

Geography and Topography of Omaha NE



Geography and Topography of Omaha, NE

Omaha, Nebraska, is a city characterized by its diverse topography, which includes rolling hills, river valleys, and flat plains. This variety in elevation and terrain contributes to the city's unique landscape and affects various aspects of life, from urban development to recreational activities. Here's a detailed look at the geography and topography of Omaha:

Location and Elevation

Omaha is situated in Douglas County in the eastern part of Nebraska, near the Iowa border. The city's geographic coordinates are approximately 41.2586°N latitude and -95.9378°W longitude. The elevation in Omaha varies significantly, with the average elevation being around 1,112 feet above sea level. The lowest point in the city is at 955 feet, and the highest point reaches up to 1,355 feet.

Terrain and Topographic Features

The terrain of Omaha includes a mix of flat and hilly areas, which is reflected in its diverse topography. The city's landscape is shaped by its proximity to the Missouri River, which forms its eastern boundary. This river valley contributes

to the flat areas in the eastern parts of the city, while the western parts are more characterized by rolling hills.

Notable topographic features in Omaha include:

- Boys Town: An area with an average elevation of 1,204 feet, representing one of the higher points in the city.
- Memorial Park: Another elevated area with an average elevation of 1,161 feet, offering scenic views and recreational opportunities.
- Devil's Slide: A notable terrain feature in Omaha with an average elevation of 1,063 feet, adding to the city's diverse landscape.

Water Bodies and Hydrography

The Missouri River is the most significant water body near Omaha, playing a crucial role in the city's geography and economy. Additionally, several lakes and smaller rivers contribute to the hydrographic network of the area, providing recreational opportunities and supporting local ecosystems.

Impact on Urban Development and Recreation

Omaha's varied topography has influenced urban development, with residential and commercial areas adapting to the city's hills and flatlands. The elevation changes and natural features have also allowed for a variety of outdoor recreational activities, such as hiking in the hilly areas or enjoying water sports on the Missouri River and local lakes.

Environmental Considerations

The geography and topography of Omaha also pose certain environmental considerations, such as flood risks in the lower-lying areas near the Missouri River. Efforts to manage these risks include floodplain management and the development of green spaces that can absorb excess water.

Major Rivers and Bodies of Water in Omaha, NE

Omaha, Nebraska, is situated near several significant rivers and bodies of water that play a crucial role in the region's ecosystem, economy, and recreational opportunities. The most prominent of these is the Missouri River, which is the largest river in the basin and provides a wide range of ecosystem goods and services. All rivers in Nebraska, including those near Omaha, eventually empty into the Missouri River.

Missouri River

The Missouri River forms Omaha's eastern boundary and is a vital waterway for the city and the surrounding region. It offers recreational opportunities such as fishing, boating, and scenic views. The river has been significantly altered over time, but efforts are underway to restore habitats lost due to channelization and bank stabilization. Approximately 522,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat were lost, with Congress authorizing the restoration of 166,000 acres. To date, about 66,000 acres have been acquired from willing sellers for restoration purposes.

Platte River

Another important river near Omaha is the Platte River, which brings water from the South Platte (originating in Colorado) and the North Platte (originating in Wyoming) into Nebraska before flowing across the state. The Platte River is heavily developed, and there is a concerted effort among the states of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska, along with federal, state, and local entities, to ensure the sustainability of the river through the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. The Central Platte Natural Resource District and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission have obtained instream flows for fish and wildlife, highlighting the importance of protecting Platte River flows not only for ecological reasons but also for the well-being of citizens living along its course.

Elkhorn River

The Elkhorn River, a significant tributary of the Platte River, also plays a crucial role in the Omaha area. It originates in the eastern Sandhills near Bassett, Nebraska, and flows for approximately 290 miles before joining the Platte River west of Gretna, Nebraska. The Elkhorn River serves as a popular recreational site for activities such as boating and fishing. It has an average discharge of 1,523 cubic feet per second at its confluence with the Platte River.

Lakes and Recreation Areas

In addition to these rivers, Omaha and the surrounding region offer several lakes and recreation areas, such as Zorinsky Lake and Recreation Area. These bodies of water provide additional opportunities for outdoor activities, including fishing, boating, and hiking.

In summary, the Missouri River, Platte River, and Elkhorn River are the major rivers influencing Omaha's geography and providing a range of ecosystem services and recreational opportunities. Efforts to manage and restore these waterways are crucial for maintaining their ecological health and the quality of life for Omaha's residents and visitors.

Company Description

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Modern Vision Solutions

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Google Site: <https://sites.google.com/view/mvsvision/eye-exams-omaha>

Google Folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13mxUx7Kglqc22y7FEXs6NIQE9ZC4Vm1s?usp=drive_open

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