

# 2014 Biennial Report

on the

## Nebraska

## Resources Development Fund



*presented to the*  
Governor and the Legislature



*Published by the*  
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
August 2014



## Nebraska Resources Development Fund

### **Biennial Report**

July 1, 2012-June 30, 2014

*Presented to*  
**Governor Heineman and the Clerk of the Legislature**  
August 2014



*Published by the*  
**Nebraska Department of Natural Resources**  
dnr.nebraska.gov

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat § 2-1588(3) the Department of Natural Resources is pleased to submit the 2014 Biennial Report for the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. This report details the work accomplished by the use of this fund since its creation in 1974.

The 65 projects that the Nebraska Resources Development Fund helped to build have and will continue to protect the state's natural resources and, although often taken for granted, have also produced significant recreation and economic benefits for our citizens. These projects have leveraged significant federal and local funding to develop, preserve and maintain the state's water, and related land resources, including: programs and projects for the abatement of pollution; reduction of potential flood damages; reservation of lands for resources development projects; provision of public irrigation facilities; preservation and creation of fish and wildlife resources; protection and improvement of public land; provision of public outdoor recreation lands and facilities; provision and preservation of the waters of the state for all beneficial uses, including domestic, agriculture, and manufacturing uses; conservation of land resources; and protection of health, safety, and general welfare of the people.

The \$108 million of state funds invested has leveraged \$152 million of federal and local funds to provide the citizens of Nebraska an estimated \$1.42 billion in benefits over the projected lives of the projects.

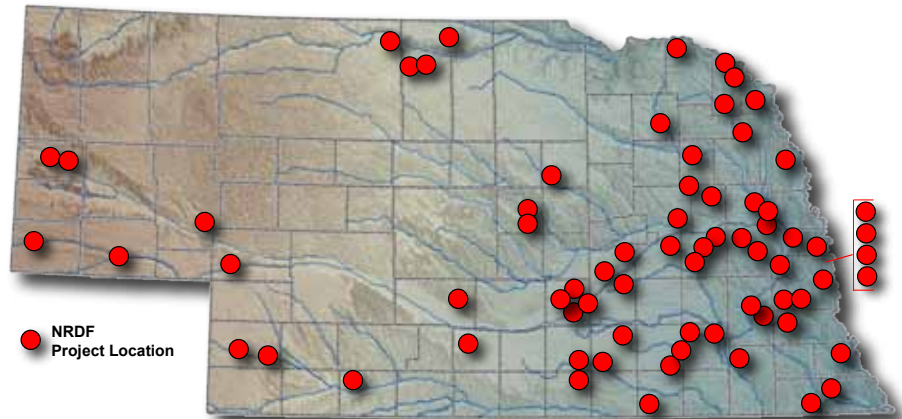
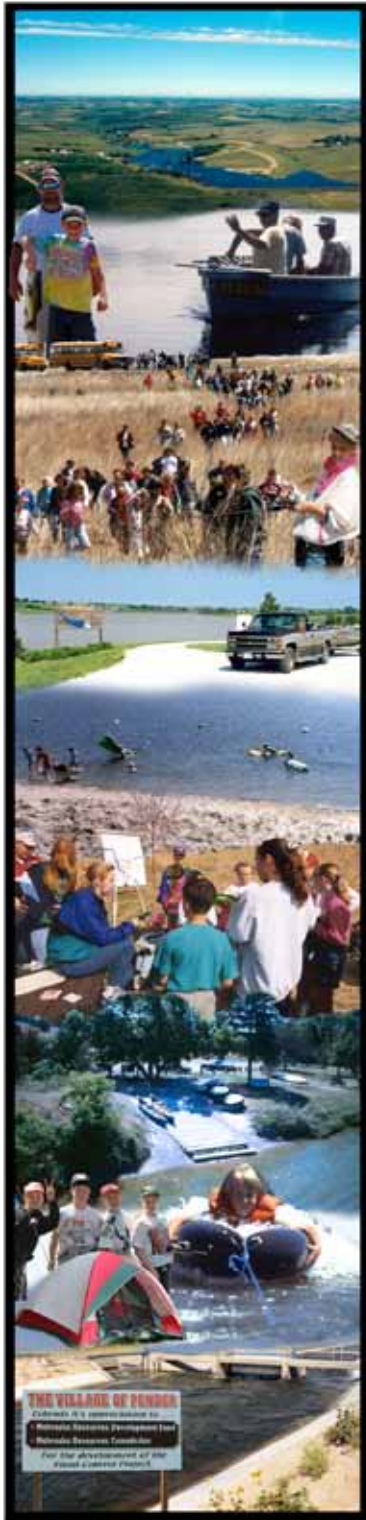
The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and Department of Natural Resources appreciate this opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of this fund.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian P. Dunnigan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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, 2014

### Members Elected Representing River Basins:

N. Richard Hadenfeldt	Loup River Basin
Dave Deines	North Platte River Basin
Beverly Donaldson	Missouri Tributaries River Basin
David Kadlecsek	Niobrara-White-Hat River Basin
Joseph Hergott	Little Blue River Basin
Darrell M. Rains	Big Blue River Basin
Jeff Steffen	Missouri Tributaries River Basin
Steven Sugden	Nemaha River Basin
Mick Reynolds	Middle Platte River Basin
Kevin Fornoff	Republican River Basin
Garry Anderson	Elkhorn River Basin
Clint Johannes	Lower Platte River Basin
Keith Rexroth	South Platte River Basin

### Members Appointed by Governor:

Dick Mercer	Groundwater Irrigators
Thomas L. Knutson	Surface Water Irrigators
Stan Clouse	Municipal Water User from city of first or second class
Brian Barels	Public Power Districts
Joel Christensen	Metropolitan Utilities Districts
Steve Huggenberger	Municipal Water User from city of primary class
Tom Palmertree	Manufacturing Interests
Scott Smathers	Outdoor Recreation Users
Don Kraus	Public Power & Irrigation Districts
Walter Dennis Strauch	Irrigation Districts
Donald Batie	Agricultural Interests
Henry (Hod) Kosman	Wildlife Conservation Interests
Lindsey Smith	Range Livestock Owners
Owen Palm	Agribusiness Interests

### Other citizens who served as Commissioners during the Biennium:

Ken Brockman, Dan Nelson, Ladd Reeves, and Dan Watermeier

## Project Review

As of June 30, 2014, **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 \$108,065,566.94**

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 year 2013 one project was completed (Little Sandy Creek Watershed).

### 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 **\$260 million**.

Of this amount, the **Resources Development Fund** has provided \$108 million (**41.5%**), **federal programs** over \$82 million (**31.5%**) and **local entities and others** approximately \$70 million (**27%**).

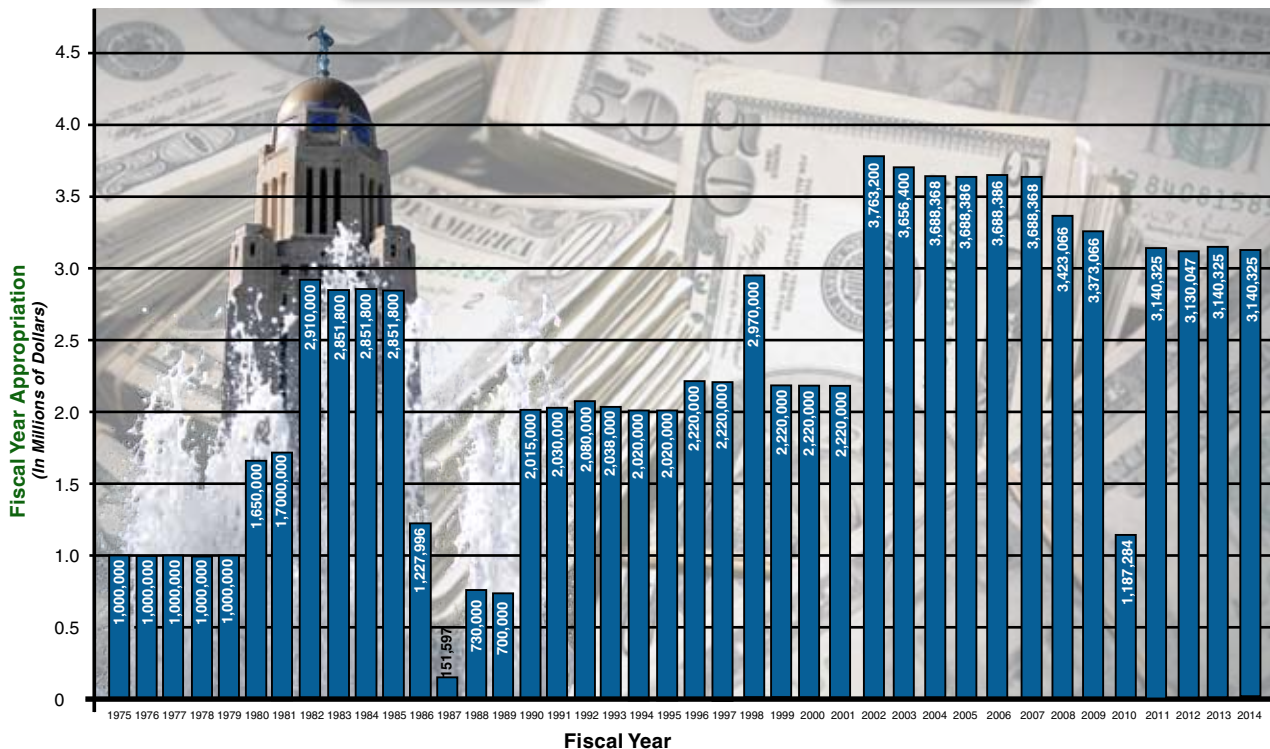


# Resources Development Fund Financial History

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
1994	2,020,000.00

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
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
2013	3,140,325.00
2014	3,140,325.00





## Project Status

As of June 30, 2014, a total of 62 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 withdrawn by the sponsor before any funds were used.

It is estimated that over \$1.42 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 - \$1,103,758,385 - 78%
2. Recreation/Fish and Wildlife - \$258,376,457 - 18%
3. Groundwater Recharge/Irrigation Water Management - \$58,127,750 - 4%



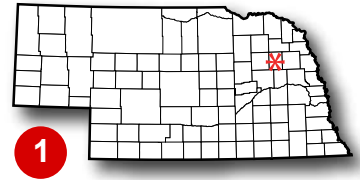
Flood Reduction/Erosion and Sediment Control  
**\$1.1 Billion**

Recreation/Fish  
and Wildlife  
**\$258 Million**

Groundwater  
Recharge/Irrigation  
Water Management  
**\$58 Million**

## Completed Resources Development Fund Projects

# Maskenthine Project

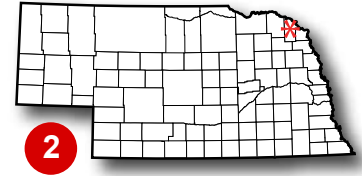


Maskenthine Lake Recreation Area was the first Nebraska Resources Development Fund project assisted with state funds. Recreational activities at the area include hunting, boating, picnicking, hiking, camping and swimming. An arboretum was established on the east side of the lake with additional tree 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 District'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

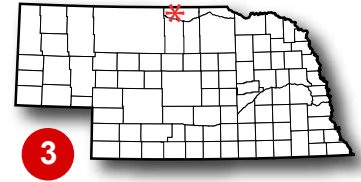
**Project Size:** Total of 340 Acre with 75 Acre Reservoir

**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

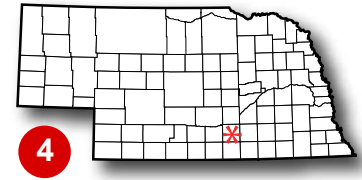
**Project Size:** 320 Total Acres with a 33 Acre Reservoir

**Purposes:** Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, and Recreation Opportunities

**Completed:** 1979

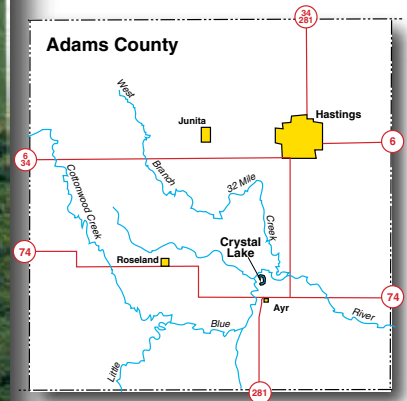
**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$87,489

# 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](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

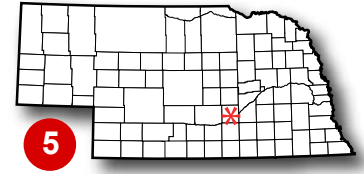
**Project Size:** 33 Total Acres with a Renovated Oxbow

**Purposes:** Recreation

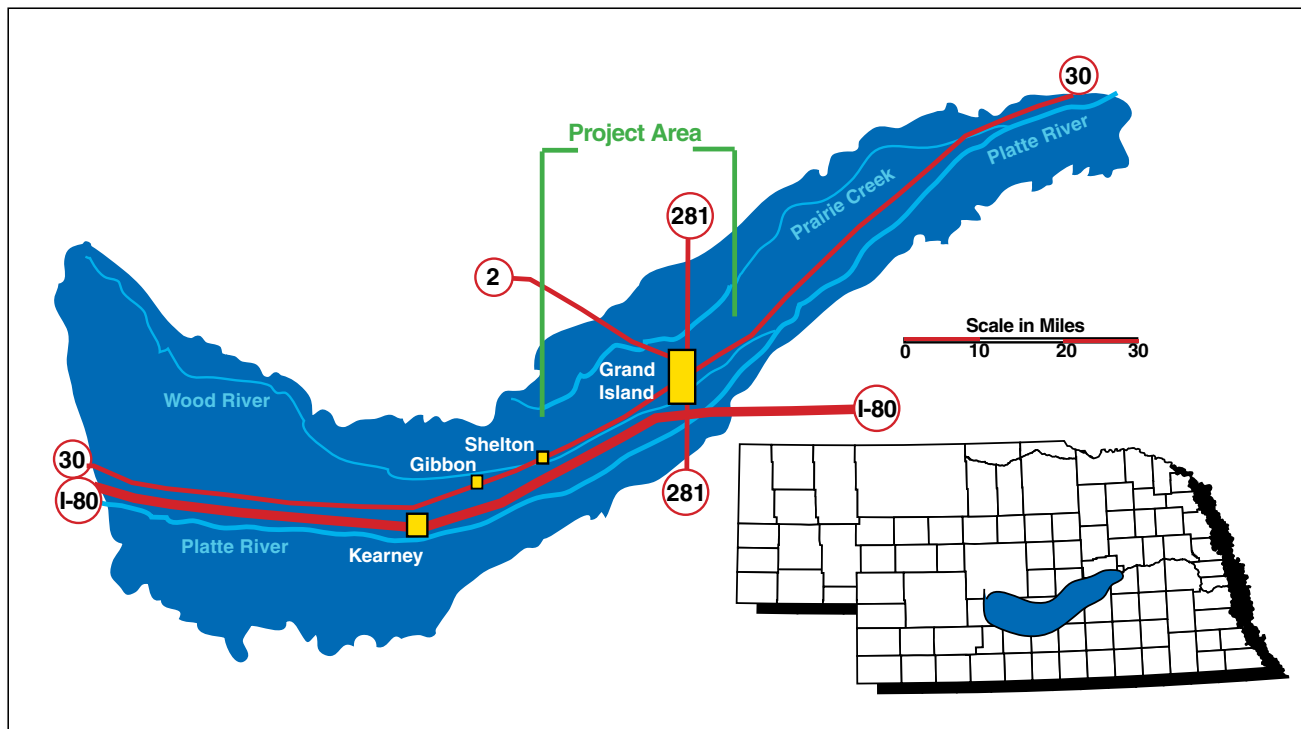
**Completed:** 1980

**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

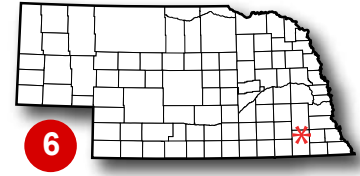
**Project Size:** A 42 Mile Reach of Praieie Creek

**Purposes:** Snagging and Clearing Operation to Proide a More Open Floodway

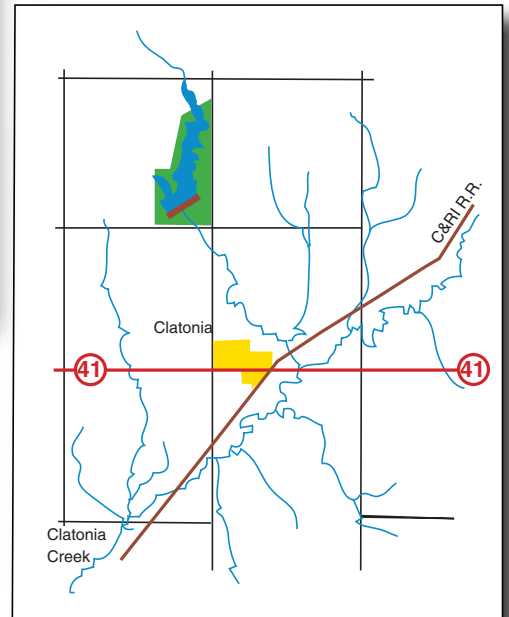
**Completed:** 1980

**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

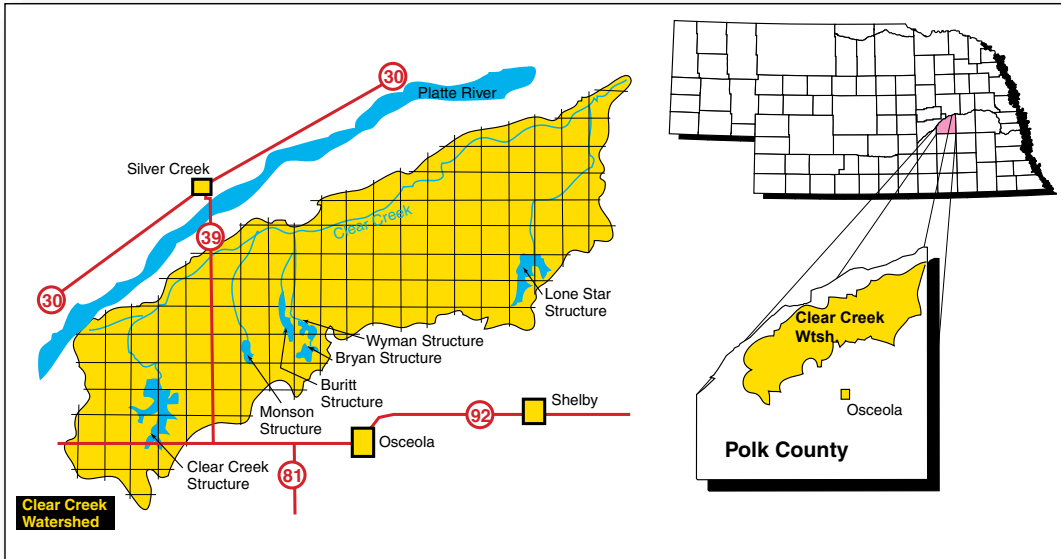
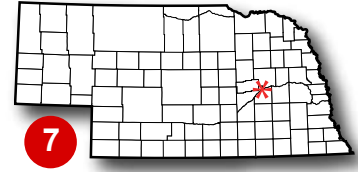
**Project Size:** 155 Total Acres with a 46 Acre Reservoir

**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

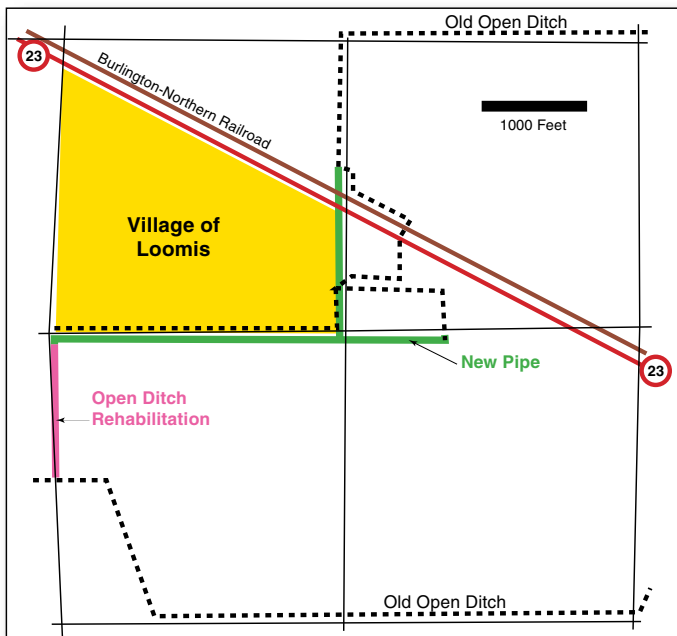
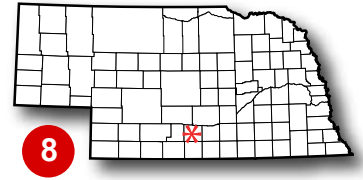
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement, and Sediment and Erosion Control

**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

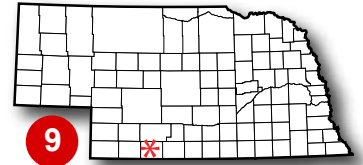
**Project Size:** 4,000 feet of Buried Pipeline

**Purposes:** Improved Water Conveyance and Safety

**Completed:** 1981

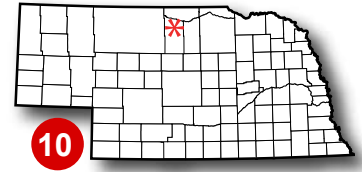
**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$33,750

# McCook Kelley Canyon

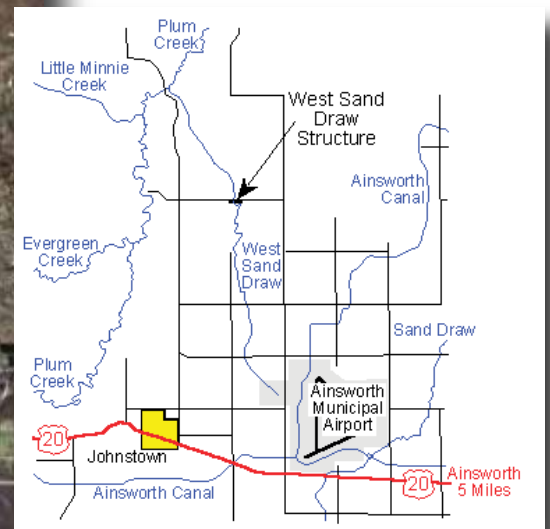


**Sponsor:** Middle Republican Natural Resources District  
**Location:** Red Willow County, City of McCook  
**Project Size:** Flood Water Retarding Structure  
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement, Drainageway Improvements,  
and Bridge Replacement  
**Completed:** 1981  
**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$512,000

# 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

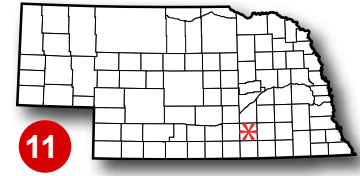
**Project Size:** 29.53 Acre Reservoir

**Purposes:** Sediment Reduction and Water Quality

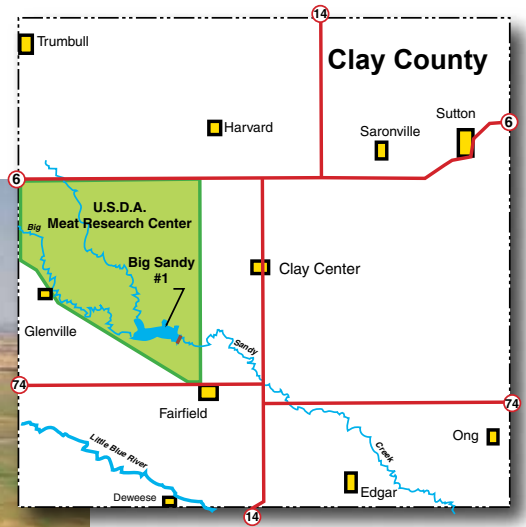
**Completed:** 1981

**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 Research Center

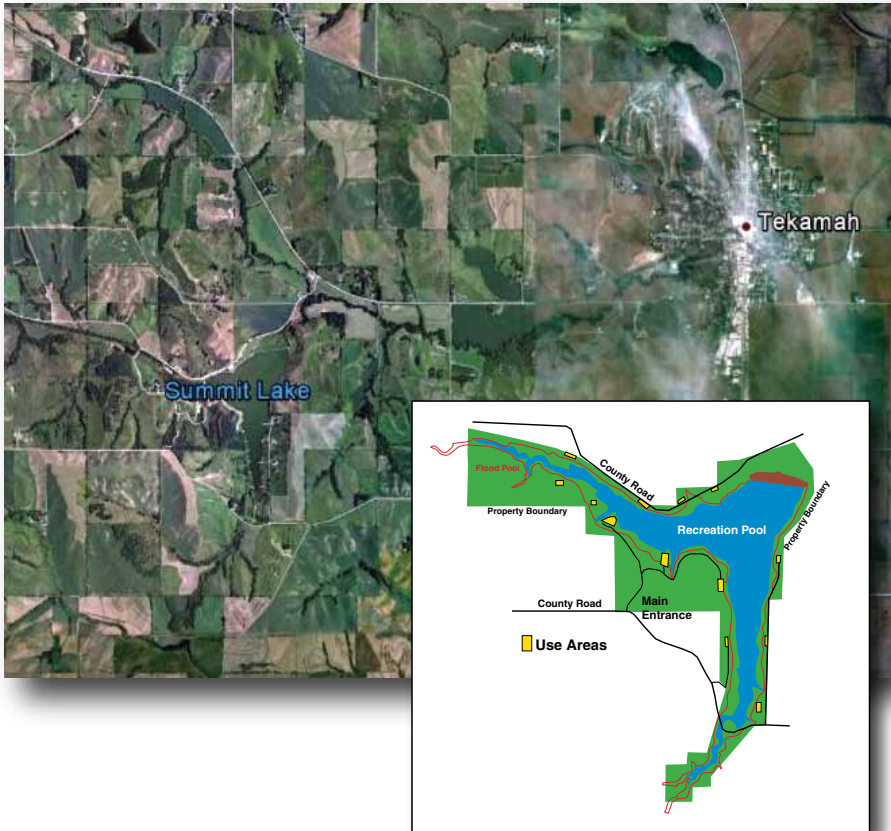
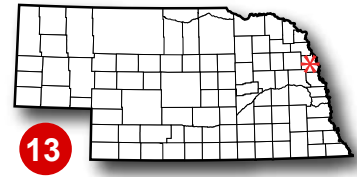
**Project Size:** 42 Square Mile Drainage Area with a 330 Acre Reservoir

**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. Summit 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](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

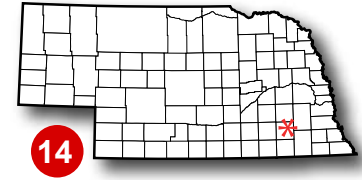
**Project Size:** 535 Total Acres with a 190 Acre Reservoir

**Purposes:** Floodwater Retarding and Water-based Recreation

**Completed:** 1982

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$329,191

# Walnut Creek Project

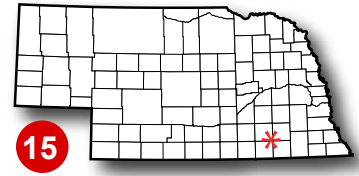


The Walnut Creek Project consists of four structures located east and north of the city of Crete in Saline County. The structures have conservation pools that range in size from 16 to 26 acres. Site #2 located east of Highway 103, north of Crete was developed to provide recreation to local area residents.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

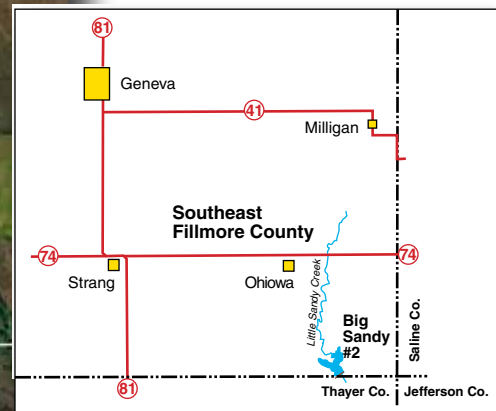


**Sponsor:** Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District  
**Location:** Saline County, Northeast of Crete  
**Project Size:** Four Floodwater Retarding Structures  
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement, Grade Stabilization,  
Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement  
**Completed:** 1982  
**NRDF Assistance:**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

# Big Sandy #2

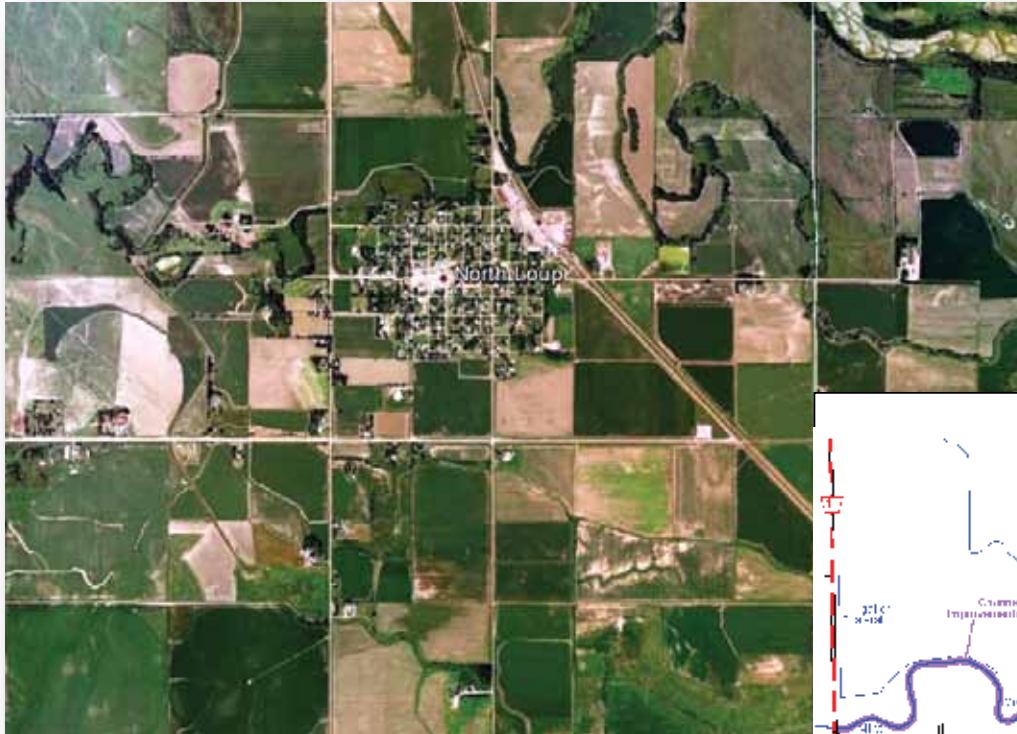
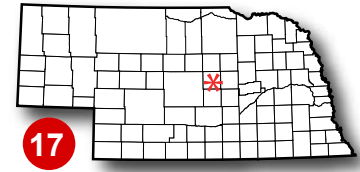


The structure is the second constructed in the Big Sandy Creek Watershed and has been used to monitor groundwater recharge.

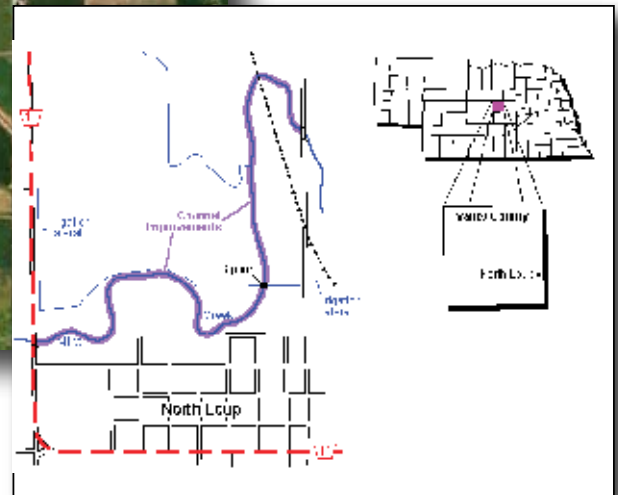


- Sponsor:** Little Blue Natural Resources District
- Location:** Fillmore County, Four Miles Northeast of Bruning
- Project Size:** 250 Acre Reservoir
- Purposes:** Floodwater Retarding and Groundwater Recharge
- Completed:** 1985
- NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$864,603

# 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

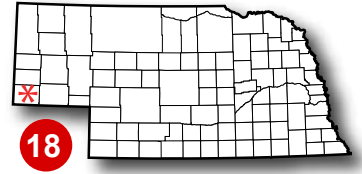
**Purposes:** Floodwater Retarding

**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-accessible 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](http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/parks/guides/parksearch/showpark.asp?Area_No=255) .

**Sponsor:** South Platte Natural Resources District

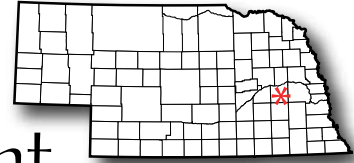
**Location:** Kimball County, West of Kimball

**Project Size:** 970 Total Acres with a 270 Acre Reservoir

**Purposes:** Floodwater Retarding and Recreation

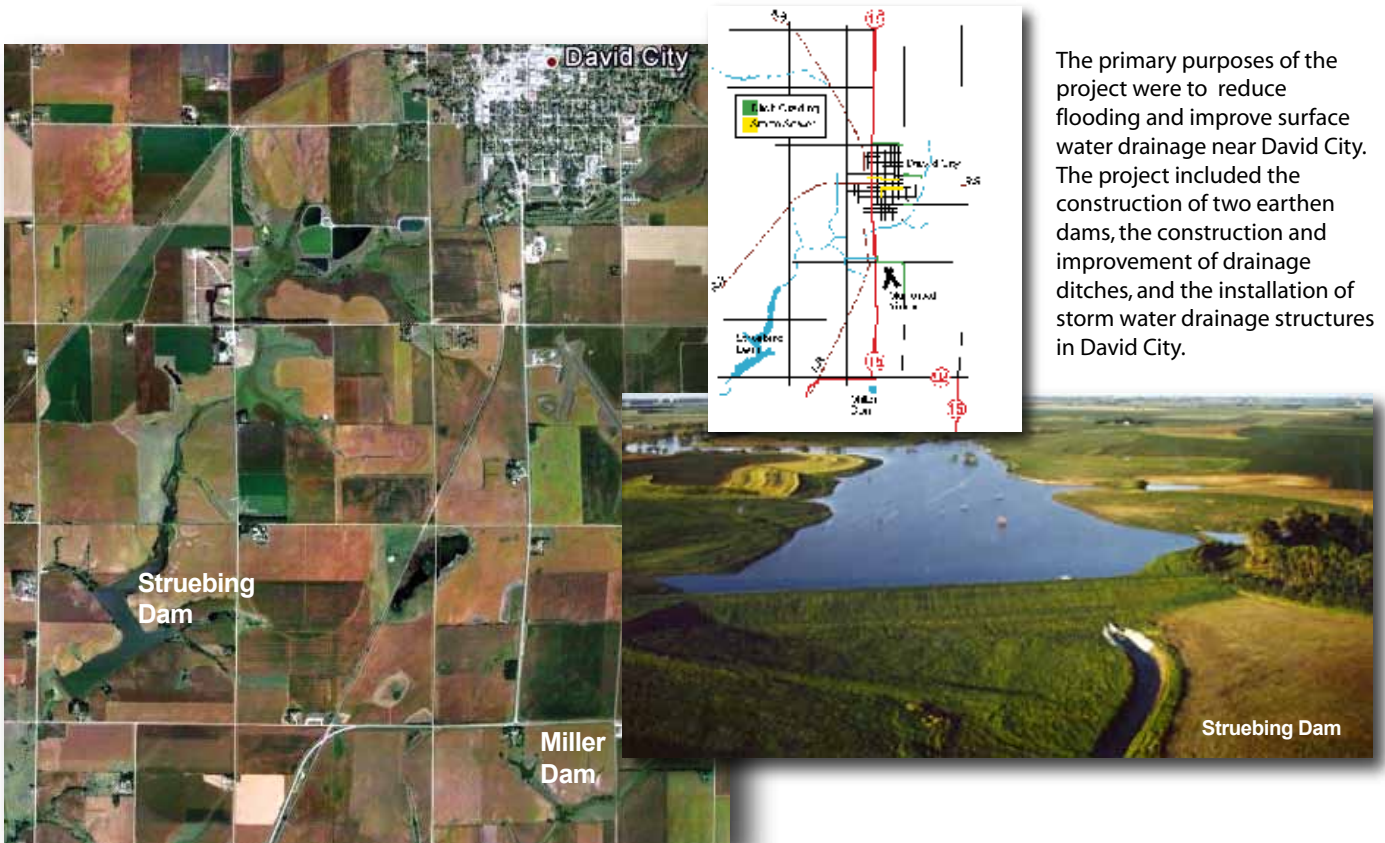
**Completed:** 1985

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$1,008,476



# Central Butler Water Management

19



**Sponsor:** Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

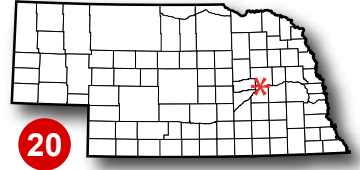
**Location:** Butler County, near David City

**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



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

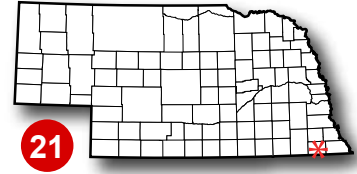
Loan of \$155,274

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](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

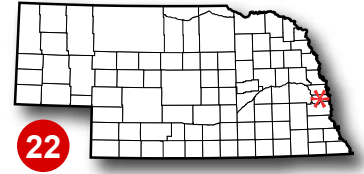
**Project Size:** Total 360 Acres with an 85 Acre Reservoir

**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.



84th Street

72 Street

Harrison

Giles

**Sponsor:** City of LaVista

**Location:** Sarpy County, in the City of LaVista

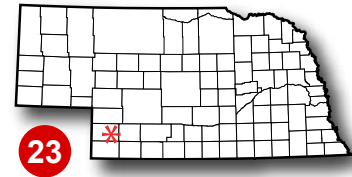
**Project Size:** See Map Above

**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

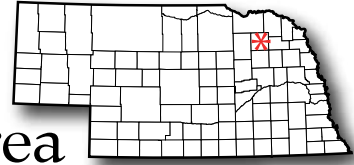
**Location:** Chase County, Village of Wauneta

**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

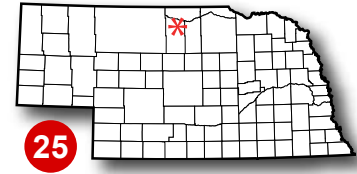
**Location:** Pierce County, Southwest of the City of Pierce

**Project Size:** 1,700 Total Acres with a 700 Acre Reservoir

**Purposes:** Flood Abatement, Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement

**Completed:** 1987

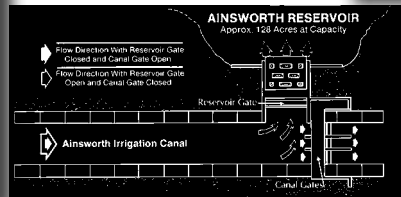
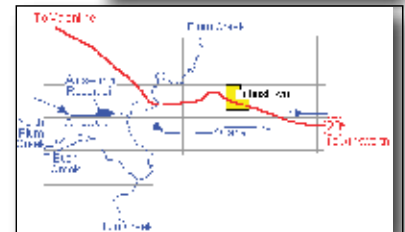
**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$3,828,455



# 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

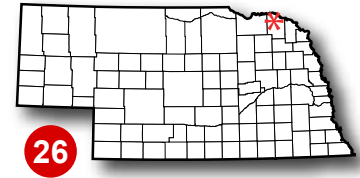
**Completed:** 1987

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$30,862

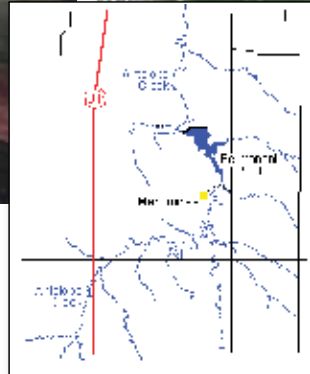


# Antelope Creek

## 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

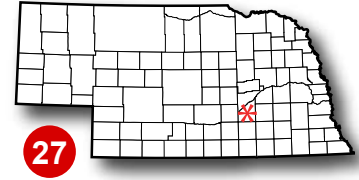
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement, and Recreation

**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](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

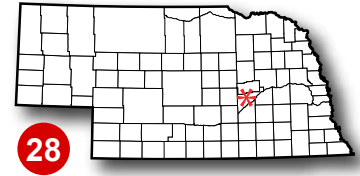
**Project Size:** 40 Acre Reservoir

**Purposes:** Recreation and Groundwater Recharge

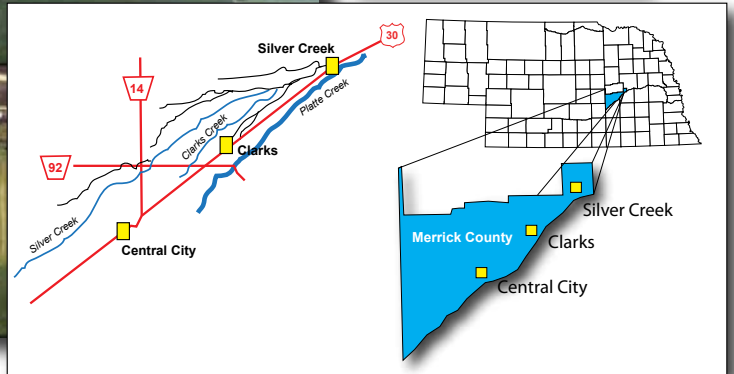
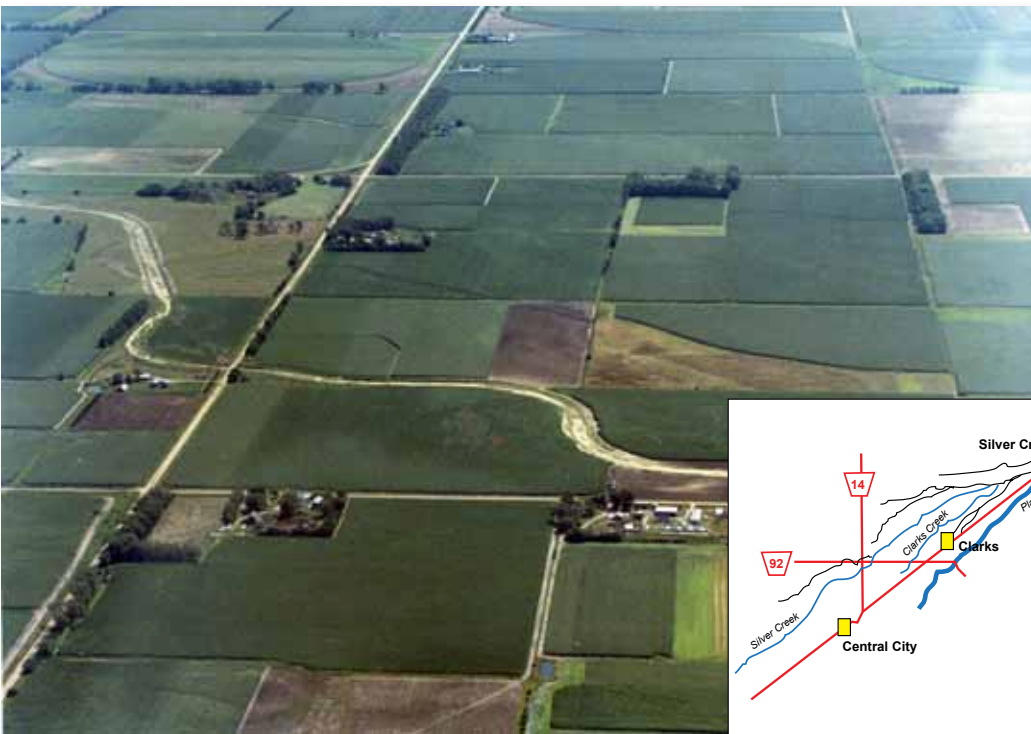
**Completed:** 1987

**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

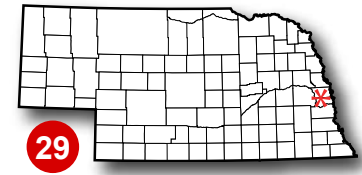
**Location:** Merrick County

**Project Size:** Elevated Floodway along Silver Creek and Clarks Drain

**Purposes:** Flood Abatement, Sediment Control, and Groundwater Recharge

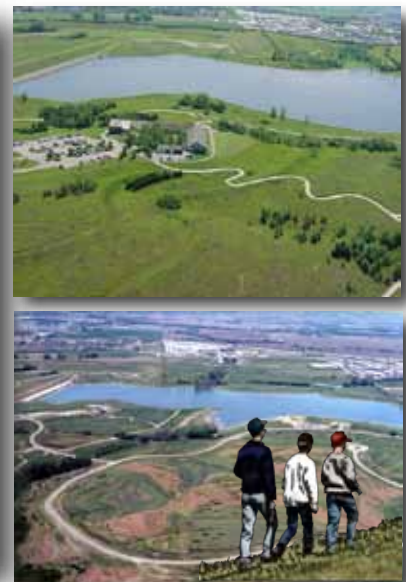
**Completed:** 1987

**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](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

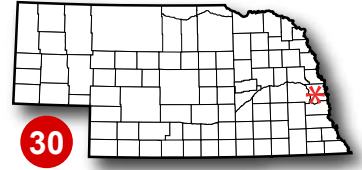
**Project Size:** 245 Acre Reservoir Surrounded by 940 Acres

**Purposes:** Flood Abatement and Recreation

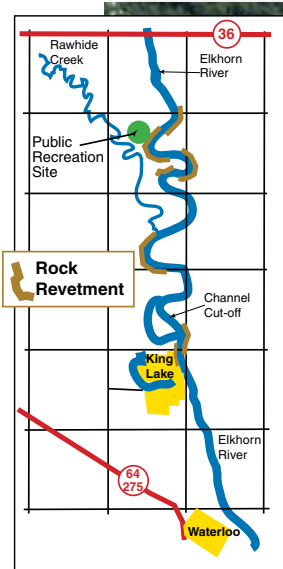
**Completed:** 1988

**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 revetment at severely eroded sites along the Elkhorn River between King Lake and Highway 36. 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

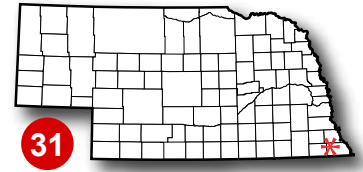
**Completed:** 1988

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$1,164,964

Loan of \$135,741

which was retired in 1998

# Long Branch-Site 21



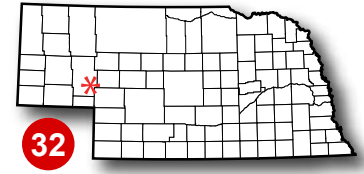
## Kirkman's Cove

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 District's website at <http://www.nemahanrd.org/kirkman.htm>.

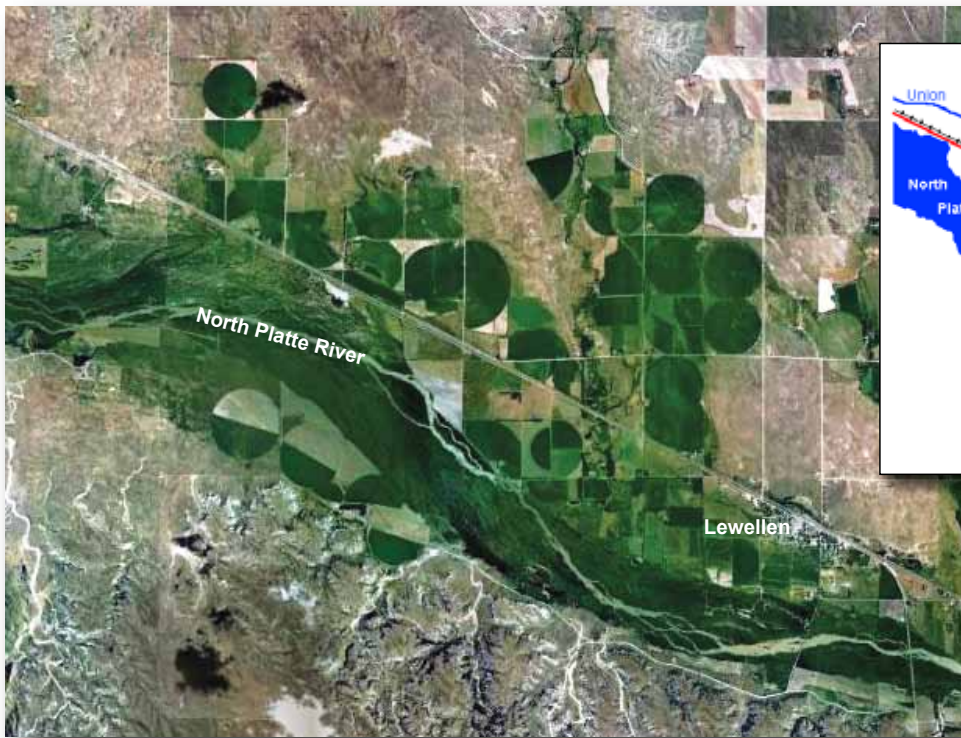


**Sponsor:** Nemaha Natural Resources District  
**Location:** Richardson County, Northwest of Humboldt  
**Project Size:** 511 total Acres with a 160 Acre Reservoir  
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement, Grade Stabilization, Recreation,  
and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement  
**Completed:** 1988  
**NRDF Assistance:**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

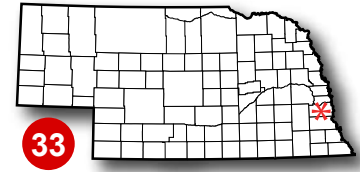
**Project Size:** Union Irrigation District

**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

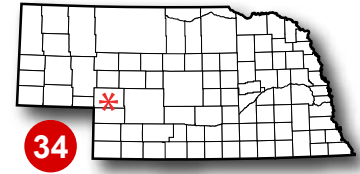
**Purposes:** Flood Adatement

**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

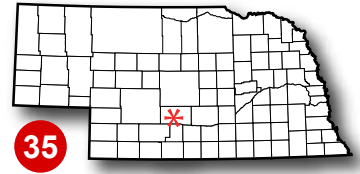
**Purposes:** Flood Adatement

**Completed:** 1990

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$600,793

# Buffalo Creek

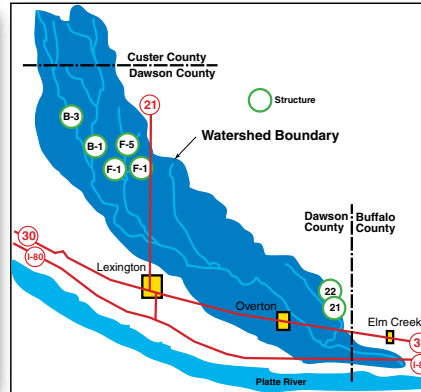
## Dawson County



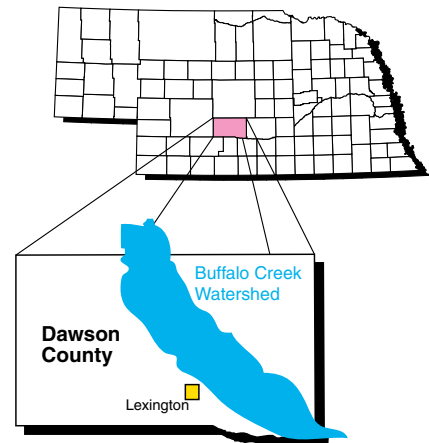
Structure B-1



Structure F-5



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 from 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

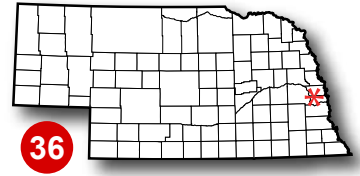
**Purposes:** Flood Adatement

**Completed:** 1991

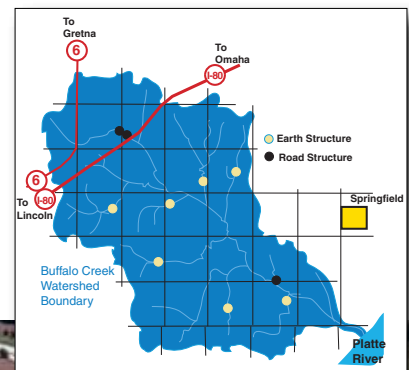
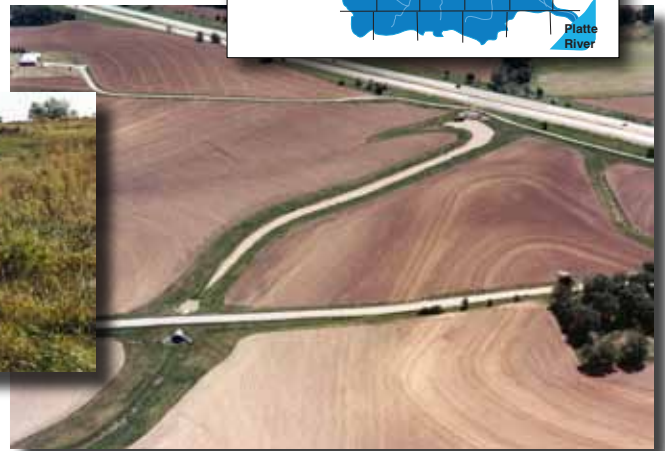
**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$2,145,637

# 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

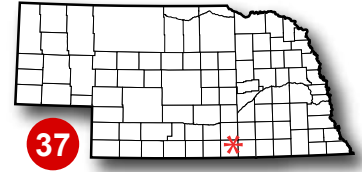
**Project Size:** 10 Total Structures

**Purposes:** Flood Adatement and Water Quality Improvement

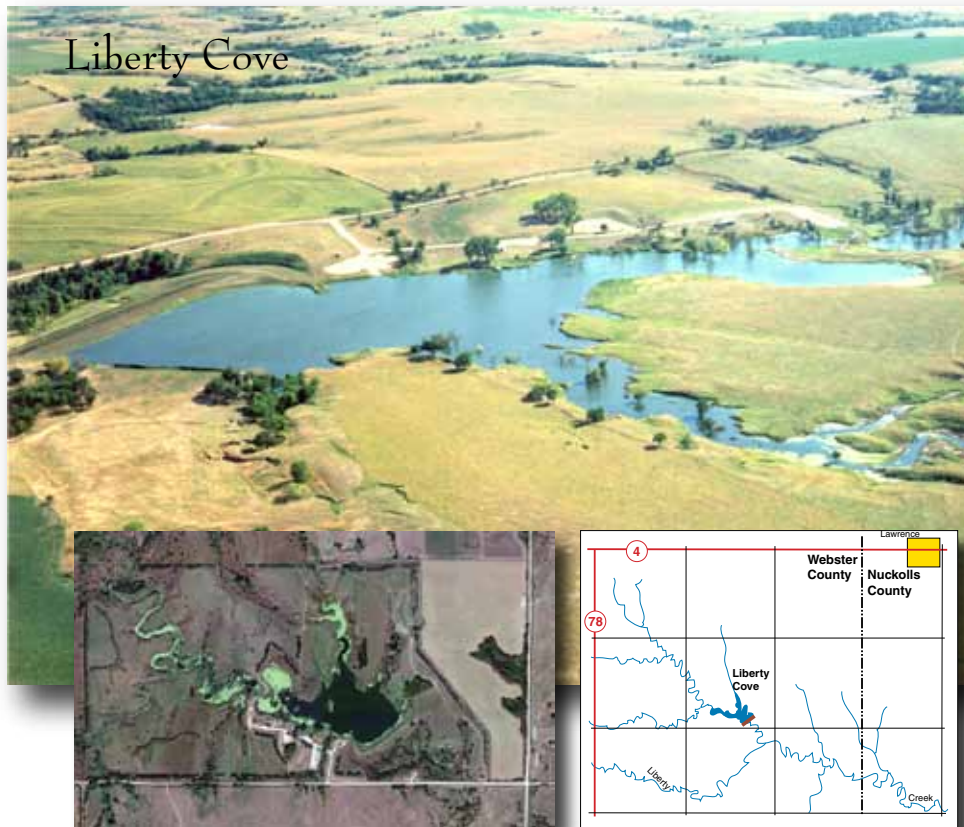
**Completed:** 1991

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$628,712

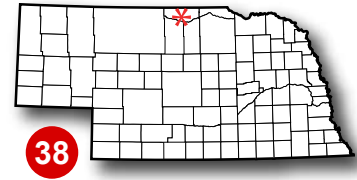
# Liberty Creek



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 Access

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 entrance 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 include 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

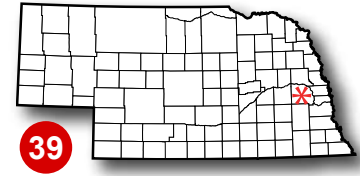
**Project Size:** Two Areas along the Niobrara River

**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.lpnrd.org/projects/recreation/czechland.html>.



**Sponsor:** Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

**Location:** Saunders County, Northwest of Prague

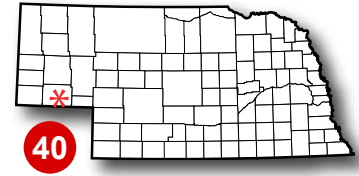
**Project Size:** 260 Total Acres with a 82 Acre Reservoir

**Purposes:** Flood Abatement and Recreation

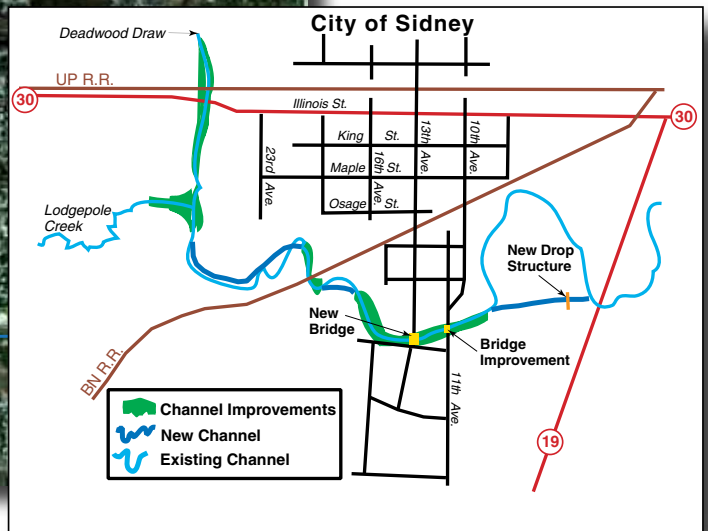
**Completed:** 1993

**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

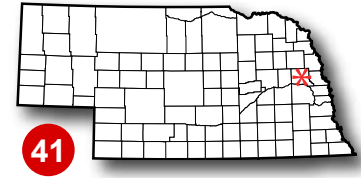
**Project Size:** See Map Above

**Purposes:** Flood Abatement

**Completed:** 1994

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$1,002,862

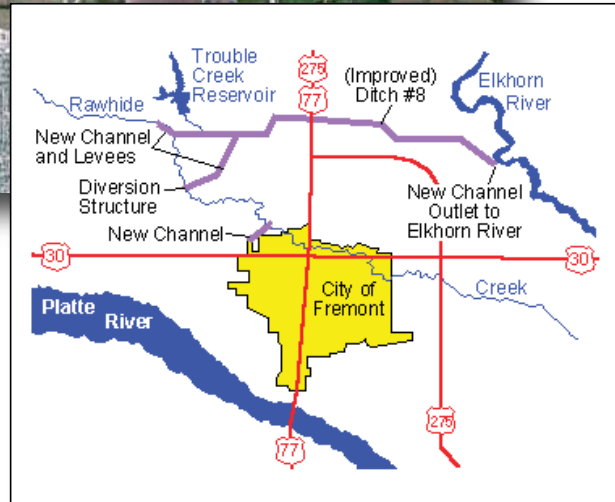
# Rawhide Creek



41



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

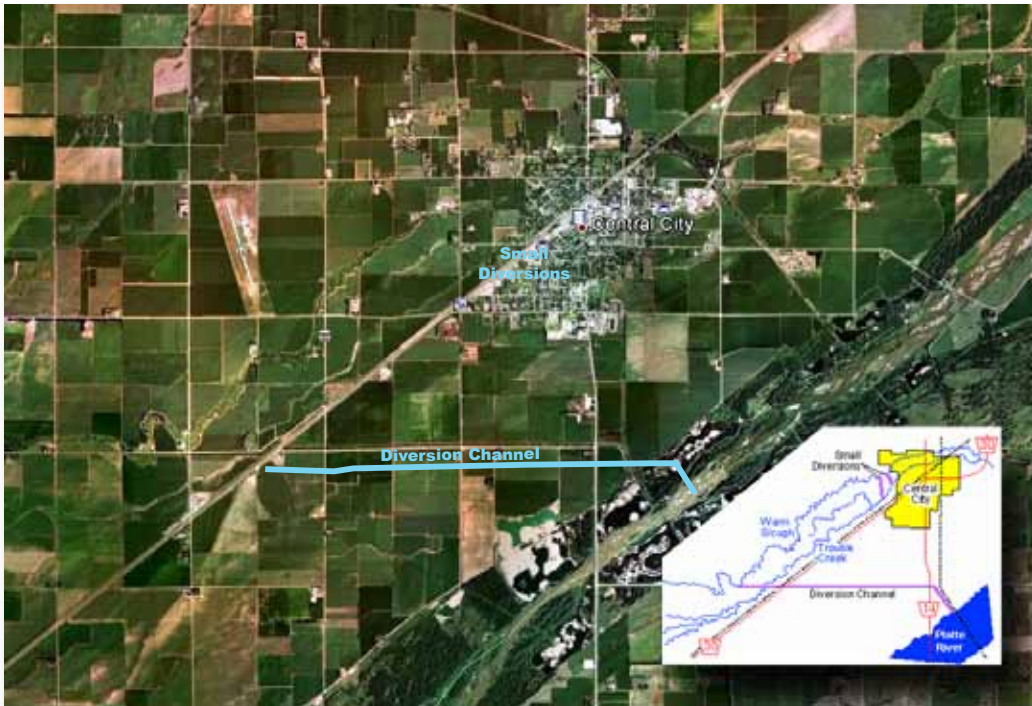
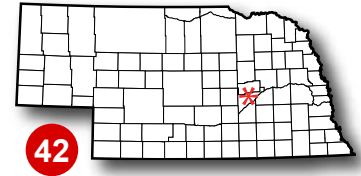
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement

**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

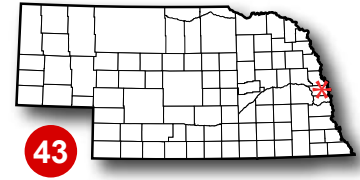
**Location:** Merrick County, near Central City

**Project Size:** See Map Above

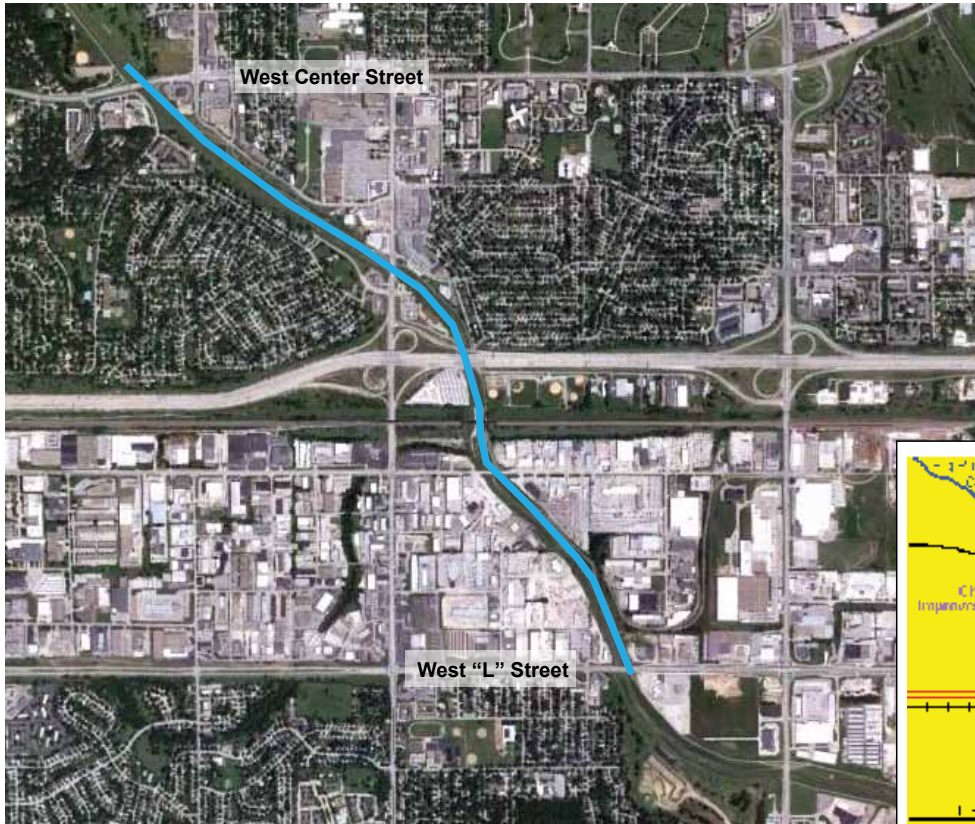
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement

**Completed:** 1994

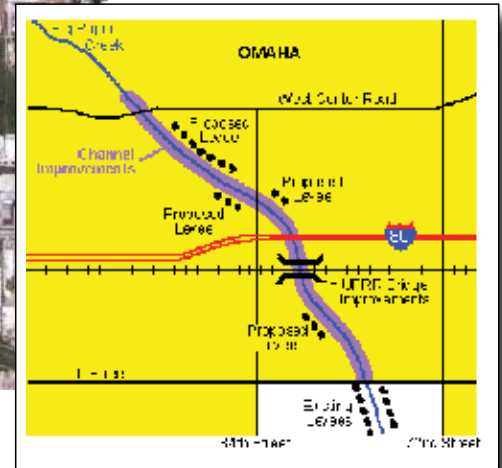
**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$1,535,417



# 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

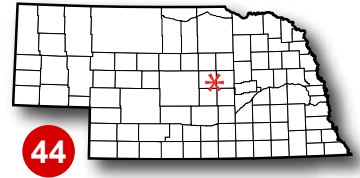
**Project Size:** See Map Above

**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

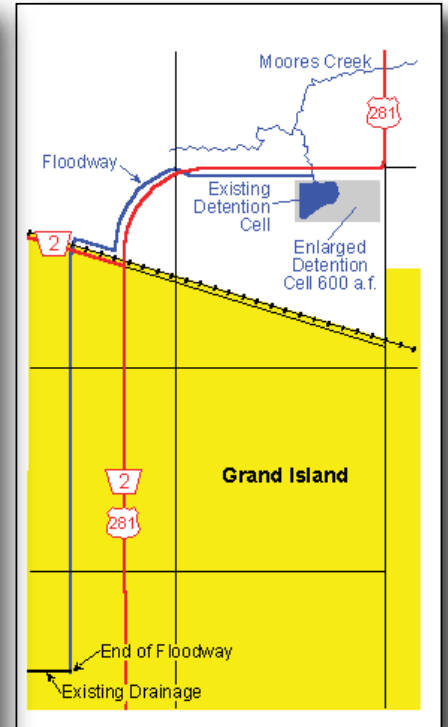
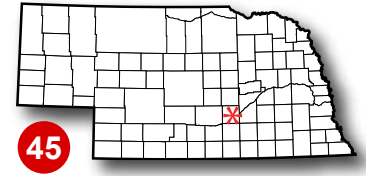
**Project Size:** Reservoir Fluctuates between 140 and 1145 Acres

**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

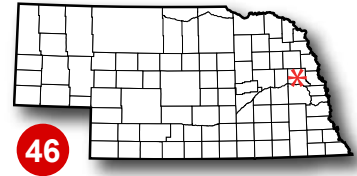
**Location:** Hall County, City of Grand Island

**Project Size:** See Map Above

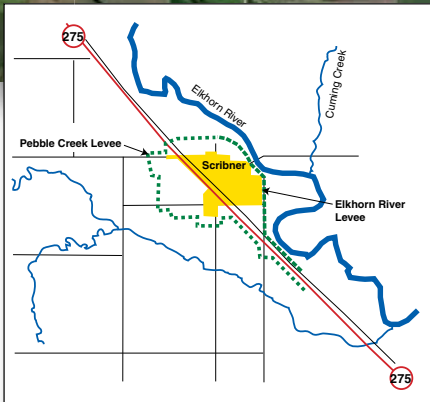
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement

**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

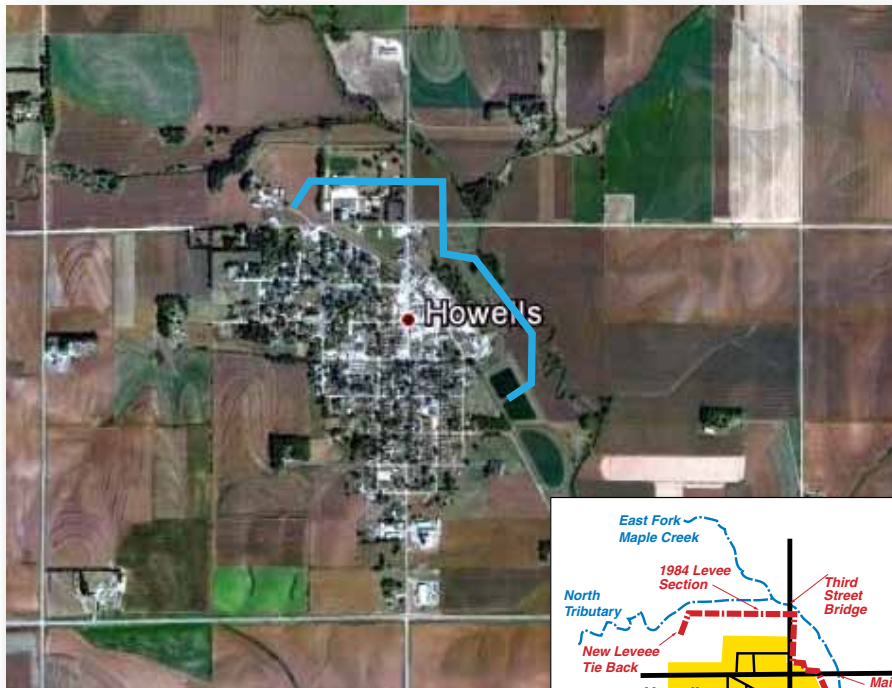
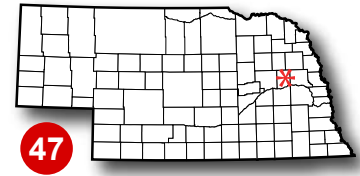
**Project Size:** See Map Above

**Purposes:** Flood Abatement

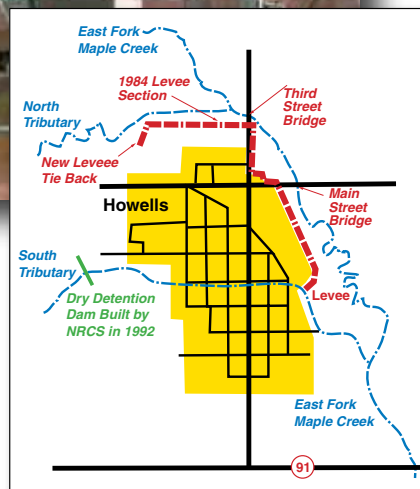
**Completed:** 1995

**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

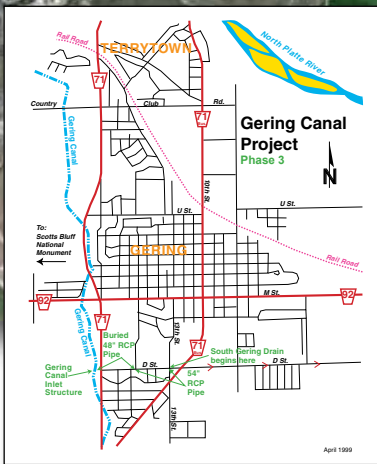
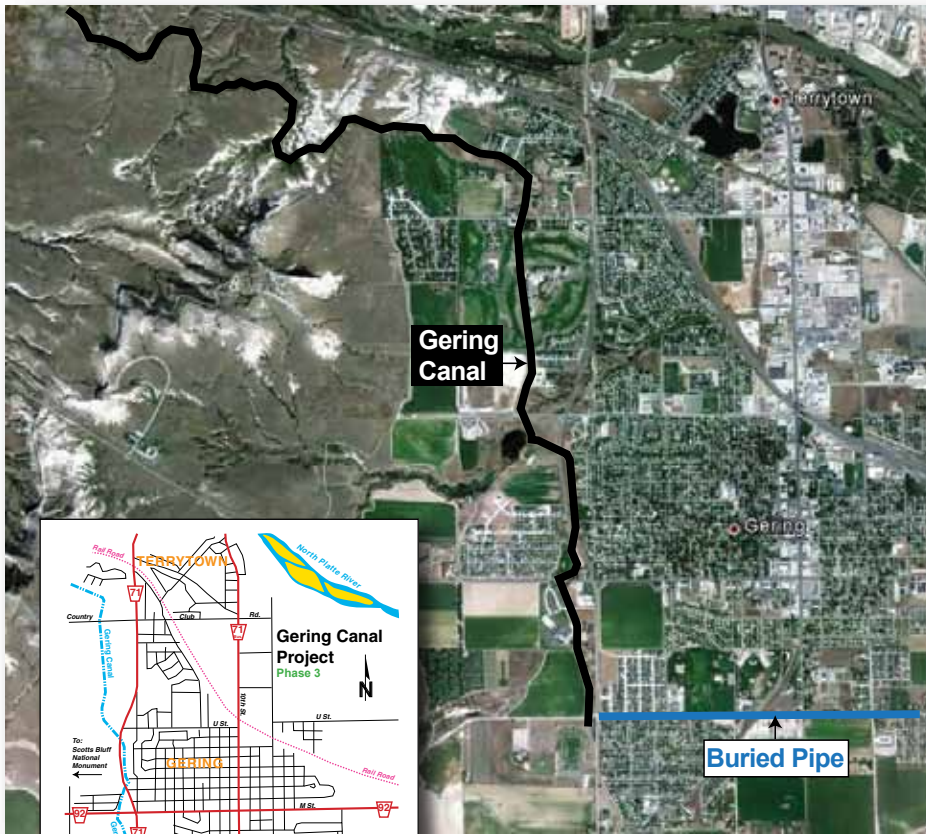
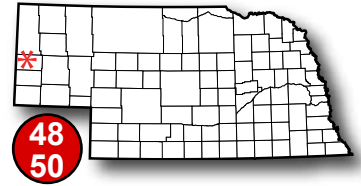
**Project Size:** 3,000 Foot of New and 1,000 Foot of Rehabilitated Levee

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

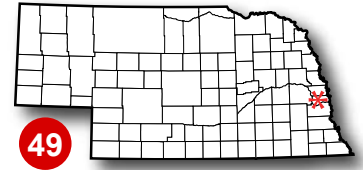
**NRDF Assistance for Phase 1 and 2:**

Grant of \$105,15, Loan of \$168,108 which was retired in 1998

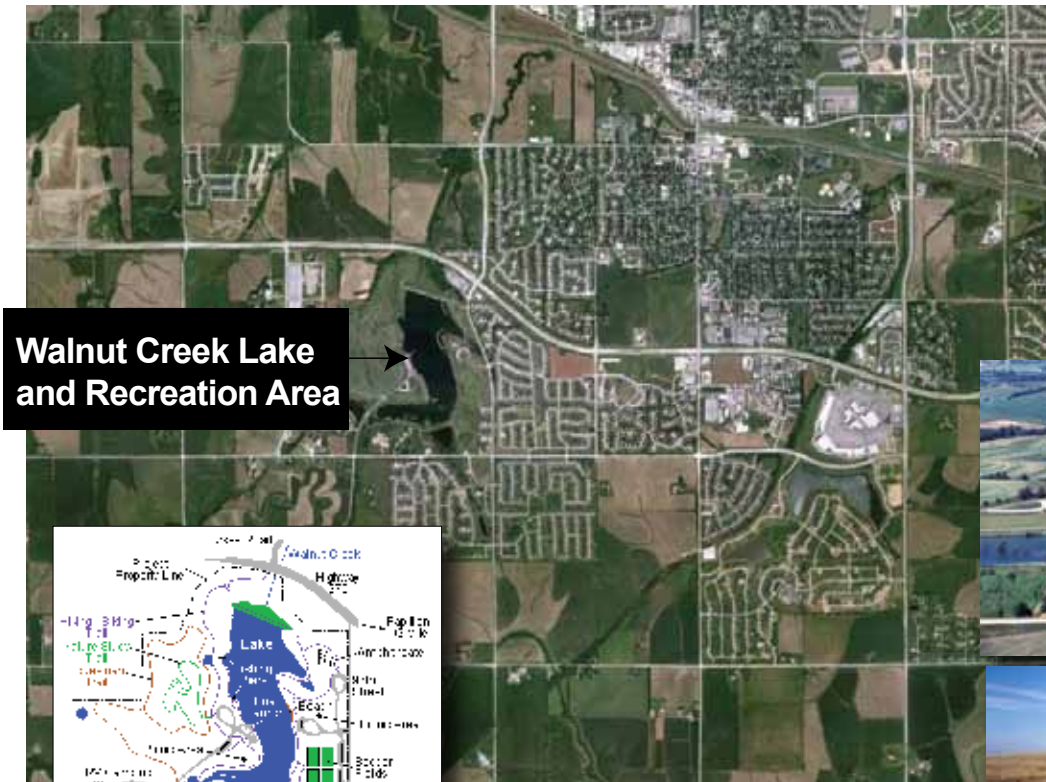
**NRDF Assistance for Phase 3:** Grant of \$154,769

# Papio Site 21

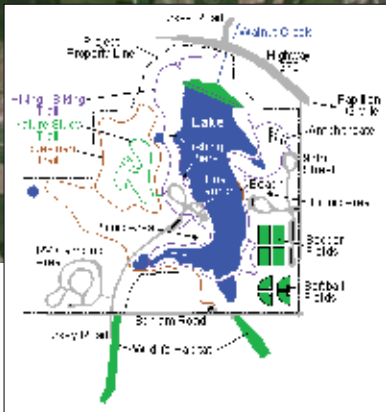
## Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation Area



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 earthen 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/>.



**Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation Area**



**Sponsor:** Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

**Location:** Sarpy County, Southwest of Papillion

**Project Size:** 435 Total Acres with a 100 Acre Reservoir

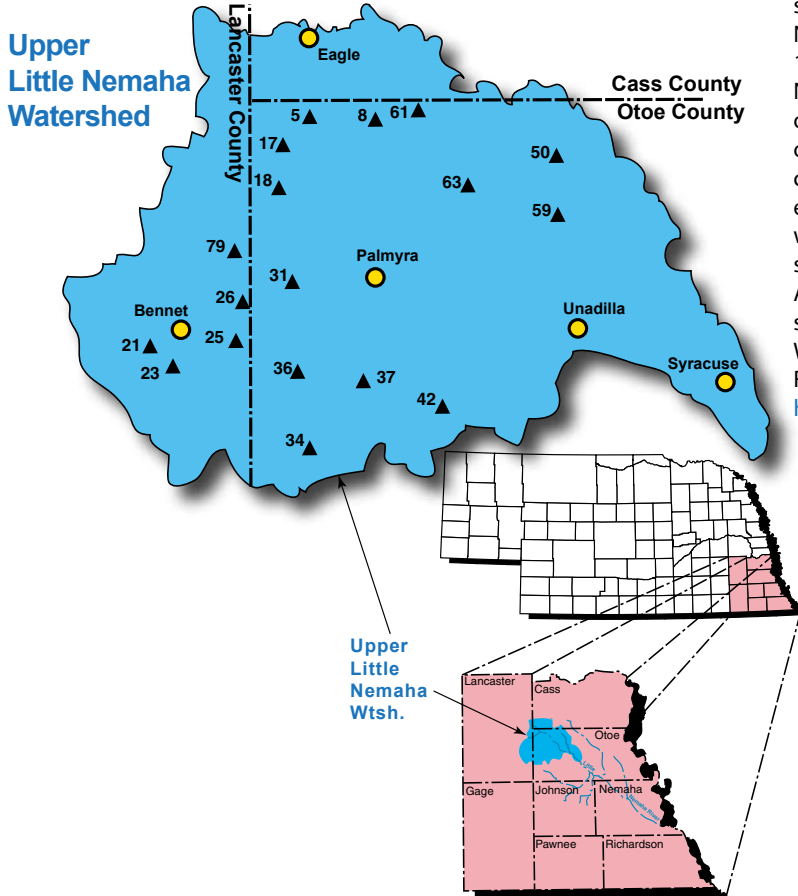
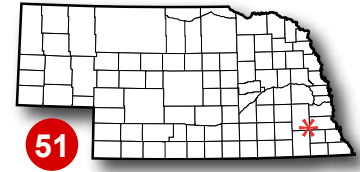
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement and Recreation

**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>.



**Sponsor:** Nemaha Natural Resources District

**Location:** Southeast Nebraska Counties of Lancaster, Case, and Otoe

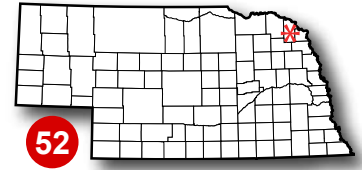
**Project Size:** 18 Sites

**Purposes:** Flood Abatement and Recreation

**Completed:** 2003

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$3,486,171

# Wakefield Levee

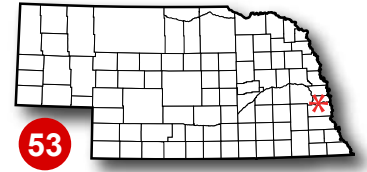


The Wakefield Levee Project provides 100-year flood protection to the city of Wakefield from flooding along Logan Creek. The project consists of a levee on the north and east sides of the community, a highway closure structure, and the protection of three city wells. The city also received Federal Emergency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

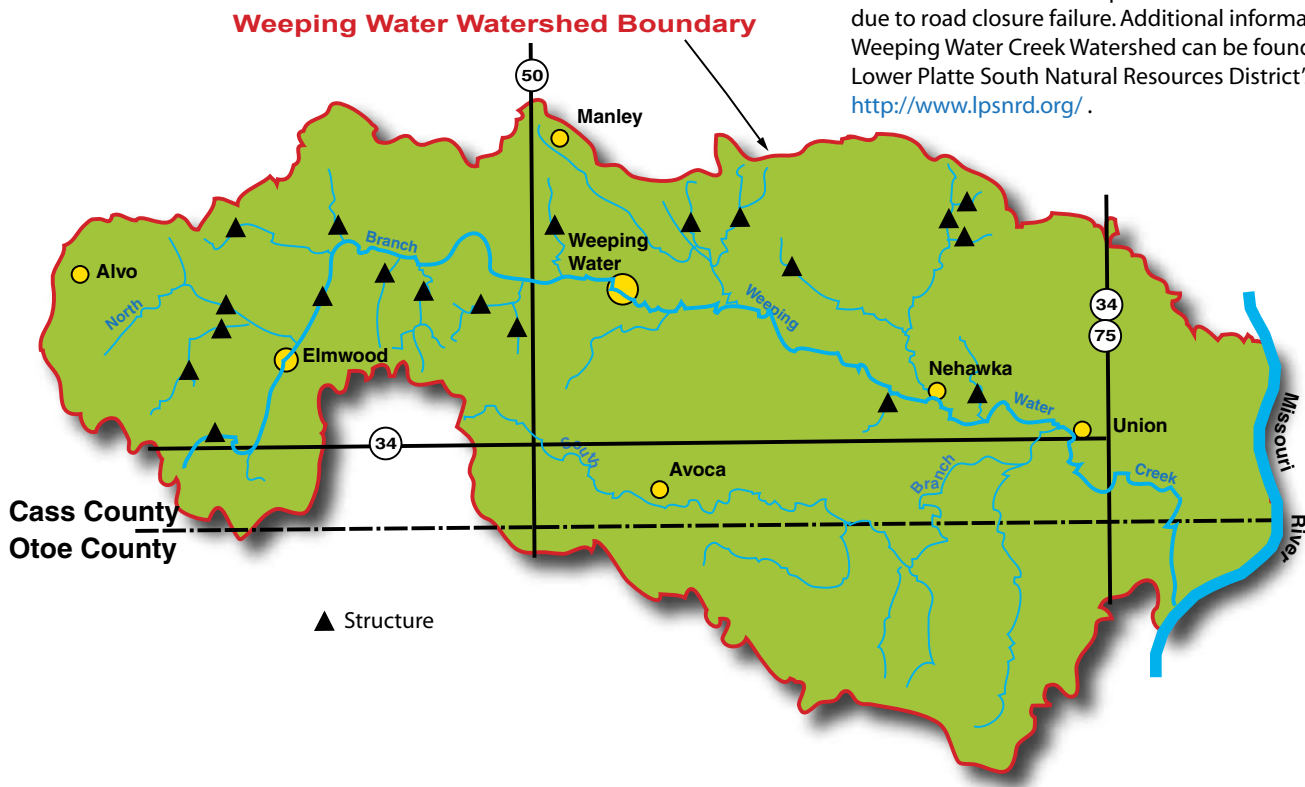


**Sponsor:** City of Wakefield  
**Location:** Dixon County, City of Wakefield  
**Project Size:** See Map Above  
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement  
**Completed:** 2003  
**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$350,374

# 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 communities 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

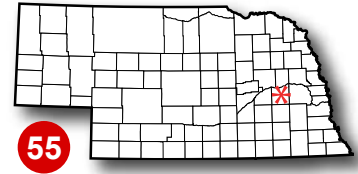
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement

**Completed:** 2003

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$3,736,657

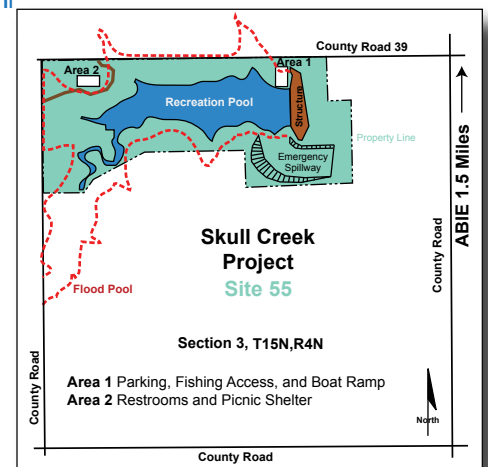
# Skull Creek Site 55

## 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.lpnrd.org/projects/watersheds/homestead.html>



**Sponsor:** Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

**Location:** Butler County, North of Bruno

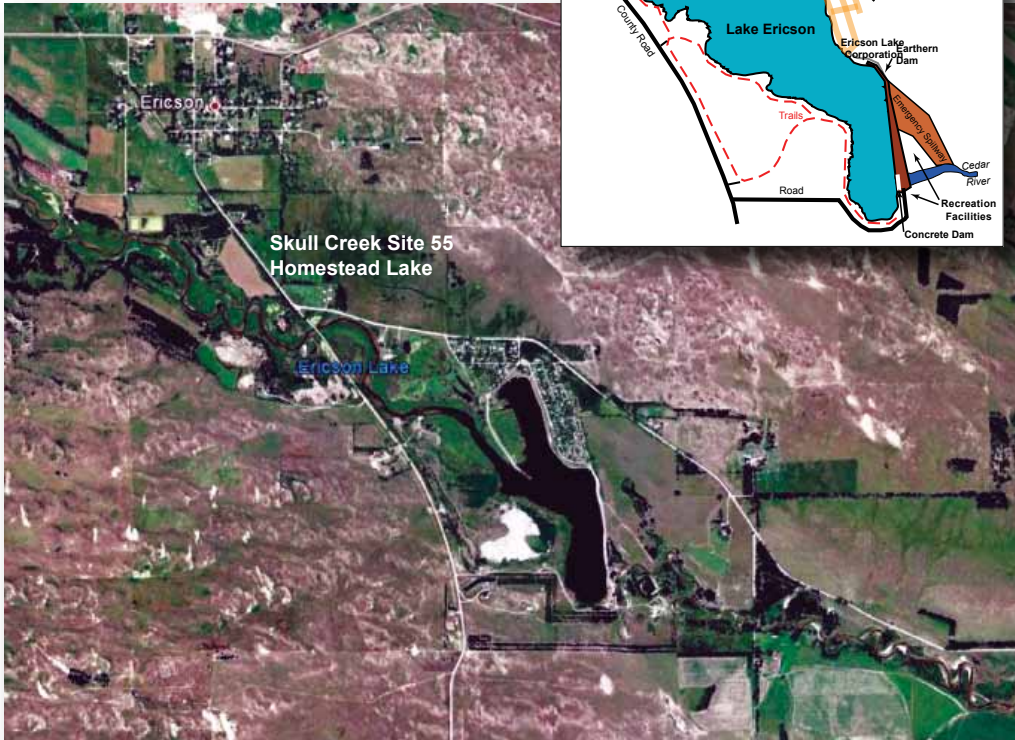
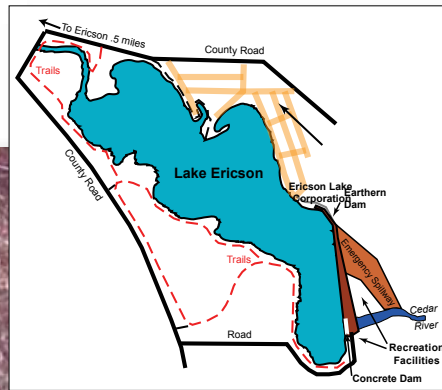
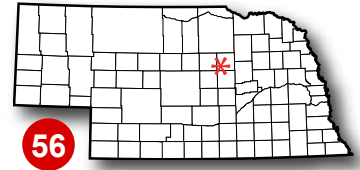
**Project Size:** Total of 160 Acres with a 37 Acre Reservoir

**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](http://www.lakeericson.com/about_us.htm).

**Sponsor:** Lower Loup Natural Resources District

**Location:** Wheeler County

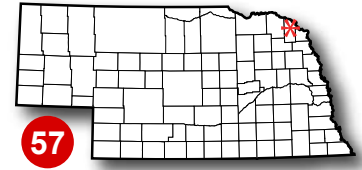
**Project Size:** 70 Acres

**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/](http://www.lcnrd.org/recreation/powder_creek/).

**Sponsor:** Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District

**Location:** Dixon County

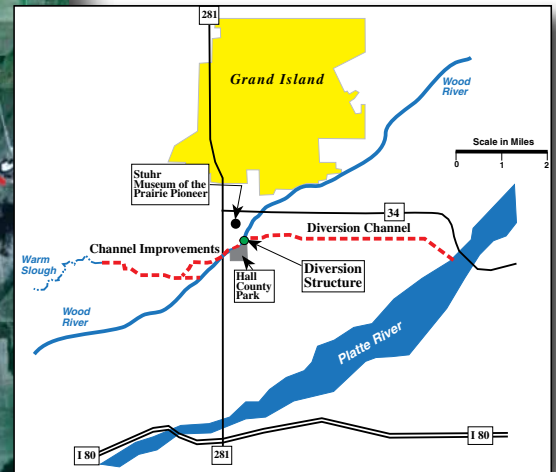
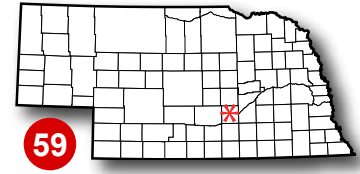
**Project Size:** Total of 462 Acres with a 107 Acre Reservoir

**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 Natural Resources District's website at <http://www.cpnrd.org/projects.html>.

**Sponsor:** Central Platte Natural Resources District

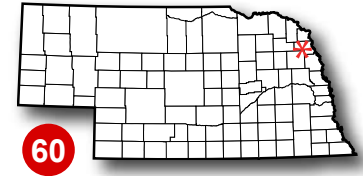
**Location:** Hall County, South Grand Island

**Project Size:** Five Miles of Diversion Channel with Levees, See Map Above

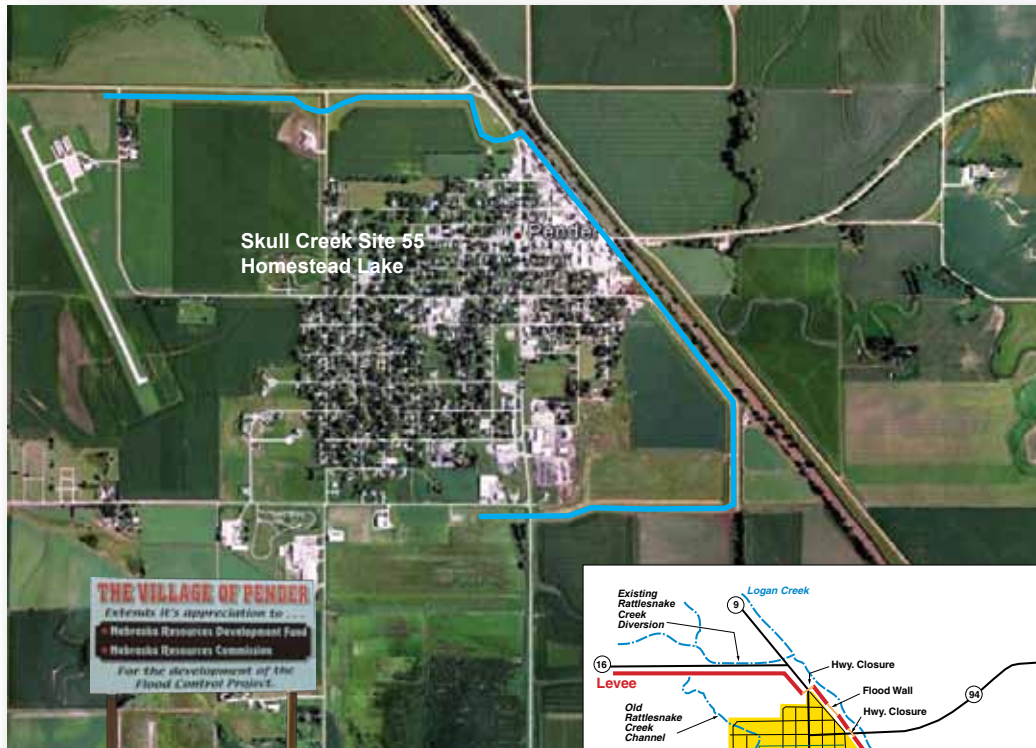
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement

**Completed:** 2006

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$3,922,806



# Pender Flood Control

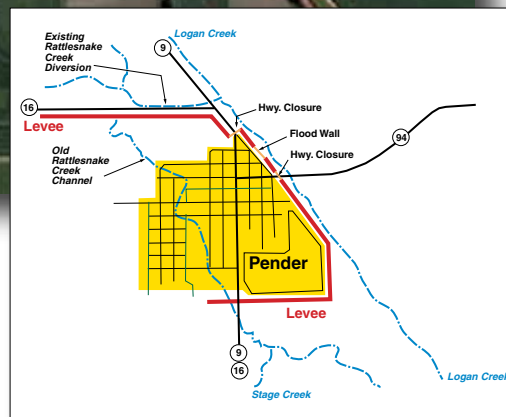


The project was a Section 205 project planned, designed, and principally funded by the Corps of Engineers. The project will protect Pender from a 385-year flood event on Logan Creek and consists of a levee, floodwall, two state highway closure structures and a detention cell.

[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

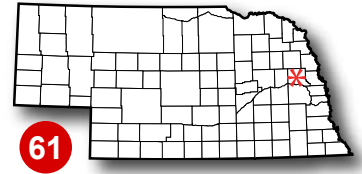
**Purposes:** Flood Abatement

**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

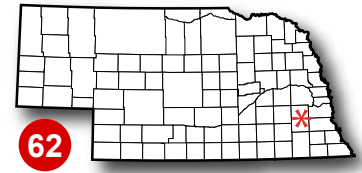
**Project Size:** See Map Above

**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

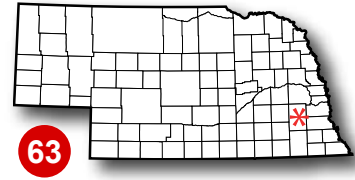
**Location:** Lancaster County, East of Lincoln

**Project Size:** Ten Floodwater Retarding Structures

**Purposes:** Flood Abatement

**Completed:** 2009

**NRDF Assistance:** \$2,561,899



# Antelope Creek Project

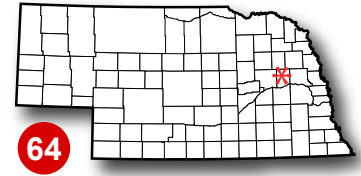
The Antelope Creek Project was designed and principally funded by the Corps of Engineers to provide 100-year flood protection to an area of Lincoln. The project involved a new open and wide flood water conveyance channel, recreation trails, and bridge improvement work. Other partners include the University 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:** \$6,964,884



# Maple Creek Recreation Project



The project involved the construction of an earthen dam on the West Fork 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

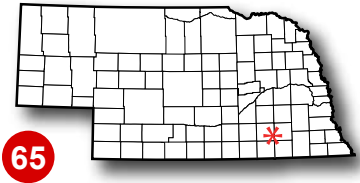
**Project Size:** 557 Total Acres with a 160 Acre Reservoir

**Purposes:** Flood Abatement and Recreation

**Completed:** 2010

**NRDF Assistance:** Grant of \$4,114,949

# Little Sandy Creek Watershed



The project involved the construction of four flood control structures (originally planned for five) on Little Sandy Creek and its tributaries. Site No. 73 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 Little Blue Natural Resources District for public use as a multi-purpose dam providing recreation activities. Additional information can be found on the Little Blue Natural Resources District's website at [http://www.littlebluenrd.org/Recreation/lone\\_star.html](http://www.littlebluenrd.org/Recreation/lone_star.html).



Pictured Lone Star Recreation Area (Site 61) in Fillmore County, 6.5 miles South of Milligan

**Sponsor:** Little Blue Natural Resources District  
**Location:** Fillmore, Saline and Thayer Counties  
**Project Size:** Four Structures  
**Purposes:** Recreation, Flood Abatement and  
Groundwater Recharge  
**Completed:** 2013  
**NRDF Assistance:** \$2,830,643



## Approved Projects

### 66. 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 and drainage structure improvements in the Village of DeWitt. Construction of Site No.'s 2A, 3, 4, 8 and 15 are completed. Construction of Site No. 9 is about half completed and Site 11 will begin in the fall of 2014.

### 67. PIGEON/JONES CREEK

*Sponsor: Papio-Missouri River NRD*

This is a multi-purpose reservoir project near Hubbard. Extensive recreation facilities are under construction around the 200-acre reservoir. Flood damage reduction benefits are being realized downstream on the Missouri River valley. Construction of the dam is complete and recreation components are nearly complete.

### 68. Lake Wanahoo

*Sponsor: Lower Platte North NRD*

This project is the largest component of the Sand Creek Environmental Restoration project designed and principally funded by the Corps of Engineers to restore nearly two thousand acres of Todd Valley depressional wetlands, pond habitat, central deciduous forest and tall grass prairie. Located on Sand Creek just upstream of Wahoo, Nebraska, this project provides recreational activities including swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, camping, youth hunting and wildlife viewing in conjunction with the 660 acre reservoir and ancillary flood reduction benefits.

### 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. Two upstream dams on Duck Creek are complete and construction will soon be completed on two additional sites on Prairie Creek.

## **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 scheduled for completion in 2015.

## **71. Buck and Duck Creek**

*Sponsor: Nemaha NRD*

This project consists 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 land acquisition is underway on the Duck Creek site.

## Financial Status of Approved Projects



Approved Projects	Amount Allocated	Total Project Obligations	Total Amount Expended to Date
<b>PARTIALLY FUNDED:</b>			
Buck & Duck	130,000.00	0	0
Lower Turkey Creek Watershed	6,357,258.80	4,905,224.26	4,905,224.26
Pigeon/Jones Creek	4,254,920.55	0	0
Lake Wanahoo	11,171,219.43	4,673,127.22	4,673,127.22
Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek	10,156,668.32	7,732,527.10	7,732,527.10
Western Sarpy/Clear Creek	10,077,662.50	7,476,898.15	7,476,898.15
<b>COMPLETED PROJECTS (65)</b>	<b>65,917,837.34</b>	<b>65,917,837.34</b>	<b>65,913,753.94</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$108,065,566.94</b>	<b>\$90,705,614.07</b>	<b>\$90,701,530.67</b>



## Projects Pending

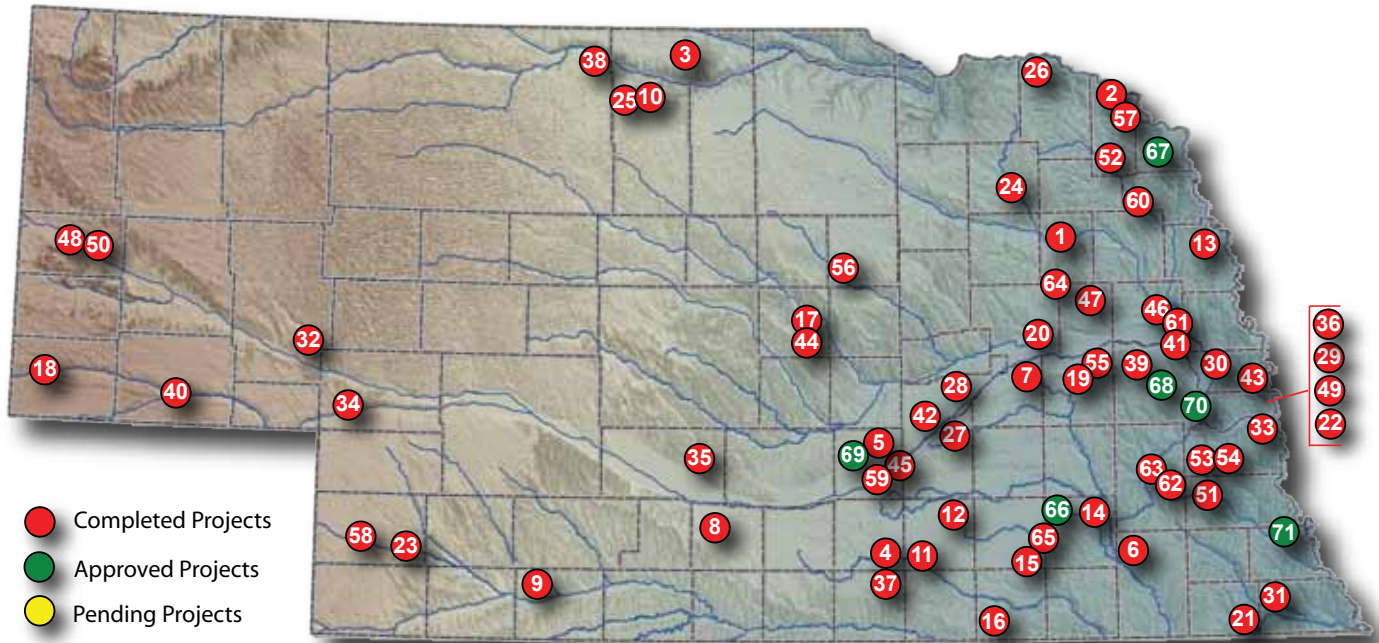


**Future  
 Legislative Appropriations  
 Needed as of  
 June 30, 2014.**

### Partially Funded Approved Projects

Projects	Remainder to Obligate
Buck & Duck	130,000.00
Lower Turkey Creek Watershed	1,452,034.54
Pigeon/Jones Creek	4,254,920.55
Lake Wanahoo	6,498,092.21
Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek	2,424,141.22
Western Sarpy/Clear Creek	2,600,764.35
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$17,359,952.87</b>

# Project Location Map



Numbered by Completion Date  
 as of August 2014

## Completed Projects

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maskenthine</li> <li>2. Aowa Creek</li> <li>3. Cub Creek</li> <li>4. Crystal Lake</li> <li>5. Prairie Creek</li> <li>6. Clatonia</li> <li>7. Clear Creek Watershed</li> <li>8. Loomis Pipeline</li> <li>9. McCook</li> <li>10. West Sand Draw</li> <li>11. Big Sandy #1</li> <li>12. School Creek (suspended)</li> <li>13. Summit Lake</li> <li>14. Walnut Creek</li> <li>15. Big Sandy #2</li> <li>16. Deshler (suspended)</li> <li>17. Mira Creek</li> <li>18. Oliver Reservoir</li> <li>19. Central Butler Water Management Project</li> <li>20. Lost Creek</li> <li>21. South Fork 2-A</li> <li>22. Thompson Creek</li> <li>23. Wauneta</li> <li>24. Willow Creek</li> <li>25. Ainsworth Reservoir</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26. Antelope Creek</li> <li>27. Aurora 35-11-6</li> <li>28. Silver Creek</li> <li>29. Chalco Hills Recreation Area</li> <li>30. Elkhorn River Bank Stabilization</li> <li>31. Long Branch Site 21</li> <li>32. Union Irrigation District</li> <li>33. Mill Creek</li> <li>34. Ogallala</li> <li>35. Buffalo Creek Dawson Co.</li> <li>36. Buffalo Creek Sarpy Co.</li> <li>37. Liberty Creek</li> <li>38. Niobrara River Access</li> <li>39. Czechland Lake</li> <li>40. Lodgepole Creek at Sidney</li> <li>41. Rawhide Creek</li> <li>42. Warm Slough/Trouble Creek</li> <li>43. Big Papio Channel</li> <li>44. Davis Creek Recreation Area</li> <li>45. Moores Creek</li> <li>46. Scribner Levee</li> <li>47. Howells Levee</li> <li>48. Gering Canal Phase 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>49. Papio Site 21</li> <li>50. Gering Canal Phase 3</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>51. Upper Little Nemaha Wtsh.</li> <li>52. Wakefield Levee</li> <li>53. Weeping Water Creek Wtsh.</li> <li>54. Weeping Water Creek Site 7-G (suspended)</li> <li>55. Skull Creek Site 55</li> <li>56. Lake Ericson</li> <li>57. Powder Creek</li> <li>58. Enders Dam (withdrawn)</li> <li>59. Lower Wood River/ Upper Warm Slough</li> <li>60. Pender Flood Control</li> <li>61. Winslow Levee</li> <li>62. Stevens Creek Wtsh.</li> <li>63. Antelope Creek</li> <li>64. Maple Creek Recreation Project</li> <li>65. Little Sandy Creek Wtsh.</li> </ol> |
|---|--|---|

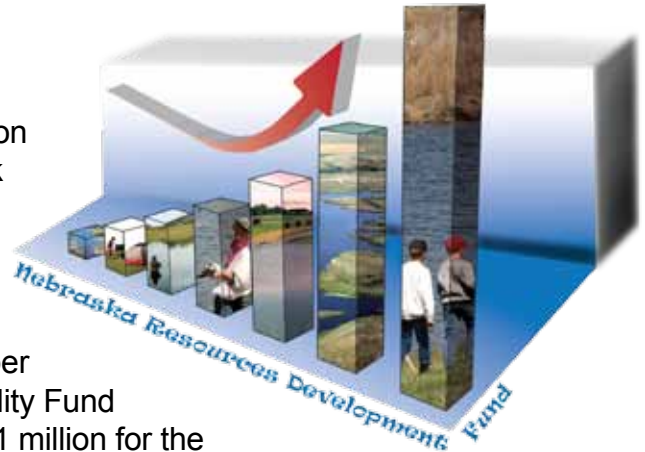
## Approved Projects

66. Lower Turkey Creek Wtsh.
67. Pigeon/Jones Creek
68. Lake Wanahoo
69. Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores
70. Western Sarpy/Clear Creek
71. Buck & Duck Creek

## Looking Ahead

Since 1974 the Nebraska Resources Development Fund (NRDF) 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 otherwise have been undertaken due to local funding constraints. The demonstrated value of this type of assistance to the citizens of Nebraska has been noteworthy.

In its 2014 session, the Legislature added nearly \$10.5 million in addition to the previously approved appropriation of about \$3.1 million to help offset the gap between work completion and reimbursement. In addition, legislation was passed in response to Nebraska's water funding needs identified in the "Strategic Plan and Recommendations Report" which was submitted to the Legislature by the Water Funding Task Force in December 2013. LB906 and LB1098 created the Water Sustainability Fund and provided guidance for governance, appropriated \$21 million for the new fund in Fiscal Year 2015, and stated the intent to transfer \$11 million to the fund annually thereafter.



LB 906 also indicated the Legislature's intent that the new fund would take on the project assistance role previously performed by the NRDF. The bill limited future NRDF expenditures to the previously approved allocations for each project, prohibited reallocation among approved projects, and prohibited approval of new applications. Once currently approved cost share commitments to existing projects totaling about \$17.4 million are satisfied, the NRDF will cease to operate.

Over the last 40 years, the NRDF has enabled a variety of project sponsors to complete projects that benefit the State and its citizens. It is often said that the test of a good decision is the test of time. Certainly, future generations of Nebraskans will continue to benefit from the infrastructure investments made possible by NRDF.

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

Kent Zimmerman  
Projects Director  
Department of Natural Resources



