

What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land where runoff from rain and snow will ultimately drain to a particular stream, river, wetland, or other body of water.

Watersheds come in many sizes and are all connected. Your smallest watershed is most likely your property, where your backyard drains into a nearby creek. Your largest watershed is the Mississippi River watershed which drains 1,245,000 square miles and 33 states.

What's the problem?

In urban areas, vegetation is removed in favor of large paved areas. While paved areas make it easy to drive and park, it means we have large quantities of surfaces that keep rainwater from seeping into the soil. Instead, that water travels along our roadways, collecting oil, chemicals, pet waste, salt, litter, and dirt, then gets emptied into our lakes and streams – untreated.

Things you can do to protect your watershed:

1. Reduce fertilizer use. If you must, use no or low-phosphorus fertilizers.
2. Capture and reuse rainwater - rain barrels collect rain water to help irrigate your trees and shrubs.
3. Dispose of pet waste properly - make sure it doesn't enter the street or storm drains.
4. Recycle or dispose household chemicals properly (cleaning products, motor oils, antifreeze, paint, etc.) in City-approved facilities – not down the drain.
5. Use native vegetation and reduce turf grass by increasing native wildflowers and grasses.
6. Wash your car at a car wash, not on your driveway.
7. Get involved - be an advocate for your water resources in local planning efforts.
8. Share your environmental knowledge with your neighbors.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on Nebraska's watersheds, visit:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ne/technical/dma/rwa

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

www.omahastormwater.org

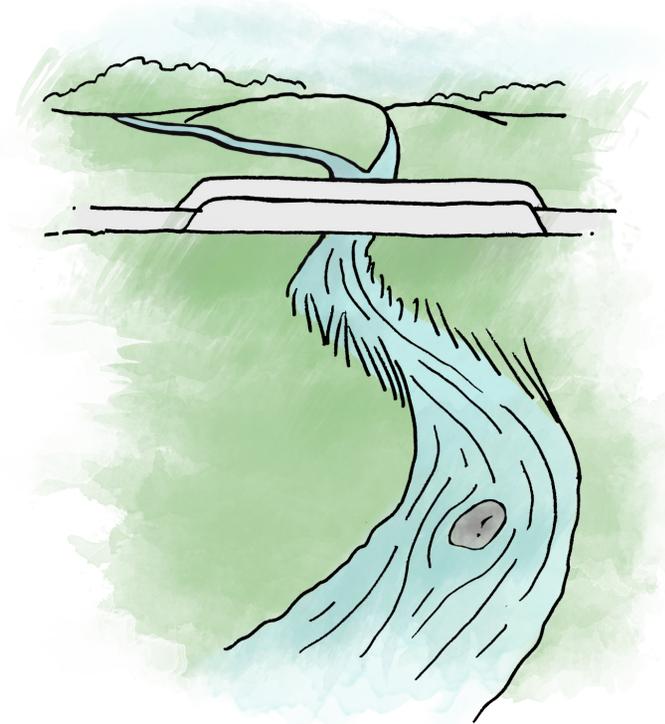
www.papiopartnership.org

For more information about the Thompson Creek project, visit the La Vista Thompson Creek Stormwater website at:

www.cityoflavista.org/thompsoncreek

or call La Vista Public Works: 402-331-8927.

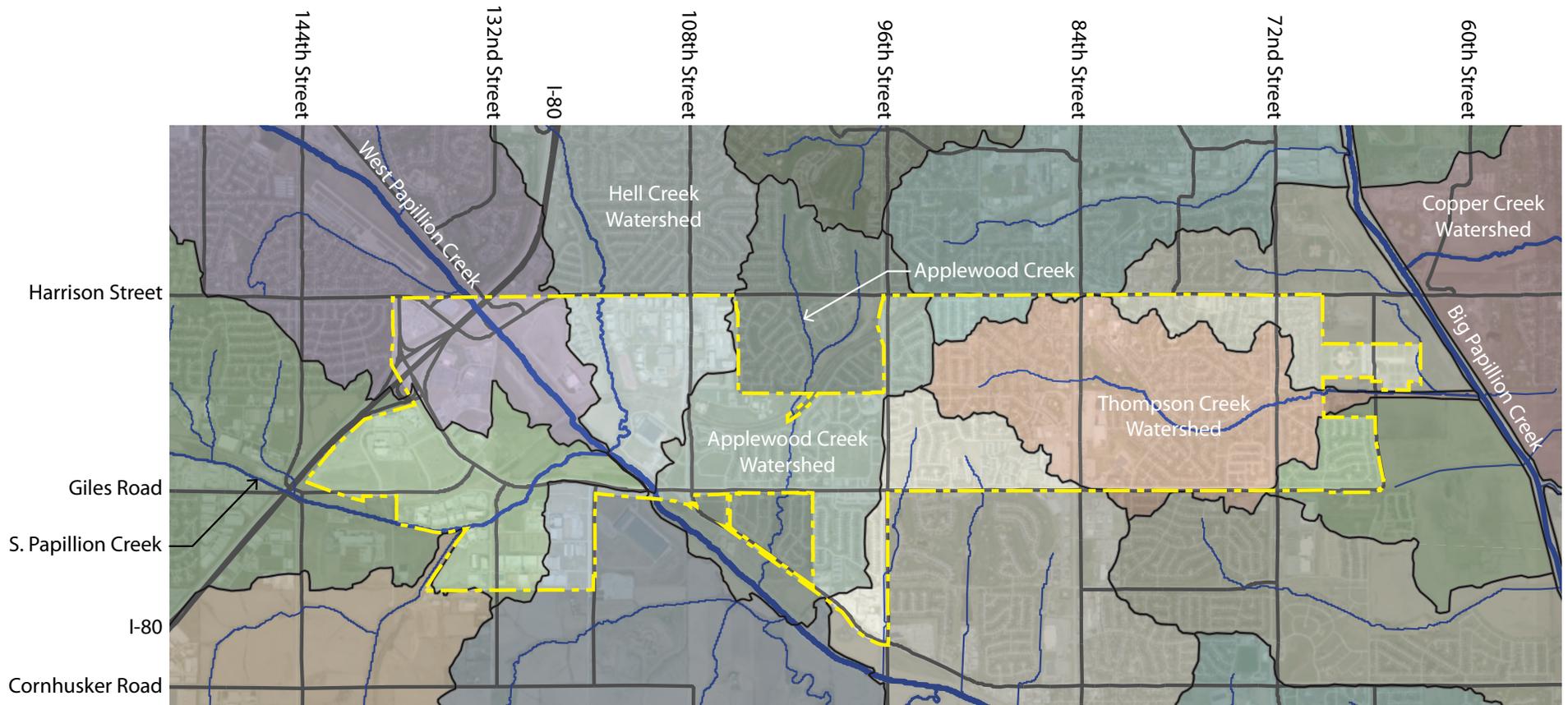
La Vista's Watersheds



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What watershed do you live in?



- La Vista City Limits
- Creeks & Streams
- Watershed Boundaries

Why should I care about watersheds?

We all live in a watershed. In fact, we live in several watersheds. The water that flows away from your house ends up in a nearby stream (watershed 1), which travels into the Papillion Creek (watershed 2), which flows into the Missouri River (watershed 3), and into the Mississippi River (watershed 4).

All that water flows downstream, so local watershed decisions impact the water quality of our downstream neighbors.

