ELM AND TURKEY CREEKS WATERSHED

FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PLAN

Photo: Kearney, NE

HISTORIC RAINFALL EVENT

The Elm-Turkey Creeks Watershed is subject to multiple flooding risks — from flat topography in the region to multiple locations with flow constraints, such as along Interstate 80.

- After historic rainfall on July 8, 2019, more than 10 inches fell in the Turkey Creek watershed causing extensive damages in the City of Kearney, especially at the area north of Interstate 80 and west of 2nd Avenue.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD) is partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop the Elm-Turkey Creek Watershed Plan - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), also known as the Watershed Plan.

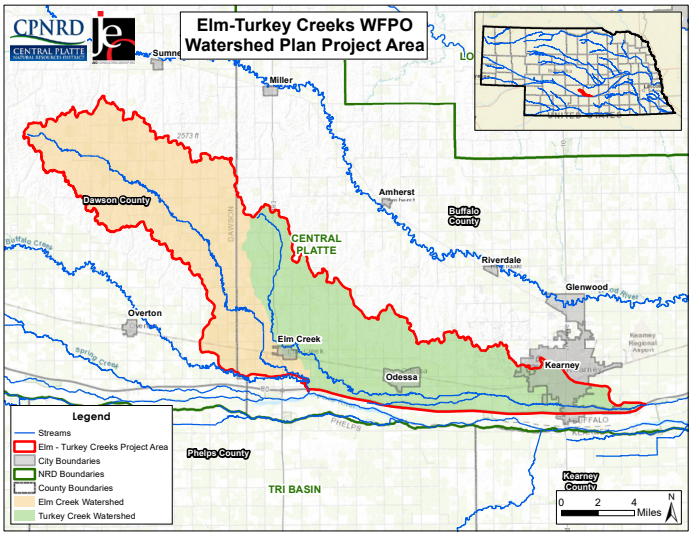
- The Elm and Turkey Creeks Watershed planning area covered more than 106,226 acres of drainage in Dawson and Buffalo counties and includes the southern limits of the City of Kearney.
- Current planning efforts started in October 2020 at the request of communities, residents, and property owners affected by the 2019 flooding.
- Since beginning the planning process, the planning team has developed hydrologic and hydraulic models to show existing flooding conditions, reviewed various flood risk reduction alternatives, and have completed a flood risk reduction plan.

NEXT STEPS

The public comment period has closed and all comments have been addressed. The next step is for the CPNRD to officially adopt the plan. Adoption does not commit the CPNRD to future phases; instead it allows the CPNRD to request funding to move toward future phases.

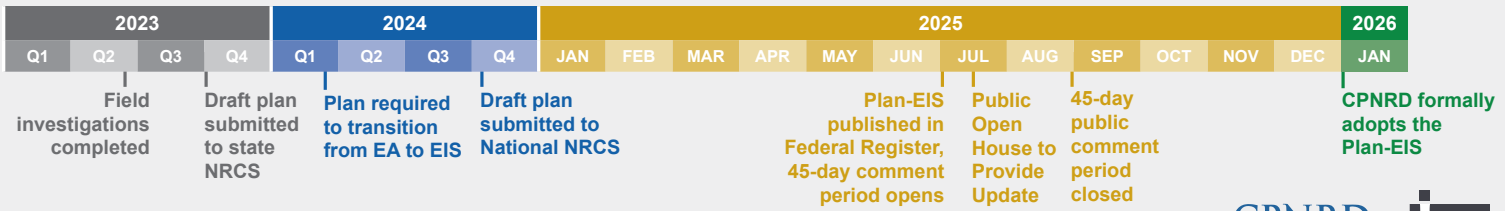
After adoption, the CPNRD can request to proceed to the Design Phase, though timing depends on NRCS funding availability. Upon completion of the Design Phase, the CPNRD may request to proceed to the Construction Phase, if the necessary permits and land rights have been obtained.

If the Construction Phase proceeds, the CPNRD and their partners would be responsible for long-term operations and project maintenance. A typical NRCS watershed project takes 5 to 10 years from design to construction.



PLAN DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

**Schedule tentative and subject to change*



JULY, 2025

CPNRD CENTRAL PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE: TWO DIVERSION CHANNELS

The alternatives analysis indicated constructing two diversion channels would be most effective at flood mitigation and would likely meet other WFPO project requirements, including the required benefit-cost ratio.

- The combined diversion channels along the southern portion of the Turkey Creek Watershed will convey floodwater to the south and help prevent flood damages to the Kearney region.

PROJECT COSTS

To move forward with a project as part of the WFPO process, NRCS requires the proposed alternative to have a benefit-cost ratio greater than 1.0, or the estimated project benefits (in dollars) is greater than estimated project cost. The planning phase for the project is 100% funded by the NRCS. The design and construction phase would also be funded by the NRCS, apart from the permitting and right-of-way costs.

- Estimated project cost: $52 million, including:
  - » Diversion channel 1 - $19 million
  - » Diversion channel 2 - $33 million
- Average annual costs: $1.4 million
- Average annual benefits: $1.5 million

Benefit-Cost Ratio: 1.1

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WATERSHED PLAN

Visit the project website by scanning the QR code at right with your smart phone or visiting arcg.is/1KLHLf.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, CONTACT:

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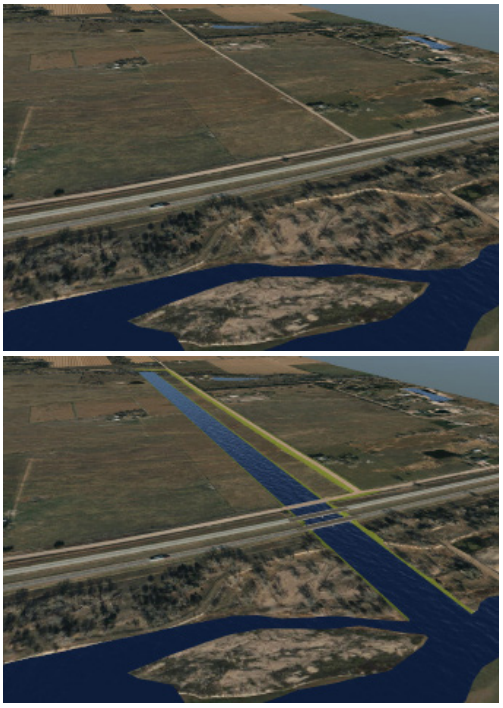
Pictured: Renderings of the west diversion channel, pictured before (top) and after (bottom). The west diversion channel is estimated at 50-ft. bottom width and 3,850-ft. in length.



Pictured: Renderings of the Kearney diversion channel, pictured before (top) and after (bottom). The Kearney diversion channel is estimated at 200-ft. bottom width and 5,350-ft. in length.

Pictured: Top rending shows existing 100-year conditions looking SW at the Younes Conference Center. Bottom rendering shows proposed 100-year conditions looking SW at the Younes Conference Center.