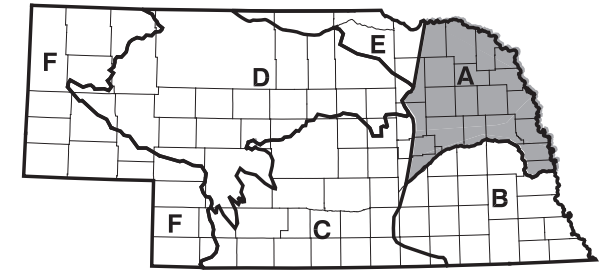




Nebraska Department of Roads

PLAN FOR THE ROADSIDE ENVIRONMENT

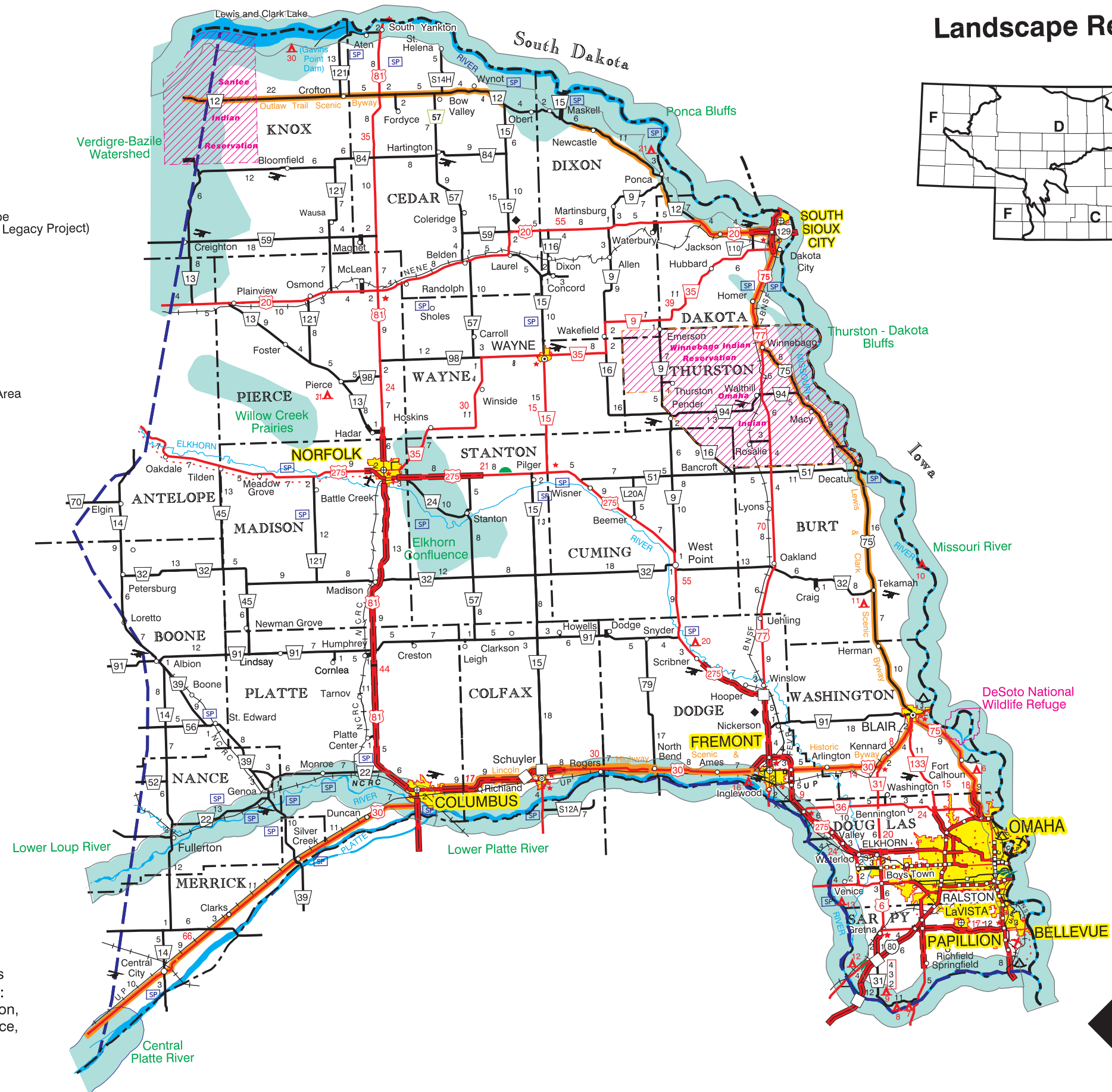
Landscape Region A



LEGEND

- Biologically Unique Landscape (From the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project)
- Major Communities
- Scenic Byway
- Bike Trail
- Railroad
- 5 Mileage Numbers
- SP State Wildlife Management Area
- - - - - Region Boundary

NEBRASKA STATE PARK AREAS	
▲ 6.	FORT ATKINSON / 10 mi. N. Omaha, US-75 at Fort Calhoun
▲ 7.	LOUISVILLE LAKES / ½ mi. N.W. Louisville, N-50
▲ 8.	PLATTE RIVER / 1 mi. S., 2 mi. W. Louisville, S-13E
▲ 9.	SCHRAMM PARK / 7 mi. S. Gretna, N-31
▲ 10.	PELICAN POINT / 4 mi. E., 4 mi. N., 1 mi. E. of Tekamah
▲ 11.	SUMMIT RESERVOIR / 1 mi. S., US-75, 3 mi. W. Tekamah
▲ 12.	EUGENE T. MAHONEY / Ashland US-6, .5 mi. E., 1 mi. S., 2 mi. E or I-80 Ex 426
▲ 13.	TWO RIVERS / 1 mi. S., 1 mi. W. Venice, N-92
▲ 16.	FREMONT LAKES / 3 mi. W. Fremont, US-30
▲ 20.	DEAD TIMBER / 4 mi. N., Scribner, US-275, 1½ mi. E., 1 mi. S.
▲ 21.	PONCA / 2 mi. N. Ponca, N-9 or 12
▲ 30.	LEWIS & CLARK LAKE / 9 mi. N. Crofton, US-81, N-121 (6 areas) WEIGAND - BURBACH / 3½ mi. W. Jct. N-121/R54C BLOOMFIELD / 61/2 mi. W. Jct. N-121/R54C
▲ 31.	WILLOW CREEK / 2 mi. S.W. Pierce



Boundaries (indicated on map) - Landscape Region "A" encompasses the northeast corner of Nebraska and includes all or part of 21 counties: Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Thurston, Wayne, Pierce, Antelope, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Washington, Dodge, Colfax, Platte, Boone, Nance, Merrick, Douglas, and Sarpy. This landscape region includes the majority of NDOR District 3, a small portion of NDOR District 4 and all of NDOR District 2



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Description – Region “A”

Environmental Components

- **Climate**

- Plant hardiness zone – This region is primarily within Zone 4b of the USDA Plant Materials Hardiness Zone Map with a range of annual minimum temperatures between -20 to -25 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Average annual days with maximum temperature 90° Fahrenheit or higher range from a high of 46 days in the southeast portion of the region to fewer than 39 days in the north.
- Annual precipitation – ranges from over 31 inches in the southeast to approximately 22 inches in the western edge of this region.

- **Landform** – Generally, rolling hills intersected by stream valleys, level to rolling plains in the central western area, transitioning to tablelands. Along the Missouri River, the terrain includes bluffs, river terraces, and floodplains.

- **General soil types** – Region “A” soils are primarily deep, well-drained loess over coarse glacial outwash. These silty soils are highly erodible. In the Missouri River Valley, soils can be silt, clay, sand or a combination of the three. As a result, some areas are poorly drained while others are well-drained. Steep bluffs rising from the river are highly erodible loess (silt). Along the Platte River, soils tend to be sands and/or silts and moderately to poorly drained depending on groundwater elevations.

- **Hydrology**

- Rivers and streams – Landscape Region “A” is bordered on the north and east by the Missouri River. This is the state’s largest river and borders with Iowa and South Dakota. The southeastern boundary of Region “A” shares the Platte River as a border with Landscape Region “B”.

The Missouri River between South Sioux City and the Gavin’s Point Dam is designated as a National Recreational River and part of the Wild and Scenic River system.



The Platte River is a mid-sized, shallow, braided river with sandbars common within the channel.

The Elkhorn River branches flow through the western part of this region from their origin in the Sandhills to the west. The Elkhorn River is a main tributary of the Platte River and maintains more consistent flows in dry years because of its underground source of water from the Sandhills origin.

Reduced flows and channelization have caused streams to become incised. The close proximity of agricultural fields to the rivers, streams, and wetlands has resulted in large volumes of sediment entering these areas.

- Wetlands – Wet meadows occur in the stream valleys where the water table remains near the surface throughout the year. The Willow Creek Prairies in Pierce, Madison, and Antelope Counties are such wetlands.

Wet meadows and marshes can occur in all river floodplains, however, most of the floodplains are now crop ground.

- **Plant Communities**

- Herbaceous– Tall grass prairie remnants occur on some of the bluff tops and west-facing slopes along the Missouri River area. These have been reduced and degraded by shrub and tree encroachment due to lack of wildfires. Upland tall grass prairie is dominated by big blue-stem, Indian grass,



switchgrass and Canada wild rye. Hundreds of species of wildflowers and other forbs contribute to a diverse plant composition. Examples of these include goldenrod, blazing star, sky blue aster and purple coneflower.

Wet meadows of the Willow Creek Prairies in Pierce, Madison, and Antelope Counties contain one of the largest populations of the threatened western prairie fringed orchid. These wet meadows are dominated by big bluestem and prairie cordgrass.

- Woody – The Missouri River bluffs in this region support eastern deciduous forest of bur oak, basswood, and iron wood. River floodplains are dominated by cottonwood, willows, boxelders, and elm. The largest intact deciduous forest in Nebraska lies within the Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations. Eastern red cedar is becoming invasive in some areas, especially prairie, pasture and rangeland areas. Control of seed-producing trees may be necessary in these areas.
- Invasive plants – Bromegrass, Canada thistle, leafy spurge and red cedar are examples of invasive species steadily encroaching on prairie remnants, pastures and the roadsides. Phragmites, tamarix, and Reed’s canarygrass are examples of the invasives threatening the stream and river courses, as well as wetlands.
- Protected plants – The following species are listed in this region as threatened or endangered by state and/or federal agencies:

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*)

American Ginseng (*Penax quinquefolium*)

Small White Lady’s Slipper Orchid (*Cypripedium candidum*)

- **Animals** – The following species are listed in this region as threatened or endangered by state and federal agencies:

River Otter (*Lutra canadensis*)
 Topeka Shiner (*Notropis topeka*)
 Sturgeon Chub
 (*Macrhybopsis gelida*)
 Lake Sturgeon
 (*Acipenser fulvescens*)
 Pallid Sturgeon
 (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)

Scaleshell Mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*)
 Higgins Eye Mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*)
 Interior Least Tern
 (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*)
 Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)
 Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*)
 Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

- **Biologically Unique Landscapes and Habitats** (as called out in the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project) – are areas of the state that have been identified as key habitats that offer the highest likelihood that they will persist over the long term. These areas were selected based on known occurrences of ecological communities and at-risk species and offer the best opportunity for conserving the full array of biological diversity in Nebraska. Disturbance to these areas should be minimized. Habitat preservation in the landscape design is highly desirable. Opportunities to enhance and restore critical habitat should be considered in these areas.

Listed here are the Biologically Unique Landscapes that occur in this landscape region:

Eastern portion of Verdigre-Bazile Watershed portions of Knox and Antelope Counties; Willow Creek Prairies – floodplain of Willow Creek primarily in Pierce County with small parts in Madison and Antelope County; Elkhorn Confluence – the area around the confluence of the North Fork and South Fork of the Elkhorn River in Stanton County; Ponca Bluffs – steep bluffs along the Missouri River in Dakota, Dixon, and Cedar Counties; Thurston-Dakota Bluffs – steep bluffs and floodplain of the Missouri River channel and floodplain from the confluence with the Platte River north to the Gavin’s Point Dam; Lower Loup Rivers – channels have many open sandbars and wooded islands. Possible nesting colonies of interior least tern and piping plover.

Sociological Components

- **Area history** – Once covered by tall grass prairie with scattered deciduous woodlands in protected valleys, the region is now primarily pasture and crop land agriculture. Land use changes were initiated by the settlement spurred by the Homestead Act.
- **Economic features** – Primarily agriculture with some scattered light manufacturing. The Omaha metropolitan area in the southeast portion of the region is the largest population area of the state and center of business and industry. Meat packing plants are an economic feature in the Norfolk and South Sioux City areas.
- **Land use/Ag type** – Predominantly crop land. Scattered livestock pasture and feedlots. Mostly dryland grown crops with limited irrigation. Farms continue to become fewer in number and larger. Increased rural residential development around major communities.



Federal land in this region includes: Desoto National Wild-life Refuge in Washington County along the Missouri River.

- **Major communities** – Omaha, Papillion, Bellevue, Fremont, Norfolk, South Sioux City, Columbus.

The Sovereign Nations of Santee, Winnebago, and Omaha Indian Reservations are in this region. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska maintains offices and services in this region.

- **Transportation**

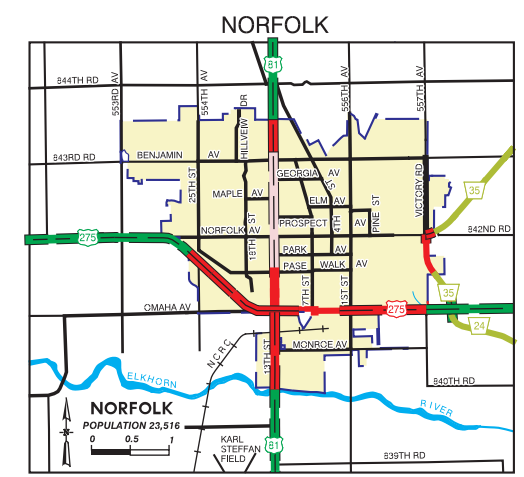
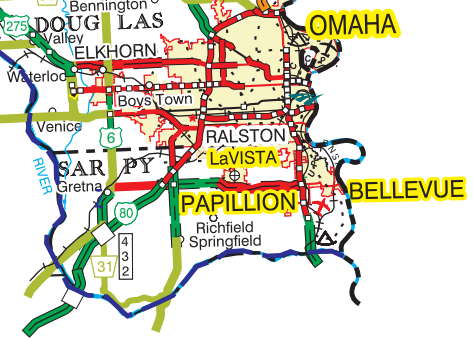
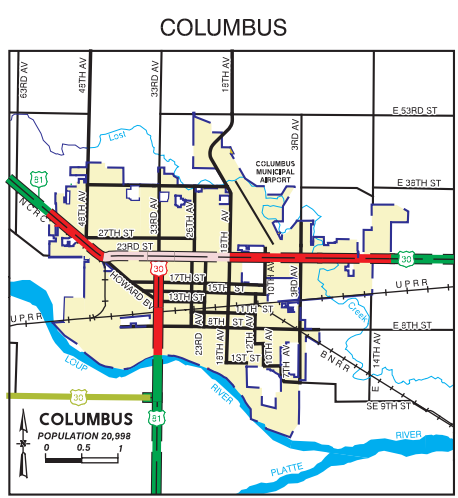
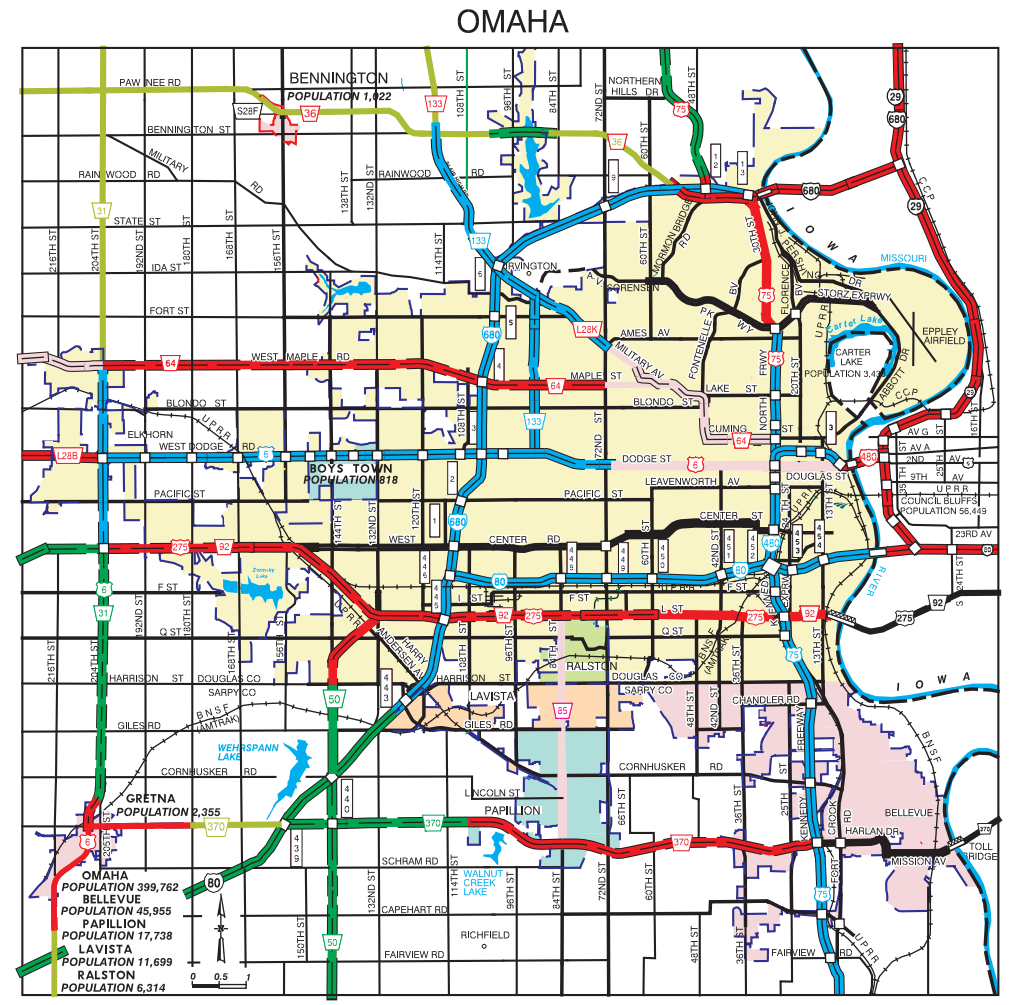
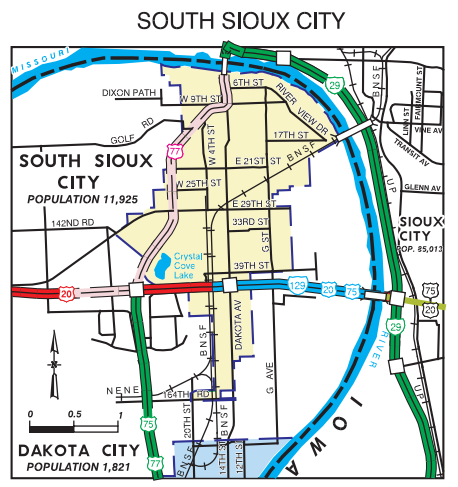
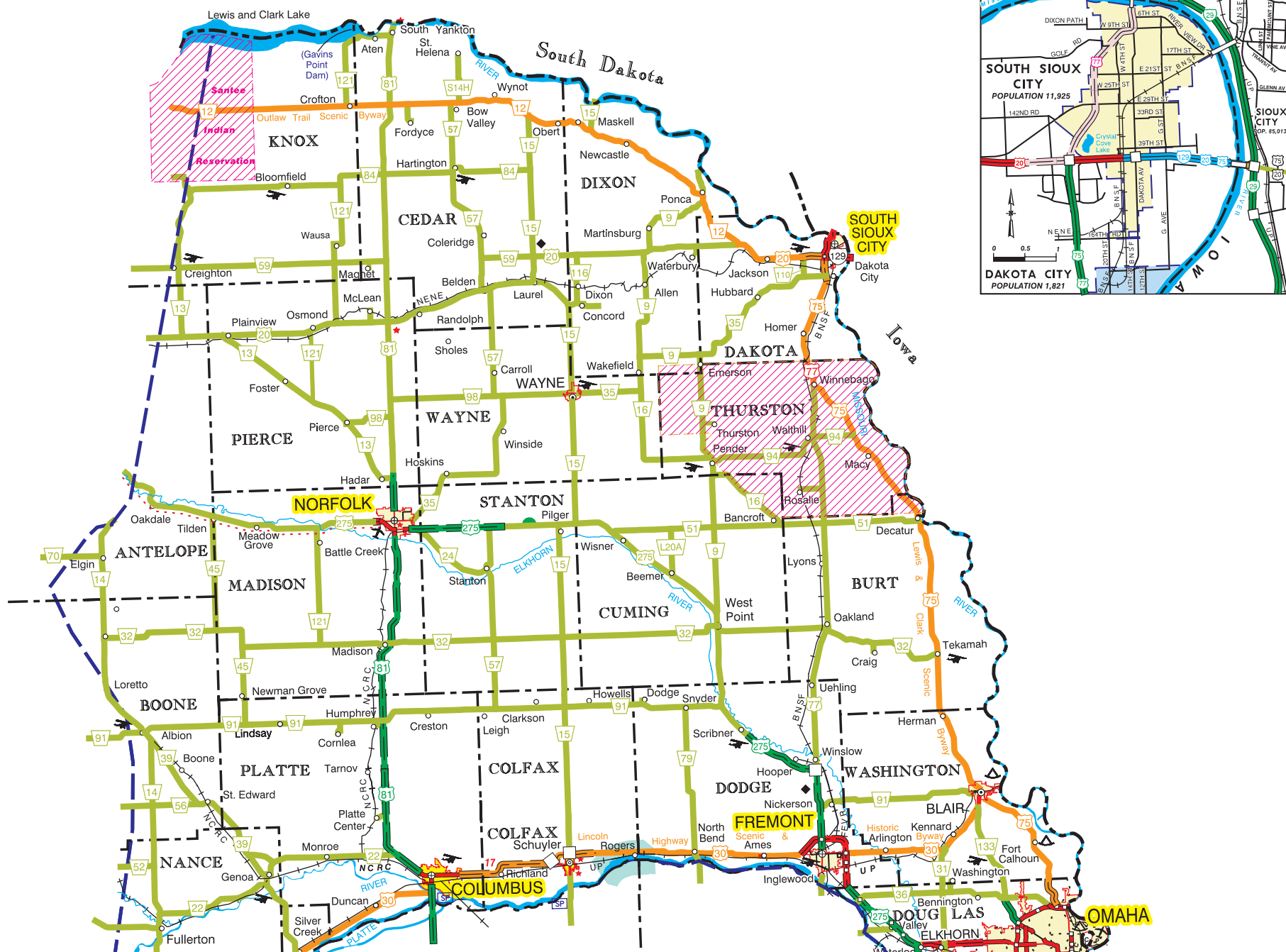
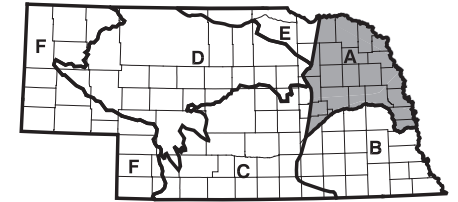
Major highways – include portions of: US-81, US-77, US-75, I-80, I-129, 480, and 680, US-275, US-20, N-12, US-30.

Railroads – Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Nebraska Central Railroad Company, Nebraska Northeastern Railway Company, Union Pacific Railroad.

Scenic highways – “Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway” N-12 from Valentine to South Sioux City. “Lewis and Clark Scenic Byway” – US-75 from South Sioux City to north I-680 near Omaha. “Lincoln Highway Scenic & Historic Byway” – US-30 across the state.

Bike routes – The Cowboy Trail from Norfolk going west through Region “D”, exiting the Region “A” at Neligh.

Landscape Region A Corridor Classification Map



- LEGEND**
- Metropolitan Corridor
 - Community Center Corridor
 - Community Edge Corridor
 - Rural Interstate/Expressway Corridor
 - Rural Highway Corridor
 - Scenic Corridor
 - - - Bike Trail
 - Railroad
 - - - Region Boundary



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Corridor Objectives – Landscape Region “A”

Metropolitan Corridor:

In Landscape Region “A”, this corridor is most prominent in the Omaha Area with another small segment in the South Sioux City area.

Wildlife habitat should not be added into this corridor type. However, in this landscape region, natural wildlife corridors cross through the metropolitan corridors. Adequate space for passage under the roadway right-of-way and directional or containment measures with appropriate plants or other techniques may be needed.

The volume of traffic in this corridor type can generate various pollutants. Future water quality regulations may require innovative design and careful plant selection to accomplish pollutant removal in effective and appropriate ways within the context of this corridor.

I-80 is a major tourist entry point into Nebraska in this region. This will influence the corridor to be welcoming, attractive and provide good awareness of signage for the unfamiliar drivers. Coordination with city offices and concerned groups on long range planning is necessary.

Community Edge and Center Corridors

The potential exists for future regulation of water quality of storm water runoff in these corridors. This may require innovative design and careful plant selection for pollutant removal in effective and appropriate ways to protect the diversity within these corridors.

The local governments often want to accent their community center areas to provide an identity to the motorist and a focus for the community. This is done under a permit to occupy the ROW.

Rural Interstate/Expressway Corridor

Within Landscape Region “A”, some portions of this corridor type are also a daily commuter route. Protecting surface and ground water is always a concern in areas crossing wildlife corridors and waterways. Maintaining good water quality will require innovative design and careful plant selection for pollutant removal that is both effective and appropriate to the landscape region.

Rural Highway Corridor

Much of the area adjacent to this corridor is crop ground. The highway corridor gains special importance for wildlife as a passage between habitats and secondarily as habitat itself. This use must be reviewed and taken into account in the landscape design in this landscape region. Selected plantings may be used to improve safer movement for species through these areas and keep them away from the roadways.

Scenic Corridor

Within Landscape Region “A”, there are three (3) designated scenic highways.

The overriding landscape objective in these corridors is to preserve the existing views and scenic qualities that brought rise to the scenic designation. All work within these corridors should be in context with the adjacent surroundings.

Screening of objectionable views needs to be strongly considered in this corridor type, along with the framing of special views.

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Typical Plant Species for Use in Landscape Region “A”

The listings to follow are recommendations of native species of plant material currently available for use in this landscape region. This list is expected to broaden as the demand for additional species increases in the future.

Shrubs

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> *	Saskatoon Serviceberry
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Redosier Dogwood
<i>Corylus americana</i>	Hazelnut
<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	Wahoo Euonymus
<i>Juniperus communis</i> *	Common Juniper
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American Plum
<i>Prunus besseyi</i> *	Western Sandcherry
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Common Chokecherry
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Skunkbush Sumac
<i>Riloes aureum</i>	Golden Currant
<i>Ribes odoratum</i>	Clove Currant
<i>Rosa arkansas</i>	Arkansas Rose
<i>Rosa woodsii</i> *	Woods Rose
<i>Salix exigua</i>	Sandbar Willow
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry
<i>Shepherdia argentea</i> *	Silver Buffaloberry
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Common Snowberry
<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	Western Snowberry
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Coralberry
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry Viburnum

Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Northern Catalpa
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
<i>Cercis canadensis (limited use)</i>	Eastern Redbud
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos (limited use)</i>	Honey Locust
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut
<i>Malus ionensis</i>	Prairie Crabapple
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Eastern Hop Hornbean
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> *	Ponderosa Pine
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	American Sycamore
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern Cottonwood

*Used in northwest portion of Landscape Region “A”

Trees (Continued)

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak
<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>	Chinkapin Oak
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak
<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Peach Leaf Willow
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Linden
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm

Grasses

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats Grama
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Grama
<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>	Hairy Grama
<i>Buckloe dactyloides</i>	Buffalograss
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Bluejoint
<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>	Prairie Sandreed
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada Wildrye
<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	Slender Wheatgrass
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wildrye
<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i>	Sand Lovegrass
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Prairie Junegrass
<i>Nassella viridula</i>	Green Needlegrass
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass
<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	Western Wheatgrass
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie Cordgrass
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed

Sedges

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Carex brevior</i>	Fescue Sedge
<i>Carex gravida</i>	Heavy Sedge

Legumes

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Leadplant
<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>	Canadian Milkvetch
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge Pea
<i>Dalea candida</i>	White Prairie Clover
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple Prairie Clover
<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>	Illinois Bundleflower
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Roundhead Lespedeza



Wildflowers

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada Anemone
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed
<i>Aster ericoides</i>	White Heath Aster
<i>Aster laevis</i>	Smooth Blue Aster
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Purple Poppy Mallow
<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	Rocky Mountain Bee Plant
<i>Ceanothus americanus/herbaceus</i>	New Jersey Tea
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	Black Samson
<i>Erysimum asperum</i>	Western Wallflower
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Indian Blanket Flower
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	Maximilian Sunflower
<i>Helianthus pauciflorus</i>	Stiff Sunflower
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	False Sunflower
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough Gayfeather
<i>Liatris lancifolia</i>	Lanceleaf Blazing Star
<i>Liatris punctata</i>	Dotted Blazing Star
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Thickspike Gayfeather
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Blue Flax
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot
<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>	Stiff Goldenrod
<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i>	Shell-leaf Penstemon
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Prairie Phlox
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Upright Prairie Coneflower
<i>Ratibida columnifera, red</i>	Mexican Red Hat
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Grayhead Coneflower
<i>Rosa arkansana</i>	Prairie Rose
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Redbeckia faciniata</i>	Golden Glow
<i>Senecio plattensis</i>	Prairie Ragwort
<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	Rosinweed
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Compass Plant
<i>Solidago missouriensis</i>	Missouri Goldenrod
<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	Scarlet Globemallow
<i>Tradescantia bracteata</i>	Longbract Spiderwort
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain

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Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the “Nebraska Natural Legacy Project – A Wildlife Conservation Strategy” (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, August 2005) as being a major influence on this publication.

