

# Partnership communities have worked together in a six-year process to develop comprehensive policies for watershed solutions



## Watershed Master Planning Public Forums

Overview Nov. 17, 2004  
Green Watershed Jan. 20, 2005  
Clean Watershed Feb. 17, 2005  
Safe Watershed Mar. 23, 2005  
Update June 16, 2005  
Watershed Finale Mar. 2, 2006  
Policy Review Jul. 20, 2006

## Comprehensive engineering and scientific analysis is the guiding process for Partnership plans and policies.

The Partnership has carried out a thorough planning process since its inception in 2001. After four stages of scientific analysis and engineering studies, the Partnership has developed a set of policies to improve water quality, prevent flooding and include green space in the Papillion Creek Watershed.

Studies have been completed by a highly reputable, national engineering firm, HDR, Inc.

### Stage I

Stage I studies included planning toward the development of a Watershed Management Plan. This stage, completed in fall 2002, included the following:

- Collecting and organizing all pertinent data for the watershed, water quality and flood protection modeling,
- Regulatory permitting assistance for area communities,
- Public involvement,
- Initial project grant funding research,
- Assistance in evaluating a stormwater utility concept to fund projects, and
- Planning for future projects.

### Stage II

Stage II was conducted in conjunction with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stage II stormwater permit compliance needs. It was completed in 2005 and included the following:

- Coordinating the development and approval of NPDES Permit activities with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality;
- Holding public information and education events; and
- Follow-up project financing and best management practices implementation planning.

### Stage III

Stage III activities included the development of water quality and flood prevention policies for the watershed to meet regulatory requirements and also to address the “Green, Clean, and Safe” initiatives under the “Watershed by Design” theme that was presented in a series of public forums from 2004 to 2006. Independent workgroups provided input and guidance on specific policy details. The following six policies were adopted by nine of the 11 partners:

- Stormwater Management Financing
- Peak Flow Reduction
- Pollution Control
- Landscape Preservation, Restoration and Conservation
- Erosion and Sediment Control and Other BMPs
- Floodplain Management.

### Stage IV

Stage IV activities, occurring now and planned to be completed by winter 2007, examine five options for meeting comprehensive regional water quality, flood prevention and land use policy goals in the Papillion Creek Watershed. A variety of stormwater management scenarios are being studied to manage storm events for our watershed under current and future “build-out” conditions:

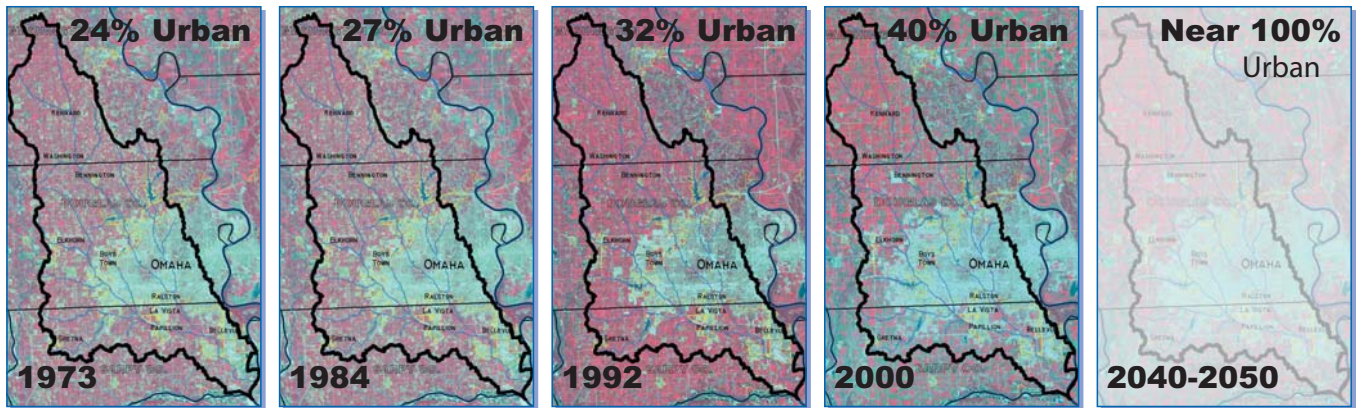
- Baseline (2004) land use conditions with no new flood management improvements.
- Full build-out land use conditions with no new flood management improvements.
- Full build-out land use conditions with inclusion of Low Impact Development (LID) strategies only.
- Full build-out land use conditions with inclusion of potential new regional detention structures only.
- Full build-out land use conditions with inclusion of LID strategies plus potential new regional detention structures.

**Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership**  
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## Regional development trends indicate that we must act now to keep our watershed safe and clean.

The Papillion Creek Watershed has limited options, time and available land for needed water quality and flood prevention improvements.

- The watershed is projected to be completely urbanized in the next 30-50 years, according to an analysis of comprehensive plans from area jurisdictions and the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency.
- The 11 governments of the Partnership have worked for years to create a set of policies for our watershed to improve our water quality and prevent flooding as our watershed continues urbanizing.
- The Partnership is currently examining a variety of methods to manage storm events in the watershed.



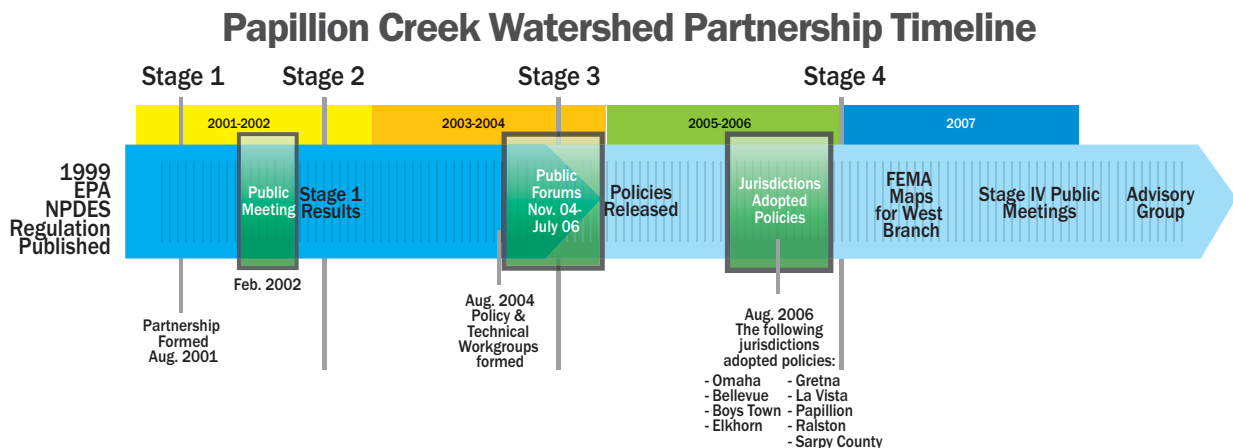
Sources: Landsat Color-Infrared Aerial Photography, EROS Data Center with GIS coverages, 2001.

## The public has been involved in Partnership planning and studies every step of the way.

Community involvement is key to helping develop a comprehensive watershed plan. The Partnership has encouraged community involvement throughout the planning process and policy development phases.

- Beginning in 2002, the Partnership sponsored a series of public meetings to inform citizens about the problems in the watershed and some potential solutions.
- Newspaper public notices, a telephone hotline, a website and direct mail were used to advise the public of upcoming meetings and other opportunities for input.
- From November 2004 to July 2006, the Partnership hosted a series of public meetings to discuss "Watershed Master Planning."
- A Policy Workgroup, Technical Workgroup and Finance Policy Subcommittee were formed to provide independent input during the policy development process. Membership included local government representatives, planners, engineers, natural resource agencies, attorneys, developers and financial bonding companies.

Additional public meetings are planned for fall 2007 to explain the results of the Stage IV study and gather public input and feedback. An advisory group of stakeholders and subject matter experts is also slated to evaluate the results and provide recommendations. Public and technical recommendations will be provided to elected officials in each jurisdiction in the watershed.



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