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

The Need for the Plan

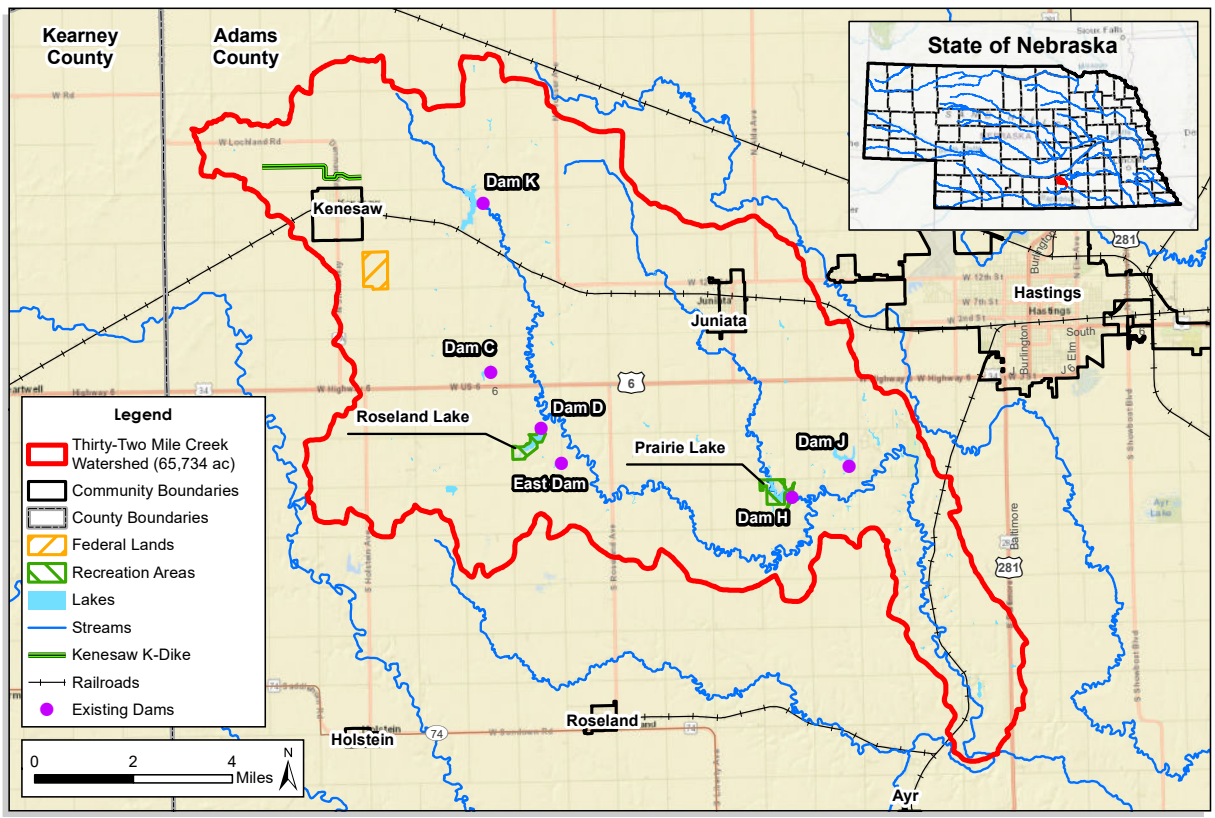
In response to repeated historic flooding in this area, the Little Blue Natural Resources District (LBNRD) took steps to create the Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) to identify projects that could reduce flood damage. The planning process follows Natural Resources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

Major steps in this Plan-EA include:

- Review and analyze existing resource data
- Facilitate public meetings to gather input and feedback
- Develop the draft watershed plan and refine it based on stakeholder and public feedback
- Finalize the watershed plan for adoption by the LBNRD

The final Plan-EA documents existing flooding, evaluates strategies for flood reduction, and lays out a plan for implementation.

Study Area Overview



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.

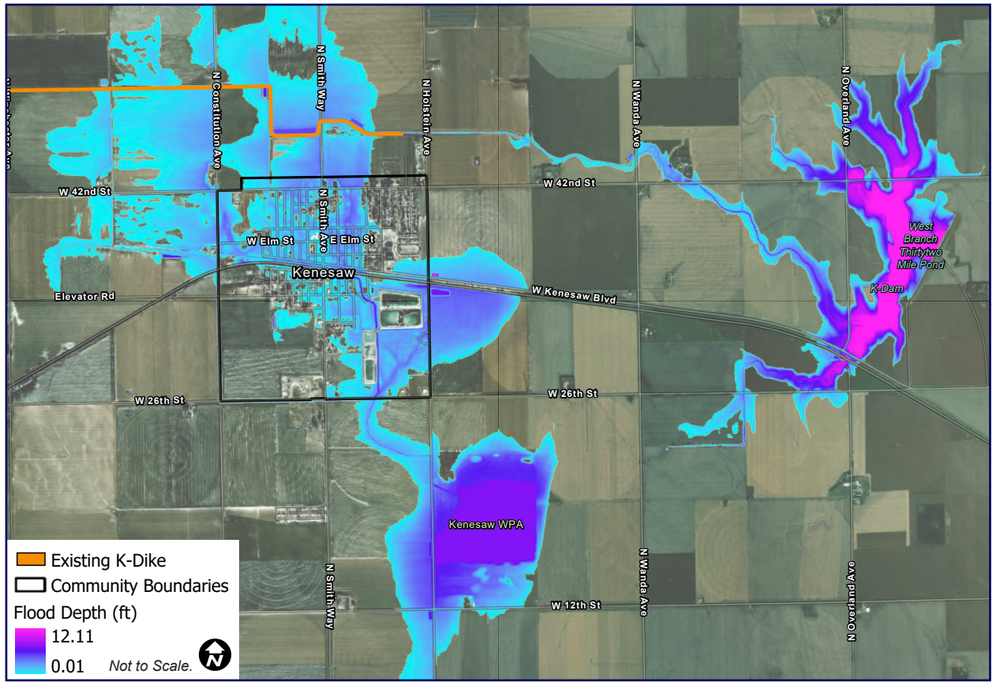
Source/cause of flooding:

- 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 Project Area - Existing

There are three ways to provide comment:

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

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**

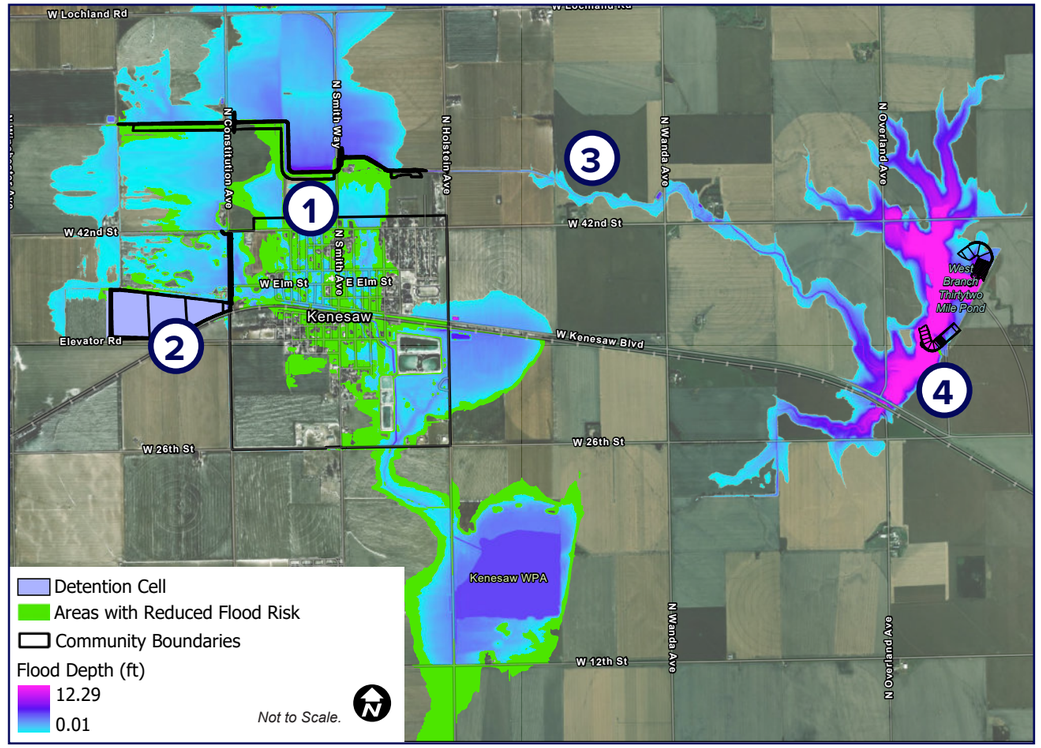
Preferred Alternative

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

Total Estimated Cost: $20,536,470

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

1 Percent Annual Chance Flood Risk



Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed Project Area - With Preferred Alternative

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

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

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).

Current 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.

Potential projects have been identified that meet strict criteria. An alternatives analysis has been completed to evaluate potential flood risk reduction projects. Alternatives were evaluated using NRCS planning requirements along with technical, environmental, and economic screening criteria.

A public meeting was held in summer of 2023 where the project team sought public comments on flooding problems within the Thirty-Two Mile Creek Watershed. Public input is a critical part of the planning process. The project team invites community members to review and provide comments on the potential flood risk reduction projects identified in the Thirty-Two Mile Creek WFPO Plan–Environmental Assessment (EA). Comments received will help refine the proposed alternatives and support future project decisions.

Visit the *project website* to learn more!

Scan the QR code above with your smartphone's camera to visit the project website.

Or, search *https://jeo.com/thirty-two-mile-creek-watershed/*

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 area captured following a severe rain event in spring 2020.



North of Kenesaw, along W Lochland Road.

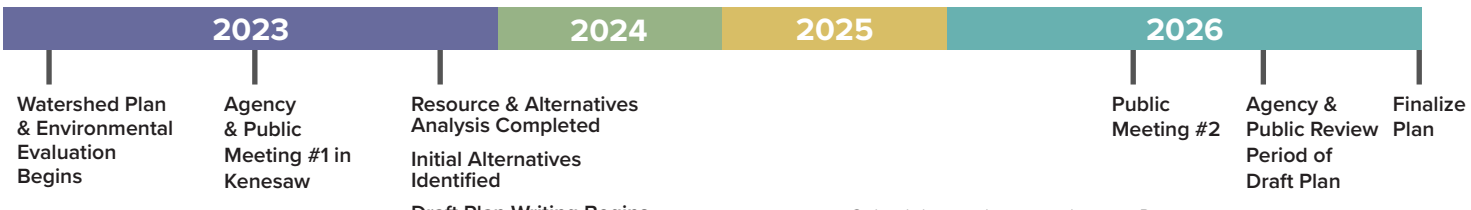


North of Kenesaw, along N Smith Avenue.



East of Kenesaw, along N Holstein Avenue.

Anticipated Schedule



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