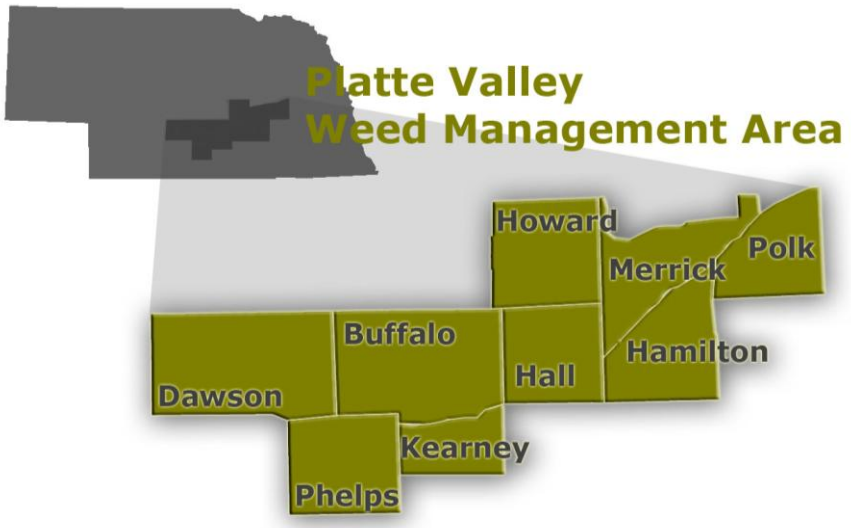
Know Your Weed Management Area...

Platte Valley
Weed Management Area



The Tasks...

- Manage 181 miles of Platte River channels for invasive species
- Control approximately 11,000 acres of invasive species within the main channels
- Educate and inform the public
- Develop a long-term sustainable management strategy
- Balance agriculture, urban and environmental interests

Our Story...

Platte Valley WMA was created in 2004 with the daunting task of saving a threatened river system in Central Nebraska. One goal was to create a program that would ensure a return to pre-infestation invasive species levels in the Platte River. We have created partnerships between individual landowners and the WMA that enables our WMA to minimize the initial expenses to landowners and agencies as we take a team approach.

Our successes to date have been possible through the receipt of multiple grant awards along with the generosity of our partners. Numerous funding sources have been utilized from Federal, Sate, and local partners. In the first years funding was limited so the WMA focused on "team building" to learn how to work effectively. The 2007 funding of Private Stewardship Grant started our major projects in the Central Platte. An additional Pulling together Initiative grant allowed for an additional two hundred more acres of Phragmites to be treated and mechanically removed. State mini-grants have been utilized in Hall and Merrick counties along with cash contributions to expand the total number of treated acres.

Before & After

A phragmites- and purple loosestrife-infested river channel, before (top) and after (bottom) control measures were performed.

LB 701 funding in 2008 allowed approximately 2,000 acres of Phragmites to be treated by Helicopter. Through 2008 the PVWMA has invested over $610,471.00 in invasive species management and treated over 4,100 acres.

In addition to treatment and removal activities the PVWMA continues to fund ongoing research to better understand best management practices for controlling invasive plant species in riparian zones.

Platte Valley Weed Management Area
9730 Antelope Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska 68847
www.plattevalleywma.org
(308) 236-1244

2009 Management Plans

PVWMA has secured additional funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Central Platte NRD, Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program and other partners to spray over 6,000 acres of invasive species and mechanically remove approximately 500 acres of dead biomass in 2009.

The 2009 treatment effort will complete the final stretches of Platte River from Elm Creek to Columbus. The removal of dead biomass in previously treated channels will begin in primarily Dawson, Phelps and western Buffalo counties. Mapping and Monitoring of project areas as to length and quality of control will continue as we build GIS data layers that can be shared by all partners.

Promoting Weed Control Partnerships

Platte Valley WMA is unique in creating a working group of partners. We strive to engage our membership to actively participate on activities and decision making. We have learned as a group the value of working together on common concerns to accomplish far more than we could as individuals.

County Noxious Weed Control Authorities. Dawson, Buffalo, Phelps, Kearney, Hall, Hamilton, Merrick, Polk and Howard Counties in Nebraska

State Agencies. Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Board of Education Lands and Fund, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Federal Agencies. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of Agriculture – APHIS, South Central RC & D, Natural Resource Conservation Service

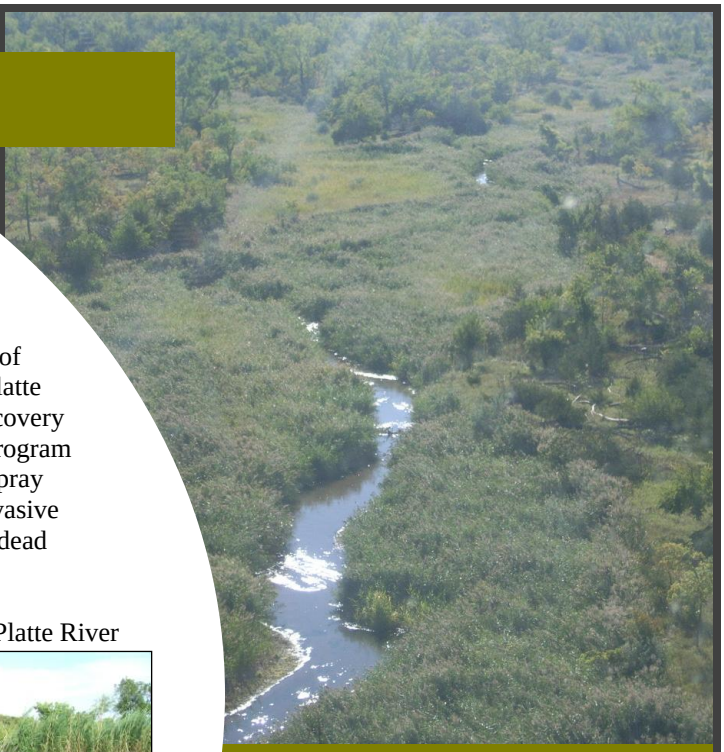
Natural Resource Districts. Central Platte NRD; Tri-Basin NRD

Companies or Utilities. Nebraska Public Power District, Central Public Power and Irrigation District, local sand and gravel companies

Environmental Groups. The Nature Conservancy, Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary, Platte River Whooping Crane Trust; Ducks Unlimited; Headwaters Group; Platte River Recovery Program

Local Landowners

Financial Contributors



Our Target Weeds

Saltcedar

A shrub growing 12'-20' high, saltcedar has a high rate of evapotranspiration, which may result in water depletion from underlying soils. Saltcedar's rapid growth can lead to blockage of streams & channels.

Phragmites

A reed plant that grows up to 16' high, phragmites spreads quickly through its rhizome root system. Phragmites are identifiable by their fluffy seed head.

Purple Loosestrife

***Purple Loosestrife** is a perennial forb that grows up to 8 feet tall and flowers from July to September. It is identifiable by its purple corolla of flowers, and four sided stem with alternating base rounded or heart-shaped leaves.*