recreation
Completed: 1991
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $25,274

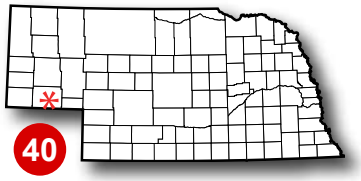
Czechland Lake



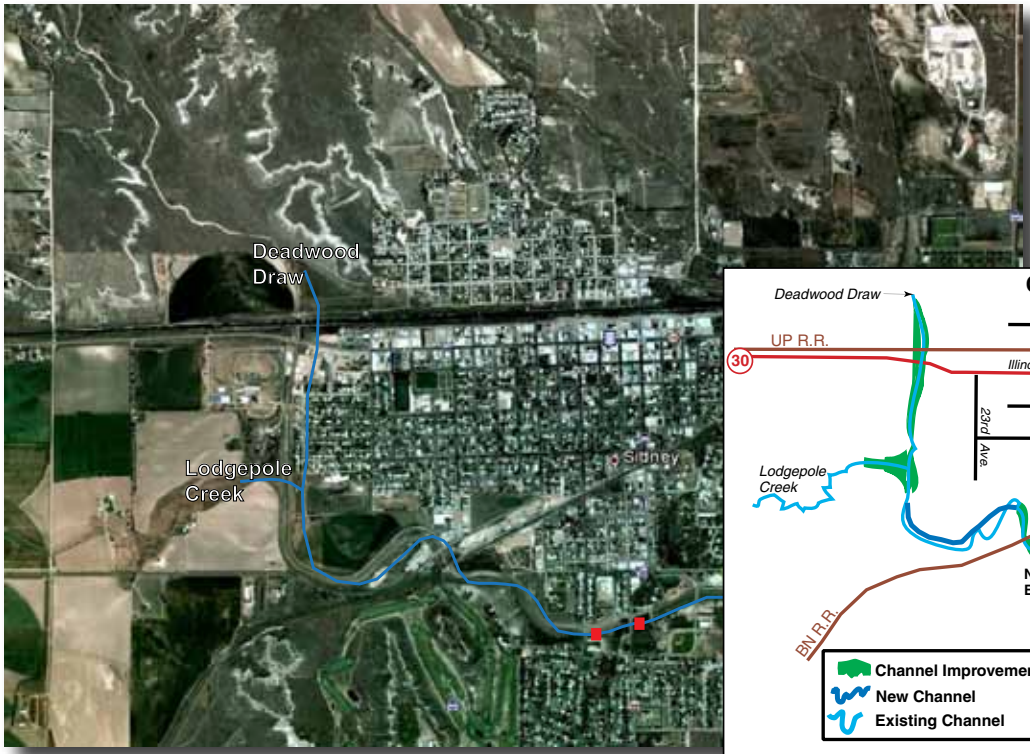
The Czechland Lake Project provides recreation on a P.L. 566 watershed flood control structure (Cottonwood Creek 7-A). The structure was designed and principally funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For additional information on Czechland Lake visit the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District's website at http://www.lpnnrd.org/projects/recreation/czechland.html .

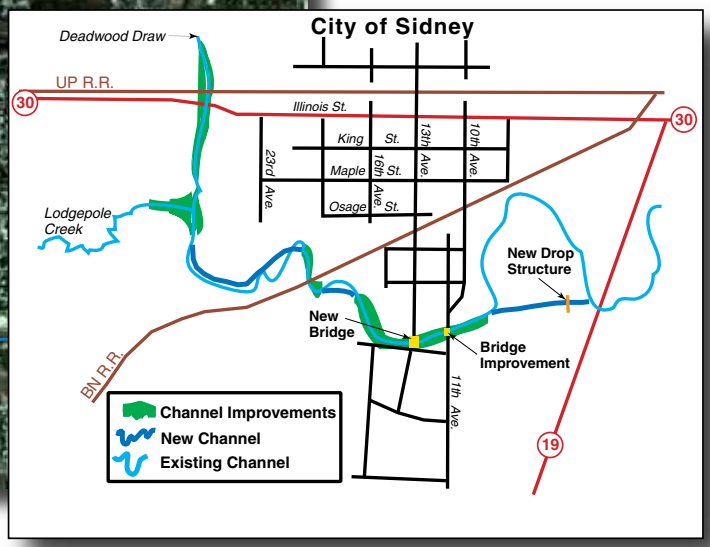
Sponsor: Lower Platte North Natural Resources District
Location: Saunders County, Northwest of Prague
Project Size: 260 Total Acres with a 82 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement and Recreation
Completed: 1993
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $172,990

Lodgepole Creek



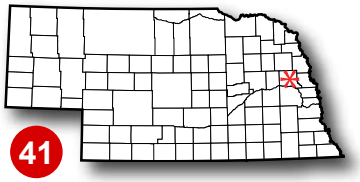
The Lodgepole Creek Project at Sidney is a Corps of Engineer's Section 205 project and consists of channel improvement work on Lodgepole Creek and Deadwood Draw in Sidney along with a channel cut-off and accompanying grade stabilization structure and replacement or improvements of three city bridges.

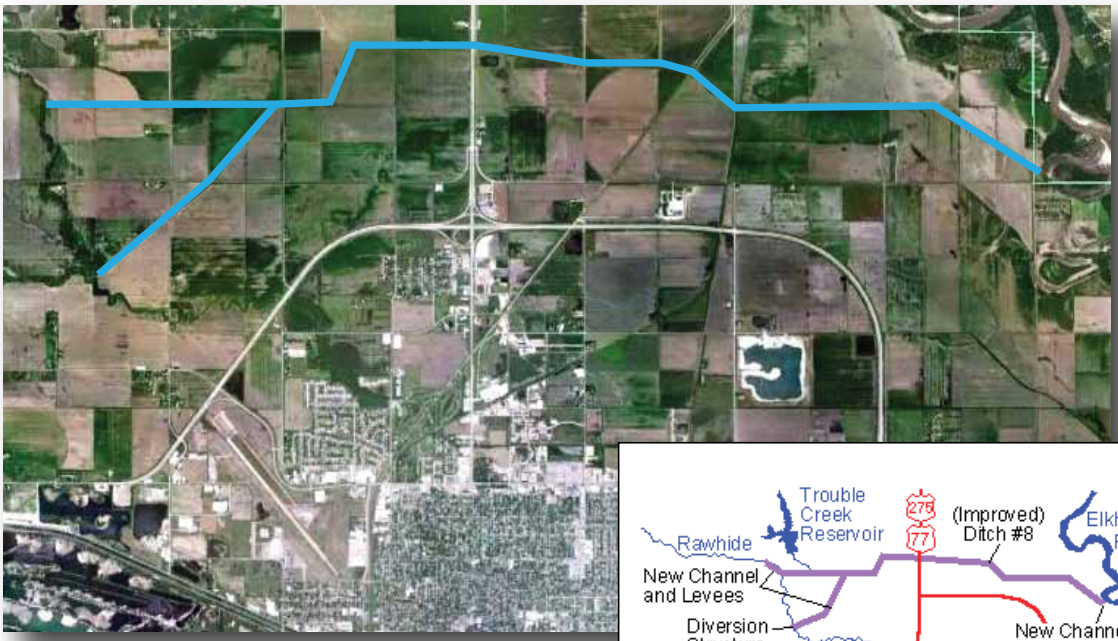


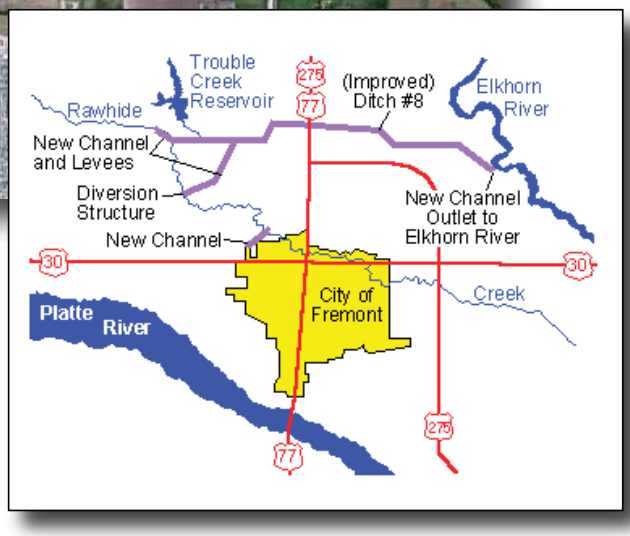


Sponsor: City of Sidney
Location: Cheyenne County, City of Sidney
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 1994
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $1,002,862

Rawhide Creek



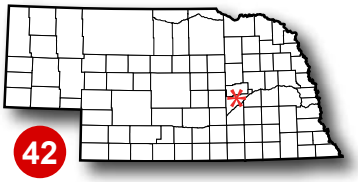


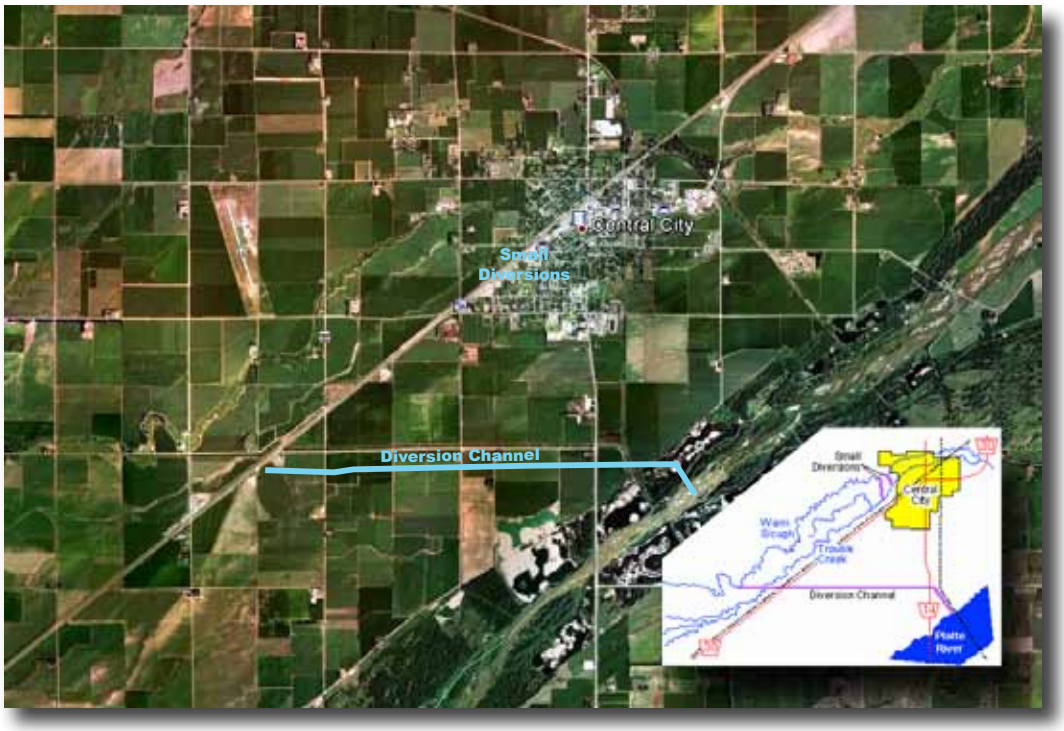


The Rawhide Creek Project was designed to reduce flood problems in Fremont. The project consists of the construction of a flood control dam and reservoir on trouble Creek, the construction of three channels to divert flood water from Rawhide Creek, and improvement of an existing drainage ditch to convey water to the Elkhorn River.

Sponsor: Lower Platte North Natural Resources District
Location: Dodge County, North of Fremont
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 1994
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $2,251,337

Warm Slough/Trouble Creek

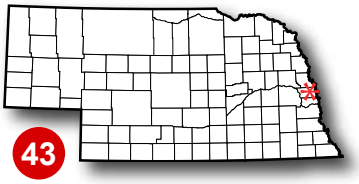


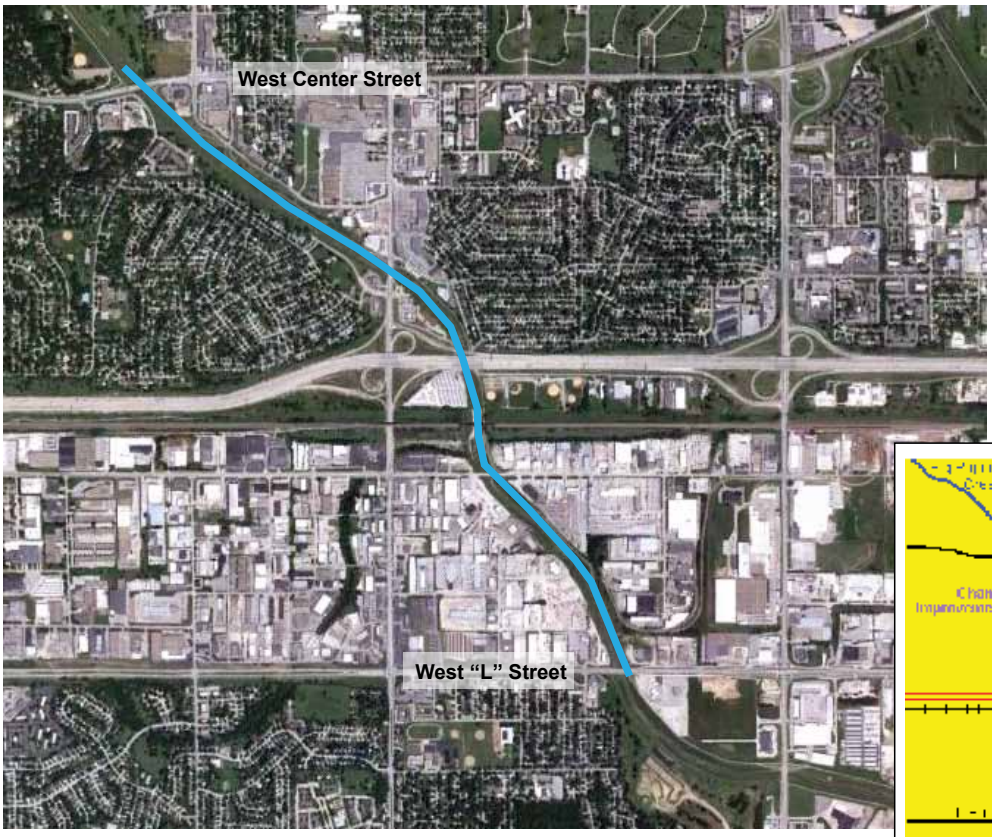


The Warm Slough/Trouble Creek Project is a flood control project that provides 100-year flood protection to Central City. The project consists of a diversion structure and channel that intercepts flood flows in Warm Slough and Trouble Creek above Central City and convey them to the Platte River. Additional information on the Warm Slough/Trouble Creek Project can be found on the Central Platte Natural Resources District's website at http://www.cpnrd.org/projects.html .

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Merrick County, near Central City
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 1994
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $1,535,417

Big Papio Channel Project

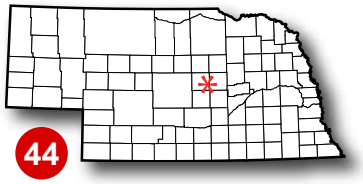




The Big Papio Channel Project is a Corps of Engineers Section 205 flood control project located in Omaha along Big Papio Creek between Center and "L" Streets. The project included channel improvement work, improved flow conveyance at a Union Pacific Railroad bridge, and construction of a flood warning system along with a hiking and biking trail. For additional information on the Big Papio Channel Project can be found on the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District's website at http://www.papionrd.org/ .

Sponsor: Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Location: Omaha
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement and Recreation
Completed: 1995
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $2,224,677

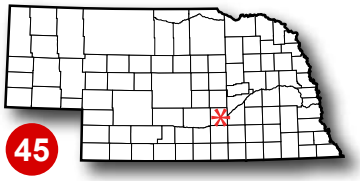
Davis Creek Recreation Area

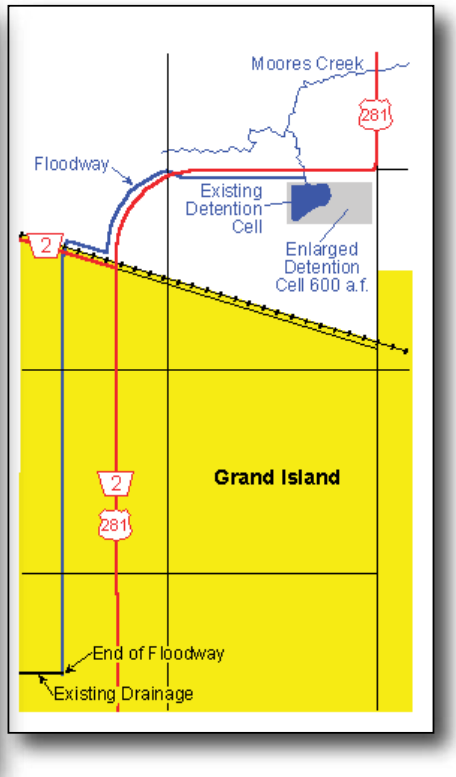


The Davis Creek Reservoir Project consists of the development of recreation facilities at a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reservoir. Located southwest of Scotia, the reservoir stores water for the lower portion of the North Loup Irrigation Project. Developments at the site include a boat ramp and fishing pier, both designed to operate with the fluctuating nature of the reservoir, picnic shelter, water well, restrooms , and parking areas. Additional information on the Davis Creek Reservoir and be found on the Lower Loup Natural Resources District's website at http://www.llnrd.org/recreation.html .

Sponsor: Lower Loup Natural Resources District
Location: Valley County, Southwest of Scotia
Project Size: Reservoir Fluctuates between 140 and 1145 Acres
Purposes: Irrigation and Recreation
Completed: 1995
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $96,038

Moores Creek

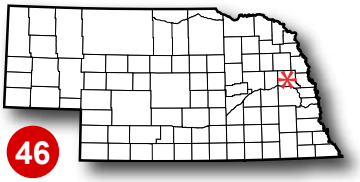


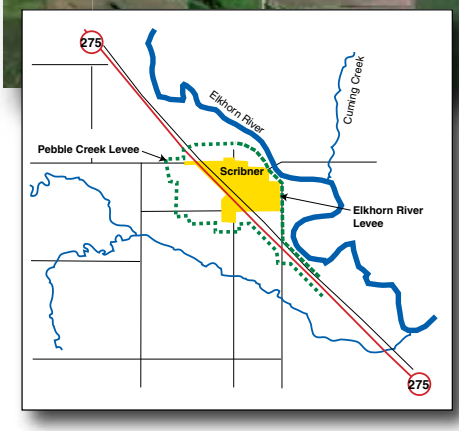


The Moores Creek Project is a flood control project located near Grand Island. The project consists of channel improvement work and the development of small flood water retention/detention cells along the creek. The project also utilized a large detention cell constructed by the Nebraska Department of Roads in its Highway 281 improvement project. For additional information on the Moores Creek Project can be found on the Central Platte natural resources District's website at http://www.cpnrd.org/projects.html .

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Hall County, City of Grand Island
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 1995
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $1,931,670

Scribner Levee

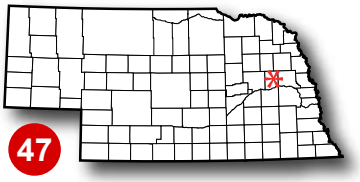




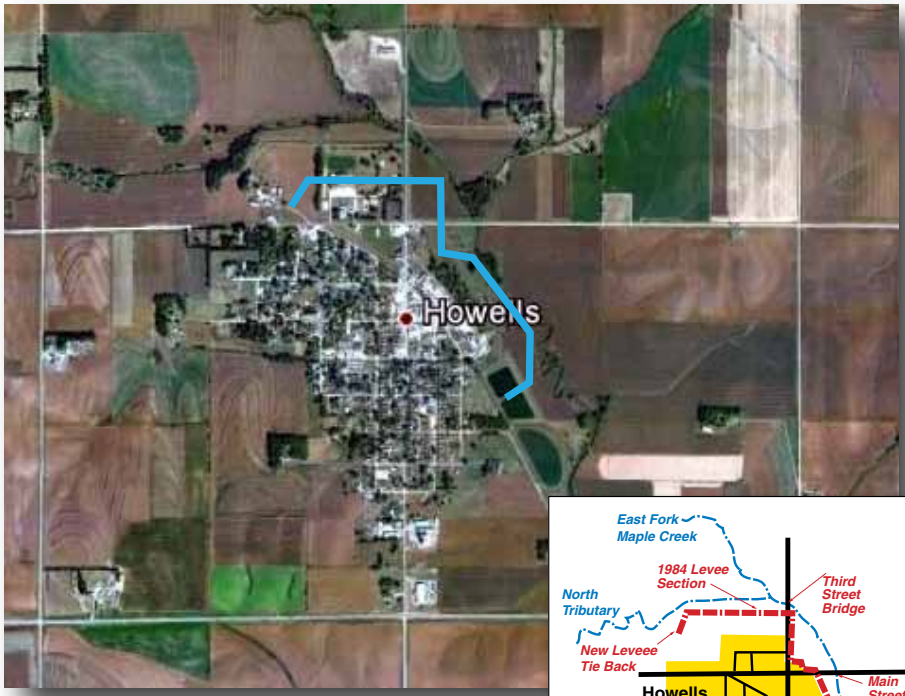
The Scribner Levee Project consists of the construction of a levee on the northwest, west, south, and southeast sides of Scribner to protect the city from Pebble Creek flooding events. The project was designed and primarily funded by the Corps of Engineers as a Section 205 project, providing 100-year flood protection to Scribner. The project as originally designed was completed and an additional levee was constructed on the east side of the city to better protect Scribner from the Elkhorn River.

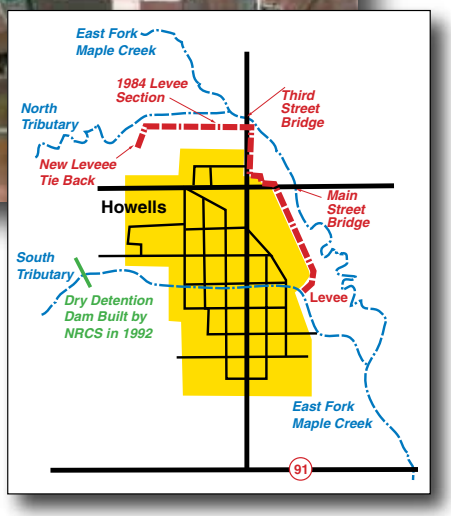
Sponsor: City of Scribner
Location: Dodge County, around Scribner
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 1995
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $426,433

Howells Levee



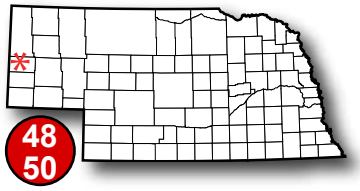
The Howells Levee Project was planned, designed, and principally funded by the Corps of Engineers as a Section 205 project, providing 500-year flood protection along the east fork of Maple Creek. The project consists of the improvement of an existing levee on the north side of Howells and the construction of a new levee on the east side of the community. Severe flooding in 1984, 1991, and 1992 resulted in the death of one person and caused property damages in excess of $2,000,000.

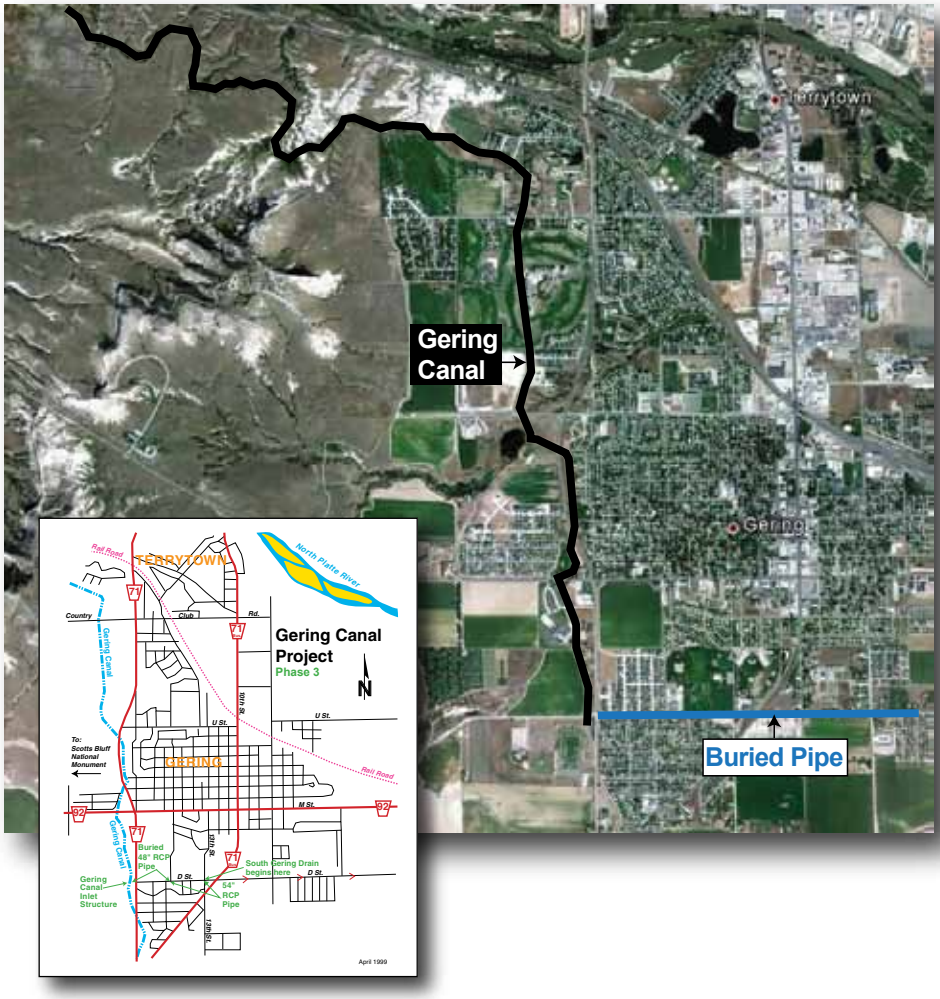




Sponsor: Village of Howells
Location: Colfax County, Village of Howells
Project Size: 3,000 Foot of New and 1,000 Foot of Rehabilitated Levee
See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 1997

Gering Canal Phases 1, 2 and 3

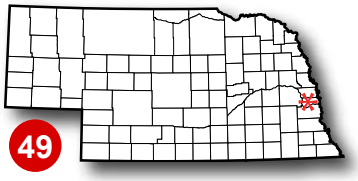




The Gering Canal Project consists of three phases to rehabilitate and improve the Gering Irrigation District's facilities. Phase One involved realigning the main canal to avoid canyon head-cutting. Phase Two involved construction of a new spillway. Phase Two has reduced the potential for flooding in the city of Gering. Phase Three involved the installation of an inlet structure and reinforced concrete pipe under Highway 71 and under additional streets in Gering.

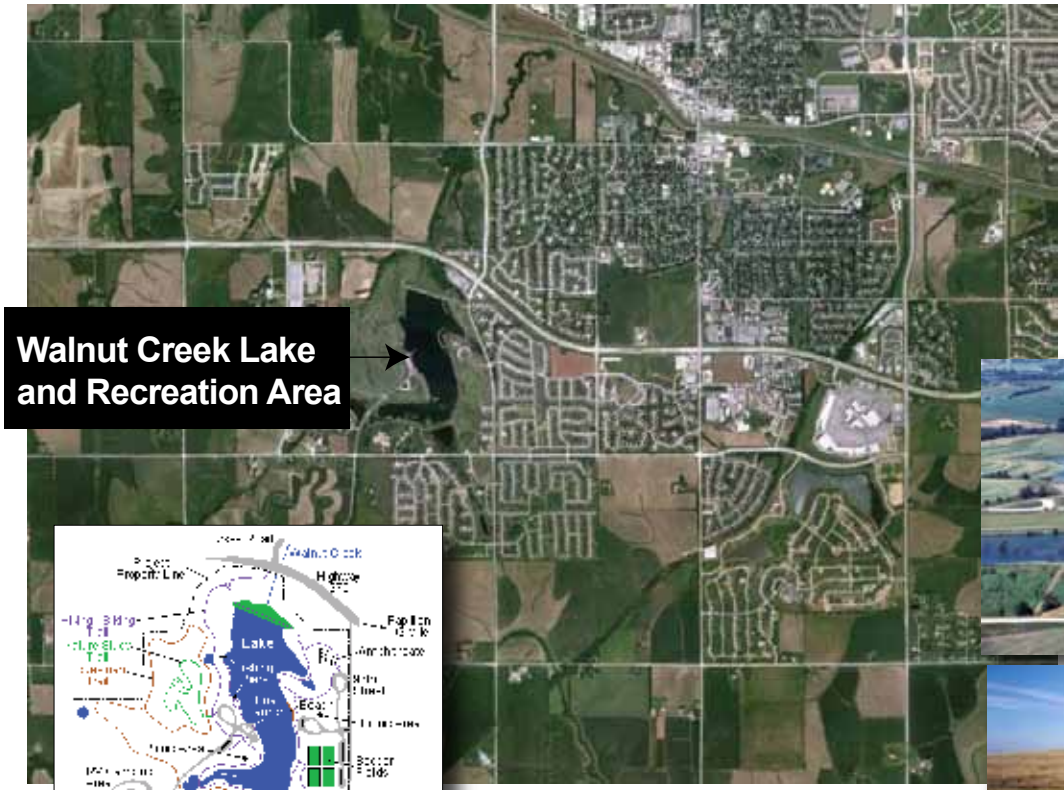
Sponsor: Gering Irrigation District and North Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Scotts Bluff County, West and Northwest of Gering
Project Size: 2,925 Feet of Buried Pipe, See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement, Irrigation Improvement and Rehabilitation
Completed: 1997 for Phases 1 & 2, 2000 for Phase 3
NRDF Assistance for Phase 1 and 2:
Grant of $105,15, Loan of $168,108 which was retired in 1998
NRDF Assistance for Phase 3: Grant of $154,769

Papio Site 21



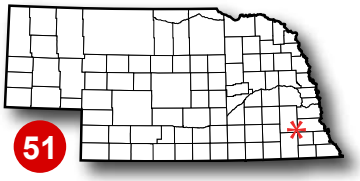
Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation Area

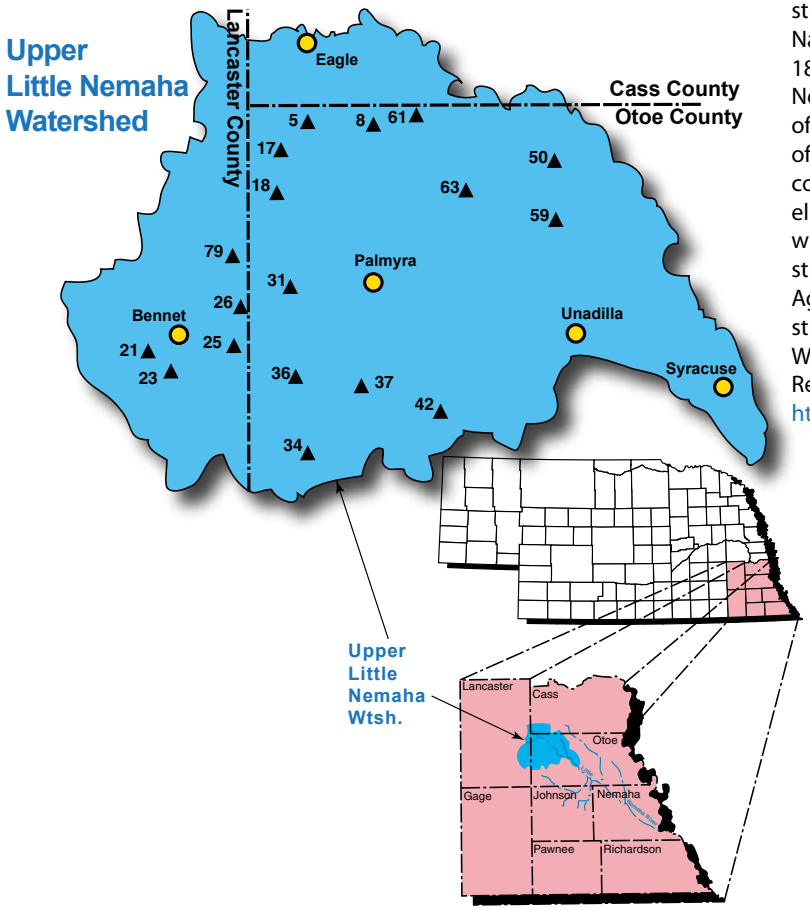
The Papio Site 21 Project is a recreation and flood abatement project located on Walnut Creek southwest of Papillion. The site was originally indentified by the Corps of Engineers in its Papillion Creek Watershed Plan after devastating floods in 1964 and 1965. The project consists of an earthern dam that impounds 100 acres with extensive recreation development. Additional information on Walnut Creek Lake can be found on the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District's website at http://www.papionrd.org/ .



Sponsor: Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
Location: Sarpy County, Southwest of Papillion
Project Size: 435 Total Acres with a 100 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement and Recreation
Completed: 1999
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $4,257,828

Upper Little Nemaha Watershed



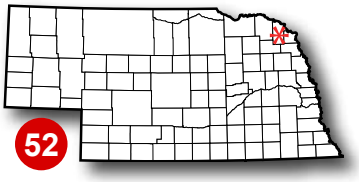


The Upper Little Nemaha Watershed Project is a flood abatement project that consists of 18 floodwater-retarding structures in southeast Nebraska. Originally planned by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a P.L.566 project. All 18 planned flood abatement structures in the Upper Little Nemaha Watershed are complete. This watershed covers parts of Lancaster, Cass, and Otoe Counties and includes the towns of Eagle, Bennet, Palmyra, Unadilla, and Syracuse. Because costs outweighed required benefits for federal funding eligibility, the Nemaha Natural Resources District partnered with the Nebraska Resources Development Fund to build the structures. In addition, Federal Emergency Management Agency funds also supplemented the costs of some of the structures. Additional information on the Upper Little Nemaha Watershed Project can be found on the Nemaha Natural Resources doistrict's website at http://www.nemahanrd.org/water.htm .

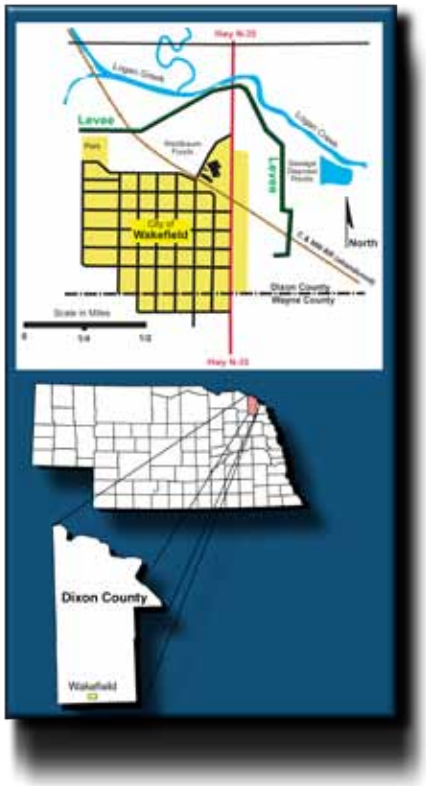
Upper Little Nemaha Site 61

Sponsor: Nemaha Natural Resources District
Location: Southeast Nebraska Counties of Lancaster, Case, and Otoe
Project Size: 18 Sites
Purposes: Flood Abatement and Recreation
Completed: 2003
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $3,486,171

Wakefield Levee

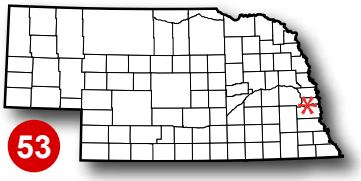


The Wakefield Levee Project provides 100-year flood protection to the city of Wakefield from flooding along Logan Creek. The project consists of a levee on the north and east sides of the community, a highway closure structure, and the protection of three city wells. The city also received Federal Emergency Management Agency funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the project.

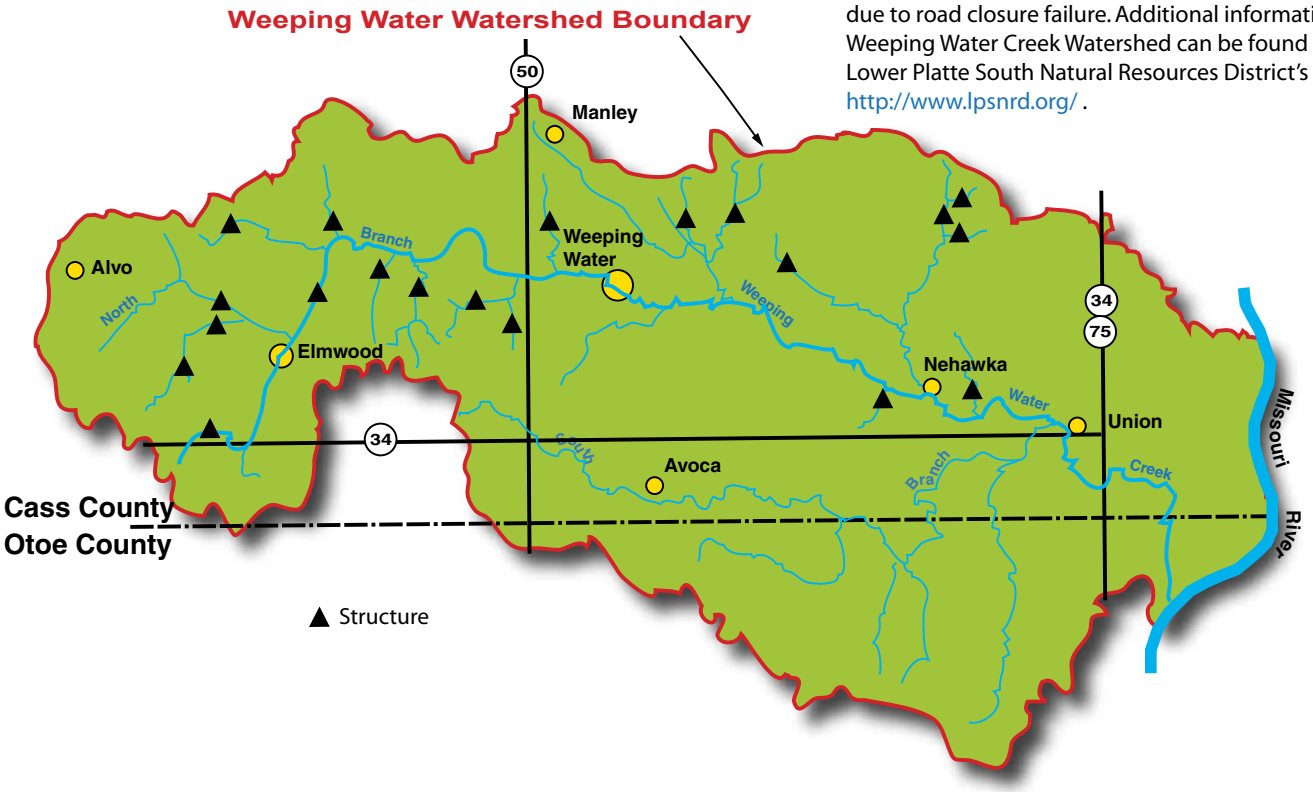


Sponsor: City of Wakefield
Location: Dixon County, City of Wakefield
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 2003
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $350,374

Weeping Water Creek Watershed

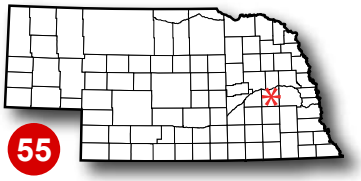


The Weeping Water Creek Watershed Project is a flood abatement project located in eastern Nebraska. The project consists of 19 floodwater-retarding structures that serve to reduce flooding in the communitiies of Weeping Water, Nehawka, and Union along with agricultural land, roads, and bridges in the watershed. Eighteen of the structures have been completed with one site suspended due to road closure failure. Additional information on the Weeping Water Creek Watershed can be found on the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District's website at http://www.lpsnrd.org/ .



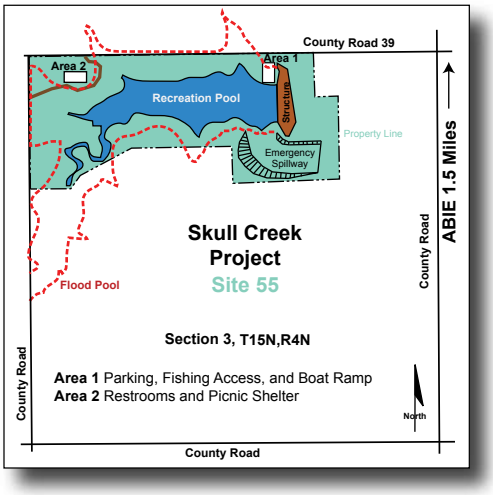
Sponsor: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Location: Cass and Otoe Counties
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 2003
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $3,736,657

Skull Creek Site 55



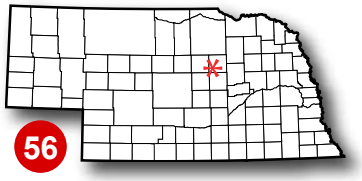
Homestead Lake

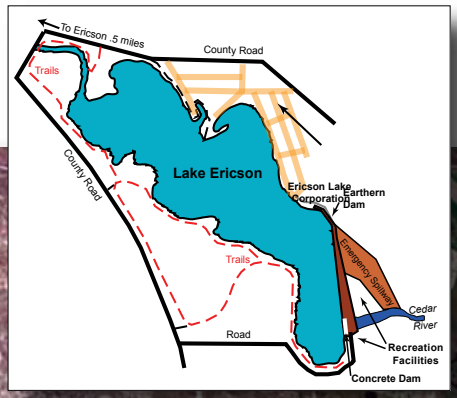
An accelerated land treatment program by the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District achieved the goal of 75% land treatment above Skull Creek Site #55 in late 1998. In 1999, the Department of Natural Resources approved funds for the project. Seventy-five percent of the $792,471 project cost ($594,353) came from the Nebraska Resources Development Fund, with the remaining 25 percent ($198,118) coming from the NRD. The dam was finished in spring 2001. The Site #55 dam provides up to a 37-surface-acre reservoir, now known as Homestead Lake. The lake has a flood pool of 92 acres, and will help protect Abie, Linwood and surrounding areas from flood events. The site has been developed for outdoor public recreation. The area is open for fishing, picnicking, no-wake boating, in-season upland game hunting, and other outdoor activities. Additional information on Skull Creek Site #55 can be found on the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District's website at http://www.lpnnrd.org/projects/watersheds/homestead.html

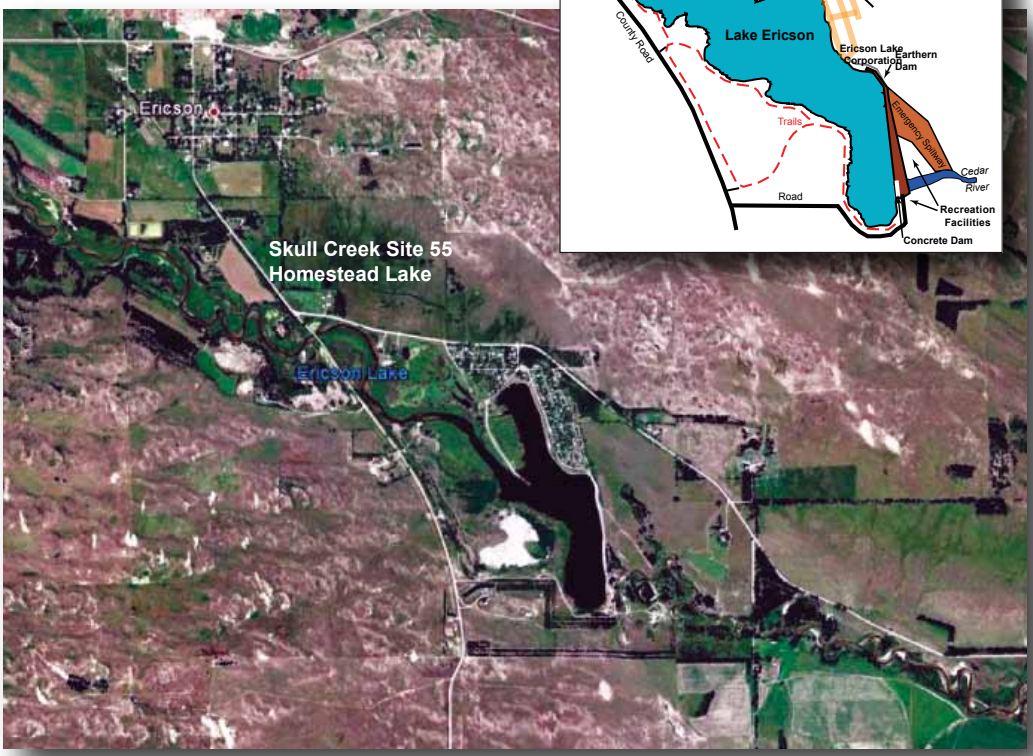


Sponsor: Lower Platte North Natural Resources District
Location: Butler County, North of Bruno
Project Size: Total of 160 Acres with a 37 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement and Recreation
Completed: 2004
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $594,353

Lake Ericson



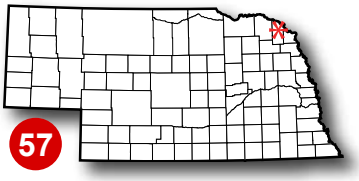




The Lake Ericson Project involved the reconstruction and improvement of a hydroelectric dam on the Cedar River near Ericson with the development of public recreation facilities at the site. Dredging and environmental enhancement work was previously funded through the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund in the form of a grant. The Lake Ericson Association, an organization of cabin owners at the lake assisted with the project. Additional information can on Lake Ericson can be found at http://www.lakeericson.com/about_us.htm .

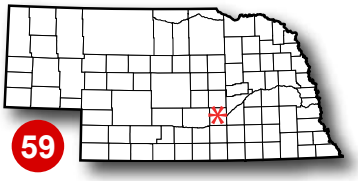
Sponsor: Lower Loup Natural Resources District
Location: Wheeler County
Project Size: 70 Acres
Purposes: Flood Abatement and Recreation
Completed: 2005
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $601,205

Powder Creek

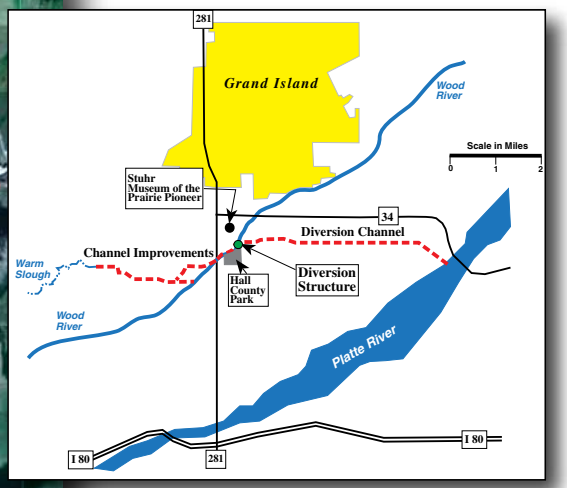


The Powder Creek Project is a multi-purpose structure (Site 31-20A) in the Aowa Creek Watershed, a P.L. 566 project planned, designed, and principally funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The project resulted in a 107 acre reservoir on 462 acres located southeast of Newcastle in Dixon County. The reservoir contains various features planned by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to enhance fishery habitat and water quality. The site drains 7,636 acres with 12 flood and gully control dams in place to help reduce sediment, erosion and runoff. Powder Creek Lake is the largest structure in the Aowa Watershed Project. The Game & Parks Commission is presently maintaining the area as a Wildlife Management Area. Powder Creek Lake is located 2 miles east of Newcastle on Highway 12 and 2 1/2 miles south. Additional information on Powder Creek can be found on the Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District's website at http://www.lcnrd.org/recreation/powder_creek/ .

Sponsor: Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District
Location: Dixon County
Project Size: Total of 462 Acres with a 107 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement and Recreation
Completed: 2005
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $498,760



Lower Wood River
Upper Warm Slough

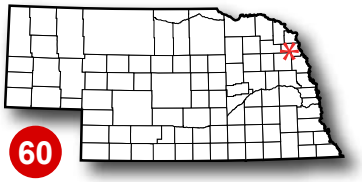


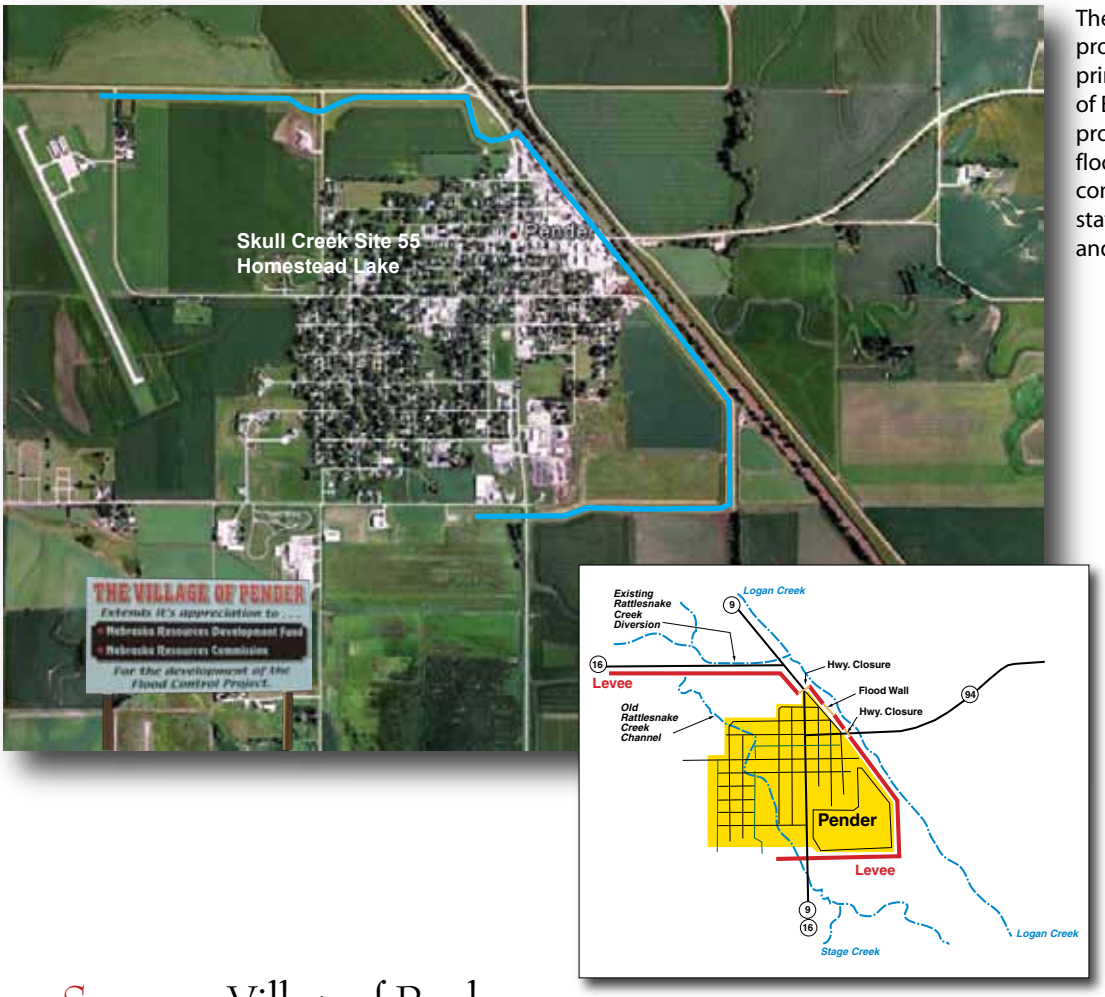
The project was planned, designed, and principally funded by the Corps of Engineers to provide flood protection against a 100-year flood event along Wood River at Grand Island. Principal features of the project include minor levee and channel improvement work, a diversion on Wood River and a floodway to the Platte River (see map above).

In 2008, the City of Grand Island received over 7 inches of rain during the first week of June. This created substantial problems for landowners and homeowners in the area; however, it brought great appreciation for the Wood River Flood Control Project. Without the completion of the project, a number of homes would've been devastated. Additional information can be found on the Central Platte Naturasl Resources District's website at http://www.cpnrd.org/projects.html .

Sponsor: Central Platte Natural Resources District
Location: Hall County, South Grand Island
Project Size: Five Miles of Diversion Channel with Levees, See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 2006
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $3,922,806

Pender Flood Control





The project was a Section 205 project planned, designed, and principally funded by the Corps of Engineers. The project will protect Pender from a 385-year flood event on Logan Creek and consists of a levee, floodwall, two state highway closure structures and a dentension cell.

Description from the Corps of Engineers, Omaha NE., District.

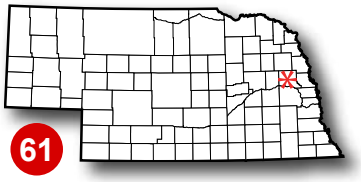
12. LOGAN CREEK, PENDER, NE

Location. This project is located in northeastern NE, approximately 75 miles north-northwest of Omaha, NE. Pender is located along the right bank of Logan Creek, about midpoint in the Logan Creek basin.

Existing Project. The selected and constructed plan is a combination levee and floodwall with a detention storage feature. It provides flood protection from Logan Creek as well as incidental benefit from Stage Creek flooding to the Village's residential and industrial area as well as its central business district. The levee extends approximately 15,000 feet in length along the north, east, and south edge of the community, averaging 10 feet in height.

Sponsor: Village of Pender
Location: Thurston County, Village of Pender
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 2007
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $784,591

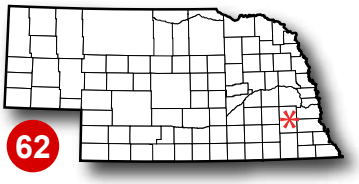
Winslow Levee



The Winslow Levee Project involved the construction of a levee on three sides of Winslow to provide flood protection from the Elkhorn River. The project was coordinated with Dodge County, the Nebraska Department of Roads, and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad.

Sponsor: Village of Winslow and Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Location: Dodge County, Village of Winslow
Project Size: See Map Above
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 2009
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $452,078

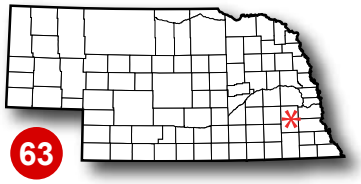
Stevens Creek Watershed



The Stevens Creek Watershed Project consists of ten small floodwater-retarding structures located on Stevens Creek and its tributaries east of Lincoln. These dams serve to reduce flooding along the stream, especially to a commercial/industrial area located near Highway 6. The ten structures are one of the components for the comprehensive Stevens Creek watershed plan.

Sponsor: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Location: Lancaster County, East of Lincoln
Project Size: Ten Floodwater Retarding Structures
Purposes: Flood Abatement
Completed: 2009
NRDF Assistance: $2,561,899

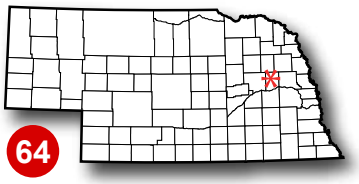
Antelope Creek Project



The Antelope Creek Project was designed and prinicipally funded by the Corps of Engineers to provide 100-year flood protection to an area of Lincoln. The project involved a new open and wide flood water conveyance channel, recreation trails, and bridge improvement work. Other partners include the University of Nebraska and the City of Lincoln.

Sponsor: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Location: Downtown Lincoln near the University Campus
Project Size: Floodplain Work in Downtown Lincoln and UN-L
Purposes: Flood Abatement, Recreation, and Bridge Improvements
Completed: 2010
NRDF Assistance: $7,803,294

Maple Creek Recreation Project



The project involved the construction of an earthen dam on the West Folk of Maple Creek just west of Leigh. Additional information on the Maple Creek Recreation Area can be found on the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District's website at http://www.lenrd.org/pilger-recreation-area/

Sponsor: Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
Location: Colfax County, West of Leigh
Project Size: 557 Total Acres with a 160 Acre Reservoir
Purposes: Flood Abatement and Recreation
Completed: 2010
NRDF Assistance: Grant of $4,114,949

Approved Projects

64. LITTLE SANDY CREEK WATERSHED

Sponsor: Little Blue NRD

This watershed project planned for the construction of five flood control structures on Little Sandy Creek and its tributaries in Saline, Fillmore, Jefferson and Thayer counties. Site No. 12 was suspended for economic reasons after a lengthy attempt to obtain a U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, 404 permit failed. Dam site 61 near Tobias was retained by the NRD for public use as a multi-purpose dam which provides various recreation activities. Site No.'s 30 and 40 have also been completed. Site No. 12 is nearly complete.

65. LOWER TURKEY CREEK WATERSHED

Sponsor: Lower Big Blue NRD

This flood control project consists of seven floodwater-retarding structures (earthen dams) in Saline and Fillmore counties. Drainage structure improvements will also be made in the Village of DeWitt. Construction of Site No.'s 3, 4, 8 and 15 are completed. Construction of Site No. 2A is about half completed and Sites 9 and 11 will begin in the spring of 2013

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67. PIGEON/JONES CREEK

Sponsor: Papio-Missouri River NRD

This project is a multi-purpose reservoir project near Hubbard. Extensive recreation facilities are planned around the 200-acre reservoir, with flood damage reduction benefits being realized downstream on the Missouri River valley. Construction of the project has just begun.

69. UPPER PRAIRIE/SILVER/MOORES CREEK

Sponsor: Central Platte NRD

This project, which includes five upland dams and large high water detention cells along the stream channel, will serve to reduce flooding along portions of Prairie, Silver and Moores Creeks west of Grand Island. It will also remove a portion of north western Grand Island from the 100 year flood plain. Construction of the remaining portion of the detention cells has been delayed by the US Army Corps of Engineers pending exploration and removal of an old munitions dump. Land rights for the first two upstream dams are complete and construction will begin in the fall of 2012.

70. WESTERN SARPY/CLEAR CREEK

Sponsor: Papio-Missouri River NRD

The Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Project, planned and designed by the Corps of Engineers, involves the improvement of levees on both sides of the Platte River near Ashland; and the elevation, relocation or removal of several cabins. Construction on the Sarpy County side is nearly complete and construction on the Saunders County side is well underway.

71. Buck and Duck Creek

Sponsor: Nemaha NRD

This project will consist of two dams, one each on Buck and Duck Creek near Peru, Nebraska. Both structures will control a 100 year event; and reduce sediment loading in the down-stream drainage ditches which currently require frequent mechanical removal in order to maintain their effectiveness running through crop land in the lower half of the watershed before flowing into the Missouri River. A public recreation area will also be developed at the Duck Creek site. Construction of the Buck Creek site is complete and planning is underway on the Duck Creek site.

Financial Status of Approved Projects

Approved Projects	Amount Allocated	Total Project Obligations	Total Amount Expended to Date
PARTIALLY FUNDED:			
Buck & Duck	0	0	0
Little Sandy Creek Watershed	2,873,189.36	2,400,344.15	2,400,344.15
Lower Turkey Creek Watershed	5,428,450.11	3,453,273.06	3,453,273.05
Pigeon/Jones Creek	1,548,404.24	0	0
Sand Creek Environmental Restoration	12,268,720.00	3,178,629.47	3,025,734.96
Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek	8,899,005.82	6,280,575.90	5,860,533.54
Western Sarpy/Clear Creek	8,820,000.00	6,024,946.95	6,024,946.95
COMPLETED PROJECTS (64)	59,810,655.01	59,910,655.01	59,806,571.61
TOTAL:	**$103,763,373.84**	**$85,263,373.84**	**$84,686,353.56**

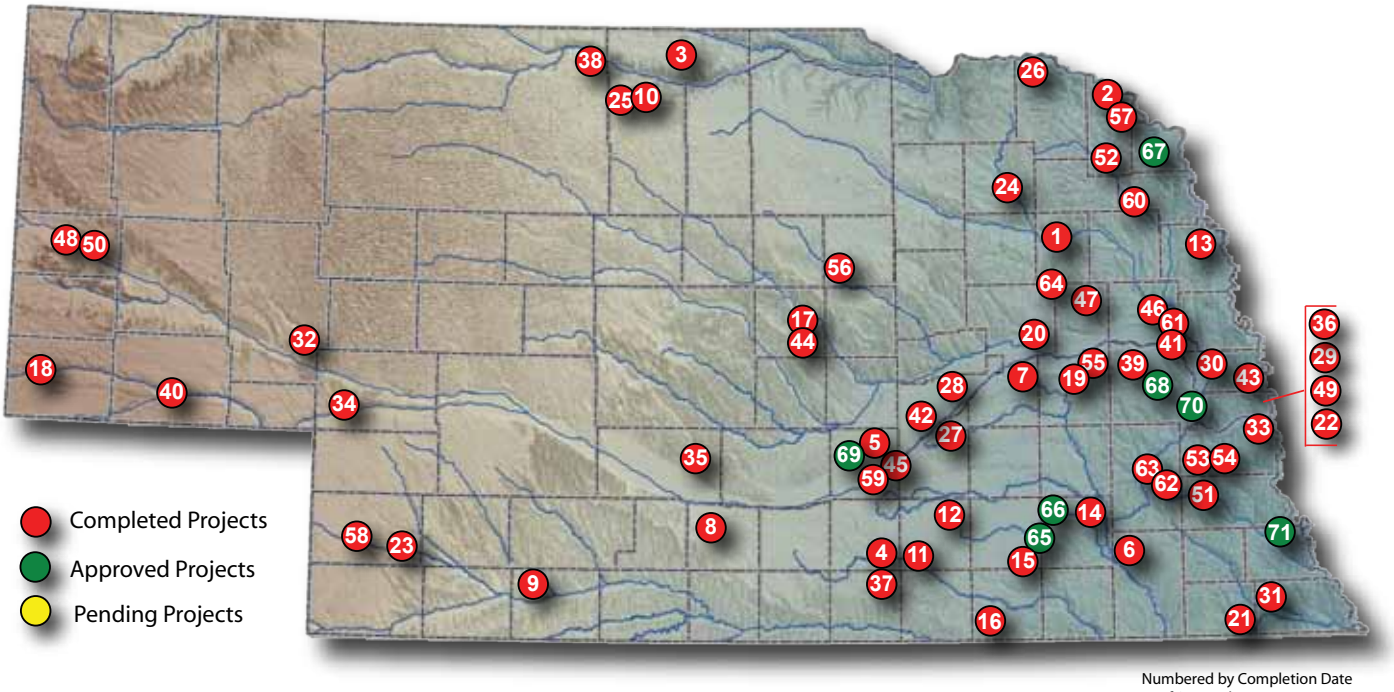
Projects Pending

Future Legislative Appropriations Needed as of June 30, 2012.

Partially Funded Approved Projects

Projects	Remainder to Obligate
Buck & Duck	
Little Sandy Creek Watershed	472,845.21
Lower Turkey Creek Watershed	1,975,177.05
Pigeon/Jones Creek	1,548,404.24
Sand Creek Environmental Restoration	9,090,090.53
Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek	2,618,429.92
Western Sarpy/Clear Creek	2,795,053.05
TOTAL:	**$18,500,000.00**

Project Location Map



Numbered by Completion Date
as of September 2012

Completed Projects

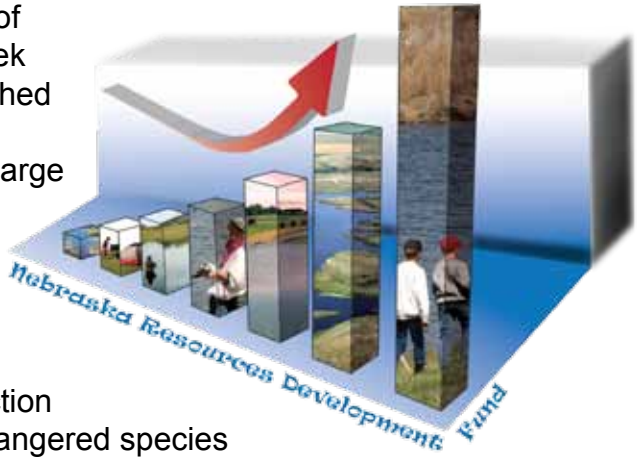
1. Maskenthine
2. Aowa Creek
3. Cub Creek
4. Crystal Lake
5. Prairie Creek
6. Clatonia
7. Clear Creek Watershed
8. Loomis Pipeline
9. McCook
10. West Sand Draw
11. Big Sandy #1
12. School Creek (suspended)
13. Summit Lake
14. Walnut Creek
15. Big Sandy #2
16. Deshler (suspended)
17. Mira Creek
18. Oliver Reservoir
19. Central Butler Water Management Project
20. Lost Creek
21. South Fork 2-A
22. Thompson Creek
23. Wauneta
24. Willow Creek
25. Ainsworth Reservoir
26. Antelope Creek
27. Aurora 35-11-6
28. Silver Creek
29. Chalco Hills Recreation Area
30. Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization
31. Long Branch Site 21
32. Union Irrigation District
33. Mill Creek
34. Ogallala
35. Buffalo Creek Dawson Co.
36. Buffalo Creek Sarpy Co.
37. Liberty Creek
38. Niobrara River Access
39. Czechland Lake
40. Lodgepole Creek at Sidney
41. Rawhide Creek
42. Warm Slough/Trouble Creek
43. Big Papio Channel
44. Davis Creek Recreation Area
45. Moores Creek
46. Scribner Levee
47. Howells Levee
48. Gering Canal Phase 1 & 2
49. Papio Site 21
50. Gering Canal Phase 3
51. Upper Little Nemaha Wtsh.
52. Wakefield Levee
53. Weeping Water Creek Wtsh.
54. Weeping Water Creek Site 7-G (suspended)
55. Skull Creek Site 55
56. Lake Ericson
57. Powder Creek
58. Enders Dam (suspended)
59. Lower Wood River/ Upper Warm Slough
60. Pender Flood Control
61. Winslow Levee
62. Stevens Creek Wtsh.
63. Antelope Creek
64. Maple Creek Recreation Project

Approved Projects

65. Little Sandy Creek Wtsh.
66. Lower Turkey Creek Wtsh.
67. Pigeon/Jones Creek
68. Sand Creek Environmental Restoration
69. Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores
70. Western Sarpy/Clear Creek
71. Buck & Duck Creek

Looking Ahead

Since 1974 the Nebraska Resources Development Fund has helped local subdivisions of government promote natural resources development opportunities and address related problems. By using funding from this program to leverage other monies, sound projects have been completed that likely would not have been accomplished otherwise due to local funding constraints. The continued importance of this program is evidenced by the number of project sponsors currently in various stages of planning for new projects including: the Long Pine Creek Watershed project near Ainsworth; Battle Creek Watershed flood control project near Battle Creek; a flood control problem in the Town of Sidney; and a groundwater recharge project in southern Kearney county, several levee improvement projects and others.



Project sponsors today often are required to address age old issues like flood control while dealing with new challenges including groundwater modeling, data collection networks and real-time monitoring, threatened and endangered species habitat issues, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' cumbersome 404 permit review and mitigation process. In combination, these issues add complexity in the project planning process and increase the financial burden on project sponsors on top of historical concerns related to unexpected cost increases due to fuel price hikes and agricultural land value escalation. To partially mitigate project risks related to local project support and momentum, federal funding match requirements, and economic cost incentives, some project sponsors have chosen to complete their projects in an expedited manner prior to committed funding from the Resources Development Fund becoming available. For some, this has only been possible through the use of borrowed capital which carries with it the burden of paying interest.

The challenges before us are ones that will not go away, and in some cases must be addressed to assure compliance with state statutes, interstate compacts and federal requirements. Project sponsors are working diligently to mitigate the impacts of increased project costs and expanding scopes by searching out ways to leverage funds and bring in outside capital, as well as to engage in cooperative efforts with various state, university, federal government, private engineering and consulting entities to assure the highest possible benefit return for the funds invested. We look forward to your continued support.

Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.
Director
Department of Natural Resources

Kent Zimmerman
Projects Director
Department of Natural Resources

This report and other information produced by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is available on line at http://dnr.ne.gov.