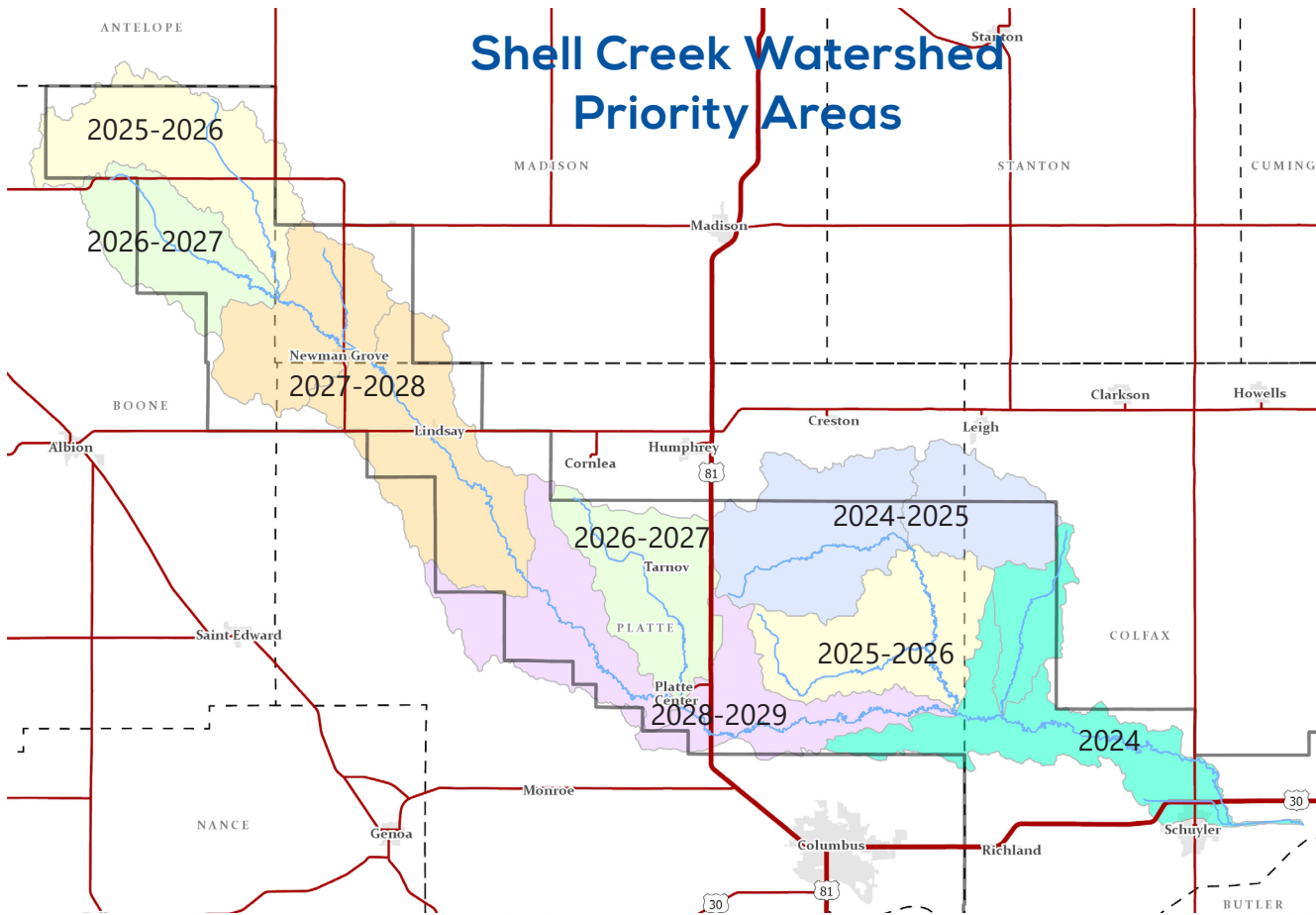
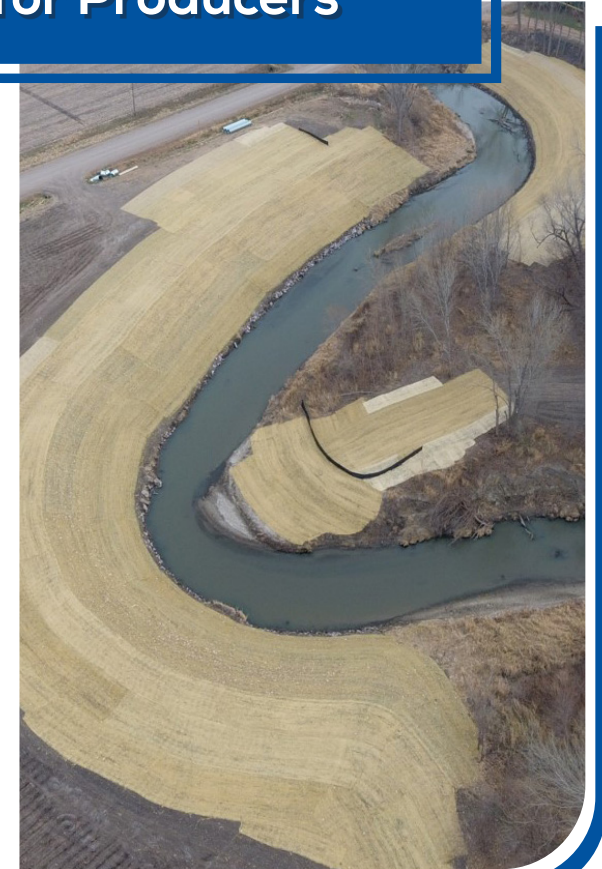


# Shell Creek Watershed Priority Areas



## Shell Creek Watershed Cost- Share Programs for Producers



The Shell Creek flows 110 miles through 5 different counties in Nebraska, and drains nearly 305,000 acres of surrounding farmland.

Local conservation management practices are key in improving the water quality in the Shell Creek Watershed.

**240+** producers have participated in conservation efforts in the watershed.

**340+** conservation management practices have been implemented.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact us:

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November 2024



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The Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group (SCWIG) was established in 1999 as a locally-led cadre of producers, residents, non-governmental organizations, as well as, state and federal agencies with the purpose of addressing the multi-faceted impairments of Shell Creek. The watershed experienced numerous damaging flood events and had multiple water quality concerns, including *E. coli* and atrazine impairments.

Over the past 25 years SCWIG, and its partners, have implemented over \$3.7 million in conservation practices to enhance water quality and mitigate flood damage.

## Grant Funds Available

SCWIG has secured grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) and the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) to assist with implementing water quality beneficial practices including livestock practices, row crop practices, structural practices, and homeowner practices.

Several of the more common livestock and row crop practices are further described.

**Contact** Lower Platte North Natural Resources District at 402-443-4675 for eligibility and additional information.



## Livestock Water Supply

Designed to provide an alternative to watering animals directly from streams, rivers, and lakes. This decreases soil erosion and helps maintain stable stream banks when a stream side filter is re-established. Typically, a new well, pump, and solar power are utilized and/or cross fencing. Cost-share up to 75% is offered in priority areas.

## Cover Crops

Cover crops are an important tool for promoting healthy soils and trapping pollutants. They absorb excess nutrients after crops are harvested and prevent erosion while the field would otherwise be fallow. Cost-share of \$30 per acre is available in priority areas.

## Filter/Buffer Strips

Grass filter strips, or vegetated buffers, are planted between fields and surface waters. Vegetated buffers along streams and vegetated filter strips in uplands can significantly reduce sediment, organics, nutrients, pesticides, pathogens, and other contaminants in runoff water. Cost-share up to 100% is available throughout the entire watershed along with annual payments through the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program.



## Grassed Waterways

Vegetated channels through fields that provide a means for concentrated flows to drain from a field without causing erosion. Grassed waterways are commonly used to convey runoff from terraces and diversions, and are most needed when concentrated flows occur. Cost-share up to 75% is available throughout the entire watershed.

## Well Decommissioning

Abandoned wells are a safety concern and a potential conduit for pollutants to directly enter the aquifer. Cost-share of up to 100% is available throughout the entire watershed.



## Terrace and Underground Outlet

Built across the slope of a field to intercept and store surface runoff, trapping sediments and pollutants. Cost-share up to 75% is available in priority areas in combination with a supporting practice such as cover crops, grassed waterway, no-till, etc.

## Grade Control Structures

Earthen, wooden, concrete, or other structure built within a channel to prevent erosion while improving water quality and habitat conditions. Cost-share up to 75% is available in priority areas in combination with a supporting practice such as exclusion fencing, no till, cover crops, etc.

## Lands for Conservation

Provides a land rental payment to set aside the footprint of the construction area in order to extend the construction season. The land must have adequate pre-construction cover to prevent erosion and must be planted to a cover crop post construction. Cost-share is based on currently published UNL average cash rental rates.