



### PLATTSMOUTH CITY LAKE

#### Community ...

**P**lattsmouth City Lake is about a half mile northeast of the junction of highways 75/34 and 66. The lake was built by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service for flood control in 1959. It was designed to cover about four surface acres and have a maximum depth of approximately 12 feet. Land use within the pond's 204-acre watershed is mainly agricultural with transportation corridors, light industry, woodlands and residences. There is a one-acre wetland upstream of the lake serving as a filter for stormwater and as habitat for a variety of animal and plant species. The lake and dam areas are owned by the City of Plattsmouth, with public access for fishing and recreation.

#### Challenges ...

Use of the lake and surrounding area declined over the years due to limited site access and poor water quality. Water quality impairments were mainly due to reduced lake depths from sedimentation. These accumulated sediments are believed to derive mainly from land disturbances related to area construction in the 1960s and 1970s.

#### Solutions ...

In 1999, Plattsmouth and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District received funding from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's Community Lakes Restoration Assistance (CLaRA) program to renovate the lake. The first phase of the renovation was to drain the lake to remove about 26,000 cubic yards



of sediment from the lake bottom. The next step was stabilizing shorelines to prevent future erosion. Approximately 200 linear feet was stabilized using rock riprap and the remainder of the shoreline was seeded, mulched or protected with erosion control blankets. The city also developed a trail around the site, improved lake access and added a handicap-accessible fishing dock.

### **Results ...**

The project resulted in better water quality. Conditions are now more suitable for fish and other aquatic life, in addition to being more aesthetically pleasing. This has increased public use significantly. After renovation the lake was stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. The total cost of the project was approximately \$158,500. Of this amount, \$90,000 was provided by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The community, Lower Platte South NRD, and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission contributed \$68,500.

