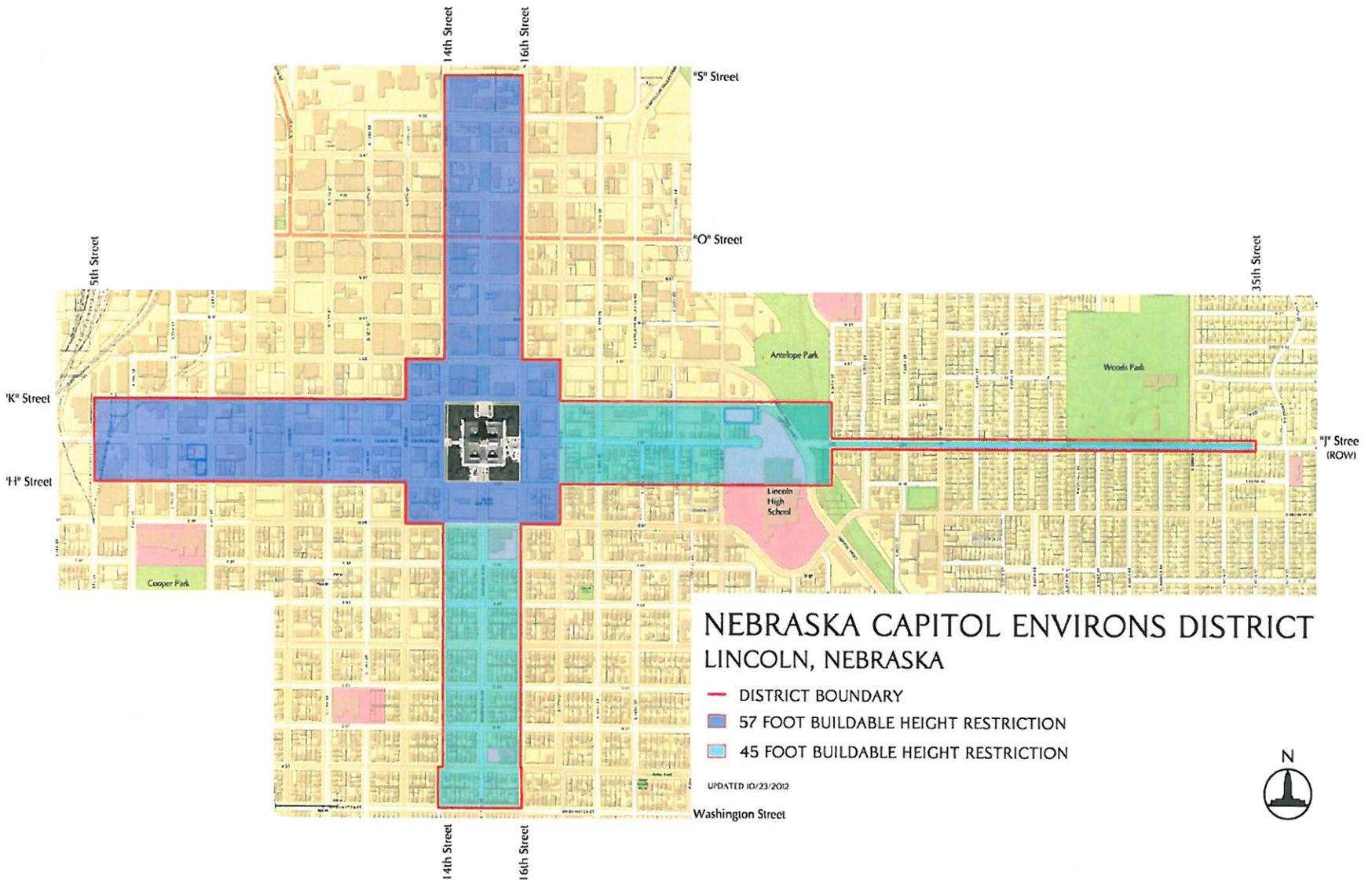


# Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission - Annual Report 2014



The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission was established in 1988 to strengthen existing protections for the setting of Nebraska's landmark State Capitol. Commission membership of seven citizen volunteers includes five members appointed by the City of Lincoln and two appointed by the State of Nebraska.

The Commission's appointed membership in 2014 remained unchanged, namely Jeff Searcy continuing as chair, Christine Dionisopoulos, John Kay, Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, Cecil Steward, and Jon Weinberg. The seven appointed citizen members are assisted by three *ex officio* members--Bob Ripley of the Office of the Capitol Commission (for the State of

Nebraska), the director of Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department (Marvin Krout, until his demise in December, succeeded by David Cary, acting director), and Lynn Johnson (director, Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department). Staffing is provided by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department.

The Commission is required to meet at least quarterly by Section 27.56.060 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. The Commission met ten times—in January, February, March, April, June, July, August, September, October, and the annual joint meeting with the Capitol Commission on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Nebraska's Centennial Mall (Centennial Mall, K Street to R Street)***

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Continued, substantial progress on rebuilding Nebraska's Centennial Mall was 2014's banner project in the Capitol Environs. The complicated process of rebuilding the intersections of the Mall and the east-west streets, while maintaining east-west traffic, has been accomplished at most of the intersections and substantial construction has begun on the K-L and L-M park blocks.

The north blocks (P-Q and Q-R) are scheduled for construction in 2015, with substantial completion expected by the end of that year, with some planting occurring in 2016.

A fruitful conversation was held with Public Works Dept. staff regarding the traffic signal arms that extend into vistas to the Capitol. A mutually acceptable concept was developed to improve visual corridor at a modest overall cost and funds are being sought to accomplish the proposal.

The Commission reviewed inscriptions for the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway and formed an editorial committee to assist with that detailed process. Several dozen inscriptions have been approved, with many more in process honoring a broad spectrum of Nebraska people and organizations. The approved inscriptions are attached as an appendix.

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## ***1220 Lincoln Mall Building***

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Farmers Mutual Insurance Company followed up completion of its handsome new headquarters at South 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Mall with a plans to renovate the former headquarters at 1220 Lincoln Mall, which the Commission readily approved. The renovation includes windows in the formerly windowless east façade, providing outstanding Capitol views. The construction is now underway.



*Approved Design  
from Northwest*



*Approved Design  
from East*

### ***III Landmark Centre (Lincoln Mall, 11<sup>th</sup> Street to 12<sup>th</sup> Street)***

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Construction also continues on III Landmark Center, directly west of the Farmers Mutual Block. As promised, III Landmark Centre is similar in materials and overall design with I Landmark

Centre west of it, across 11<sup>th</sup> Street, but includes structured parking on the north half of the block, rather than surface parking.

### ***Nebraska History Museum Renovation***

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In May, June and August, the Commission reviewed exterior changes to the Nebraska History Museum of the Nebraska State Historical Society, located at Centennial Mall and P Street. The project will include major improvements to the

interior and mechanical systems, and also will create a welcoming new entry on Centennial Mall and an attractive new sign package.



*Approved Design  
from East*

## ***Residential Rehabilitations***

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In addition to the office projects more commonly seen in the Lincoln Mall and Centennial Mall areas of the Environs District, the Commission reviewed and approved two significant rehabilitation projects of existing downtown residential structures. Early in the year, the Commission reviewed a welcome and thorough rehabilitation apartments at 1421 P Street, adjacent to the west of the Museum of Nebraska History. That project is nearing completion. The Commission also reviewed and approved a redevelopment project for the President and the Ambassador apartments adjacent Capitol Square on Lincoln Mall. Largely an interior upgrade, the project will include restoration of the Art Deco canopy now missing from the east entrance of the President, as well as improving the courtyard between the buildings and the west alley adjacent to the Ambassador, benefitting Lincoln Mall.

The Commission recommended approval of a zoning application from representatives of Century House at 1201 Lincoln Mall to remove an obstacle to converting the second floor of that building from office space back to its original use as apartments. The proposed change would require the same parking standards in Capitol Environs as in the

underlying zoning districts. Planning Commission concurred with the Environs Commission by a unanimous vote on November 12, 2014 and the City Council adopted the proposal in December.

Maintaining a variety of good quality housing units throughout the Environs District is among the goals of the Environs Commission.



*President  
&  
Ambassador  
Courtyard  
Proposal*

## ***Goodhue Boulevard Monument***

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Near South Neighborhood Association proposed in September install a “precinct marker” or area monument near the A Street end of Goodhue Boulevard, identifying the neighborhood and celebrating Bertram Grosvner Goodhue’s contribution to

Lincoln and to Nebraska. The overall concept was well received, with a spirited discussion of the optimal placement for the monument. The Association plans to return to the Commission in 2015 for further review and hopefully, approval.



*Goodhue  
Monument  
concept*

*Respectfully submitted January 16, 2015  
Ed Zimmer, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department*

Icon: Scales

Assurity Life Insurance Company

Lincoln

Assurity Life has served Nebraskans since the late 1800s with a core purpose of helping people through difficult times. The company believes in community involvement by investing in the state's quality of life.

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Icon: Scales

Dwight Palmer Griswold

Harrison and Gordon

Banker, publisher, soldier, Nebraska Governor 1941-1947, U.S. Senate 1953-1954, chief of American Mission for Aid to Greece. Active in civic affairs including Nebraska Press Association, American Legion, Masons, Shriners, his church and fraternity.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Scales

George W. Norris

Beatrice, Beaver City and McCook

U.S. House of Representatives 1903-1913, U.S. Senate 1913-1943. Initiated reform of House rules, anti-injunction labor law, TVA, rural electrification and 20th amendment to U.S. Constitution. Father of the nonpartisan Nebraska Unicameral Legislature.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Scales

Gilbert M. Hitchcock

Omaha

Attorney, newspaperman and politician. U.S. House of Representatives 1903-1905, 1907-1911; U.S. Senate 1911-1923. Advocate for League of Nations and Treaty of Versailles, Federal Reserve Act and income tax. *Omaha World-Herald* founder.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Thunderbird

Glenn Korff

Hebron

Treasured our celebrated State Capitol and ensured the Mall would welcome all to share in its splendor. "I am very grateful to have the opportunity to make this gift. The renovation will benefit the state, city and university for generations to come."

Icon: Thunderbird

Grace Abbott

Grand Island

Teacher, social worker, social reformer, author, policymaker. Began internationally recognized career at Hull House in 1907. Pioneered social legislation and was a courageous and effective champion for women and children.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Wheat

J. Sterling Morton

Nebraska City

Editor, farmer, legislator and Nebraska territorial secretary.  
Founded Arbor Day in 1872. "Other holidays  
repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future."  
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture 1893-1897.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Scales

John J. Pershing

Lincoln

Soldier, founder of Pershing Rifles, military science instructor  
at UNL and West Point. Served in Indian Wars, Cuba, Philippines,  
Mexico and France. Commanded U.S. forces in World War I.  
General of the Armies of the U.S. 1919. Won Pulitzer Prize 1932.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Scales

Chief Justice William Hastings

Newman Grove

Served 30 years as District and Nebraska Supreme Court  
Justice. Chief Justice 1987-1995. Advocated establishing  
Nebraska Court of Appeals. Committed to equal justice  
for all and to racial and gender fairness in the courts.

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Icon: Scales

Nathan J. Gold

Lincoln

Businessman, soldier, civic leader, philanthropist. President of Golds and Company department store 1936-1964. Active in national retail associations, Lincoln Community Foundation, Malone Center and Nebraska State Historical Society.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Scales

Nebraska Medal of Honor Recipients

In 1969 the Nebraska Legislature recognized Medal of Honor recipients for induction into the Nebraska Hall of Fame, saluting all who have received the highest military honor awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Wheat

Robert W. Furnas

Brownville

Newspaperman, soldier, historian, agriculturist and Nebraska Governor 1873-1875. *Nebraska Farmer* publisher, early leader of Nebraska State Historical Society and Nebraska Teachers Association. Key supporter for the founding of Arbor Day.  
Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Scales

Abraham Lincoln

U. S. President 1861-1865. Issued Emancipation Proclamation 1863. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Address of 1865, said, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."

Honored by Cornhusker Bank

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Icon: Scales

Lincoln in Nebraska

Nebraska's capital city is his namesake. President Lincoln was memorialized on the Capitol grounds in 1912 with a statue by Daniel Chester French in a plaza by Henry Bacon. They were also sculptor and architect of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Honored by Cornhusker Bank

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Icon: Scales

William Jennings Bryan

Lincoln

Called "The Great Commoner." Progressive leader, U.S. Congressman, three-time Democratic Party presidential nominee. U.S. Secretary of State 1913-1915. Orator, religious leader, author. Cross of Gold speech 1896. Scopes Trial 1925.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Wheat

Arthur Weimar Thompson

Bradshaw, York and Lincoln

Called by *TIME* magazine the “dean of U.S. cattle auctioneers” and recognized as the leading purebred livestock auctioneer in the United States and Canada, Colonel Thompson cried over 7,500 sales and set numerous records in his 46-year career from 1908 to 1954.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Corn

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway

BNSF is the product of nearly 400 different railroads dating as far back as 1849. BNSF is a critical link that connects consumers with the global marketplace. BNSF plays a vital role in the Nebraska and national economy.

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Icon: Bison

Chimney Rock

Among the most famous landmarks of the Oregon-California Trail, Chimney Rock was witnessed by over half a million westbound emigrants in the years 1841-1866. A national historic site.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Bison

Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska

Lincoln

Founded in 1891 by local farmers to insure Nebraska farms, Farmers Mutual has grown to be the largest insurer of farm property in Nebraska. Farmers Mutual proudly serves the state's agricultural industry. It is a Nebraska company for Nebraskans.

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Icon: Corn

Meeting Nebraska's Evolving Insurance Needs

Farmers Mutual has grown with the state of Nebraska. In 1926, 35 years after its founding, the company expanded its coverage of farms to include town dwellings as the urban population began to grow. Automobile coverage was introduced in 1963.

Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska

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Icon: Wheat

Fire Equipment Legislation

Farmers Mutual led the development of Nebraska's rural fire prevention program. In 1945, the company promoted a bill to allow Farmers Mutual to lend up to 20% of its surplus to volunteer fire districts at low interest rates to buy modern fire equipment.

Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska

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Icon: Bison

#### Rural Fire Prevention

In 1945, there were only 53 fire trucks in the entire state to respond to a rural fire. Seven years later there were 170. This reduced fire insurance rates 30% during that time. Farmers Mutual continues to financially support rural fire districts today.

Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska

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Icon: Corn

#### A Commitment to the Future

Strength, stability and service are the core values of the company. Farmers Mutual has proudly served the insurance needs of Nebraska since 1891 and looks forward to continuing this commitment for many generations to come.

Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska

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Icon: Bison

J. Michael Jess

David City

Steward of Nebraska's  
water resources

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Icon: Wheat

Jagels Farm and Ranch

Davenport

A diversified farming operation, Jagels Farm and Ranch began as homesteaded land in 1883. Each generation contributes to agriculture, aspiring to improve the farm for future generations. Faith, family and farming are the cornerstones of their heritage.

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Icon: Bison

Missouri River

The longest river in North America forms Nebraska's eastern boundary. A critical resource for indigenous cultures, early explorers, pioneers, western expansion, agriculture and commerce. It supports a wide range of unique plant and animal species.

Honored by the Larry and Mary Arth Family

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Icon: Corn

The History of Corn

Corn has been grown in Nebraska for centuries. Native Americans and early pioneers left a legacy that lives on in Nebraska's homegrown gold. Corn farmers' innovations foster the livestock, biofuels and value-added industries.

The Nebraska Corn Board

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Icon: Corn

Corn For The Future

Nebraska's corn farmers look to the future with vision, investing in diverse new uses for corn. Corn is a sustainable crop used for feed, fuel, food and fiber, with major roles in our economy and in feeding the world.

The Nebraska Corn Board

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Icon: Bison

Nebraska Environmental Trust

Established in 1992 to conserve, enhance and restore the natural environment of Nebraska. Created on the conviction that a prosperous future is dependent upon a sound natural environment, the Trust supported and ensured sustainability for Centennial Mall.

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Icon: Wheat

Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation

Established in 1917, Farm Bureau believes in "Strong Agriculture . . . Strong Nebraska".  
A trusted voice for Nebraska farm and ranch families.  
Proud to salute agriculture as Nebraska's primary industry.

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Icon: Bison

Ogallala Aquifer

One of the world's largest aquifers spanning eight states and the most important source of water on the High Plains. Provides water for nearly all residential, industrial and agricultural uses. Critical resource for Nebraska farmers and ranchers.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Bison

Platte River

The Platte River, often described as "a mile wide and an inch deep," was key to westward exploration. French explorers called the Platte region *Nebraskier*, derived from Otoe tribal language referring to the Platte River as "flat water."

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Bison

Prairie – A Sea of Grass

Nebraska's native landscape shifts from tallgrass in the east to short grass and mixed grass prairies in the west. Grazing bison, climate and fire shaped the grass-dominated ecosystems. Remnant tallgrass prairie is the most endangered North American landscape.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Bison

Sandhills

Covering over one quarter of the state and a National Natural Landmark, the Sandhills is the largest sand dune formation in the Western Hemisphere. In the 1870s, it was found to be excellent cattle country and continues to be a top-producing beef region.

Honored by the Winnett Trust

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Icon: Bison

The Ludemann Ranch

Naper

Founded in 1908 on the Nebraska/Dakota border north of Naper, the Ludemann Ranch remained in the family for over 100 years. It is a tribute to the lives of Reo and Marguerite Ludemann and the proud traditions of ranching in the state of Nebraska.

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Icon: Corn

Union Pacific Railroad

Omaha

In 1862, President Lincoln created Union Pacific by signing the Pacific Railway Act. Union Pacific has called Nebraska home ever since. As America's premier railroad, Union Pacific delivers the nation's freight, linking Nebraska with a global economy.

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Icon: Thunderbird

Standing Bear

*Ma-Chu-Na-Zha*

Standing Bear was a Ponca chief who became a key figure as the first Native American to fight for civil rights. He successfully argued in an 1879 U.S. District Court case in Omaha that Native Americans were "persons within the meaning of the law."

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Icon: Thunderbird

Red Cloud

*Mahpiya Luta*

Born near North Platte, Nebraska in 1822, Red Cloud was a respected Oglala Lakota chief who fought against U.S. westward expansion. Later he sought to ease his people's transition from the freedom of the Plains to the confinement of reservation life.

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Icon: Thunderbird

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

*U-Mo'n-Ho'n (Against the Current)*

The Omaha were influential farmers, hunters and fur traders on the upper Missouri. Their *Hethuska* (warrior) society's dances contributed to the foundation of all modern pow-wows. Today, their tribal headquarters are located in northeast Nebraska.

Honored by Charles and Suzanne Wright

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Icon: Thunderbird

Osni Ponca, LLC

Primary economic development  
vehicle for the Ponca Tribe  
of Nebraska, benefiting the  
tribe and its members.

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Icon: Thunderbird

Otoe Missouria

*Jiwere jee/Nutachi*

The Otoes lived in southeastern Nebraska from the early 1700s. Their Missouria relatives joined them in 1810. In 1876, the U.S. government forced them to sell a portion of their Nebraska reservation, and in 1881 they were removed to Red Rock, Oklahoma.

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Icon: Thunderbird

Pawnee Tribe

*Chaticks si Chaticks* (The Men Among Men)

The four confederated Pawnee bands have a proud history dating back over 700 years. They lived in Nebraska along the Platte and Loup River valleys for centuries until U.S. expansion forced them to move to Indian Territory in Oklahoma in 1873-75.

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Icon: Thunderbird

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

*Osni Ponka* (Cold Ponka)

One of four remaining tribes still headquartered in Nebraska, the homeland of the Ponca is near the mouth of the Niobrara River. Following termination of their tribe in 1966, the Ponca fought for and were restored as a federally recognized tribe in 1990.

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Icon: Thunderbird

Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska

*Isanti Dakota*

Considered "guardians of the eastern frontier of the Great Sioux Nation," this tribe once inhabited the woodlands of Minnesota. Forcibly relocated throughout the Plains in the 1860s, they were moved to a reservation in northeast Nebraska in 1866.

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Honored by Mike Hemmer and Lori Raphael

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Icon: Thunderbird

Standing Bear Trail

The trail follows the Ponca tribe's forced relocation to Indian Territory in 1877, and their return to Nebraska in 1879 led by Chief Standing Bear who sought to fulfill a promise to bury his son in their traditional homelands near Niobrara, Nebraska.

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Icon: Thunderbird

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

*Ho Chunk* (People of the Big Voice)

The Winnebagos originated in what is now Wisconsin. After many forced removals, many *Ho-Chunks* were relocated in 1865 to a reservation in northeast Nebraska. The *Ho-Chunks* are well known for their long standing pow-wow honoring Chief Little Priest.

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