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# VIADUCT

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

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# Taking Shape



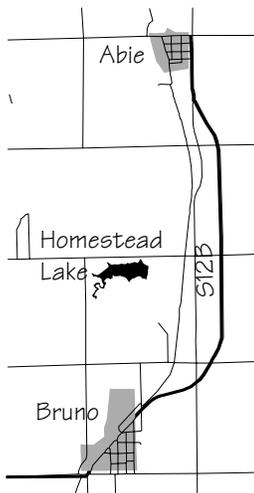
## Homestead Lake Recreation Facilities Under Construction

This fall, residents of the Lower Platte North NRD will have a new spot to visit for outdoor recreation.

Construction of recreational facilities began at the new Homestead Lake near Bruno in early August. The site is being developed for day use, with no-wake boating, picnic areas, and fishing access open to the public.

All recreation facilities will be located on the north side of the lake. There will be two main areas open for recreation. One, just west of the dam, will include a boat ramp and a fishing dock. The other, at the far northwest corner of the lake, will include a picnic shelter, additional picnic areas with fire rings and tables, and primitive

**Above:** The Homestead Lake boat ramp under construction. A fishing dock will be located immediately adjacent to the ramp.



**HOMESTEAD**  
**LAKE**  
Bruno, Nebraska

# Area High School Students Assist with Wellhead Protection Program

## David City, Mead Students Perform Contaminant Source Inventories

High school students from David City and Mead have been doing their part to protect drinking water in their communities.

It's Your  
Water . . .



Lower Platte North NRD  
**WELLHEAD  
PROTECTION** 

Students helped conduct Contaminant Source Inventories (CSIs) in their communities as part of local Wellhead Protection efforts. The inventories help communities identify potential threats to their public water supply wells.

Students worked in groups to identify sites that could have potential pollutants within their community's "Wellhead Protection Area." A Protection Area is based on the land area that supplies water to a community's public wells, and generally extends 1-2 miles outside the town limits.

At each site they visited, students filled out inventory forms with information about the site and used aerial photos, topographic maps, and GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates to mark the site. Whenever possible, students also spoke to the owners or managers of the sites to explain the Wellhead Protection Program and gather further information.

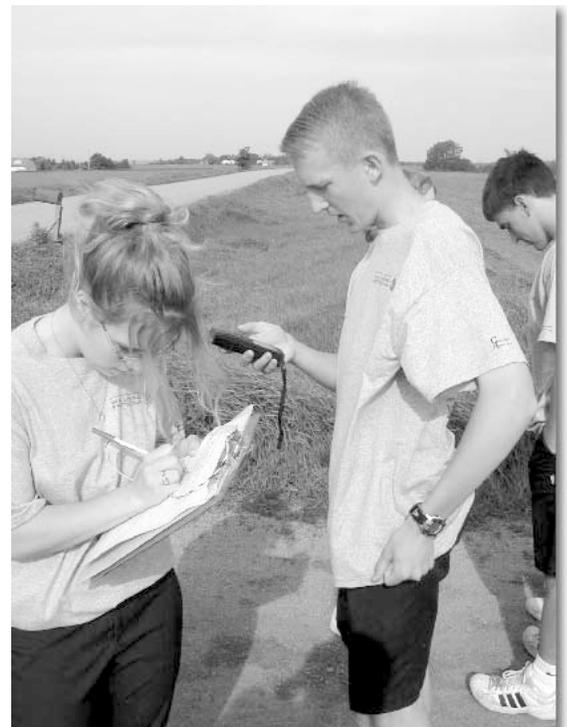
The information the students gathered will be used to prepare Contaminant Source Inventory reports for their communities. Based on results of those reports, the communities can decide how they want to manage any potential pollutants that were found.

The David City CSI was conducted in May by environmental science students from David City High School and Aquinas High School. The Mead CSI was conducted in July by FFA students. The NRD would like to thank the students and their teachers for their invaluable assistance with the Wellhead Protection Program.



### Doing Their Part

Students from Mead (above) and David City (right) take GPS readings and record information about sites that could house potential contaminants in their communities.





# State Funding Approved for Wanhoo/Sand Creek Project

The Lake Wanhoo/Sand Creek Watershed Project will be one of the recipients of state funds from a special appropriation passed by the Nebraska Unicameral in May. The appropriation will provide \$1.75 million per year for the next two years, split between the Sand Creek Project, the Antelope Valley Project in Lincoln and the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Levy Project along the Platte River (see story at right).

The Unicameral's Appropriations Committee had originally budgeted \$3.5 million per year for the projects, but Gov. Johanns used a line-item veto to reduce the amount to \$1.75 million. An override attempt to restore the full amount for the second year of the biennium budget failed in the Unicameral.

"Obviously, we wish we could have had the original amount," said John Miyoshi, Lower Platte North NRD Manager. "Still, we're very pleased to get the \$1.75 million. We knew it would be a tough battle to get any new state funding approved this year.

"The Governor obviously saw that these projects have a lot to offer to the state. He did the best he could to support them while still staying with his conservative fiscal approach."

The \$1.75 million appropriation will be added to the Nebraska Resources Development

Fund (NRDF), administered by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. The funds will be earmarked for the Sand Creek, Antelope Valley, and Western Sarpy/Clear Creek projects.

This is the first time that NRDF money has been appropriated for specific projects. Normally, NRDF money is a block appropriation in the state budget, distributed by the Department of Natural Resources on a case-by-case basis.

"It's very unusual to have three large-scale Federal projects like these come up for funding at the same time," Miyoshi said. "The special appropriation was needed because the Resources Development Fund couldn't support all three of these projects and still have funding for other necessary work."

The three projects will bring \$48 million in Federal construction dollars to Nebraska. The state is being asked to provide \$17 million total, while local sponsors will provide a total of \$24 million.

Support from local representatives was crucial to the approval of the funding package, Miyoshi said. He credited Senator Curt Bromm of Wahoo, Senator Roger Wehrbein of Plattsmouth (Chair of the Appropriations Committee) and Roger Patterson, Director of the Department of Natural Resources, for their work on behalf of the special appropriation.

## Reitmayer Appointed to Subdistrict 7

Daryl Reitmayer of Wahoo has been appointed to the Lower Platte North NRD Board of Directors to fill a vacancy in Subdistrict 7.

Daryl will replace Jane Daufeldt, who recently left Wahoo to take a job with the Chamber of Commerce in her hometown of Muscatine, Iowa. The NRD wishes Jane success in her new venture and thanks her for her years of dedicated service to the district.

Daryl, a graduate of Wahoo High School and the National School of Aeronautics in Kan-

sas City, recently retired from Lucent Technologies after 42 years of service. He has been an active member of the Wahoo community, serving on many boards and volunteer organizations, including the Boy Scouts, the Wahoo Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, the American Legion, the Saunders County Red Cross, the Wahoo City Council, and many others. He was also Mayor of Wahoo from 1982-1990.

Daryl and his wife, Venis, have two children and four grandchildren.



**Daryl Reitmayer**  
Subdistrict 7 Director

# IN BRIEF

## Levee Improvements Scheduled for Lower Platte and Elkhorn Rivers

### Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Levee Project to Improve Flood Protection Along River Corridor

The Lower Platte North NRD is one of three natural resources districts sponsoring a project to improve flood protection along the Lower Platte River.

The Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Levee Project will improve 14 miles of levees along the Platte and Elkhorn Rivers in Sarpy and Saunders Counties. Spring ice jams have been a recurrent problem on the Lower Platte, causing widespread flood damage to homes, businesses, and farmland.

Existing levees aren't built to uniform standards and don't provide equal protection along both sides of the river. The \$13.7 million Western Sarpy/Clear Creek project will correct these problems, making levees uniform along both sides of the river. The levees will be able to withstand a 50-year flood when improvements are completed.

Construction of new levees near Ashland will affect some homes in the Beacon View housing development. Five homes will be directly impacted by the new levees, and owners will be given the option of selling their homes to the project sponsors or having them moved to higher lots in the Beacon View area. Twenty-three other nearby homeowners will be given the option of selling their homes or having them raised

to a safe elevation at their current locations.

To help mitigate the impact of the levee improvements on endangered species such as the least tern, the piping plover, and the pallid sturgeon, the project will also involve approximately \$2 million worth of habitat restoration on the river.

The Western Sarpy-Clear Creek Levee Project is being sponsored on the Federal level by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Local sponsors are the Lower Platte North, Lower Platte South, and Papio-Missouri River NRDs.

The estimated project cost is \$13.7 million. The Corps of Engineers will provide \$8.6 million of the funding through the federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources could provide up to 67 percent (\$3.5 million) of the local costs through the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. The remaining \$1.7 million will be split among the three natural resources districts (Papio-Missouri River NRD, \$854,710; Lower Platte North NRD, \$598,297; Lower Platte South NRD, \$256,413).

Project construction is scheduled to begin in August 2002, with completion of all phases set for November 2004.

### ***New Water Resources Specialist Joins NRD***

Russ Oaklund is the latest addition to the staff of the Lower Platte North NRD. Russ was hired as a Water Resources Specialist in June to replace Scott



Nelson, who left to become the Nemaha NRD's Assistant Manager. Russ's duties will include coordinating the district's Abandoned Well Program, conducting nitrogen management training for the Ground Water Management Area, and working on other ground- and surface water quality programs.

Russ, a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was previously a field office supervisor in Cambridge for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Russ and his wife, Judy, now live in Wahoo.

### ***Tour of Ordnance Plant Cleanup Set for Aug. 30***

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public tour of the Mead Ordnance Plant cleanup project on August 30 beginning at 6 p.m. The tour will include an overview of the project and its current status, as well as visits to an onsite water treatment plant and remediation wells. To participate, meet at the Mead Community Hall at 6 p.m. Contact Tom Graff at 816-983-3351 for more information.

### ***New Look, New Server for NRD Website***

The Lower Platte North NRD website has been completely redesigned and has moved to a new server. In addition to the new look, information throughout the site has been comprehensively updated. The new site should be quicker to load and easier to navigate. Visit the site at:

[www.lpnnrd.org](http://www.lpnnrd.org)



## Cost-Share Funds on Tap for Irrigation Meters

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources recently announced plans to make cost-share funds available for purchasing irrigation well meters in NRDs with Ground Water Management Areas.

Under the new program, landowners will be able to receive up to 50 percent cost-share for installing meters on non-domestic wells that pump 50 gallons a minute or more. The cost-share funds will be administered by NRDs.

A total of \$500,000 will be made available for the program's first year. The

funds will be allocated to NRDs based on the number of registered irrigation wells located in each district's Ground Water Management Area.

The Lower Platte North NRD, with 4,016 registered irrigation wells, will receive a \$31,701 allocation for the next fiscal year.

Details of how the program will be implemented in the LPNNRD are still being finalized, but the program should be up and running sometime this fall. Watch for the next issue of the Viaduct or check our website at [www.lpnrd.org](http://www.lpnrd.org) for updates.

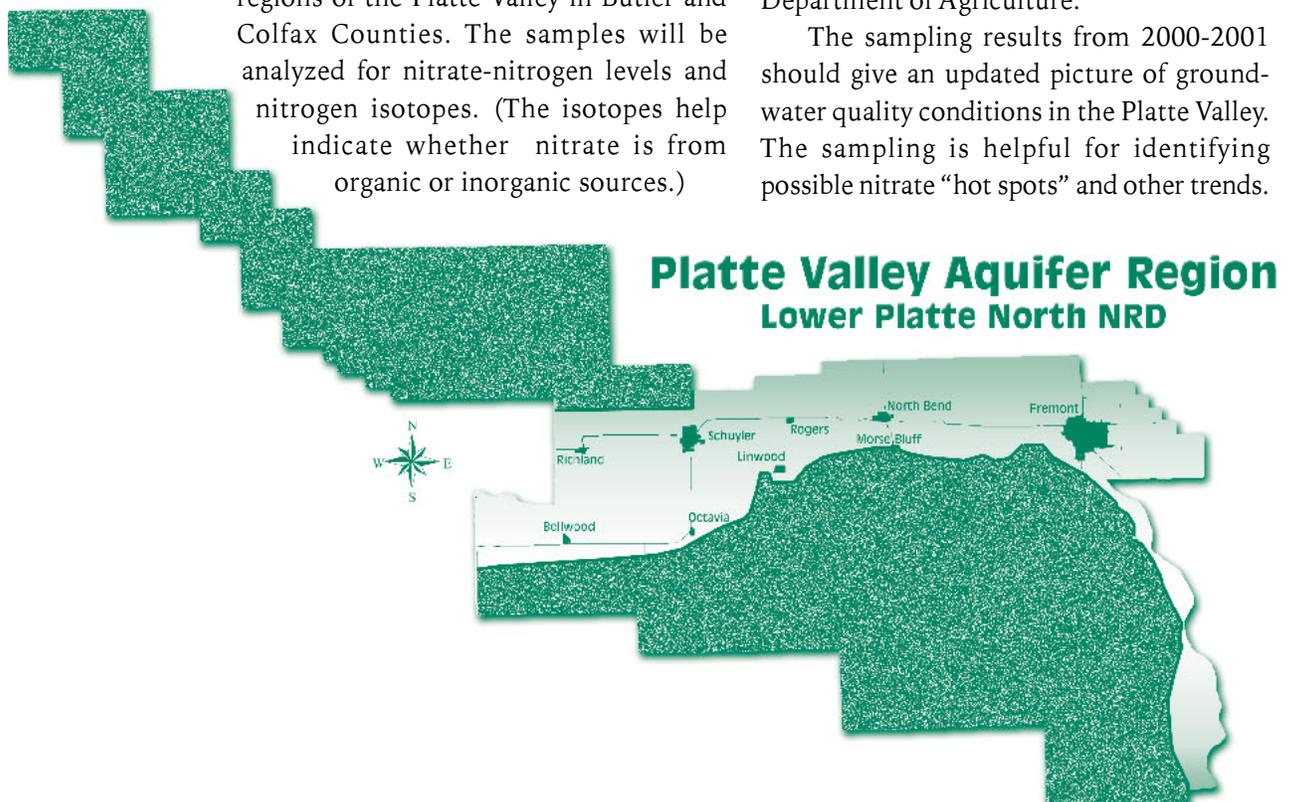
## Water Sampling Completed in Platte Valley

NRD water staff completed a two-year water sampling plan in the Platte Valley in the summer of 2001.

Staff collected 130 water samples from regions of the Platte Valley in Butler and Colfax Counties. The samples will be analyzed for nitrate-nitrogen levels and nitrogen isotopes. (The isotopes help indicate whether nitrate is from organic or inorganic sources.)

Many of the samples will also be tested for pesticides as part of a study the NRD is cooperating on with Aventis, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

The sampling results from 2000-2001 should give an updated picture of groundwater quality conditions in the Platte Valley. The sampling is helpful for identifying possible nitrate "hot spots" and other trends.





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restrooms. Parking will be available at both areas.

The boat ramp and parking area should be completed by the end of August. A dry hydrant will also be installed near the dam for use by the Bruno Volunteer Fire Department. Once this work is complete, the dam's drawdown valve will be closed so the lake can finish filling.

Additional work on the park's entrances, access roads, and picnic areas is scheduled to be completed no later than October 15. If work is completed on schedule and the weather stays nice enough, a dedication ceremony will be held in October to officially open the area for public use.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission plans to stock the lake with bluegill, bass and channel catfish this fall and next spring. However, it will take at least three years for fishing to become established at the lake.

The 37-surface-acre Homestead Lake was built as part of the Skull Creek Watershed Project. The NRD is currently involved in preliminary planning for two additional reservoirs, Sites #31 and #30, which would be located northwest and southwest of Homestead Lake.

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH  
 NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

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