

Public Hearing: June 9, 2008

F A C T S H E E T

TITLE: Resolution approving the acquisition of a conservation easement over the Cardwell Branch Floodplain

SPONSOR: Public Works & Utilities
Lower Platte South NRD

OPPONENTS: Unknown

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

APPLICANT: Public Works & Utilities

REASON FOR LEGISLATION:

This resolution is to approve the acquisition of a 31.48 acre permanent conservation easement over a portion of the Cardwell Branch floodplain south of West Denton Road and west of SW 12th Street. The purchase of the easement is a joint effort between the City of Lincoln and the Lower Platte South NRD.

D I S C U S S I O N

The purpose of the conservation easement is to preserve a portion of the Cardwell Branch floodplain and floodway for flood storage, flood conveyance, riparian habitat, open space and other natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain. This area was identified in the Cardwell Branch Watershed Master Plan as one of two Sensitive Areas in the Cardwell Branch watershed due to the high quality woodland vegetation located along this stream reach. The master plan recommended that conservation strategies be used in the Sensitive Areas for protection of water resources.

The City's portion of the easement purchase comes from stormwater bond issue funds identified for this purpose and was included in the capital improvement program as "Purchase of Easements or Fee Title for Floodplain/Floodprone Areas." State statutes require that conservation easements be approved by the appropriate governing body, including a finding of conformance with the Comprehensive Plan by the local Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is scheduled to review this item for conformance with the Comprehensive Plan at their meeting on May 21, 2008.

POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE: No.

COST OF TOTAL PROJECT: \$100,435.20

SOURCE OF FUNDS :

CITY: \$52,235.20 (52%)

NON CITY (NRD): \$48,200.00 (48%)

FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:

Devin Biesecker, Engineer

REVIEWED BY:

Director of Public Works & Utilities