

Photo provided by Google Earth

# SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT PIPELINE NEWSLETTER

## DOWN TO THE ROOT

Tree season is winding down for 2021, however, here is some information for the next tree season. When purchasing trees through SPNRD, you are given the option to order Hefty Root trees, Hefty Root Plus trees (root ball is twice the size of Hefty root), and Bare Root trees. Below is an example of three separate Juniper trees with different root options and a description of the difference of Hefty Root trees and Bare Root trees.

### HEFTY ROOT TREES

- Have 100% of their root system. Grown/raised in a pot or container
- Roots may be bound and need to be loosened when planting
- Root system is quicker to establish in the first year

### BARE ROOT TREES

- Have about 60% of their root system
- Roots are visible when planting
- Require more regular watering the first year



## ORDERING TREES THROUGH SPNRD

### HOW IT WORKS

Tree order forms are accepted from October through the end of March. Forms will be available October 1st 2021, through March 31st 2022, on our website at [spnrd.org/forestry](http://spnrd.org/forestry).

### COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

The Community Forestry program provides 50 percent cost-share funding to urban homeowners, neighborhood groups, villages and cities to help pay for the cost of purchasing, planting, maintaining and removing trees. You will find more information for the community Forestry Program at [spnrd.org/forestry](http://spnrd.org/forestry).

### FORESTRY QUESTIONS

Any questions on Tree or shrub concerns, please contact Assistant Manager/Certified Arborist with the SPNRD office at 308-254-2377 and ask for Galen Wittrock.

HEFTY ROOT



JUNIPER TREE

HEFTY ROOT PLUS



JUNIPER TREE

BARE ROOT



JUNIPER TREE

## BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Director Meetings are hosted the second Tuesday of every month at the South Platte NRD office located at 551 Parkland Dr, Sidney, Nebraska.

## BOARD MEETING DATES

- July 13, 2021 @5pm
- August 10, 2021 @5pm
- September 14, 2021 @5pm
- October 12, 2021 @5pm





**PLANT IDENTIFICATION**



**RAIN GARDEN**

## PUBLIC WELCOME AT SPNRD'S PARK

The SPNRD was established in 1972. The district is made up of, Deuel, Kimball and Cheyenne counties. The office is located at 551 Parkland Dr., Sidney, Nebraska. The SPNRD offers several cost-share programs to the community and producers. The programs SPNRD offer include, but are not limited to, Water Management, Land Treatment, Flood Control, Urban Conservation, Equipment Rentals, Buffer Strips, Education Outreach, Well Abandonment, and Community and Conservation Forestry programs. The SPNRD recently cleared out bushes in the front yard of their office and is easier to spot from the road. The SPNRD park is welcome to the public to walk around and enjoy a quiet walk in nature. In the park you will notice rain barrels, rain gardens, tree and plant identification markers and beautiful landscaping all maintained by the SPNRD staff.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## UPDATED WEBSITE LAUNCHED

SPNRD updated its website! The web address remains as [spnrd.org](http://spnrd.org). Some new features on the website include the Education page and recreation page. The Education page highlights SPNRD's education programs along with educational videos that were created for the 2021 Western Nebraska Children's Virtual Ground Water Festival. Other exciting features include the Oliver Reservoir page found under Recreation in the top menu. This page highlights weekly updates on toxic Blue-Green Algae and Bacteria at the lake, camping and safety information as well as reviews.



## APPROVAL OF UPDATED RULES AND REGULATIONS

On March 18 2021, the Board held a public hearing where producers were able to give their verbal testimonies. Written testimonies were also presented to the Board. The Board reviewed these testimonies and officially approved the amendments made to the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations at the April 2021 Board meeting. The order went into effect on May 14, 2021. The updated rules and regulations can be found at [spnrd.org/water-management](http://spnrd.org/water-management) or on the home page.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

NeRAIN stands for the Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network (NeRAIN). This program is designed to involve people throughout Nebraska in recording precipitation measurements along with outstanding weather events. Volunteers are provided a rain gauge by their NRD and are responsible for uploading the results to the NeRAIN Website every rain or storm event. SPNRD is looking for volunteers in Cheyenne, Kimball, and Deuel Counties to report rainfall and weather events. Please contact Tyler Sanders, Water Resources Technician with SPNRD if you are interested.



## UNDERSTANDING FLOW METER COST SHARE

SPNRD offers a cost share program for Flow Meter repairs and maintenance. SPNRD pays \$30 for maintenance of Flow Meters. The SPNRD will cover 50% of repairs with the maximum cost share paid of \$150. Currently, the Cost Share rates are being evaluated by the staff and the board of directors. Meters must be maintained every three years.





# EDUCATION PROGRAMS



## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The SPNRD would like to extend a Congratulations to Mikayla Lee of Dix, NE for being awarded the \$500 SPNRD Scholarship. This Scholarship is awarded to a student that is attending a college in Nebraska starting in Fall of 2021 for any Natural Resources /Environmental/Agriculture related field. Mikayla graduated from Potter-Dix May of this year and will be attending the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture to study to be a Veterinarian Technician.



Photo by Sarrah Felz with Buffalo Tuff Photography



## STATE ENVIROTHON

Sidney High School had two teams attend the State Envirothon Competition April 28th. The Envirothon Competition is an environmental education program for high school students that combines classroom learning and outdoor activities. This year's competition was hosted at the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District's Lake Wanahoo near Wahoo.

**1.** Quintin Wagner with NRCS created an activity using different types of foods and a mason jar to create an example of soil profiling.

**2.** Ryan Residorff and Travis Glanz with SPNRD, presented an interactive model of the Aquifer. The red dye represents fertilizer contaminating a lake which then gets into the drinking water.

**3.** Galen Wittrock, Assistant Manager with SPNRD, helps the students identify different types of trees at Oliver Reservoir.

**4.** A student from Kimball carries a tree to the spot where him and his classmates will plant the tree for future campers at Oliver Reservoir.

**5.** A Student Looks through survey equipment used in the presentation by Joe Larson and Tanner Rien with NRCS.

## OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS HELD IN KIMBALL COUNTY

May 5th and 11th, Hillary Cook with NRCS hosted two Outdoor Classrooms at Oliver Reservoir and at the Kimball County Fair Grounds due to colder weather. The SPNRD attended along with presenters from NRCS, Wildcat Hills and the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies .



**1.**



**2.**



**3.**



**4.**



**5.**



**SOUTH PLATTE**  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

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SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**PIPELINE**

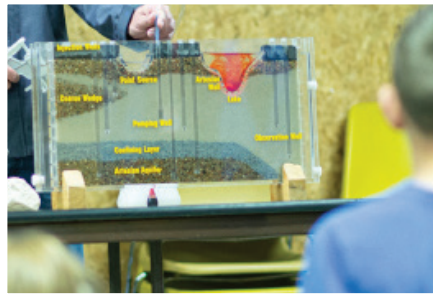
NEWSLETTER

**(308) 254-2377**  
**Visit [spnrd.org](http://spnrd.org)**

This is an official publication  
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Resources District.

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Outdoor Classroom Photo Feature pg 3

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