

BASINS AND STREAMS

Basins refer to watersheds. The area drained by a stream and its tributaries are demarcated by ridge lines. Primary streams and their associated basins within Lancaster County include, but are not limited to, Salt Creek, Antelope Creek, Dead Man's Run, Lynn Creek, Middle Creek, Haines Branch, Oak Creek, Stevens Creek, Beal Slough, and the upper tributaries of the Nemaha River.



IMPORTANCE:

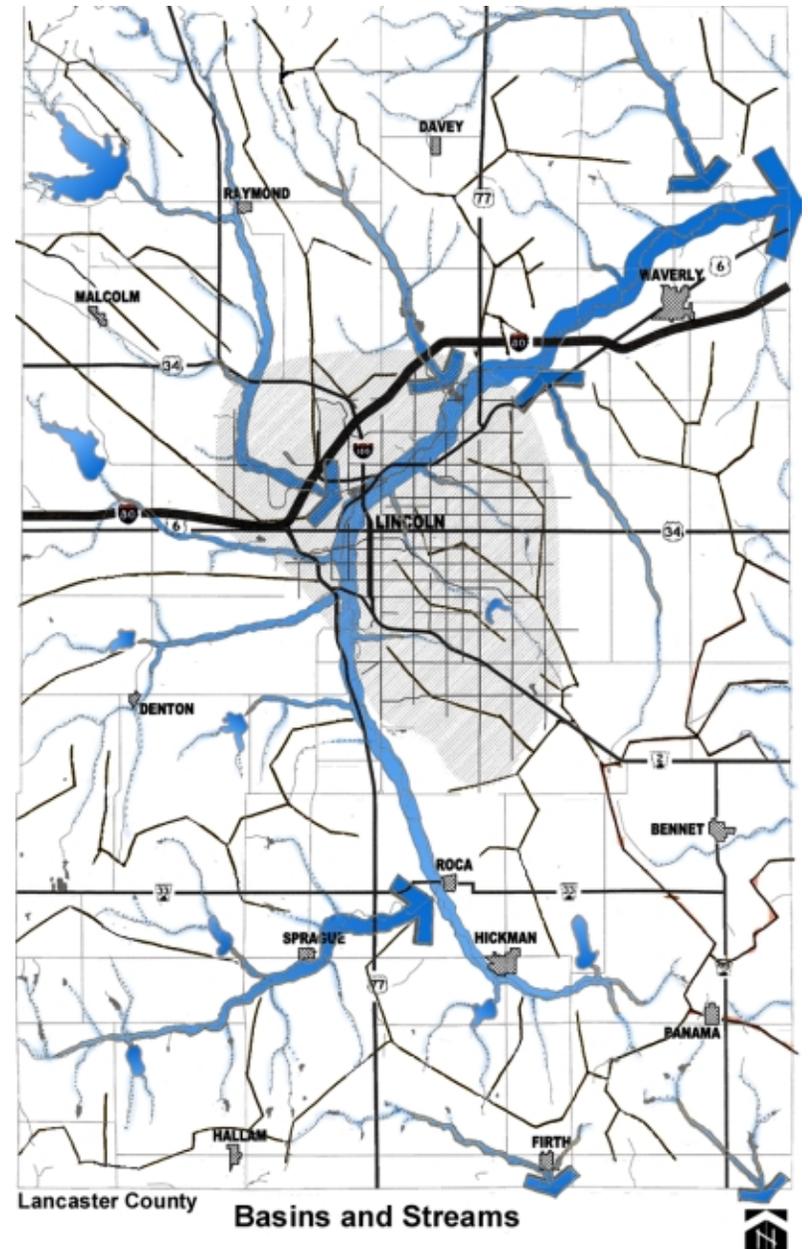
- Streams can serve as connectors
- Streams can serve as boundaries and edges
- They are multifunctional, providing important ecological and cultural resources including flood storage, habitat, recreation, etc.
- Streams provide storm water collection and conveyance
- Streams serve as locations for many of our natural woodlands
- Streams improve water quality
- Streams provide important functions for wildlife, including habitat and movement corridors
- Streams concentrate sediment
- People are attracted to them
- Streams can provide a source of quiet
- They create recreational trail opportunities
- They are important visual features
- Basins organize the landform on an ecological basis
- Basins allow for gravity-based gray infrastructure

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LEGEND

-  **RIVER BASINS**
-  **RIDGE LINES**



HUMAN IMPACT/THREAT:

- Many existing streams and basins have been altered from their natural condition
- Many streams and basins have been removed or altered
- Streams have been impounded
- Access and interaction with numerous existing streams is limited due to past modifications
- Reservoirs are generally highly valued
- Channel degradation can occur with increases urbanization, including downcutting
- Smaller tributaries have traditionally been piped underground in urban areas
- Historic practice has included altering streams with concrete channel liners and engineered “hard” attenuation of the channel cross-section



Photo: NEBRASKAland Magazine /
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

- Storm water and sanitary sewer systems generally follow stream courses
- Public access to streams and basins should be maintained and/or restored
- Thought process regarding future reservoir planning should be reviewed
- Urbanization accelerates rate and flow of storm water through natural system
- Storm water management practices that consider both water quantity and quality should be implemented to protect the integrity of streams and drainage channels
- Storm water management practices that reduce the potential for sediment to be deposited in basins should be implemented