

# Section 1

## Introduction and Purpose

### 1.1 Introduction

The City of Lincoln (City) and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) are in the process of developing a *Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the City of Lincoln* and its future growth areas, and Lancaster County where applicable. This comprehensive watershed plan is being developed basin by basin, through the completion of watershed master plans for individual basins. Watershed master plans are used as planning tools to be referenced in conjunction with proposed development and as a guide in the preparation of future capital improvement projects (CIPs).

The City and NRD have previously adopted watershed master plans for the Antelope Creek, Beal Slough, Cardwell Branch, Deadman's Run, Haines Branch, Little Salt Creek, Middle Creek, South Salt Creek, Southeast Upper Salt Creek (SEUSC), and Stevens Creek basins. Figure 1-1 shows the basins in the Comprehensive Watershed Master Plan.

The Lynn Creek Watershed Master Plan (Master Plan) was prepared as part of a larger study for the Salt Creek North Tributaries and Creeks, which includes Lynn Creek and portions of Oak Creek and North Salt Creek. All of the 6 square miles of the Lynn Creek Watershed is included in this master plan and lies within the 3-mile extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of the City of Lincoln. The purpose of the Master Plan is to identify needed CIPs for water quality and stream stability as well as to define the limits of stream corridors in the watershed's headwaters. The Master Plan also identifies special or unique areas in the watershed and indicates what, if any, affect these areas have on the Watershed CIPs.

This approach of identifying, evaluating and addressing potential CIPs proactively during the planning process allows for CIP implementation to occur in a highly cost-effective manner. Such an approach represents a significant savings of tax-revenue when compared to the alternative of waiting for significant stream stability issues to develop prior to implementing CIPs in a retro-fit fashion.

The project team was led by the City and NRD, in cooperation with Lancaster County (County). The City/NRD retained the consultant team of Intuition & Logic Engineering, Inc. (I&L), in association with EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc., PBC (EA) and Heartland Center for Leadership Development (HC) to provide assistance with the planning effort.

## 1.2 Watershed Characteristics

The Lynn Creek Watershed is located within the northern extents of the City of Lincoln, to the west of North Salt Creek. The entirety of the Lynn Creek Watershed encompasses approximately 6 square miles and extends approximately 2 miles north of the Interstate 180/Interstate 80 exchange (Figure 1-2). The Lynn Creek Watershed is contained within the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Table 1.1 summarizes the Lynn Creek watershed characteristics.

**Table 1.1 Watershed Characteristics**

<b>Description</b>	
Watershed Area	6 Square Miles
Open Channel Length	Over 7 Miles
Watershed Length	Approximately 4 Miles
Watershed Width	Approximately 1.75 Miles

Figure 1-1  
Basins

**LEGEND**

-  Lincoln City Limits
-  Extraterritorial Jurisdictions
-  Current FEMA Floodplain
- Watershed Master Plan Status**
-  Watershed Master Plan Completed
-  No Watershed Master Plan
-  Proposed 2016 Watershed Master Plan

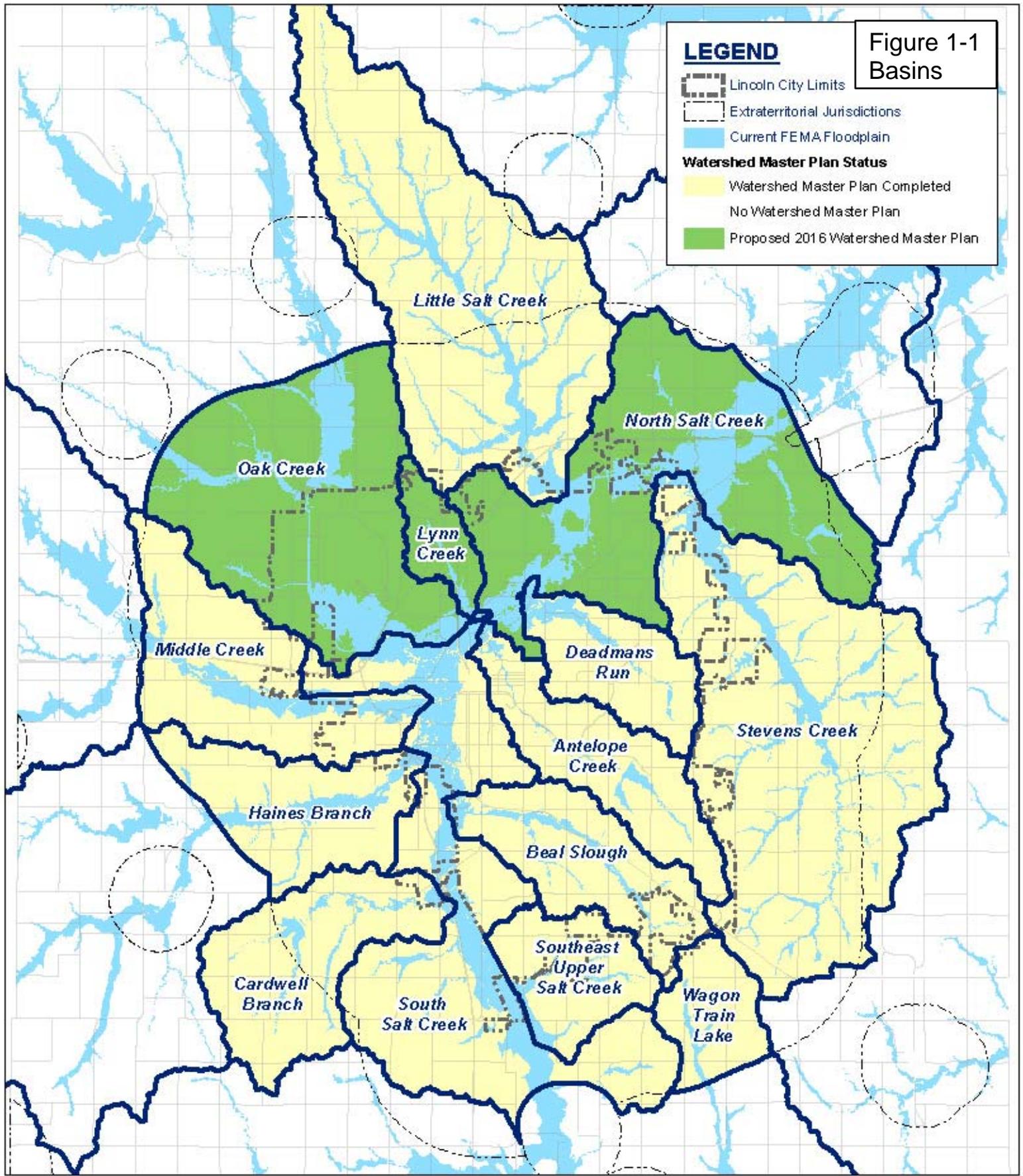


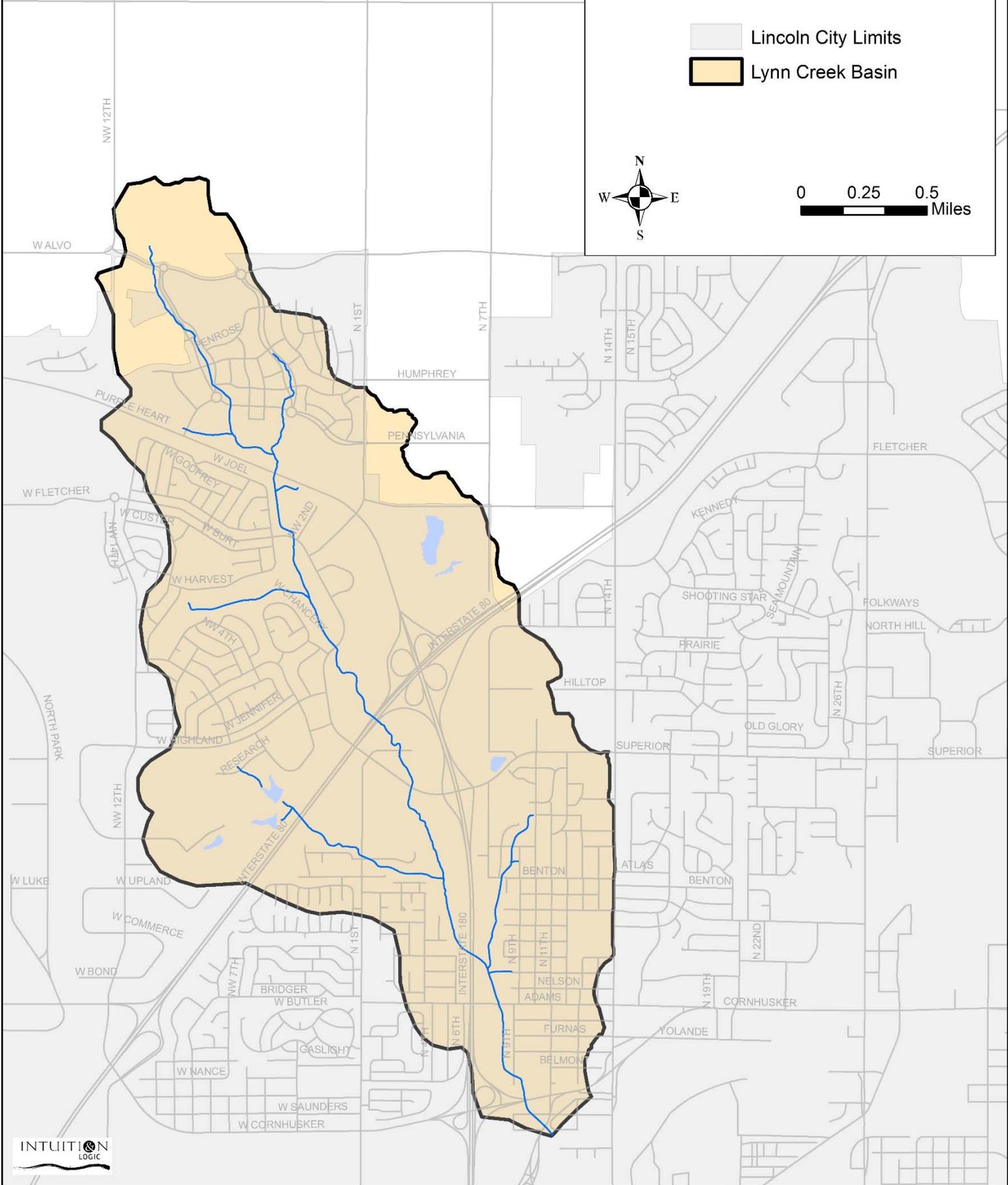
Figure 1-2 Lynn Creek

Study Area Map

- Lincoln City Limits
- Lynn Creek Basin



0 0.25 0.5 Miles



## 1.3 Goals and Objectives

The goal of the study was to develop planning tools and improvement projects to address stream stability and provide guidance for sustainable future urban growth in the watershed. While developing the improvement projects, the project team incorporated community input, developed cost-effective improvement solutions, integrated natural resource components, integrated protection of existing infrastructure, minimized stakeholder impacts, and avoided any recommendation that would cause adverse impacts elsewhere in the watershed. The study included a wide range of services organized into the following major components:

### Data Collection

- Watershed inventory to collect, compile, and evaluate existing GIS and other data for the watershed.

### Geomorphic

- Field data collection of the main stem and significant tributaries to quantify geomorphic channel characteristics.
- Geomorphic data analysis and scoring to indicate channel stability
- Field identification and data collection for potential capital improvement projects

### Hydrology and Hydraulic Data

- Compile existing hydraulic models to summarize stormwater runoff for the 2-, 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year storm events for the mainstem and major tributaries.
- Compare the existing Zone A floodplain data to bridge and culvert as-built data for the structures listed above the Zone A depth. As-built data will be used in a hydraulic model to determine if overtopping occurs at the Zone A flood depth.

### Land Use and Development

- Future development projects will be investigated to determine the potential effect, if any on the floodplain.

### Minimum Corridor Mapping

- Develop a simplified method for determining the minimum corridors for potential application in all watersheds.

### Special Areas

- Watershed inventory and coordination with the City, County and NRD to identify special areas in the watershed.

### Public Involvement & Facilitation

- Three open house meetings to disseminate information and solicit feedback from the public.
- Three newsletters to watershed residents and stakeholders to inform the public about the study and to present preliminary results.

- Publication of a project website
- The City, County and the NRD each host open public hearings regarding the Master Plan to provide several opportunities for public input.

### **Capital Improvement Projects**

- Conceptual improvement projects to address stream instability problems.

## **1.4 Public Participation Process**

Citizens and stakeholders were offered a variety of ways to provide input to the study and to contribute to the development of alternative concepts and solutions. Each public involvement activity provided the project team with ideas for presenting and refining its recommendation. The following is a summary of the various components of the public participation process.

### **1.4.1 Open House Events**

Three open house events for the Salt Creek North Tributaries and Creeks were held during the study to solicit input, update the public on the status of the study, and to present preliminary results. The events were advertised by a direct mail newsletter, displaying electronic digital billboards at several locations, announcements in the Sunday issue of the Lincoln Journal Star, and advertising on the City Public Work's website. The open house events followed the same



general format consisting of information stations at which the attendees could inquire more about the study and discuss their concerns with representatives from the project team. The open houses were held at the Educare Lincoln facilities, 3435 N 14<sup>th</sup> Street on April 20, 2017, September 14, 2017 and January 18, 2018. A summary of the open house events is provided below.

27 citizens participated in the first open house held on April 20, 2017. The first open house was designed to provide an overview of the study, including background information, purpose of the watershed master plan, and study goals and objectives. Participants were encouraged to visit information stations set up around the room that provided watershed-specific information.

25 citizens participated in the second open house held on September 14, 2017. The second open house was designed to be a continuation of the first open house. At the second open house, the citizens were provided with an update on the watershed master plan process and an overview of the watershed master plan findings and preliminary recommendations including capital improvement projects. Participants were encouraged to visit information stations set up around the room that provided watershed-specific information.

33 citizens participated in the third open house held on January 18, 2018. The third open house was designed to be a continuation of the first two open houses. At the third open house, the citizens were provided with the watershed master plan findings and recommendations

including capital improvement projects. Participants were encouraged to visit information stations set up around the room that provided watershed-specific information.

The City, County and the NRD public hearings regarding the Master Plan are scheduled in February, March and April 2018.

### 1.4.2 Website and Newsletter

A series of three newsletters (Watershed News) and a project website were used to supply information about the study process and Master Plan recommendations. Each newsletter edition provided an effective means of informing the public about key aspects of the project. The newsletters were sent to landowners adjacent to the streams in the Lynn Creek watershed, select groups, clubs and agencies, as well as a random selection of landowners within the watershed. See Appendix B for a copy of each Newsletter.

The project website was another mechanism used to inform the public about the progress of the study. The website contains general background information, preliminary study results, and handout materials that were distributed at the open houses. The website was regularly updated throughout the study process and was used to advertise upcoming events.

A copy of the public participation materials including summary documents, attendance lists, meeting minutes, newsletters, and presentation are provided in Appendix B.

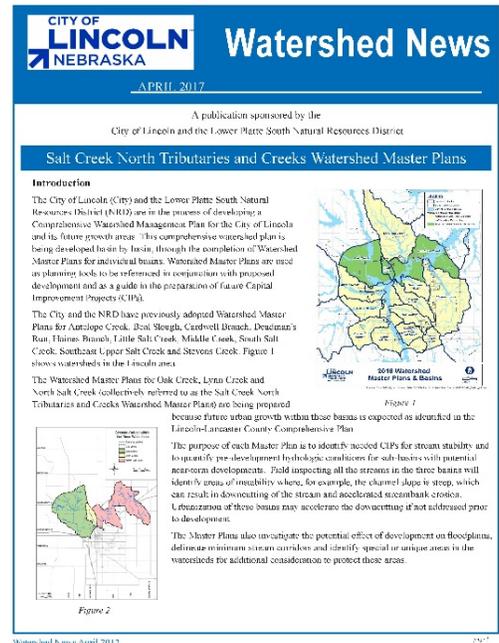


Figure 1-3: Watershed Newsletter

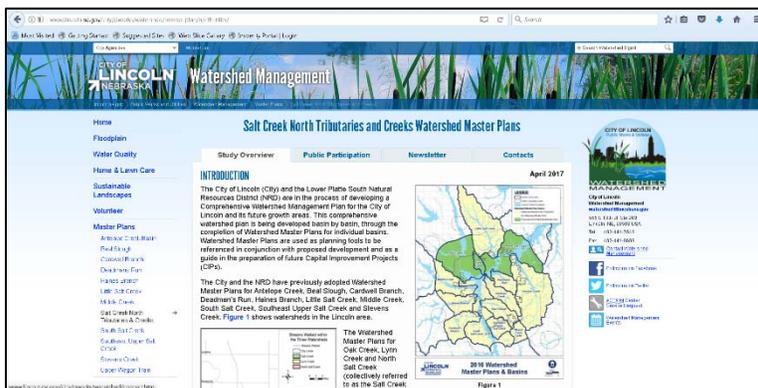


Figure 1-4: Project Website

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