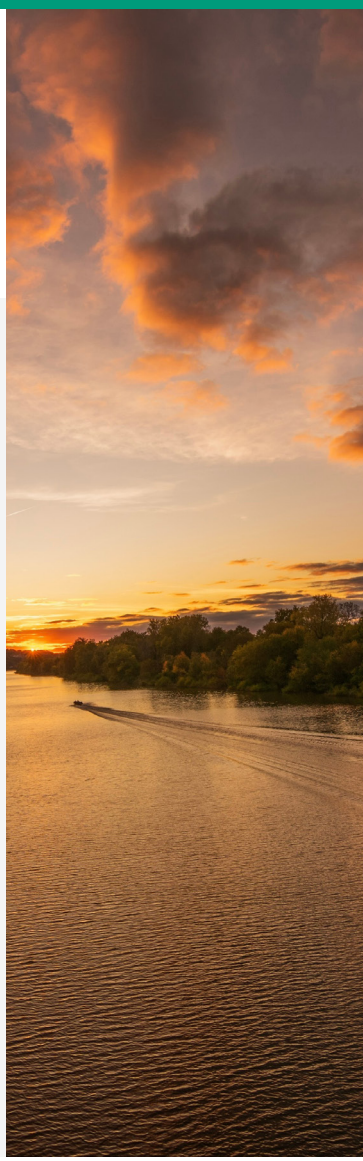
PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

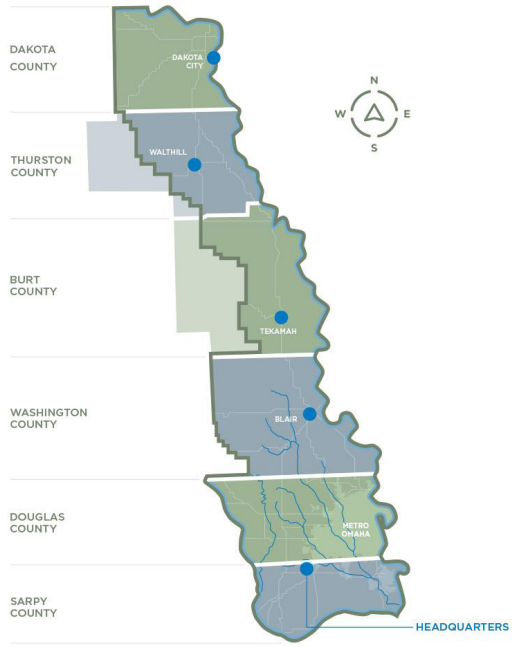
Groundwater Management Plan (GMP)

March 2026

Thank you for joining us today!

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the GMP, what the Papio NRD can do to improve it, and gather input from the public on groundwater-related issues or concerns.





Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District (Papio NRD)

The Papio NRD is one of 23 NRDs statewide. It is located in eastern Nebraska, and includes Douglas, Sarpy, Washington, and Dakota counties, as well as portions of Burt and Thurston counties. It consists of over one million acres and approximately 850,000 residents. The District covers 30 communities in both rural and urban areas, and is governed by an 11-member, elected Board of Directors.

What Is a Groundwater Management Plan and Why Do We Need It?

Nebraska law requires each of the state's 23 Natural Resource Districts (NRDs) to have an active and operational Groundwater Management Plan. The Papio NRD last updated its plan in 2018. The plan will be based on the best available information on the quantity and quality of groundwater and reflect the unique hydrogeology within the Papio NRD. Ultimately the goals of the groundwater management plan are:

Describe the groundwater resources available.

Describe the current demands for groundwater and contamination levels affecting water quality.

Define the methods that the Papio NRD may use to oversee the sustainable use of groundwater resources.

Why Are We Doing This Now?

The GMP needs to be an up-to-date document to better serve the people of the Papio NRD. The District started monitoring groundwater for quantity in 1978 and for quality in 1992. Based on that monitoring, potential future issues have been identified. The Papio NRD plans to update its GMP to address problems that are emerging and prevent foreseen issues before they develop.

Overview of Potential Changes

The District is exploring the following potential changes to its current GMP.

More coordination between municipalities, producers, and the Papio NRD on water use restrictions.

Cover crops to improve soil health.

Timing and spatial restrictions on fertilizer application.

Evaluating Phases and Levels by aquifer.

Using flowmeters throughout the Papio NRD.

Incentive programs for reducing water use (drought years).

More funding for improved irrigation efficiency.

Incentives to register domestic wells.

Reverse osmosis programs for in-home water quality.

Certify Irrigated Acres across the entire Papio NRD.

Enhanced well abandonment standards.

Where Do We Want to Go?

The Papio NRD is considering the following options and strategies while developing the updated GMP:

Increased reporting of groundwater use, including flow meters on new or replacement irrigation, commercial and industrial wells.

More continuous monitoring of groundwater elevations.

Additional observation wells to monitor quantity and quality more consistently.

Update triggers for various phases or levels of Groundwater Management Areas:

- *Should they be updated to reflect nearby NRDs?*
- *Do they need to be more stringent?*

Update the GMP to reflect current partnerships and water management plans, including the Lower Platte River Drought Plan and Basin Plan, as well as the Papio NRD's Integrated Management Plan.

Certify Irrigated Acres across the entire Papio NRD.

Ultimately, the Papio NRD wants the updated GMP to reflect current partnerships and water management plans, including the Lower Platte River Drought Plan and Basin Plan, as well as the Papio NRD's Integrated Management Plan (all available on *www.papionrd.org*).

Provide Your Feeback

Please fill out a comment form or complete our online survey so we can better understand your concerns and what you would like to see in the updated GMP.

The online survey can be found at ***bit.ly/PapioNRD_GMP_Survey*** or by scanning the QR Code.

For More Information

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