

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts



Nebraska's NRDs

making the Good Life
better since 1972

Water

Water is vital to life. Farmers, ranchers, city residents, industry, outdoor enthusiasts, livestock and wildlife all depend on Nebraska's most precious natural resource.

The High Plains Aquifer supplies Nebraska with more ground water than any other state. Above ground, the state is landscaped with 24,000 miles of rivers and streams. Nebraska's major river basins include the Missouri, Platte, Niobrara, Loup, Republican, Elkhorn, Nemaha and Blue.



Though it is plentiful and usable, Nebraska's water is neither infinite nor immune from serious drought and pollution. Irrigators, cities and villages, industries and wildlife all compete for the resource. Contamination may come from sediment, farm chemicals, urban runoff and industrial sources.

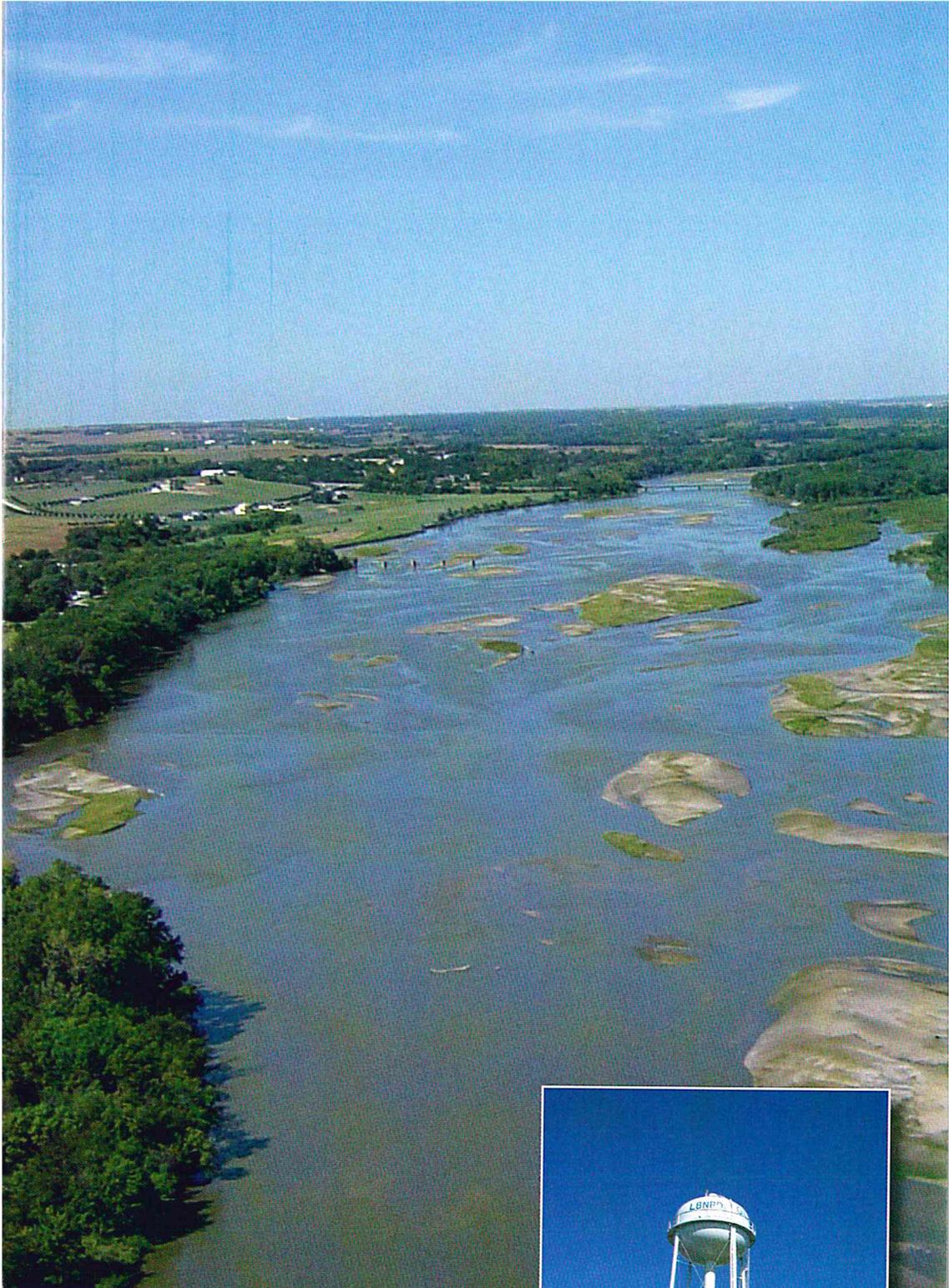
Natural Resources Districts are helping to secure our future through local leadership responsibilities to protect ground water from overuse and pollution.

Each District has a groundwater management plan to protect ground water. State law has given Districts a variety of regulatory tools, to deal with contamination, shortages or user conflicts.

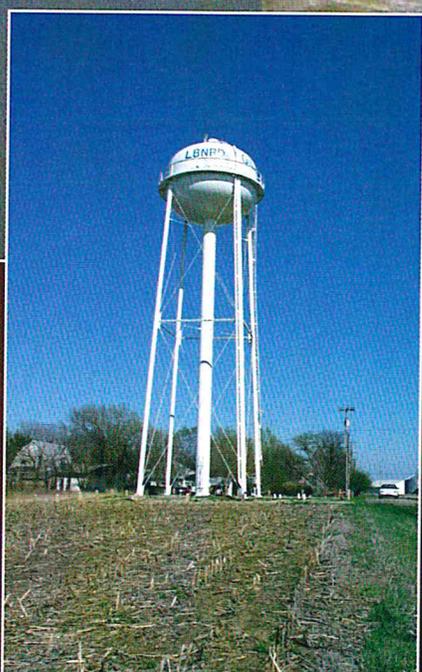


NRDs encourage water stewardship by providing financial assistance to landowners for irrigation water management, well decommissioning and best-management practices to protect water.

NRDs are not just water guardians; in some cases they are suppliers. A number of NRDs operate water systems for rural customers and small communities.

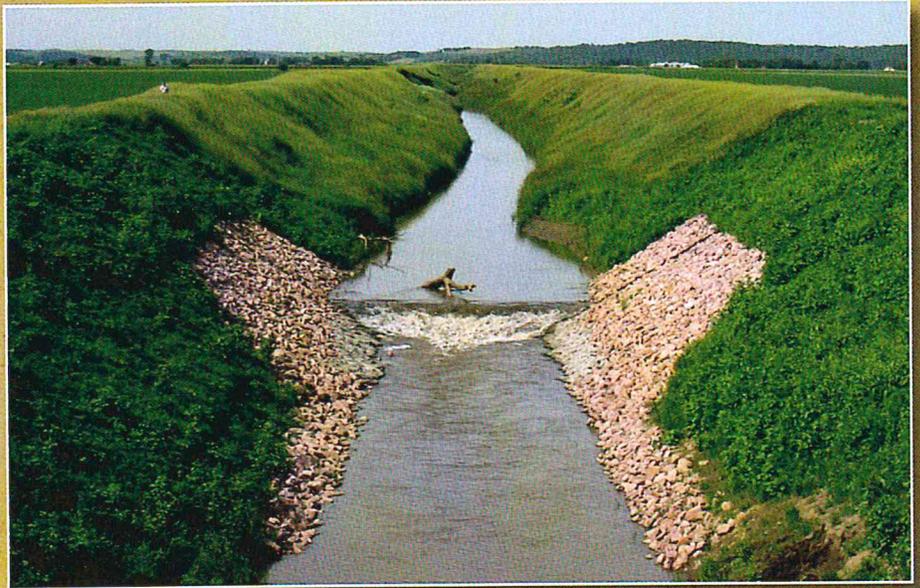


Origin of Nebraska's Name:
From an Oto Indian word
meaning flat water.



Soil

The state's agricultural productivity can be diminished by soil erosion caused by wind and water.



Natural Resources Districts try to offset these natural forces by promoting conservation, educating the public and working with other agencies such as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to install the conservation measures on the land.

Cost-share incentives such as the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program and programs specific to each District give landowners financial assistance. Erosion is controlled by installing terraces, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, buffer strips, dams, planting windbreaks and improving range management.

When soil erosion becomes a threat to neighboring properties, Districts have the legal authority to mediate a solution under the Erosion and Sediment Control Act.





Unprotected soil erodes easily during rain events. Buffers and other conservation practices help reduce soil erosion and sediment transport.

Trees & Wildlife Habitat

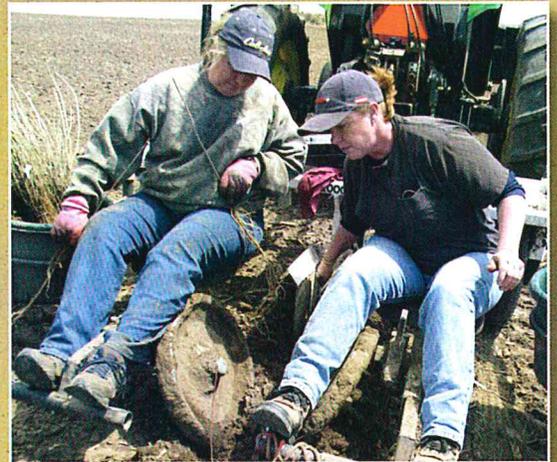
Nebraska has a proud history of planting trees. Arbor Day, an international holiday, was born here.

Nebraska was a national leader in planting trees during the Dust Bowl Era of the 1930's.

The NRD Conservation Tree Program helps landowners plant more than a million trees each year in Nebraska.

Trees benefit both people and animals. They shade and shelter homes, reduce soil erosion, protect crops and livestock, provide homes for wildlife, control noise, provide us with food and lumber and add beauty to our landscape.

Each year Districts sell trees for conservation use. Districts assist landowners with designing, planting and installing weed barrier to help in controlling weeds which compete for water. Many Districts will share the cost with the landowner as funds are available.



The WILD NEBRASKA and other wildlife programs pay landowners to set aside land for wildlife. WILD is a partnership between the NRDs and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to establish habitat for Nebraska's wildlife.



Since 1972, NRDs have planted over 55 million trees and installed over 6,000 miles of weed barrier.

Flood Control

As long as rain falls and snow melts, floods will occur. NRDS will work with landowners and other agencies to minimize the damages that floods cause.

Throughout Nebraska, Districts employ a watershed protection approach. Utilizing flood plain management measures the NRDS help protect people and property from flood damage by designing and building dams, levees, dikes, drainage ditches and other structures to keep flood waters from taking lives or damaging crops, buildings and roads.

Often, flood control projects provide an avenue for recreational opportunities. Trails can be found along waterways, widened channels or atop levees. Flood control reservoirs offer great sites for land and water recreation.

Districts also aid communities in planning flood control and mitigation projects, bringing many interested agencies together toward a common goal.

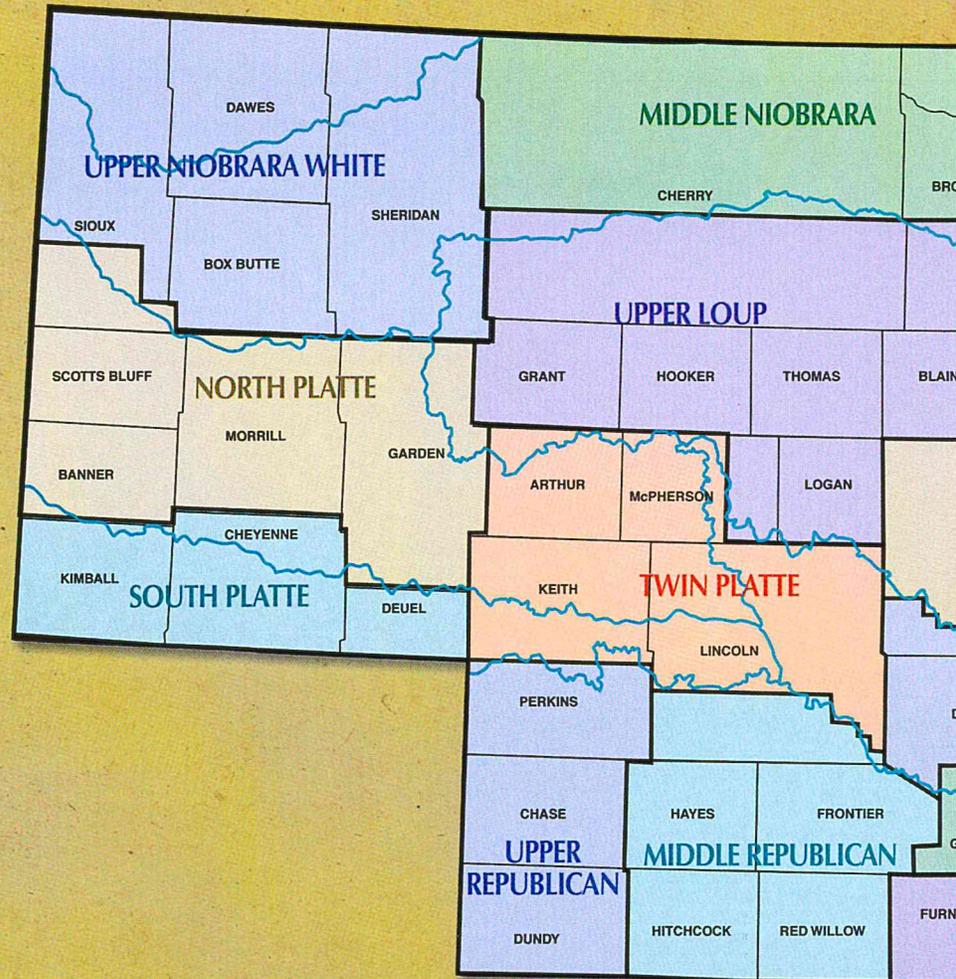




NRDs floodwater control and sediment management aids in reducing the threat of property damage, and loss of life during floodwater runoff events.



Natural Reso



Nebraska's Natural Resources are the greatest sources of the state's wealth and its assurance for future prosperity.

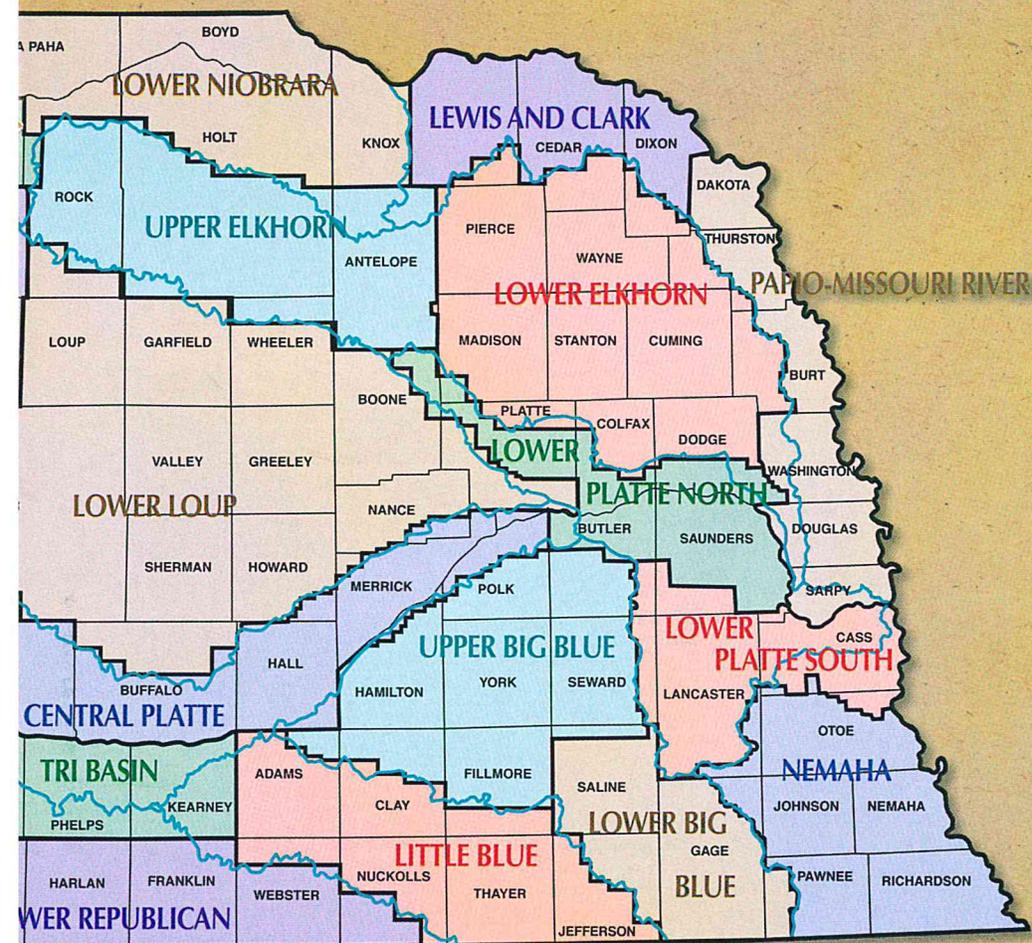
Once dismissed as "The Great American Desert," Nebraska now is known both nationally and abroad for its agricultural bounty and natural wonders. We sometimes take these wonders for granted, but they surround us from one corner of the state to another; from Niobrara to Red Cloud, from Scottsbluff to Omaha.

- A field of little bluestem, the official state grass, waving in the summer breeze;
- Sparkling, clean water, pumped fresh and pure from an underground aquifer or meandering down a river channel;
- Soil that nourishes cultivated crops and native prairies;
- Trees, evergreen or deciduous shade us, shelter us from the wind and cold and provide wildlife habitat.

The Nebraska Legislature enacted laws in 1972 to combine 154 special purpose entities into 23 NRDs. These Districts are unique to Nebraska and to the rest of the country. NRDs are local government units with broad responsibilities to protect our natural resources. Major Nebraska river basins form the boundaries enabling Districts to respond best to local needs.

An elected Board of Directors governs each District. Much of their funding comes from local property taxes. In most cases, your local Natural Resources District typically uses 1-2 percent of all property taxes collected in the District.

Resources Districts



NRDs help Nebraskans respond to natural resources challenges with local control, solutions and field offices. Partnerships have been built with various agencies and organizations, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, other state and federal agencies, municipalities, counties and private organizations.

Many NRD projects leave permanent results: dams, terraces, drainage ditches, windbreaks, reservoirs and recreational trails.

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, a statewide association created by NRDs, provides administrative services, legislative representation, statewide communication and coordination for the 23 independent Districts.

Since being created in 1972, NRDs have experienced tremendous growth in the responsibilities given to them by state statute, especially in protecting groundwater.

The NRDs inform Nebraska's young people by supplying information, education and other outreach efforts. It is vital that future generations understand the importance of securing Nebraska's Natural Resources.



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Urban Conservation

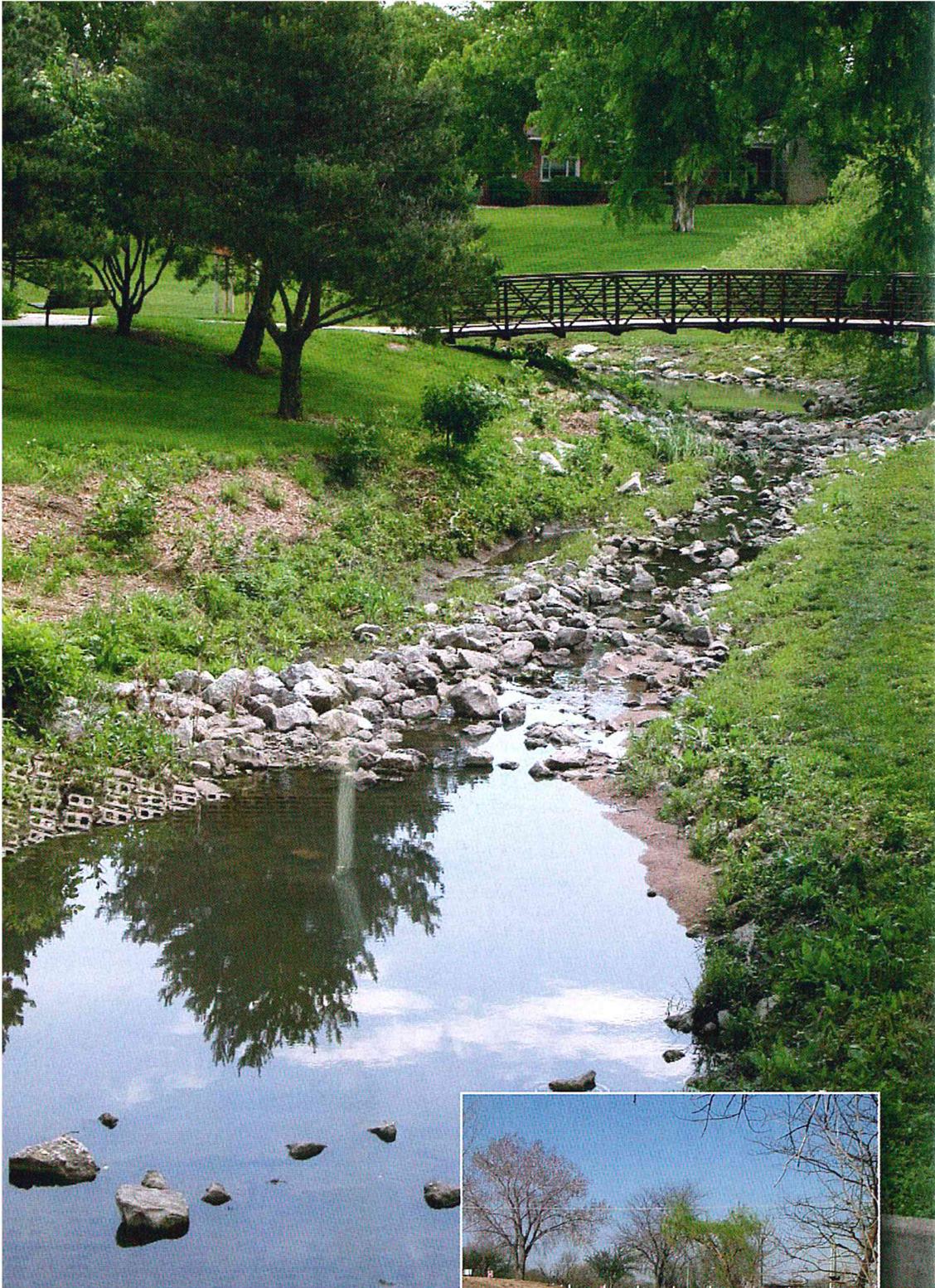
Even though most of Nebraska's residents live in cities and towns, they are never far removed from the state's natural resources.

Conservation is just as important in cities as in rural areas. The activities of city residents have a major impact on water and soil. The conversion of farmland to urban uses can greatly increase potential flooding and water pollution problems such as soil sedimentation and pollution from urban runoff.

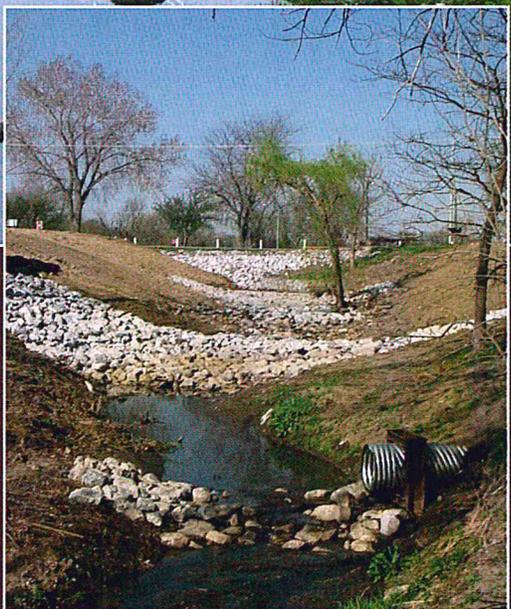


NRDs respond to these needs by focusing resources and programs toward urban problems and issues. They include urban forestry, urban park development and improvement, wellhead protection, flood control, streambank stabilization, recreation and environmental education.





NRDs construct and maintain hundreds of miles of levees and channel improvements to protect urban and rural residents from flood waters.



Recreation

No matter where you live in Nebraska, from the biggest city to the most remote Sandhills ranch, you are never far from a public outdoor recreation area.



Many of these recreational opportunities; trails, lakes, parks and wildlife areas are built and maintained by NRDs.

Many NRD projects are developed for multiple purposes. Recreational trails are built atop of flood-control levees or along abandoned railroad lines. Dams maybe built for flood-control often develop into recreational areas. Habitat areas and wetlands maybe available to hunters and are often preserved for interpretive nature study.





NRDs have constructed more than 89 public recreational areas throughout the state since 1972.

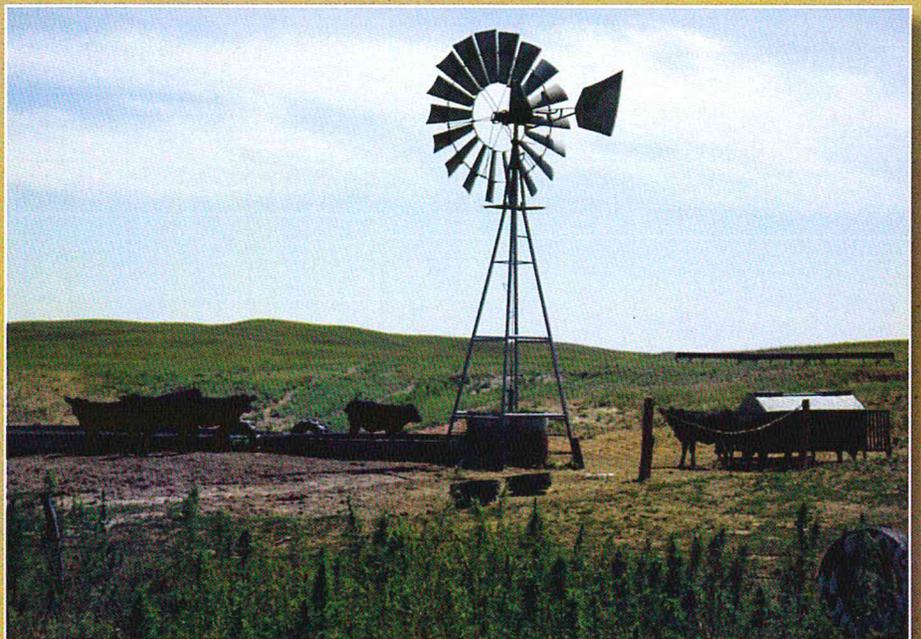
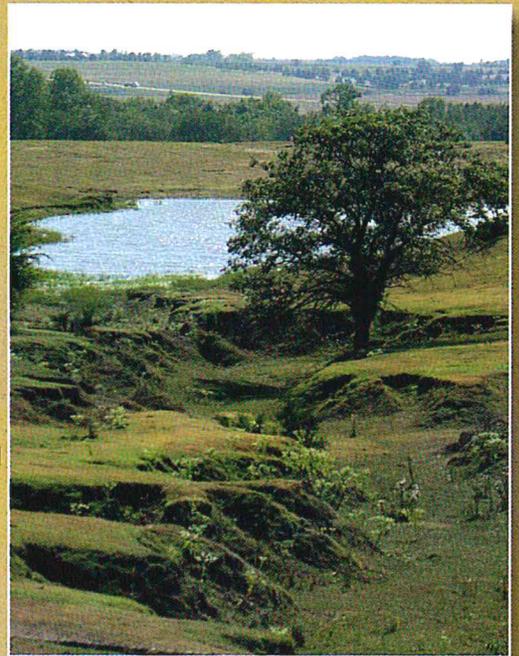


Grazing Lands

From the Sandhills and the loess hills to the Pine Ridge and the hardwood savannahs, Nebraska's grazing lands blanket over half of the state.

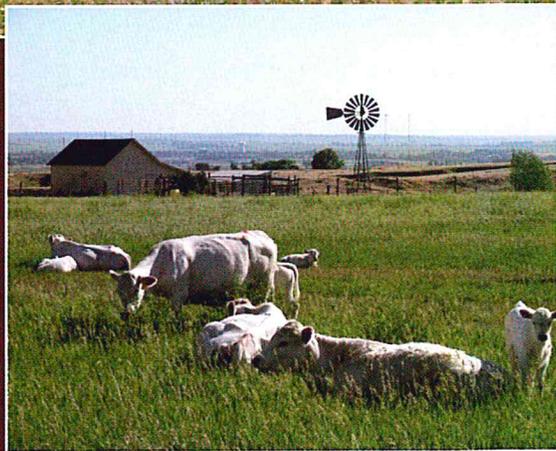
They provide homes for wildlife, recreational opportunities and a way of life for livestock and wildlife producers. With proper management, grazing lands can recharge the state's aquifers, help promote water quality and prevent soil erosion.

NRDs encourage stewardship by providing financial assistance for planned grazing systems, including constructing cross-fencing systems and pipelines for livestock water. Cooperating with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, NRDs sponsor grazing land field tours and other educational programs to promote sustainable conservation practices.





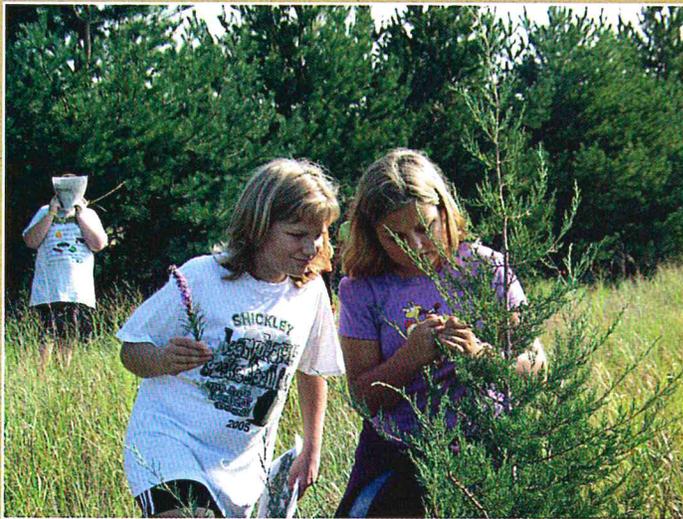
There are nearly 23 million acres of rangeland and pastureland in Nebraska – half of which are in the Sandhills.



Education

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."
- John Muir

Educating our youth about natural resources and reasons to conserve them may be as important an activity as any carried out by Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts. Nebraska's NRDs are nationally known for their innovative and effective environmental education programs. Each year, thousands of elementary school students are given hands-on outdoor education experiences through their local NRD. Water festivals and other Resources Management Field Days have proven to be valuable teaching tools.



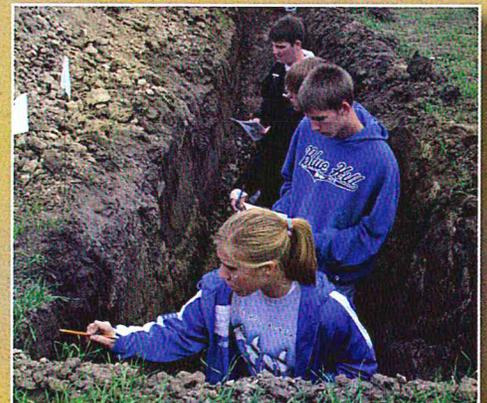
At the secondary education level, the Envirothon is a challenging opportunity for high school age students to demonstrate their knowledge of soils, aquatics, wildlife and other natural resources management topics. Regional and

State of Nebraska competitions are sponsored by Nebraska's NRDs and other resources management partners. Students also benefit from outdoor classroom developments and contests for land, range and soil judging.

Many Districts help teachers develop the tools to pass the conservation message on to the next generation. Districts assist universities and colleges in developing natural resources education efforts.

Whether in the classroom or on a field trip, the principles of environmental stewardship and conservation are being passed on to our state's future decision makers.

Newsletters, program and project brochures, speakers, internet web sites, public meetings with landowners and other activities help spread the natural resources management message. Contact your local Natural Resources District to find out how you can become more involved.





Visit NRD Websites for educational information (addresses on back).



Central Platte NRD

215 No. Kaufman Ave.
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone: 308-385-6282 • www.cpnrd.org

Lewis & Clark NRD

608 N Robinson Ave
Hartington, NE 68739-0518
Phone: 402-254-6758 • www.lcnrd.org

Little Blue NRD

100 East Sixth St. • P.O. Box 100
Davenport, NE 68335
Phone: 402-364-2145 • www.littlebluenrd.org

Lower Big Blue NRD

805 Dorsey St. • P.O. Box 826
Beatrice, NE 68310
Phone: 402-228-3402 • www.lbbnrd.org

Lower Elkhorn NRD

601 E. Benjamin Ave -Ste 101
P.O. Box 1204
Norfolk, NE 68702-1204
Phone: 402-371-7313 • www.lenrd.org

Lower Loup NRD

2620 Airport DR
P.O. Box 210
Ord, NE 68862-0210
Phone: 308-728-3221
www.llnrd.org

Lower Niobrara NRD

410 Walnut St. • P.O. Box 350
Butte, NE 68722
Phone: 402-775-2343 • www.lnnrd.org

Lower Platte North NRD

511 Commercial Park Rd. • P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066-0126
Phone: 402-443-4675 • www.lpnrd.org

Lower Platte South NRD

3125 Portia St. • P.O. Box 83581
Lincoln, NE 68501-3581
Phone: 402-476-2729 • www.lpsnrd.org

Lower Republican NRD

30 N. John St. • P.O. Box 618
Alma, NE 68920
Phone: 308-928-2182 • www.lrnrd.org

Middle Niobrara NRD

526 E. 1st St.
Valentine, NE 69201
Phone: 402-376-3241 • www.mnnrd.org

Middle Republican NRD

220 Center Ave. • P.O. Box 81
Curtis, NE 69025
Phone: 308-367-4281 • www.mrnrd.org

Nemaha NRD

62161 Highway 136
Tecumseh, NE 68450-8084
Phone: 402-335-3325 • www.nemahanrd.org

North Platte NRD

100547 Airport RD
P.O. Box 280
Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0280
Phone: 308-632-2749
www.npnrd.org

Papio-Missouri River NRD

8901 So. 154th St.
Omaha, NE 68138
Phone: 402-444-6222
www.papionrd.org

South Platte NRD

551 Parkland Dr. • P.O. Box 294
Sidney, NE 69162-0294
Phone: 308-254-2377
www.spnrd.org

Tri-Basin NRD

1308 Second St.
Holdrege, NE 68949
Phone: 308-995-6688
www.tribasinrd.org

Twin Platte NRD

111 So. Dewey St. • P.O. Box 1347
North Platte, NE 69103-1347
Phone: 308-535-8080
www.tpnrd.org

Upper Big Blue NRD

105 North Lincoln Ave.
York, NE 68467
Phone: 402-362-6601
www.upperbigblue.org

Upper Elkhorn NRD

301 No. Harrison St.
O'Neill, NE 68763
Phone: 402-336-3867
www.uenrd.org

Upper Loup NRD

39252 Highway 2
P.O. Box 212
Thedford, NE 69166
Phone: 308-645-2250
www.upperloupnrd.org

Upper Niobrara White NRD

430 E. 2nd St
Chadron, NE 69337
Phone: 308-432-6190
www.unwnrd.org

Upper Republican NRD

135 West 5th St • P.O. Box 1140
Imperial, NE 69033
Phone: 308-882-5173
www.urnrd.org

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