

Summer 2020

Out of the Blue

The Little Blue Natural Resources District Newsletter

Prairie Lake
RECREATION AREA



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Enjoy the Little Blue NRD recreation areas safely during COVID-19

Heidi McClintock | Media & Communications Specialist

Many of you, including myself, might be thinking of ways to entertain the family or yourself amongst the COVID-19 pandemic. You are in luck; the Little Blue Natural Resource District Recreation Areas offer many social distancing opportunities for all ages.

There are seven Little Blue NRD recreation areas open to the public that are spread out amongst the district where you can explore the outdoors, take a hike, ride your bike, go camping, take the kayaks out, and more.

Lone Star | Ohioa Buckley Creek | Reynolds Prairie Lake | Juniata Liberty Cove | Lawrence
Bruning Dam | Bruning Crystal Lake | Ayr Roseland Lake | Juniata

Here's my list of suggestions:

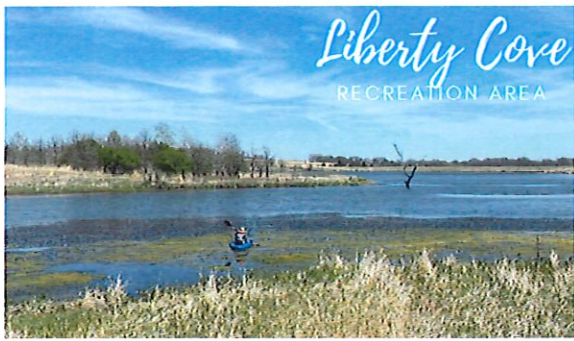
Picnics: Pack a blanket and food from home or pick up takeout from your favorite local restaurant for a relaxing picnic in the shade, or if you choose to use one of our picnic tables (please bring some disinfectant wipes or spray to sanitize it first).

Walking, Running, and Hiking: Explore our trails or walk around our lakes at the recreational areas to see the beautiful views, abundant trees, and wildlife.

Kayaking or boating: Most of our recreational areas allow kayaks, and some of the areas allow boats, check out the website for full boating rules at littlebluenrd.org/recreation.

Golfing: Did you know Buckley Creek has a public nine-hole sand green golf course? Bring your clubs out while you are camping or visit for an afternoon of golfing, you will reach your step goal playing this course.

Biking: Take the whole family for a bike ride around one of the recreational areas.



Recreation Areas Continued.

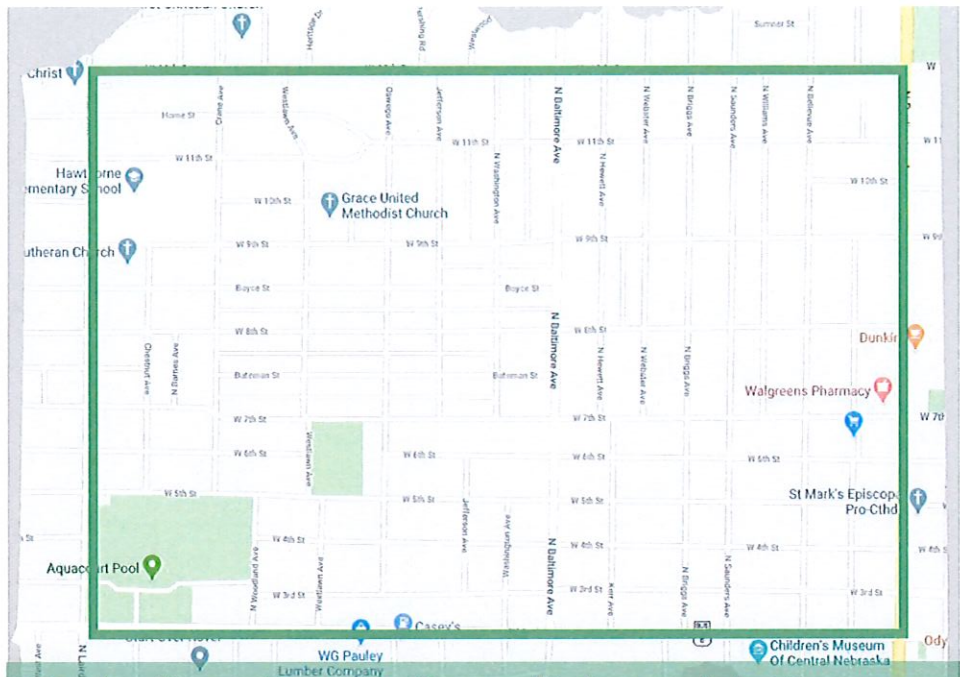
Archery: Take out your bow to Prairie Lake to check out the archery range.

Camping: Check out Lone Star, Buckley Creek, Crystal Lake, or Liberty Cove for electrical camper hookups. Or pitch your tent at your favorite Little Blue NRD recreation area.

Fishing: Grab your tackle box and pole to check out some of the best fishing coves in the area.

Get outside and be creative: Whether you create a nature-themed scavenger hunt, play a game of tag, or my son's choice of downloading the app, Pokemon Go and catching Pokemon at our recreation areas or walk around the trails to hatch an egg to get a new Pokemon.

There are hundreds of ways to utilize our public recreation areas during this interesting time. I hope to see you out there, exploring the hidden gems of our district.



Subdistrict 2 Candidate Vacancy

The Little Blue Natural Resources District is searching for an individual to serve on the District's Board of Directors. A vacancy exists in subdistrict 2, which is in the city of Hastings. The district lies south of 12th street, north of 2nd street, west of Burlington and east of N Laird Ave. The Board is seeking candidates with interest in the management of our natural resources and the environment.

Potential candidates must reside in the subdistrict and be a registered voter.

The Board of Directors intends to fill the vacancy at the September 8th board meeting in Davenport. Letters from interested candidates must be received in the Little Blue NRD Office by noon on August 28th. For more information, contact the Little Blue NRD, P. O. Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335, (402) 364-2145.

2020 Winners

Creative Story & Picture Contest

Pre-Kindergarten- Kree of Lawrence-Nelson

Kindergarten- MaKayla of Deshler Lutheran School

1st Grade- Devin of Central Elementary School

2nd Grade- Cagney of Bruning-Davenport

4th Grade- Dean of Deshler Lutheran School

5th Grade- Bailey of Deshler Lutheran School

6th Grade- Mylee of Hastings Middle School



2020 Board of Directors Retreat

All 16 of the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors gathered on August 4, 2020 in Ohioa, Nebraska to learn about important updates and information regarding policy, budget, rules and regulations.

A message from the Little Blue NRD Staff

You have probably seen us out and about in the fields. This summer has been busy for the staff of the Little Blue NRD. Water quality testing is one of the more important responsibilities that we have. The staff has been out in the fields collecting samples of water to test.

Our primary concern is the nitrate level. The Little Blue NRD has been getting the test results back and will send out a postcard with the nitrate level to those whose water has been sampled. A reminder that 10 parts per million (ppm) is considered the maximum contaminant level for safe drinking water as determined by the EPA. There have been over 115 wells sampled so far, and the staff is continuing to get more. The LBNRD staff is experimenting with collecting the samples and inspecting chemigation together.

Another important responsibility that the staff has been busy with all summer is chemigation inspections. It is required by the state of Nebraska to be inspected every third year, in addition to any new permits. We have received over 170 new permits this year. The staff is working diligently to complete the inspections. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Contact Alicia if you would like to make an appointment, aepps@littlebluenrd.org. The LB staff can also check the flowmeter rates with a portable flowmeter. If you are interested in testing your flowmeter, contact the office at 402-364-2145 for more information.



Jed Bergen, a resource technician with the Little Blue NRD, inspects the check valve during a chemigation inspection on August 5, 2020 near Carleton, Neb.

STOP UNCONTROLLED RUNOFF

It is illegal to operate an irrigation system that contributes to wasting groundwater. State law prohibits uncontrolled irrigation runoff. The NRD is responsible for enforcing this law.

Need help controlling irrigation runoff on your land? Technical assistance is available from the NRCS for solving runoff problems. For more information contact your county NRCS office or call us at 402-364-2145.

Upcoming Events

August

- 13 | Clay County Tire Recycling 8-Noon
- 14 | Thayer County Tire Recycling 8-Noon
- 14 | Webster County Tire Recycling 8-Noon
- 28 | Clay County Household Hazardous Waste Collection 4-6pm
- 29 | Fillmore County Household Hazardous Waste Collection 8-10am
- 29 | Thayer County Household Hazardous Waste Collection 11:30-1:30pm
- 29 | Nuckolls County Household Hazardous Waste Collection 3-5pm

September

- 8 | Board Meeting, Davenport 7pm
- 19 | Webster County Household Hazardous Waste Collection 8-10am
- 23 | Area 6 Range Judging, Thayer County (Volunteers needed, call 402-364-2145 & ask for Heidi.)

October

- 7 | South Central Land Judging, Clay County (Volunteers needed, call 402-364-2145 & ask for Heidi.)
- 13 | Board Meeting, Davenport 7pm
- 13 & 14 | Earth Jamboree, Clay County Fairgrounds



Little Blue

Natural Resources District

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Davenport, NE 68335
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littlebluenrd.org
402-364-2145

LITTLE BLUE STAFF

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Tyler Goeschel - Assistant Manager
Marie Herbek - Office Administrator
Vacant - Administrative Assistant
Alicia Epps - Database Specialist
Heidi McClintock - Media & Communications Specialist
Erika Brinegar - Natural Resources Coordinator
Kent Thompson - Operations Supervisor
Kevin Orvis - Project Manager
Jed Bergen - Resources Technician
Jim Oltmans - Water Resources Technician

FIELD OFFICES

Adams County NRCS Secretary—Vacant
402-462-5412
Clay County NRCS Secretary—Allyson Peshek
402-762-3569
Fillmore County NRCS Secretary—Sylvia Jividen
402-759-4017
Jefferson NRD/NRCS Technician—Christine Zabokrtsky
Jefferson County NRCS Secretary—Paula Schultz
402-729-6134
Thayer County NRCS Secretary—Jessica Hynek
402-768-6228
Webster County NRCS Secretary—Lynetta Snelling
402-746-2268

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sub-District 1: Mason Hoffman, Roseland
Sub-District 1: Robert Trausch, Juniata
Sub-District 2: Vacant
Sub-District 2: Charles Rainforth, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Warren Brakhahn, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Everett Kellogg, Hastings
Sub-District 4: Kevin Kissinger, Glenvil
Sub-District 4: Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Clay Center
Sub-District 5: Steve Shaw, Edgar
Sub-District 5: Warren Taylor, Glenvil
Sub-District 6: Lyle Schroer, Lawrence
Sub-District 6: Lyle Heinrichs, Shickley
Sub-District 7: Joseph Hergott, Hebron
Sub-District 7: Alan Wiedel, Hebron
Sub-District 8: Jay Meyer, Daykin
Sub-District 8: Bill Glenn, Fairbury
Member At Large: Marlin Kimle, Kenesaw

RURAL WATER PROJECTS

Project Manager - Kevin Orvis
Rural Water Supervisor - Bruce Dux
Clerk - Paula Schultz

"Little Blue Natural Resources District is an Equal Opportunity Employer & Provider."

The Little Blue NRD's Out of the Blue is a publication of the Little Blue Natural Resources District. Requests to be placed on the Out of the Blue mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to Heidi McClintock, Media & Communications Specialist, 100 East 6th Street, PO Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335.