

# Conservation complex grows north of Lincoln

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By [ALGIS J. LAUKAITIS / Lincoln Journal Star](#) JournalStar.com | Posted: Thursday, March 4, 2010 11:15 am | [No Comments Posted](#)



A 66-acre parcel, including about 30 acres of rare saline wetlands, is the latest addition to a growing wildlife habitat and wetlands complex north of Lincoln. The tract brings the total number of acres in the complex owned by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District to 766.

A 66-acre parcel of land, including about 30 acres of rare saline wetlands, was bought recently by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.

The parcel, north of Raymond Road along First Street, is the latest addition to a growing wildlife habitat and wetlands complex north of Lincoln. The 66 acres bring the total number of acres in the complex to 766.

The Lincoln-based NRD bought the 66 acres from Earl Allen for \$304,000, said Tom Malmstrom, natural resources coordinator for the city Parks and Recreation Department.

The land was paid for by a \$153,000 grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, \$76,000 from the NRD and \$75,000 from Lancaster County, he said.

The appraised value equates to \$4,606 per acre.

Malmstrom said the Allen parcel was purchased for conservation purposes and would be designated as a wildlife management area open for hunting and other outdoor activities.

Rare saline wetlands -- found mostly in northern Lancaster County and southern Saunders County -- are important because they are critical to the survival of the endangered Salt Creek tiger beetle. More than 90 percent of the saline wetlands in and around Lincoln have been destroyed.

An annual census taken in June found only 194 adult Salt Creek tiger beetles.

Malmstrom said he was not aware of any Salt Creek tiger beetles on the Allen Parcel.

Saline wetlands also support salt-tolerant plants such as the saltwort, a state endangered plant.

*This story is part of the New Directions series, an annual collection of stories about economic progress in Lincoln.*

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