

What are Saline Wetlands?



Saline wetlands are characterized by the levels of salinity found in the soil. Plants and animals that live in the wetlands are specially adapted to

the salty conditions, creating one of the earth's most rare ecosystems. This unique phenomenon is thought to be a result of salt deposits in the ground left by seas that once covered the area. Although it is estimated that 20,000 acres of saline wetlands once existed, that number is down to less than 4,000 acres. Most people have little to no knowledge of the natural habitat and are therefore destroying existing wetlands through development. This makes conservation efforts all the more important. The saline wetlands kept by the Lower Platte South NRD are home to two endangered species: salicornia rubra, or saltwort plant,



the light green patches in the picture below at Whitehead Saline Wetlands, and the salt creek tiger beetle pictured at left.



About the NRD

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District is one of 23 districts in the state of Nebraska, formed in 1972 for the purpose of managing the state's natural resources. Programs and activities include all areas of natural resource management and development: tree planting, flood protection, wildlife habitat, stream-bank stabilization, environmental education, land treatment, water monitoring and many others. The districts are partially funded by property taxes and are governed by a board of directors--elected representatives who serve four-year terms. The NRD system is local government working to protect local natural resources. The Lower Platte South NRD includes nearly all of Lancaster and Cass counties and parts of Seward, Saunders, Otoe and Butler counties.

The Lower Platte South Natural Resource District is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

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NRD Saline Wetlands



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Center



Restored in the early 1990's, the Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Center is an exceptional natural habitat in an urban setting. This wetland is open to the public, providing a woodchip walking path and a parking area. Also featured is historic Wyoming Bridge, moved to the wetland in 2004 from Otoe County.



Whitehead Saline Wetlands

Located near 27th and Interstate 80, the Whitehead Saline Wetlands were initially donated in 1996 by the Whitehead Oil Company. This property acts as the center of what has become a complex of saline wetland properties. The NRD has acquired an easement on 22 acres of saline wetlands from Dial properties adjacent to White Head Saline Wetlands. The City of Lincoln has also acquired nearly 62 acres of saline wetlands connected to this site. Also in the area are the Schleich Wetlands. The observation deck near the east end of Whitehead Drive was another of many Eagle Scout projects sponsored by the NRD throughout the District. Interpretive signage will be added to the deck soon to increase understanding and enjoyment of saline wetlands.



Rules & Regulations

Deposit all trash properly within the designated areas

The wetlands are open from one hour prior to sunrise to one hour after sunset

No camping

No fires or fireworks

No hunting. Fishing is allowed w/state permit.

Consumption of alcohol or drugs is prohibited

Walking and biking on trails is permitted

No swimming

No motor vehicles on trails

For more information about our rules and regulations visit the Recreation section of our website at www.lpsnrd.org.

