

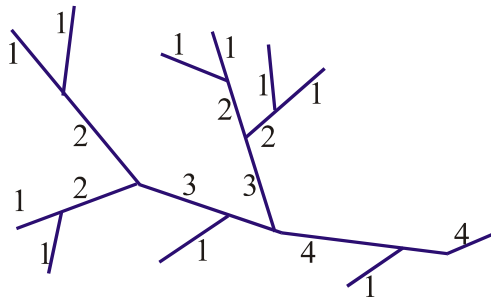
Section 5.0 Water Resources

Section 5.1 Waterways of the La Salle River Watershed (Source: La Salle Redboine Conservation District)

The channel of the La Salle River was carved in centuries past by the erratic flows of the Assiniboine River. In its wake the Assiniboine left a large defined channel with wide gentle meanders and fertile soils. The watershed is also characterized by a number of natural creek tributaries and artificial man made drains.

To better understand waterway development within a watershed, several classification systems have been developed. These classification systems allow cross watershed comparison of streams and an improved understanding of stream size (magnitude). A commonly used classification in Manitoba is the Strahler System. Waterways in the headwaters are assigned an order of magnitude of 1. When two order 1 streams merge they become an order 2. When two order 2 streams merge they become a 3rd order stream; and so on (Environmental Hydrology, 2004 in Manitoba Soil Management Guide, 2006). There are 1,885 km of classified waterways in the La Salle River Watershed.

Example of stream classification using the Strahler System:



This table contains a summary of classified waterways in the La Salle River Watershed¹ by order of magnitude according to the Strahler Classification System:

Order of Magnitude	Total Length in Watershed
1	655 km or 409 miles
2	685 km or 428 miles
3	324 km or 203 miles
4	115 km or 72 miles
5	106 km or 66 miles

Order of magnitude at various points in the watershed:

- Elie Dam @ Elie - Order 5
- Elm Creek Channel @ Outlet to La Salle - Order 5
- Elm Creek @ Elm Creek Town Site - Order 3
- La Salle River @ Mouth to Red River - Order 5

¹ For more information about order of magnitude refer to *Sections 5.1.1 – 5.1.6* of State of the Watershed Report.