

Watershed Management Division



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Watershed Management

Watershed Management's primary purpose is to improve water quality, manage stormwater runoff, reduce flood hazards, and to ensure that the City meets Federal requirements relative to stormwater quality. The division does this through the implementation of capital improvement projects that address these issues and through other efforts such as watershed education, watershed master planning, floodplain mapping, and enforcement of City standards.

Capital Improvement Projects

In 2006, nearly \$1.4 million in construction of urban pipe projects were completed to reduce localized flood hazards and replace failing infrastructure. Design was substantially completed for another \$2.4 million of urban drainage projects that will be constructed in 2007. In addition, \$1 million in water quality and stream stability projects were completed throughout Lincoln. One of the largest projects was the rehabilitation of a channel in Antelope Park near 33rd and South Street. Stream bank erosion in the park was threatening Memorial Drive and also degrading water quality in the immediate area and downstream.



Memorial Park Stream - Before



Memorial Park Stream - After

Watershed Master Planning

In the last year Watershed Management along with the Lower Platte South NRD initiated two watershed master plans, one for the Cardwell Branch watershed and another for Deadmans Run. Both master plans will identify capital improvement projects to address stream stability, water quality, and floodplain management. These studies also provide the City and the NRD with tools, such as updated floodplain maps, that can be used to promote sustainable growth in the watersheds. The Cardwell Branch master plan will be complete in the spring of 2007 and the Deadmans Run master plan will be complete in early fall of 2007.

Floodplain Mapping

The City of Lincoln entered a Cooperating Technical Partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2003 for updating flood hazard information in the Lincoln area. The City of Lincoln is one of more than 20,000 communities which participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. In 2006, Watershed Management continued updating floodplain information for more than 90 miles of streams located in the Beal Slough, Stevens Creek, Southeast Upper Salt Creek, Cardwell Branch, Salt Creek, and Deadmans Run watersheds. In early 2006 floodplain maps were adopted for local regulation in the Beal Slough, Stevens Creek, Southeast Upper Salt Creek and Cardwell Branch watersheds.

Public Education and Outreach

The Watershed Management Division had many public education and outreach initiatives in 2006 related to stormwater and floodplain issues. These included an accredited class for realtors that focused on local floodplain standards and floodplain mapping in Lincoln. Presentations were made to homeowners associations regarding the maintenance of privately-owned stormwater detention facilities and stream channels, and Watershed staff volunteered at a booth during the Home and Garden show to help educate the public on stormwater issues. To address state and federal water quality standards, Watershed Management worked with builders, developers and contractors to gather input and guidance on an erosion and sediment control program for Lincoln through a series of meetings and the development of a working group. On June 10, 2006, approximately 3,000 people attended a Waterfest Event at Holmes Lake Park coordinated by the division to learn about water quality issues and enjoy the recently renovated lake. There were also significant enhancements to the Watershed Management website in 2006, including the addition of a 'Virtual Tour' for stormwater projects associated with the 2005 storm bond issue.



Erosion & Sediment Control Working Group



Waterfest - June 2006

Plan Review

In 2006 the Watershed Management Division reviewed approximately 130 private development plans and other planning proposals. Other reviews included site visits and reviews of over 40 grading certificates, and technical assistance to Building and Safety on approximately 20 floodplain permits.

Inspections and Enforcement

The Watershed Management Division has inspection responsibilities for construction site erosion and sediment control, private stormwater detention facilities, municipal yards, and industrial facilities. In 2006, the Division responded to approximately 170 complaints regarding drainage issues or sediment in the public right-of-way. Approximately 80 detention/retention cells were inspected in cooperation with maintenance and staff from the Lower Platte South NRD. In addition, over 20 municipal maintenance facilities and over 90 industrial facilities were inspected with appropriate staff to evaluate pollution prevention plans.

NPDES Compliance

To ensure that the City meets Federal requirements relative to stormwater quality the Watershed Management Division is the lead agency regarding compliance to state and federal regulations on the federal NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) stormwater permit. This involves many of the items mentioned above for education and inspection/enforcement, and includes some of the elements for capital improvement programs, watershed master planning and plan review. The City also accomplishes required stormwater monitoring programs and provides the state an annual report regarding NPDES compliance.

