

Operations Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 7, 2025 8:30 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
There isn't any unfinished business to consider.
2. WILD NE AND OTHER PROGRAMS
Nothing to report.
3. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS
The O & M crew cleaned up some firebreak issues, cleared more trees in the wetland area, cut trees and inspected a couple dams, replaced a rubber seal on a gate valve on Sand/Duck Dam 13.
 - 3.A. Rehabilitation of Cottonwood 21-A, NRCS & HDR
HDR submitted the Cultural Report to NRCS and made revisions to the plan based on NRCS comments. They anticipate a 90% completion meeting in January.
 - 3.B. Wanhoo Basin & Other Property Damage - FEMA
To get the de-watering process started as soon as possible in the Wanhoo basin, Houston Engineering recommends obtaining 3 -4 bids rather than going through a public bid, which is a lengthy and time-consuming advertising process.
 - 3.C. Wanhoo Relief Well Cleaning
Rieschick Well completed the rehab and testing of 11 relief wells. In summary, all wells showed some improvement; however, wells 17 and 18 did not. The rehab and testing information was sent to Olsson and NDNR Dam Safety for their review.
The Well Driller suggested that in the future, the NRD may want to consider testing a batch of wells and comparing the specific capacities before completing rehabs. Now that you have information on every well, data-based decisions can be made.
We received the final contracted invoice for these 11 wells for \$134,244.
 - 3.D. Tree Debris Grinding on Wanhoo Area
With the accumulation of trees and stalk debris from the May flood, the tree piles we have created on our prairies, the difficulty of obtaining burn permits and weather issues, we are trying to obtain bids to grind all the piles. We have received one bid from Barcel Enterprises at \$16,600 and have another contractor, Hillside Solutions/Soil Dynamics, who may look at the area. Staff would like to proceed with this at the Board meeting, so the work can be accomplished this winter.
We can also post a percentage of this work on our FEMA reimbursement.
 - 3.E. Hay Harvest on NRD Recreation Areas
The last hay contractor is making it a priority to remove his bales, weather depending.
 - 3.F. Bellwood Ditch 4 Damage Repair
Krivanek Construction finished the repair on December 12. Attached are the before and after photos. The final invoice for the work is \$11,500.00. This was approved in

November at an estimated price of \$14,075.00. A shorter pipe was used to reflect the lower cost.

3.G. Czechland Recreation Revenue

The revenue the District received from RV camping at Czechland Lake from late February to late November was \$13,477. This is from 11 electrical RV sites.

3.H. Wanahoo Dirt/Sand Sales from M.E. Collins

The 2024 M.E. Collins purchased \$6,846.60 worth of dirt and sand from the Wanahoo borrow site.

3.I. New Fuel Barrel

With our move to our new office this year, we need to upgrade our 300-gallon, gravity-fed fuel barrel. We received quotes for a 500-gallon double-walled barrel with an electric pump. Quotes from Opp Oil Inc. and Breunig Supply Co. are \$6,348.80 and \$7,838.00 respectively. This does not include an electrician to connect power to it.

4. ROCK AND JETTY

We have not received any new applications or requests for payment.

5. LAKE WANAHOO

5.A. Lake Wanahoo Permit Sales

For the month of December, the District received \$1,283.00 in annual park permit revenue. This number will likely change once we receive the month of December financial reports.

5.B. Lake Wanahoo Camping Revenue

For the month of December, the District received \$4,360.00 in camping revenue. This number will likely change once we receive the month of December financial reports.

5.C. Clint Johannes Education Building

The Clint Johannes Education Building at Lake Wanahoo was rented 20 times in December. Revenue for the month was \$1,925. There were 2 NRD rentals.

5.D. 2024 Wanahoo Recreation Season Review

Review of 2024 recreation season and 2025 budget (attached).

6. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

6.A. Information

6.A.1. Radio & eAds

The KTIC radio ads and Wahoo newspaper e-ads for mid-December featured tree sales. The ads for January feature the upcoming nitrogen certification classes. The ads are attached.

6.A.2. Analytics

The LPNNRD Facebook and X pages, along with the website are some of the fastest ways to get information out to the public. Facebook and X posts range from 12 -18 posts per month. If you are on Facebook or X, please like, follow, share, or retweet the Lower Platte North NRD posts!

Total reach/impressions show how many people saw the post/tweet. Engagements include likes, comments, shares/retweets and link clicks.

Top Posts included:

- Upcoming Groundwater Management plan open houses
- December 15 water use report deadline
- Nitrogen Certification Water Management class list
- Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act
- Education event flyers

6.A.3. Viaduct with Annual Report

The Winter newsletter will be inserted into local newspapers the week of January 13-17. A digital copy is also available lpnnrd.org/downloads

6.A.4. Shell Creek Scholarship Second Portion

We have received 1 of the 4 transcripts needed for the Shell Creek Scholarship winners. The students must submit their completed first semester transcript with a GPA of B/3.0 or above to receive the second portion of their scholarship. Once this is received, we will issue the remaining \$500 for each student.

6.B. Education

6.B.1. Past events

December 16th: Coffee Lakeside (10)

December 16th: Turtles of Nebraska Night (7)

December 17th: St. Wenceslaus Pre-K visit (28)

December 18th: Survival Club everyday carry kits (Postponed).

6.B.2. Upcoming events

January 9th: Coffee Lakeside - Recycling.

January 16th: Presentation at Wahoo Senior Center

January 20th: St. Wenceslaus Pre-K visit.

TBD: Classroom dates for Survival Club, Wahoo 1st grade, and Cedar Bluffs 5th grade.

On the horizon:

Bees and Brews

Ice fishing event

6.B.3. LPNNRD Natural Resources Grant

This committee proposed a grant idea aimed at students (FFA, 4-H, community-based, etc.), who were completing natural resource-based projects in their communities. Attached is the final draft of the grant. Each student will need a statement of need; a description of the project; a detailed budget for the proposed project; a cover letter briefly introducing themselves, the project, and why it's important to them; and one letter of support. Please see the attached document. Any comments or suggestions will be taken at this point.

We have \$1000.00 budgeted towards this grant. As of right now, the allotted

amount will be based off of the number of submissions, and further direction from this committee in the coming months.

I would like to get this out to the schools and communities within our district by the end of January. As we move forward and the need is there, we can add additional funds to support more projects.

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

7.A. Colon System

Routine monthly sampling completed, bills mailed 12/31.

7.B. Bruno System

Routine monthly sampling completed, bills mailed 12/31.

7.C. Other

The following request was received from NeDNR regarding a property buyout program. Discussion is requested to see if LPNNRD would be interested in owning the mentioned property. Staff will be meeting with DNR on 1-8-25 to discuss further and have questions answered.

A property owner has contacted DNR regarding the FMA Swift Current funding (see our initial communication attached). He would like to pursue a buy-out at 2696 Big Island Rd., Fremont, NE 68025. The property owner qualifies for 100% federal cost share (ie. No local match needed). Could you please give me a call about this potential project? I am wondering if the NRD would be willing to partner with NeDNR.





WANAHOO OPERATING BUDGET 2024 SEASON

12/1/2024

Category	BUDGET \$			
FT/PT wages, benefits & taxes	\$102,000.00			
Reservations	\$2,500.00			
Supplies (permits/envelopes/etc	\$5,000.00			
Utiilies	\$25,000.00			
Road Maintainance	\$10,000.00			
Misc. repairs	\$4,000.00			
Janitorial	\$4,500.00			
Chemical	\$800.00			
Construction	\$5,000.00			
Education Building Expenses	\$11,000.00			
Garbage	\$3,000.00			
TOTAL COMBINED EXPENSES:	\$172,800.00			
INCOME				
PERMITS ANNUAL Resident (1500)		\$22,500.00		
PERMITS ANNUAL Non-Res. (1500)		\$37,500.00		
PERMITES DUP. Resident (700)		\$5,250.00		
PERMITS DUP. Non-Res (350)		\$4,375.00		
PERMITS DAILY (DISTRICT \$ 5) (3,000)		\$16,000.00	\$85,625.00	
Education Building Rental		\$15,500.00		
Pork Chop Island Camping		\$1,500.00		
Camping		\$115,000.00		
Cabin Rental		\$5,000.00		
Shower House		\$2,000.00	\$139,000.00	
	\$172,800.00	\$224,625.00		\$51,825.00

2024 WANAHOO PARK RECREATION REVENUE & EXPENSES

12/1/2024

Category	ACTUAL \$	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
EXPENSES						
FT/PT wages, benefits & taxes	\$98,095.69 (\$10,000 FEMA)	\$99,844.62	\$86,589.90	\$80,584.94	\$77,487.69	\$76,696.30
Reservations						
Supplies (permits/envelopes/etc						
Utilities (approx. \$ 23,000)						
Road Maintainance						
Misc. repairs						
Janitorial						
Chemical						
Construction						
Garbage				\$3,388.00		\$1,152.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$48,858.27	40145.66	\$53,565.30	\$46,496.27	\$66,422.04	\$55,344.23
EQUIP. DEPRECIATION				\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$146,953.96	\$139,990.28	\$140,155.20	\$135,469.21	\$148,909.73	\$138,192.53
INCOME						
PERMITS ANNUAL (DISTRICT \$ 15)						
PERMITS ANNUAL (OUTSIDE \$ 25)						
PERMITES DUP. (DISTRICT 5)						
PERMITS DUP. (OUTSIDE \$ 15)						
PERMITS DAILY (DISTRICT \$ 5)						
PERMITS DAILY (OUTSIDE \$ 8)						
TOTAL PERMIT SALES	\$74,663.00	\$95,832.76	\$97,679.28	\$109,535.91	\$124,817.04	\$103,525.27
CAMPING	\$113,498.40	\$120,777.08	\$120,498.93	\$127,617.65	\$133,702.71	\$91,718.60
SHOWER	\$1,275.75	\$4,773.09	\$1,775.00	\$7,094.52	\$1,218.52	\$2,427.25
TOTAL GROSS REVENUE (minus Lodging Tax)	\$189,437.15	\$221,382.93	\$219,953.21	\$244,248.08	\$259,738.27	\$197,671.12
TOTAL WANAHOO NET INCOME	\$42,483.19	\$81,392.65	\$79,798.01	\$108,778.87	\$110,828.54	\$59,478.59

* PARK PAYS 100% OF EAST SIDE ADD'L UTILITIES

2024 EDUCATION BUILDING

REVENUE	\$14,859.50	\$15,457.50	\$14,600.00	\$14,300.00	\$9,480.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,075.71	\$7,649.45	\$7,430.10	\$9,960.88	\$10,507.67	
	\$1,783.79	\$7,808.05	\$7,169.90	\$4,339.12	-\$1,027.67	
TOTAL PROFIT/LOSS	\$1,783.79					

WANAHOO RECREATION ACCOUNT 12/2024

\$588,596.54
avg. int. \$2,100/mo

\$467,655.27

TREES & SHRUBS

Available for Spring delivery

Seedling handplants:
\$1.25 per tree or shrub

Call 402-443-4675 or visit
www.lpnrd.org



LOWER PLATTE NORTH
Natural Resources District

TREES & SHRUBS

Available for Spring delivery

Seedling handplants: \$1.25 per tree or shrub

Call 402-443-4675 or visit
www.lpnnrd.org/projects-and-programs/forestry



LOWER PLATTE NORTH
Natural Resources District

Nitrogen Certification & Water Management Classes

Producers in the Lower Platte North NRD area who need Nitrogen certification can attend upcoming classes, take an online test, or request a paper test at lpnnrd.org



LOWER PLATTE NORTH
Natural Resources District

Nitrogen Certification & Water Management Classes

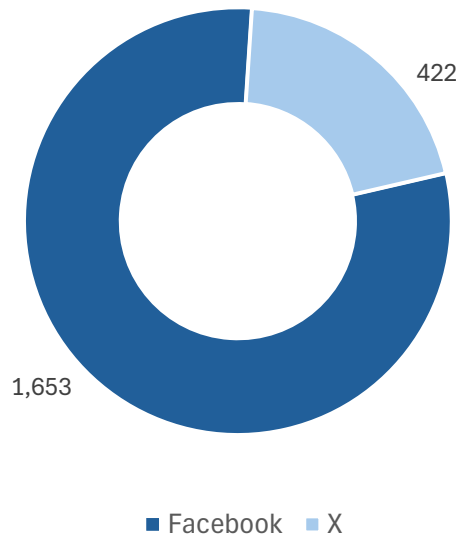
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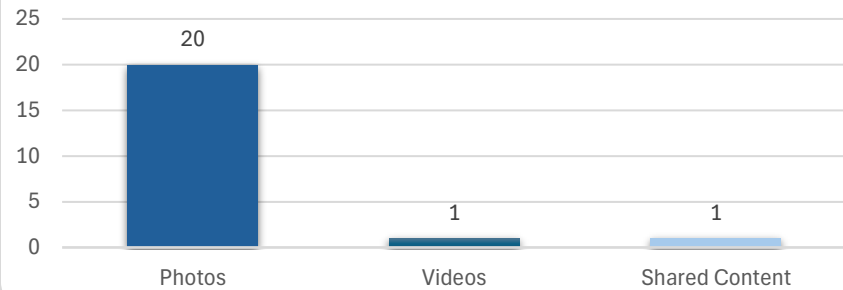


LOWER PLATTE NORTH Natural Resources District

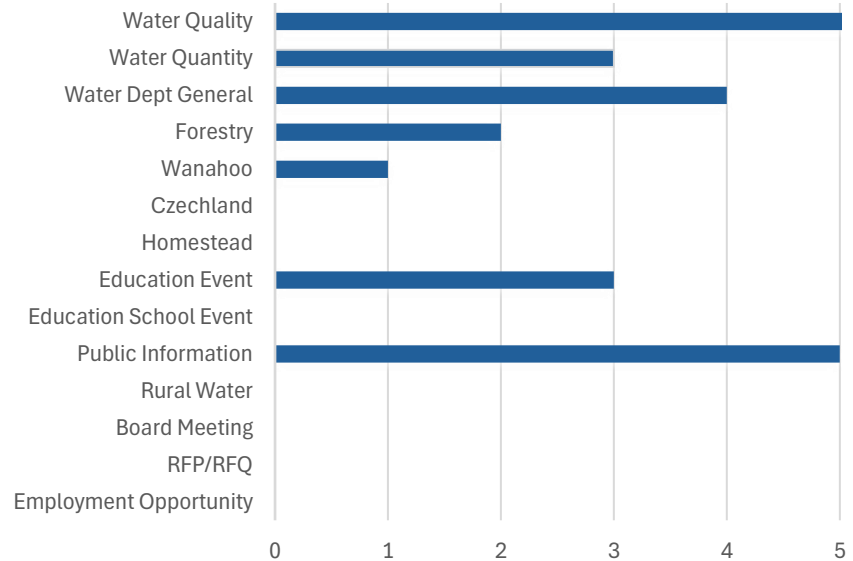
Social Media Followers



December Content



December Post Categories



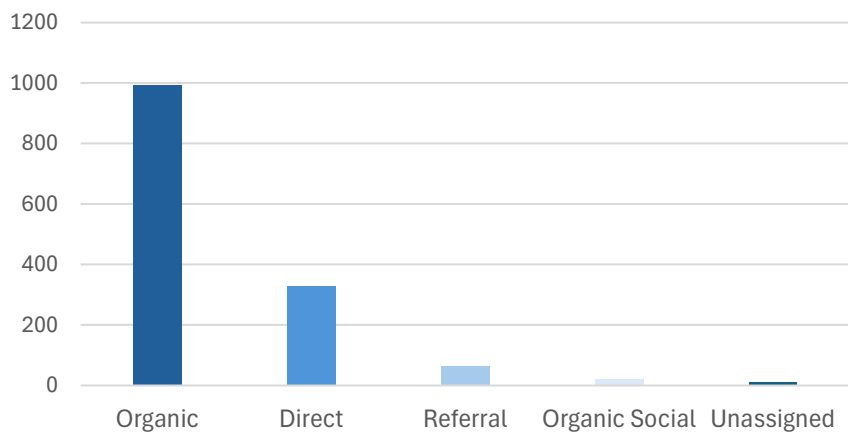
Facebook engagement ↑ .04%

X engagement ↑ .35%



LOWER PLATTE NORTH Natural Resources District

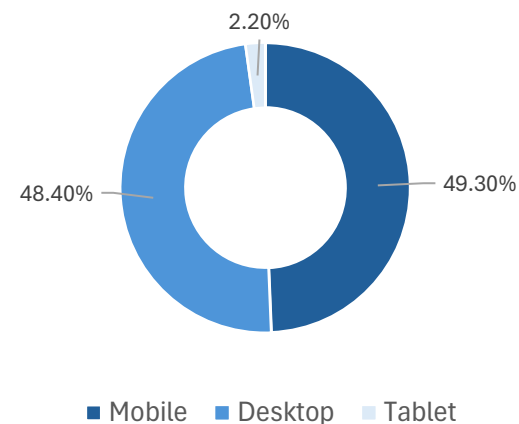
Traffic Channels



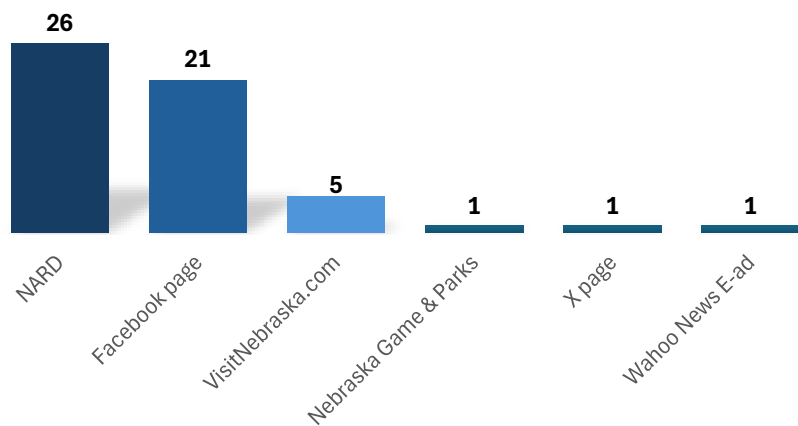
Users

↓
0.22%

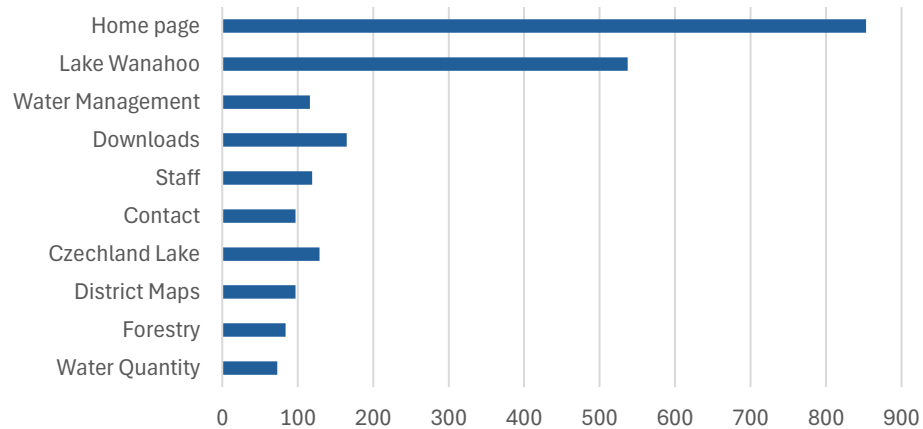
Devices



Traffic By Type



Website Top 10 Pages by Users





LOWER PLATTE NORTH Natural Resources District

PO Box 126 511 Commercial Park Road Wahoo, NE 68066
402.443.4675 Fax 402.443.5339 Toll-free 888.764.0543
lpnrd@lpnrd.org www.lpnrd.org

Lower Platte North Natural Resources District Natural Resources Grant

What is this for: The purpose of this grant is to aid high school students monetarily, to achieve success in a natural resources-based project within their community.

Who is the intended audience: High school students who reside within the Lower Platte North NRD, who are actively involved in a community based natural resources project. These projects may include but are not limited to: FFA supervised agricultural experiences (SAE); seminar class projects; 4-H projects; community engagement projects, and more.

What are the expectations: The expectations of this grant are to plan, implement, and carry out a natural resources-based project within your community. These monies can go towards a project with a clear end date, or an ongoing project that is continuously carried out by existing or new leaders.

Overview

The mission at the Lower Platte North NRD is the conservation, preservation, and wise use of our natural resources. The goal of this grant is to award high school students grant monies that will aid them in completing a project that aligns with the mission of our NRD. By outlining your project below, we will assess your needs and rank your grant amongst other submitted proposals. The amount awarded will be based upon your asking, rank, and the number of submitted proposals, with \$500 and up to \$1500 being awarded respectively.

Statement of need

/50

In 250 words or less, please describe your statement of need, including why you are seeking this grant and how it connects to your current or future project and the mission statement of the Lower Platte North NRD. Additionally, explain who you think will benefit the most from this project.

Description of Project

/50

In 500 words or less, please outline your goals, timeline for completion, and your plans for implementation.



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Budget and Resources

/50

Please describe in detail the budget for your proposed project, including the total number of dollars needed and justification for each budget line.

Cover Letter

/25

Include a one-page cover letter that briefly introduces yourself, your project, and why this is important to you.

Supporting Documents

/25

Please include one letter of support for this project and any other pertinent documentation.



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Sections	Description	Points awarded
Statement of need	Description of project, why they are seeking the grant, and how it connects to our mission statement	/50
Description of project	Their goals are outlined (SMART), timeline is concise, plans for implementation are thorough and achievable.	/50
Budget and Resources	Budget is described in detail with actual numbers and description for each line item included. Total dollars asking: \$_____	/50
Cover letter	The one-page letter provides information on who they are, a description of their project, and why this is important to them.	/25
Supporting documents	One letter of support is included for their project. Any other documentation provided is additional but not required.	/25
Additional comments		/200
Questions we have or information we need to proceed.		
Rank=_____	Total dollars being awarded= \$_____	

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Water.

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

September 25, 2024

The Honorable Joey Spellerberg, Mayor
City of Fremont
400 East Military Avenue
Fremont, NE 68025
Joey.Spellerberg@fremontne.gov



Jim Pillen, Governor

Subject: Special mitigation funding opportunity for flood-prone properties in Nebraska

Dear Mayor Spellerberg,

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) has received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that **\$10 million** is available to help National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders across Nebraska become more resilient to flooding. Called "FMA Swift Current," these funds can pay for structure elevation, relocation, or demolition; property acquisition; and, other mitigation efforts such as floodproofing and project scoping. The FMA Swift Current grant is not a nationally-competitive program and all applications will be reviewed at the State level and by FEMA for award of funding.

Based on a review of available property data for City of Fremont, NeDNR has identified nine locations within your jurisdiction that are likely to be eligible for flood hazard mitigation funds through Swift Current.

- **Nine** appear to qualify based on Repetitive Loss (RL) status.
- **Two** appear to qualify based on Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) status.
- **No locations** filed flood insurance claims after May 20, 2024, and may qualify if Substantially Damaged from flooding.

To be eligible for mitigation, buildings must be actively insured through the NFIP *and* meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have a history of repetitive flood losses demonstrated by flood insurance claims, and/or
- Have been deemed Substantially Damaged by flood after May 20, 2024, by local officials or FEMA.

The insurance policy must have been in effect before May 20, 2024, and maintained until the building is mitigated.

Jesse Bradley, P.G., Interim Director

Department of Natural Resources

245 Fallbrook Blvd., Suite 201 OFFICE 402-471-2363
Lincoln, Nebraska 68521 FAX 402-471-2900

dnr.nebraska.gov

The Honorable Joey Spellerberg, Mayor

September 25, 2024

Page 2 of 2

To be eligible to apply, your community must be in good standing with the NFIP, as well as have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. Disadvantaged communities and SRL properties may be eligible for reduced match requirements, with Swift Current providing up to 100% of the project cost. RL properties may receive 90% cost share. If your jurisdiction meets the criteria for social vulnerability, each project that does not already qualify for reduced cost share due to RL or SRL status may be eligible for up to 90% cost share. If a higher cost share rate is not available, a project will receive up to 75% federal funding.

To make the most of this opportunity, it is important that we begin working together **immediately** to identify how this funding may benefit your community. Your next steps are:

1. Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity available here: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain/flood-mitigation>.
2. Complete the [Online Form](#) to indicate your interest in Swift Current funding.
3. Reach out to property owners to gauge interest in flood hazard mitigation via:
 - a. structure elevation,
 - b. acquisition and demolition/relocation,
 - c. dry floodproofing of non-residential structures,
 - d. non-structural or structural retrofitting of existing structures and facilities, or
 - e. mitigation reconstruction.
4. Work with NeDNR to estimate project costs and match obligation.

The timeline for the Swift Current program is accelerated. The application period ends on February 20, 2025, at 2:00 PM CT. NeDNR is the applicant, and City of Fremont will be the sub-applicant.

Thank you for your interest. Please direct inquiries to Adele.Phillips@Nebraska.gov or (402) 471-9252.

Sincerely,



Adele Phillips, CFM
Flood Mitigation Planner

Enclosures or Attachments (1): Map of potential mitigation properties

cc: Jennifer Dam, Planning Director, City of Fremont, jennifer.dam@fremontne.gov
Eric Gottschalk, General Manager, Lower Platte North NRD, egottschalk@lpnnrd.org
Thomas Smith, Emergency Manager, Dodge County, emergencymanagement@dodgecountyne.gov
Elijah Kaufman, State NFIP Coordinator, NeDNR, elijah.kaufman@nebraska.gov
Jamie Reinke, Floodplain Management Division Head, NeDNR, jamie.reinke@nebraska.gov





NFIP Community: City of Fremont

Map 1 of 2




Your jurisdiction comprises properties that may be eligible for flood mitigation assistance funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Swift Current program. These properties carry NFIP flood insurance policies, and are considered either:

- 1) Repetitive Loss or Severe Repetitive Loss, or
- 2) to have been substantially damaged by flood since May 20, 2024.

LEGEND:

-  Potential Mitigation Location
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Community Boundary
-  ETJ Boundary

Effective Flood Zones

-  0.2% Annual Chance
-  1% Annual Chance
-  Regulatory Floodway

0.25 Miles

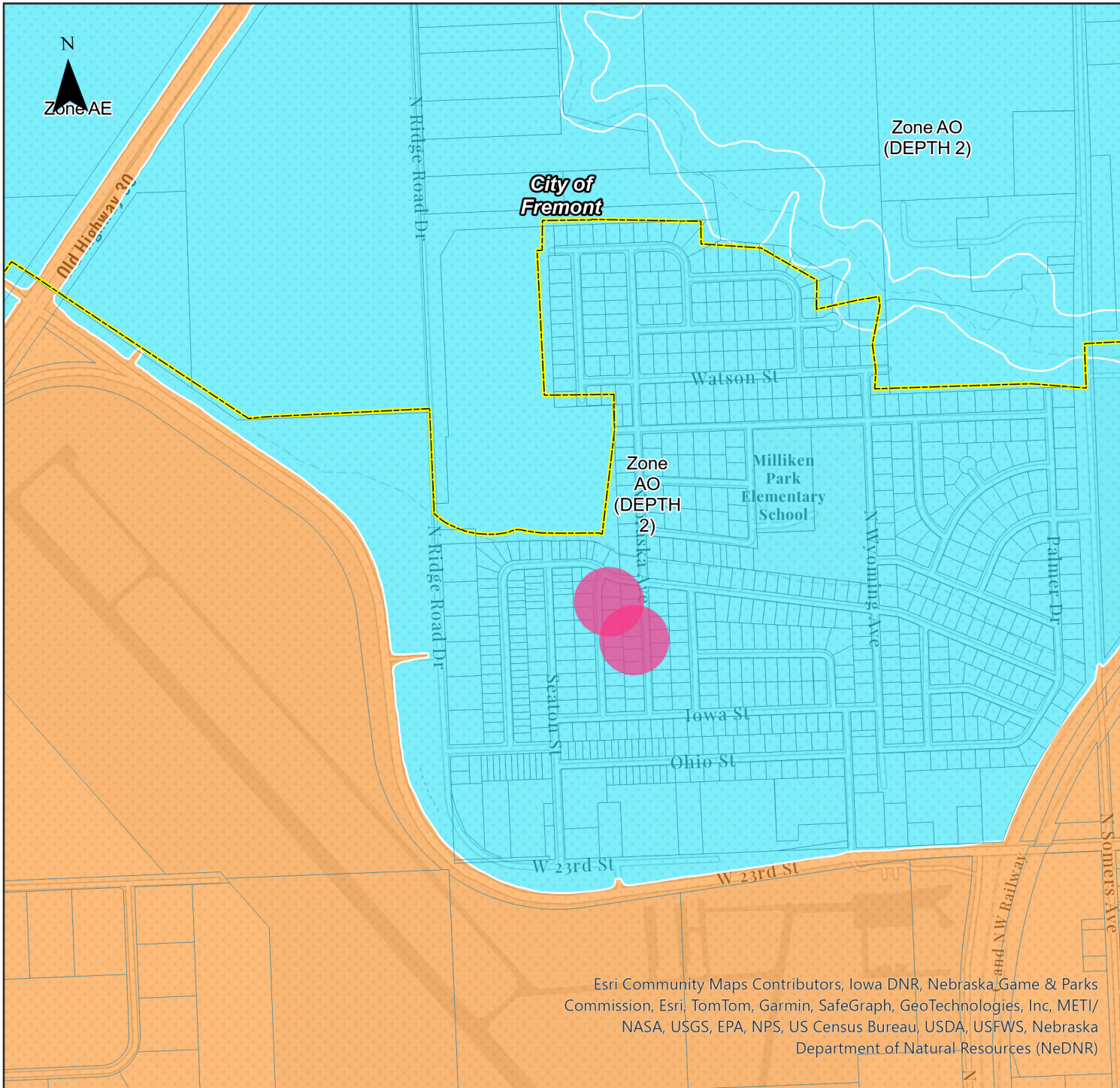


The data supporting this map is current as of 9/6/2024. It is possible that additional flood claims have been filed since.



NFIP Community: City of Fremont

Map 2 of 2



Your jurisdiction comprises properties that may be eligible for flood mitigation assistance funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Swift Current program. These properties carry NFIP flood insurance policies, and are considered either:

- 1) Repetitive Loss or Severe Repetitive Loss, or
- 2) to have been substantially damaged by flood since May 20, 2024.

LEGEND:

- Potential Mitigation Location
- Parcel Boundary
- Community Boundary
- ETJ Boundary

Effective Flood Zones

- 0.2% Annual Chance
- 1% Annual Chance
- Regulatory Floodway

0.25 Miles

The data supporting this map is current as of 9/6/2024. It is possible that additional flood claims have been filed since.

Esri Community Maps Contributors, Iowa DNR, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/ NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)