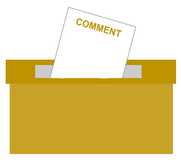
WELCOME

We are pleased you are here to learn more about and provide feedback on the Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Plan.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS MEETING

Review each display and talk with project team members to learn more and share your ideas

Spend as much or as little time with us as you like



Complete a comment form and drop it in the box

Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Plan

The Need for the Plan

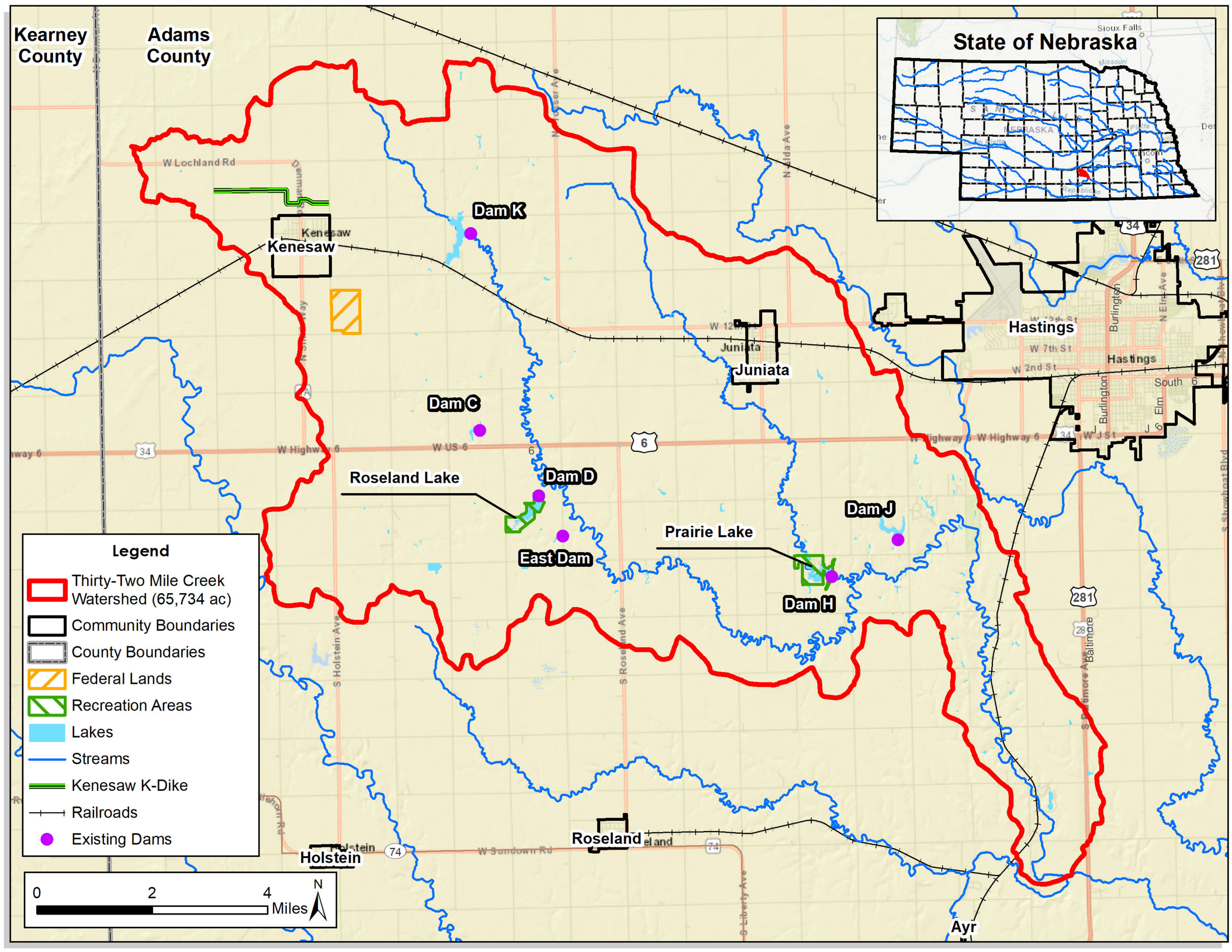
In response to repeated historic flooding in this area, the Little Blue Natural Resources District (LBNRD) took steps to create the Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) to identify projects that could reduce flood damage. The planning process follows the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) requirements and once approved, projects may qualify for additional funding to complete design and construction.

The watershed plan will:

- Identify existing flooding problems.
- Evaluate potential projects for flood reduction.
- Serve as an implementation plan.

The watershed plan focuses on reducing flood risk in the Kenesaw area. Approval of the plan by both NRCS and the LBNRD is required before any decision on implementation.

Study Area Overview



Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Plan

Little Blue Natural Resources District

USDA NRCS United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Planning Process

The LBNRD is partnering with the NRCS to develop the Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Plan – Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA).

- Initial planning efforts started in spring 2023 and are scheduled to be complete by the end of 2026. JEO Consulting Group has been retained to complete the planning process.
- An alternative analysis has identified potential projects that meet strict criteria.
- Public input is extremely important to the project and the team is seeking comments on the draft Plan-EA.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the Thirty-Two Mile Creek WFPO Plan-EA is to reduce flood damages in the Village of Kenesaw and surrounding watershed by identifying and evaluating watershed improvement measures that reduce flood risk while protecting watershed resources.

Flooding impacts in the Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed captured following a severe rain event in spring 2020.



North of Kenesaw, along W Lochland Road.



North of Kenesaw, along N Smith Avenue.



East of Kenesaw, along N Holstein Avenue.

Anticipated Schedule

2023

- Watershed Plan & Environmental Evaluation Begins
- Agency & Public Meeting #1 in Kenesaw

2024

- Resource & Alternatives Analysis Completed
- Initial Alternatives Identified
- Draft Plan Writing Begins

2025

2026

- Public Meeting #2
- Agency & Public Review Period of Draft Plan
- Finalize Plan

Schedule is subject to change. Decision to pursue any project would still need to be made after the plan is approved.

The WFPO Program

The Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program provides technical and financial assistance to states, local governments, and Tribes to plan and implement authorized watershed project plans for the purposes of:

- **Flood Prevention**
- **Watershed Protection**
- **Public Recreation**
- **Public Fish and Wildlife**
- **Agricultural Water Management**
- **Municipal & Industrial Water Supply**
- **Water Quality Management**
- **Watershed Structure Rehabilitation**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the WFPO Program.

The Program is authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 78-534) and the provisions of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (P.L. 83- 566).

The WFPO Program provides 100% funding to local agencies for the development of a WFPO plan.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) established a comprehensive program to preserve the history and culture of the United States. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country. The Section 106 process gives interested parties and the public the chance to weigh in on these matters before a final decision is made.

What are Historic Properties?

In the Section 106 process, a historic property is a prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

If you know of any historic or cultural resources that may be affected by this project or if you would like to comment on this project's potential to impact historic properties, please contact NRCS Archaeologist Mike Chodoronek at Michael.Chodoronek@usda.gov.

WFPO Planning Process

Step 1 — A local agency requests planning assistance from the NRCS. NRCS approves the request.

Step 2 — Complete a Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report (PIFR), which includes a brief study about the watershed to provide assurance that a watershed project plan can be developed.

Step 3 — Once the PIFR is approved, WFPO funding is requested for planning. Planning is 100% funded through WFPO.

Step 4 — Planning includes development of a Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA).

We Are Here

Step 5 — The Plan-EA is reviewed by State and National NRCS, the LBNRD and the public.

Step 6 — Once the final Plan-EA is approved, projects identified in the plan are eligible for additional WFPO funding for design.

Preferred Alternative

Preferred Alternative

The following projects are included in the preferred alternative in the Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed near and around Kenesaw, NE.

Areas with Reduced Flood Risk

Total Estimated Cost: $20,536,470

- 71% Federal Funds: $14,662,800
- 29% Local Funds: $5,873,670

1 K-Dike Modernization

Strengthening and raising the existing levee to modern standards to better protect Kenesaw from flooding from the north and reduce standing floodwater after storms.

Estimated Cost: $4,317,750

2 Detention Cell

A 59-acre area excavated to temporarily store stormwater and slowly release it after storms to reduce flooding. The project also includes upstream channel improvements and raising Constitution Avenue to help prevent floodwater from flowing into Kenesaw from the west.

Estimated Cost: $8,708,600

3 Grade Stabilization and Channel Improvements

Stabilizing stream channels downstream of the K-Dike to reduce erosion, improve drainage, and help floodwater drain more quickly after storms.

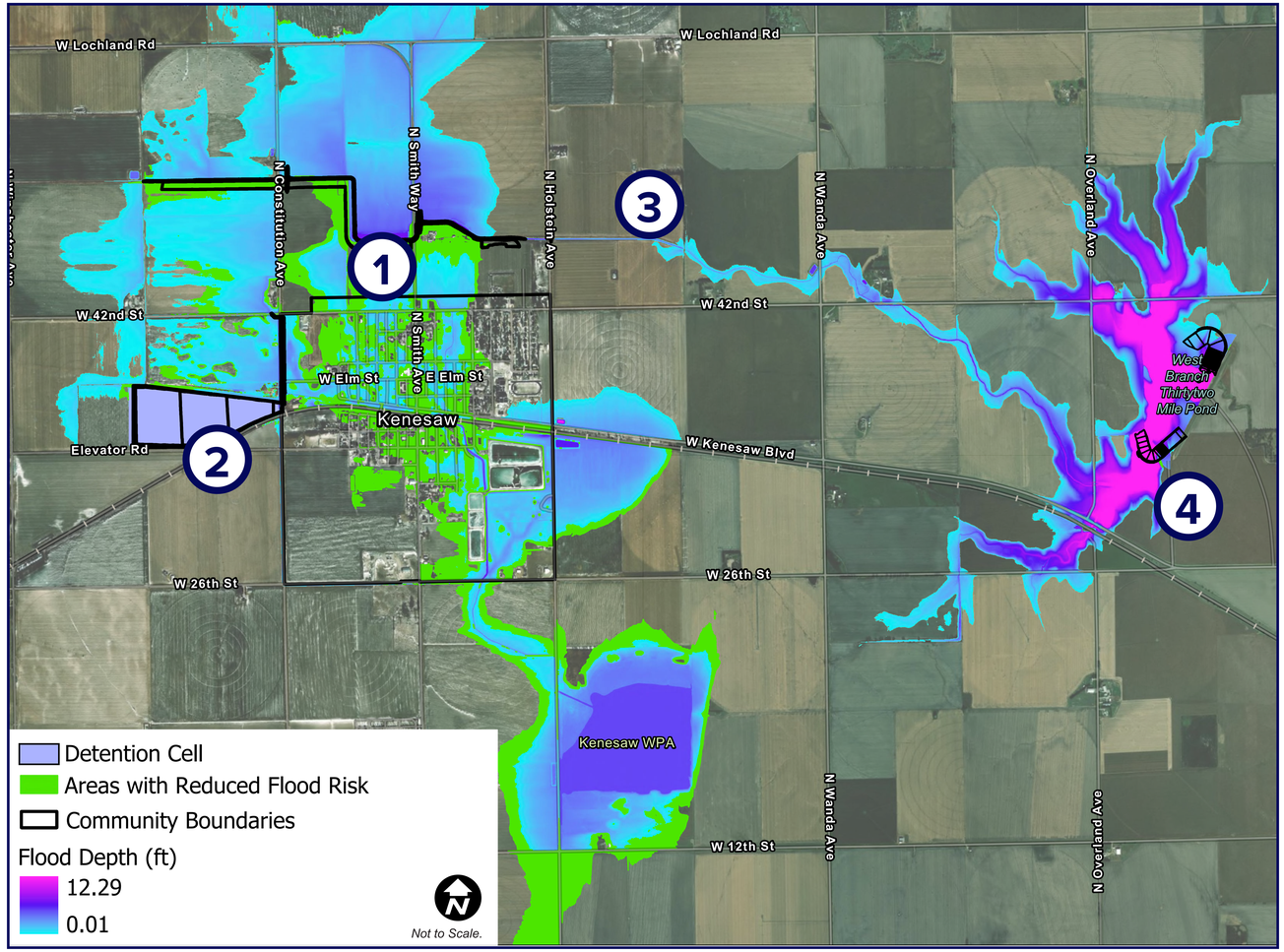
Estimated Cost: $1,983,520

4 K-Dam Removal and Replacement

Replacing the aging K-Dam with a modern structure designed to safely handle higher flood flows, improve flood protection, and remove built-up sediment for long-term reliability.

Estimated Cost: $5,526,600

1 Percent Annual Chance Flood Risk



Note: NRCS requires the "no action" alternative to be included in the final list of alternatives.

Existing Conditions

Little Blue Natural Resources District

USDA NRCS United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Existing Conditions

Focus areas:

- Past flooding events have inundated portions of Kenesaw.
- Floodwater build-up behind the existing K-Dike levee causes agricultural damage and road closures.

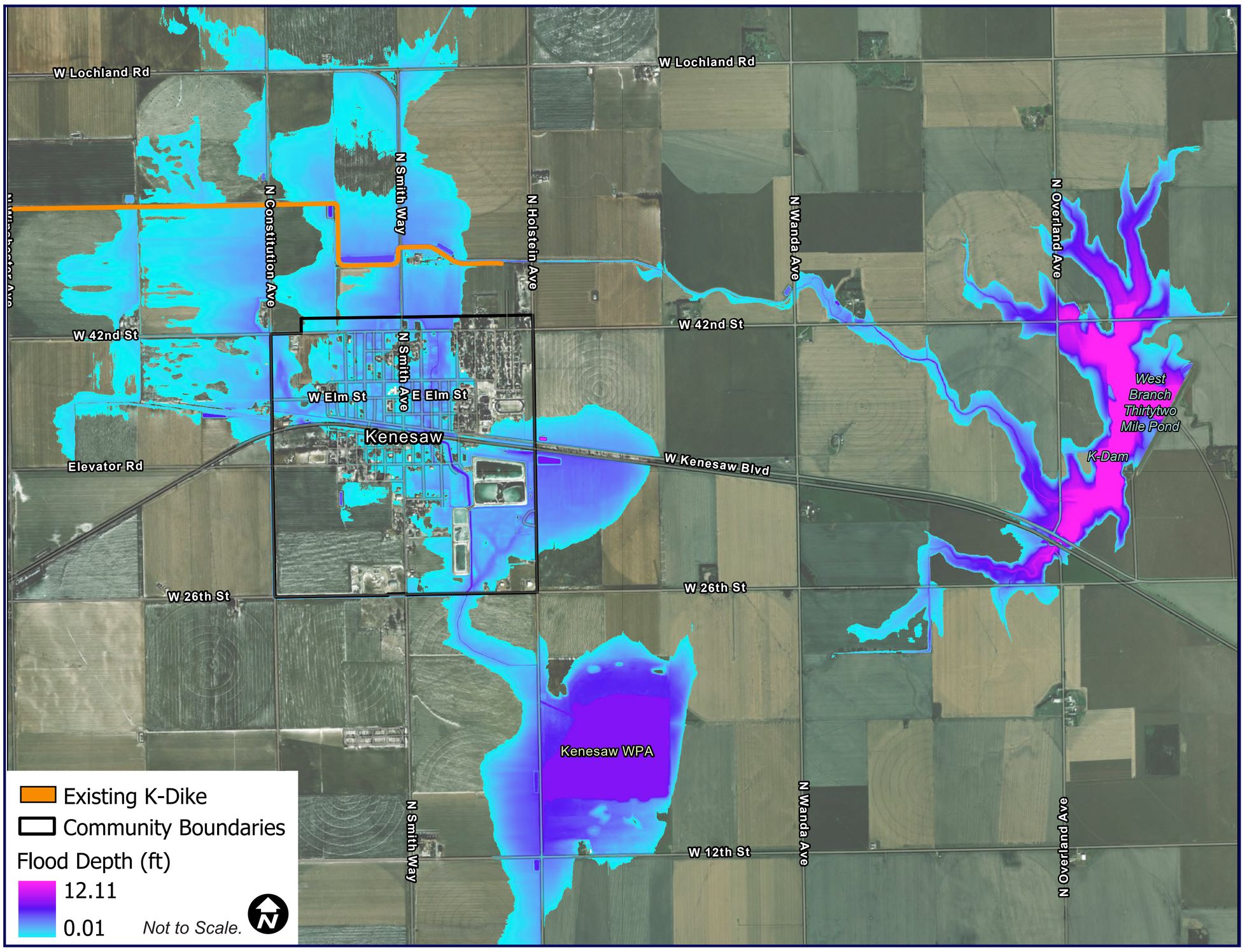
Source/cause of flooding:

- Runoff from the north is intercepted by the K-Dike and eventually flows east into K-Dam, causing damage to ditches and channels along the way.
- Runoff from the west bypasses K-Dike and flows directly into Kenesaw.

Constraints:

- Projects must reduce agricultural damages, consider the capacity of the downstream K-Dam, and not cause any harm to the Kenesaw Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) south of town.

1 Percent Annual Chance Flood Risk



Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Plan

Little Blue Natural Resources District

USDA NRCS United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Overview

All flood risk reduction alternatives, both structural and nonstructural, were explored during the evaluation process.

- The ‘no action’ scenario serves as a baseline for comparing alternatives.
- Projects must offer greater financial benefits than costs.
- Alternatives are initially assessed individually before being combined.
- The most effective strategies often involve combining alternatives to achieve multiple goals.
- To receive NRCS funding, an alternative must meet NRCS requirements.

Alternatives Screening Criteria

Step 1: The “Sniff Test”

- Purpose and Need – Does it reduce flood risk and/or damages?
- Feasible – Can it be done/built?
- Practical – Is it sensible and efficient?

Step 2: A Closer Look

- Effective – To what extent does it reduce flood risk?
- Impacts – What impacts does this have on people, land, property, environment, etc.?
- Permitting – What are the permitting requirements?
- Local Input – Would the community support this alternative?
- Cost – What would this cost to implement?
- Benefit Cost Ratio – Do the benefits outweigh the cost?

Next Steps

We Want Your Input!

The project team is collecting public comments on the draft plan and proposed alternatives until Monday, October 5, 2026.

There are three ways to provide comment:

Complete a comment form and drop it in the comment box before leaving tonight.

Submit comments on the draft plan directly to the NRCS website:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/nebraska/projects-ready-for-public-comment-and-review

Send written comments to
Michael Placke at mplacke@jeo.com

Looking Ahead:

- ► Following the public review period, the project team will update the watershed plan.
- ► The final plan will require approval from both NRCS and the LBNRD Board of Directors.
- ► Once the plan is approved, the LBNRD will determine whether to pursue implementation of the preferred alternatives, which would be eligible for additional WFPO funding.

For the latest project information, visit the project website at **https://jeo.com/thirty-two-mile-creek-watershed/** or scan the QR code with your phone's camera.