

# Section 6

## Special Areas

### 6.1 Introduction

The Middle Creek Watershed is home to several unique and special areas. These special areas contain ecological, archeological, cultural or other resources of significant community value that merit special stewardship considerations and/or are subject to special regulatory requirements. The presence of such resources in these areas merits special consideration during the planning and development of capital improvement plans and projects. The following sections summarize the special areas identification methodology, results and recommendations.

### 6.2 Methodology

The methodology used to identify special areas within the watershed is summarized as follows:

1. Coordinate with the City, County and NRD to identify and locate the special areas.
2. Obtain existing reports, GIS files, websites and other existing data containing information regarding the special areas.
3. Develop a list of the identified special areas and the corresponding documents and resources that are available providing information regarding the special areas.
4. Develop GIS maps of the special areas.
5. Use the special area maps and data to evaluate what, if any, effect potential capital improvement projects might have on special areas and what measures need to be considered in the implementation of the capital improvement projects to mitigate the potential effects.

### 6.3 Evaluation Results

The following Special Areas were identified for consideration during CIP development:

- Wetlands – Both Saline and Freshwater wetlands are present in the Middle Creek Watershed.
  - Resources:
    - Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership (SWCP)  
<http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/ParksFacilities/wetlands/wetlandspartnership.htm>
    - Implementation Plan for the Conservation of Nebraska's Eastern Saline Wetlands (2003)
    - Salt Valley Greenway and Prairie Corridor Master Plan (August 31, 2012)
    - Lincoln/Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Adopted October 25/ October 31, 2011)
    - Lancaster County / Lincoln, NE GIS data
- Native Grassland
  - Resources:

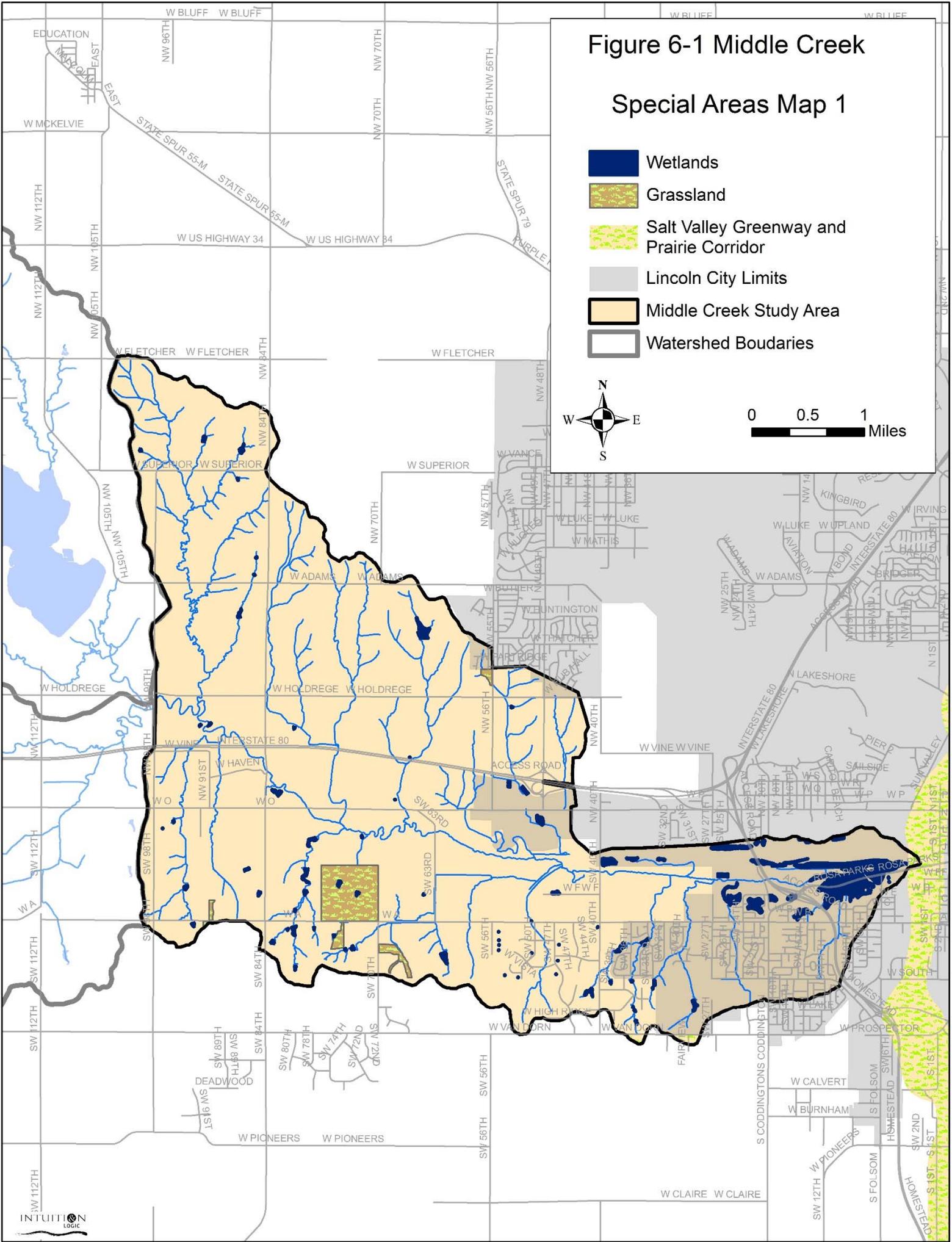
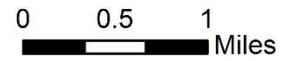
- Salt Valley Greenway and Prairie Corridor Master Plan (August 31, 2012)
- Lincoln/Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Adopted October 25/ October 31, 2011)
- Lancaster County / Lincoln, NE GIS data
- Woodland
  - Resources:
    - Salt Valley Greenway and Prairie Corridor Master Plan (August 31, 2012)
    - Lincoln/Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Adopted October 25/ October 31, 2011)
    - Lancaster County / Lincoln, NE GIS data
- Wellhead Protection – Nebraska’s Wellhead Protection (WHP) Program is a voluntary program which assists communities and other public water suppliers in preventing contamination of their water supplies. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) is the lead agency for Wellhead Protection Plan approval.
  - Resources:
    - Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
<http://www.deq.state.ne.us/GroundW.nsf/Pages/WHPA>
    - Lincoln/Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Adopted October 25/ October 31, 2011)
    - Lancaster County / Lincoln, NE GIS data
- Home Owner's Association – Long View Estates and Coddington Mills Homeowners Association
  - Resources:
    - Lancaster County / Lincoln, NE GIS data
- Parks
  - Resources:
    - Lincoln/Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Adopted October 25/ October 31, 2011)
    - Lancaster County / Lincoln, NE GIS data

Figures 6-1 through 6-2 illustrate the location of the identified special areas.

Figure 6-1 Middle Creek

Special Areas Map 1

-  Wetlands
-  Grassland
-  Salt Valley Greenway and Prairie Corridor
-  Lincoln City Limits
-  Middle Creek Study Area
-  Watershed Boundaries





## **6.4 Special Area Recommendations**

The Middle Creed Watershed Study Area is unique in that it contains a large continuous wetland in its lower end. It is also one of the few watersheds in the City/NRD future growth area that contains Beltway Corridor Protection Area.

The recommended approach to Capital Improvement Projects near Special Areas is to avoid or minimize the potential negative effects of CIP projects on the special areas, as well as to help plan CIP projects in locations that may help to protect the Special Areas. Section 7 of this report presents the Special Areas affected by each CIP, as appropriate, and indicates potential approaches to avoiding or minimizing the CIP's impact.

In general, CIPs near ecologically sensitive special areas will require, at a minimum, the installation of robust erosion, sediment and stormwater controls as well as perimeter fencing and/or tree protection fencing to restrict construction disturbance. Protection against erosion and sedimentation will be especially critical for wetland habitats, as will water quality protection for saline wetlands. Culturally important areas will require the installation of perimeter controls to avoid encroachment. Recreationally important special areas (e.g. Parks, etc) will require coordination to protect existing and planned infrastructures, while respecting and protecting the designated uses of the area.

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