

## Rivers are the lifeblood of Nebraska

Like veins throughout our bodies, rivers carry water to every corner of our state.



Riparian Vegetation  
Management Task Force

# Keeping Water in Nebraska's Rivers and Streams Flowing



**NEBRASKA**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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# Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force (RVMTF) Timeline

## ● May 2007

LB 701 signed into law

The goal was to improve the conveyance of water throughout Nebraska's rivers and streams. This legislation created a grant program for management of riparian vegetation, and stated the Legislature's intent to appropriate \$2 million annually for this purpose. The legislation had an end date of June 30, 2009.

## ● June 2009

LB 701 sunset date

After LB 701 ended, invasive species control remained a high priority for the Nebraska Weed Control Association and Weed Management Areas. They have continued with their efforts with limited funding. The Association supported new legislation to help control invasive species in Nebraska to meet the water needs of the state and commitment to other states.

## ● April 2016

LB 1038 signed into law

The RVMTF brings together multiple partners, such as local Weed Management Areas, Nebraska Game and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources Districts, The Nature Conservancy, Public Power Districts, Audubon, UNL, and Ducks Unlimited.

Since its inception in 2007, the RVMTF and its partners continue to successfully reduce acres occupied with invasive plants along riparian areas across Nebraska:

- Phragmites reported across Nebraska
  - 2007 - more than 25,000 acres
  - 2014 - less than 13,000 acres
- Salt Cedar Infestations reported across Nebraska
  - 2006 - more than 13,731 acres
  - 2014 - 3,376 acres

Continued monitoring and controlling of existing and new invasions are critical to keep the populations of invasive species under control to ensure healthy waterways for the benefits of all Nebraskans.

**It is important to keep water passageways open and freely flowing to protect water resources, the environment and the wellbeing of Nebraskans.**

To accomplish its goals, the RVMTF has seven working groups composed of members of the task force:

- Goals, Objectives and Reports
- Vegetation Management and Treatment
- Survey and Monitoring
- Education and Awareness
- Funding and Incentives
- Streambed Ownership
- Vegetation Water Use

### **RVMTF Mission**

"The task force shall develop and prioritize riparian vegetation management goals and objectives, analyze the cost effectiveness of available vegetative treatment and develop plans and policies to achieve such goals and objectives."

LB 1038, signed into law 2016

### **Benefits of Riparian Vegetation Control**

Increase urban water supplies, states' compact commitments, water conveyance, wildlife habitats, tourism and recreation. Protecting infrastructure, by minimizing flooding and fire.

### **Task Force Provides Money for Vegetation Management**

The Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force (RVMTF) provides funding annually for the management of vegetation within the banks of a natural stream or within 100 feet of the banks of a channel of any natural stream in Nebraska.



L-R: Before, during and after the Platte River Riparian Project.