



the

VIADUCT

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Dedicated to the conservation, preservation and wise use of our natural resources

Vol. 13, No. 2
Fall 2000

www.lpnrd.org

INSIDE

PAGE 2

*Lake Wanahoo and
Wanahoo Park: The
Past and the Future*

PAGE 3

*Remembering the Past
... Vintage Wanahoo
Park Photos*

PAGE 4

*Raymond Central Team
Qualifies for National
Land Judging*

PAGE 5

*David City High School
Students Survey Lakes
for Restoration Project*

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

\$17 Million in Federal Funding Approved for Lake Wanahoo/ Sand Creek Watershed Project

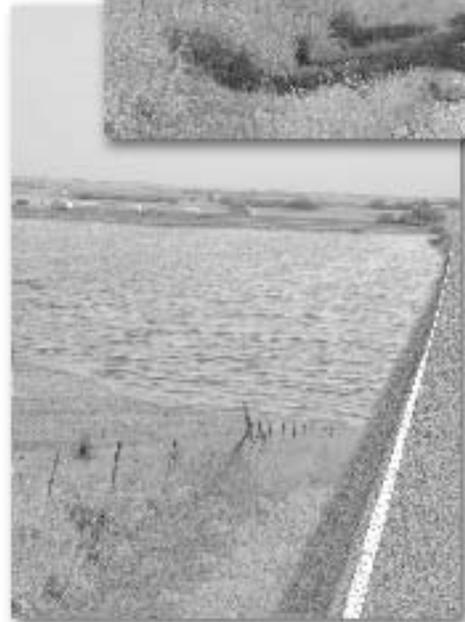
The Lake Wanahoo/Sand Creek Watershed Project cleared its last major hurdle in early November, when \$17 million in federal funds were appropriated for the project by Congress.

The Sand Creek project was included in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) passed by Congress on November 3. With funding secured, the environmental restoration and flood control project can move forward for a planned 2003 construction date.

The passage of the 2000 WRDA bill was critical to the continuation of the project, which is on a carefully-planned timeline to coincide with construction of a Highway 77 bypass around Wahoo in 2003. A segment of the bypass north of Wahoo will run over the top of the Lake Wanahoo dam, the keystone of the project. Since the WRDA bill is only passed once every two years, the failure of the 2000 bill would have wreaked havoc with the timeline and could have derailed the project indefinitely.

"We're relieved to finally have the final piece of the puzzle in place," said Mike Murren, Lake Wanahoo Coordinator. "We knew it was a good project and we were confident that we would

contd. on Page 2



· **Top:**
· The Lake Wanahoo site one mile north
· of Wahoo, looking east from the
· future site of the Highway 77
· expressway, as it appears today.

· **Bottom:**
· A computer simulation of how the site
· will appear when the lake and bypass
· are constructed.

Remembering the Past

As the Lake Wanahoo sponsors prepare to "Build for the Future," it's appropriate to take a look back and "Remember the Past."

The Lake Wanahoo project draws its name from Wanahoo Park, a dance hall and recreation area that operated near Wahoo throughout the early and middle decades of the 20th century.

The park was a popular gathering place for area residents, especially in the 1920s and 1930s. The main attraction was an ornate dance hall on the man-made "Dance Island." The moat surrounding the island was formed by diverting water from nearby Sand Creek with a water wheel. The park also featured a huge swimming pool.

Unfortunately, the park suffered a series of mishaps over the years, culminating in a large flood in 1963. With the moat and swimming pool filled in by flood-borne silt, rebuilding was unfeasible, and the park became a relic of the past.

Despite being gone for nearly 40 years, Wanahoo Park still evokes fond memories for many long-time residents of the area. The Lower Platte North NRD recently acquired several photos from the park's heyday in the late 1920s-early 1930s, and is pleased to present them here. The NRD would like to give special thanks to Kay Sanderson of Colon for providing the photos.

The photos were originally produced by the Anderson photo studio as a series of postcards, and showcase patrons enjoying the park's facilities, including the swimming pool, dancehall and boardwalk. Rows of vintage autos can be seen in a photo of a parking lot outside the park.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

*contd. from
Page 1*

get funding, but it's nice to have the full support of Congress behind us."

One of the most visible proponents of the project in Washington was Representative Doug Bereuter. Bereuter called the project sponsors personally on Friday, Nov. 3 to inform them that the WRDA bill had passed.

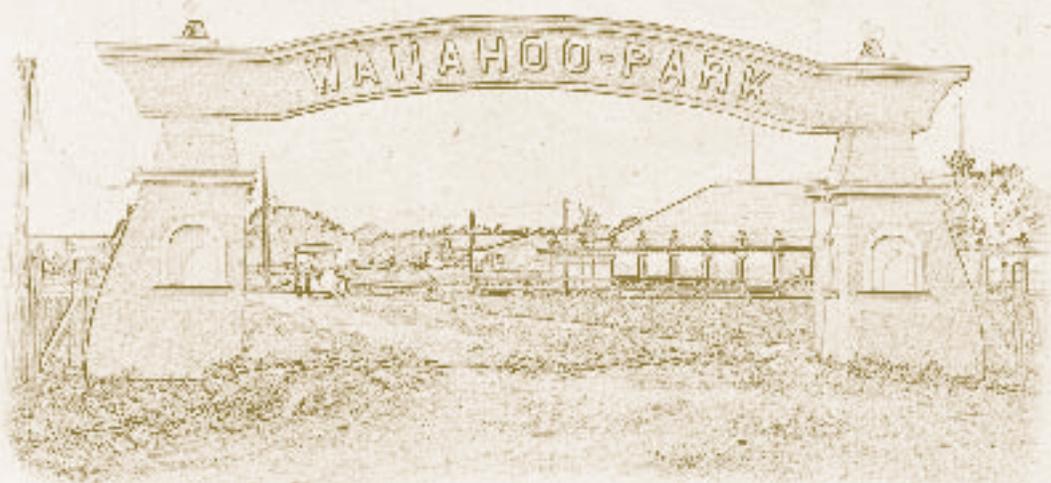
"We're very grateful for the hard work of Congressman Bereuter and his staff on behalf of this project," said NRD Manager John Miyoshi. "The WRDA bill went through months of negotiations, starting last March, and the Congressman was there championing our project every step of the way."

The Sand Creek project involves Lake Wanahoo, a 637-surface-acre reservoir one mile north of Wahoo, and seven smaller upstream dams on Sand and Duck creeks in Saunders County. Wetlands and wildlife habitat around the lakes will provide environmental restoration. The project also will help control flooding in Wahoo, Ithaca, Ashland and surrounding areas at an estimated savings of \$250,000 a year. Lake Wanahoo, situated on 1,600 acres, will also offer public recreation.

The local sponsors of the Sand Creek project are the Lower Platte North NRD, the City of Wahoo, and Saunders County. Each of the local sponsors has agreed to provide up to \$1 million for the project. The federal sponsor is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps shepherded the project through Congress and will administer the \$17 million WRDA appropriation.

Other partners in the project include the Nebraska Department of Roads, which will provide up to \$2.3 million for the Lake Wanahoo dam construction; the Nebraska Environmental Trust, which provided \$1.2 million in grants to construct the seven smaller upstream dams and a large wetland area at Lake Wanahoo; and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, which has agreed to manage recreational facilities at Lake Wanahoo.

The total project cost is \$29,840,000. The federal share will be \$16,870,000 and the local/state share will be \$12,970,000. Construction of Lake Wanahoo and the seven upstream dams is slated to begin in 2002, with completion of the Wanahoo recreation facilities in 2003. The roadway over the top of the Lake Wanahoo dam (part of the Highway 77 bypass) is scheduled to be paved in 2003.



*Remembering the
Past . . .*



Good Judgment

Raymond Central Land Judging Team Qualifies for National Contest

A Raymond Central land judging team will be one of five teams to represent Nebraska in national competition in May 2001.

The Raymond Central team (Bryan Caha, Tom Donahue, Sean Sloey, and Catherine Potter) placed 3rd at the State Land Judging Contest, held Oct. 31 in Fillmore County. By placing in the top five, the team won a berth in the national competition, scheduled for next May in Oklahoma City.

The team qualified for state competition by winning the East Central Land Judging Contest, held Oct. 11 near David City. Two other teams, from Wilber Clatonia and David City, also qualified for state at the East Central contest.

The Wilber-Clatonia team (Aaron Niederklein, Aron Ourecky, Jeff Koll, and Shaun



Kracke) placed 19th in state competition. David City's team (Scott Angell, Ina Vosschulte, Travis Palensky, and Rod Hoepfner) came in 17th.

The East Central contest was sponsored by the Lower Platte North NRD and the Butler County Natural Resources Conservation Service. One hundred ninety-nine students from area schools competed.

The NRD would like to congratulate the East Central state qualifiers, and wish good luck to Raymond Central at national competition.



National Qualifiers

The Raymond Central team (from left): Bryan Caha, Tom Donahue, Sean Sloey, and Catherine Potter.

IN BRIEF

NRD Welcomes New Secretary/Receptionist

The Lower Platte North NRD would like to welcome the latest addition to its staff, Sharen Minarick. Sharen joined the NRD in September in the newly-created position of Secretary/Receptionist. Sharen lives in Morse Bluff with her husband Steve and their two children.



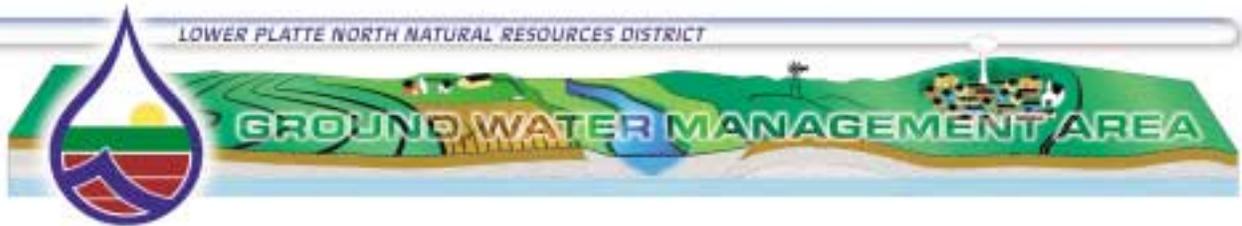
Homestead Lake Dam Nearing Completion

Construction is nearly complete on the Homestead Lake - Bruno, Nebraska dam. The project (formerly known as Skull Creek Site #55) will create a 37-surface-acre reservoir one mile north of Bruno. The dam should be completed by the end of November, with miscellaneous work completed by the end of December. Recreational facilities are scheduled to be constructed at the site in spring 2001.

Order Trees Now for Next Spring

The Lower Platte North NRD is now accepting orders for trees for the spring 2001 planting season. Trees may be purchased by any resident of the district. Seedlings are available for machine planting (by the NRD) or for hand planting (by the purchaser). For machine plants, a minimum order of 150 trees and/or shrubs is required. Handplant orders must be in multiples of 25 trees or shrubs per species. Machine plants are .85¢ per seedling and hand plants are .50¢.

To request an order form, call the NRD at (402) 443-4675, or download a form from our website at www.lpnnrd.org in the Forestry section.



A Day at the Lake

David City Students Survey Lakes for Park Restoration Project

David City high school students got to take science out of the classroom and into the real world in October, conducting lake surveys as part of a park restoration project.

Teams of students from Aquinas High School and David City High School put their science skills to use mapping the physical, biological, and water quality properties of two lakes in the David City Park. The surveys, guided by members of the Lower Platte North NRD's Water Department, will be used to track the success of the \$2.3 million David City Lake Restoration Project.

The lakes are the centerpiece of the city park, a 12-acre recreation area on the south side of town that dates back to the late 1800s. Over the years, silt built up in the lakes; by the late '90s, the average depth of each lake was only 3 feet, water quality was poor, and habitat for fish and other aquatic life was minimal. To correct these problems, the lakes will be dredged and renovated this winter.

The David City schools agreed to donate "in-kind" services from their students to survey the lakes before and after the renovation.

Science classes taught by Dian Talbott (Aquinas) and Todd Carmichael (David City Public) conducted the surveys.



NRD Water Resources Manager Larry Angle developed the sampling plan and coordinated NRD staff to work with the students. Students worked in teams to map the lake contours, collect aquatic vegetation and insects, and collect water quality samples. Students from Aquinas surveyed the park's west lake; the east lake was surveyed by the public school students.

Students will use the data they gathered to compile a report on the condition of the lakes before renovation. Follow-up surveys are planned for spring and fall 2001, after renovations are complete, so students can track the recovery of the lakes.

The lake restoration project is a joint effort involving David City, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District, and numerous area residents and businesses.





is the quarterly publication of the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District and is edited by Troy Thompson, Information & Education Specialist.

Board of Directors Sub-District

Dean Johnson, Treasurer	1
Keith Lallman	1
David A. Shelso	2
Mary Sendgraff	2
Steven E. Gruber	3
Ted Bailey	3
Dave Saalfeld	4
L. Mir Jedlicka	4
Greg Wilke, Vice Chair	5
Clinton Johannes	5
Annette Mastny	6
R. J. Sabata	6
Jane Da feldt, Secretary	7
Ronald Sabatka	7
Donald Kavan	8
Jim McDermott, Chair	8
LeRoy Nelson	9
Ervin B. Ill	9
Chris Langemeier	at large

Staff Members Position

Larry Angle	Water Resources Manager
Sam Barlean	O & M Specialist
McKenzie Barry	Wellhead Protection Coord.
Dan Becker	Water Resources Specialist
Lisa Bratt	Americorps Volunteer
Jill Breinig	Administrative Manager
Ann Brodd	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Cameron Conrad	GIS Specialist
Eric Gottschalk	Special Projects Coordinator
Bob Heimann	O & M Manager
Marla Milliken	NRD/NRCS Technician
Sharen Minarick	Secretary/Receptionist
John Miyoshi	General Manager
Tom Montford	Assistant Manager
Mike Murren	Lake Wanhoo Coordinator
Scott Nelson	Water Resources Specialist
Sharla Ross	Water Resources Specialist
Joe Sabata	O & M Specialist
Troy Thompson	Info/Ed Specialist
Roger Woita	Recreation Facilitator

NRD/NRCS Clerks County

Susie Le	B. Tyler County
Carol Prokesh	Sanders County
Kristin Uhing	Dodge County
Brenda Wardman	Colfax County

To receive **The Viaduct**, contact:

Lower Platte North NRD
 511 Commercial Park Road
 P. O. Box 126
 Wahoo, Nebraska 68066-0126
 Phone: 402-443-4675
 Toll free 1-888-764-0543
 Fax: 402-443-5339
 E-mail: lpnnrd@linux3.nrc.state.ne.us
 Web site: www.lpnnrd.org

NRD Office Expansion Dedicated

The Lower Platte North NRD's office expansion was dedicated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony sponsored by the Wahoo Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 22.

The district held an Open House for the new expansion the same day. Visitors received tours of the new offices and browsed displays showcasing the district's projects and programs.

Pictured at the ribbon-cutting ceremony is NRD Manager John Miyoshi (center) with NRD staff members and members of the Chamber of Commerce.



**LOWER PLATTE NORTH
 NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 P.O. BOX 126
 WAHOO, NE 68066-0126
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 WAHOO, NE 68066
 PERMIT NO. 7

