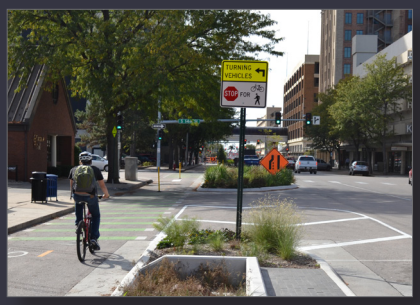
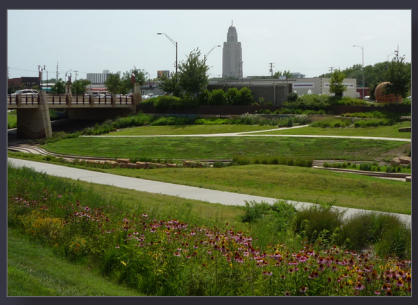
2017

Lincoln/Lancaster County
Community Indicators Report





April 2017

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Introduction

Introduction

This Report marks a continuing effort in data collection for key community indicators outlined in the Lincoln-Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan, LPlan2040. The Report is designed to evaluate and monitor changes in the community, and assess whether the assumptions in the Comprehensive Plan are valid and its goals are being achieved.

The Comprehensive Plan is based upon an understanding of current conditions as well as assumptions about the future. The fact that change is inevitable underscores the importance of developing a comprehensive monitoring approach that will allow the Comprehensive Plan to remain relevant in an environment of community change.

A 5-year minor update to LPlan 2040 was completed throughout 2016 and approved in December 2016. The update process affirmed the major assumptions of the Plan and updated other information. Updated information from the LPlan 2040 update has been incorporated into the 2017 Community Indicators Report.

What are Community Indicators?

Community indicators are bits of information that, when combined, generate a picture of what is happening in a local system. They provide insight into the overall direction of a community: whether it is improving, declining, or staying the same, or is some mix of all three.

A combination of indicators can therefore provide a measuring system to provide information about past trends, current realities, and insight into future directions in order to aid decision making. In this sense, community indicators can also be thought of as grades on a report card that rate community well-being and progress.

Indicators themselves do not provide a model of how a community works or how to determine planning choices; rather, they provide information that can be used by citizens, policy makers, government agencies, the media, businesses, community activists and others when faced with decisions about the community. Indicators are a tool for helping us understand ourselves as a community.

As stated in the Plan, no conclusion can be made or trends determined through the analysis of a single year's information. For some indicators, there continues to be limited information currently available to monitor progress. The Planning Department strives to provide the best data available for the indicators to track the Comprehensive Plan's policies adopted in 2011. On an annual basis, the Planning Department will revise and, if necessary, correct and adjust data when new and better sources or updates become available. It is hoped that these indicators can be supplemented with additional information and evaluation.

Using this Report

The Community Indicators Report includes measures of many Benchmark areas and includes data on thirty-six (36) different Indicators. A Benchmark is identified along with the Indicator and is shown in the left corner of the top bar. The Benchmark is a measurable goal or target identified in the Comprehensive Plan, or a general principle or policy that is intended to be implemented over the planning period for the community.

The 2017 Report is divided into six major areas of interest: Growth, Economy, Environment, Housing, Transportation and Recreation. Every year new areas of interest will be evaluated for inclusion in future editions of the Report.

Each indicator is formatted to provide the following standard information:

Why Is It Important?

This section appears immediately below the Indicator title and describes the Indicator's relationship with the Benchmark, as well the reasons why it is important to monitor over a period of time.

Key Observation

This section highlights the key trend or observation about the Indicator as reflected by the data.

How Are We Doing?

This section highlights the key trends or observations that are identified in the data. Data collected since 2000 are emphasized, marking the beginning point for monitoring the assumptions identified in LPlan 2040. Change is described in terms of percentage or nominal differences in the data between each year or a specific time period.

What Does This Mean?

This section provides a summary of any apparent trends found in the data.

Introduction

Definitions/Notes

This section explains where the data comes from, the caveats, limitations, time period, and definitions for uncommon terms or phrases.

Sources

This section identifies the resources from which data were obtained, and if relevant, provides a website address where further information can be found.

Evaluating the Data

The process of updating community indicators promotes regional cooperation and encourages public, non-profit, and private sector action through an understanding of specific trends and outcomes. Indicators are selected using the following general criteria:

- Validity - Does the indicator provide meaningful information about what is being measured?
- Understandability - Can the indicator be easily understood by the general public?
- Reliability - Can the indicator be consistently measured over time?
- Availability - Is the data available in a timely manner?

Two other issues create a further challenge in evaluating the findings of Indicators included in this Report. The diversity of the type of measured data included in the Report is accompanied by a similar diversity in publication times or "availability" for the information. The time lag associated with many of the Indicators presents a major obstacle in monitoring the current conditions occurring throughout the community. This Report comprises data that has publication release dates spanning from one month to five years. While data availability or timeliness is important, it has a slightly lower level of importance than the other data criteria, which are critical elements in selecting information. As noted earlier, trends take years to manifest in data, and conclusions garnered from year to year findings should be avoided.

Another important issue impacting the effectiveness of monitoring current conditions throughout the community is isolating the influence of local, state and national policy, conditions and/or mandates. Each Indicator may be influenced more or less from a particular level of government involvement than another. Determining a cause and effect relationship over time becomes a challenging enterprise in light of the competing policies that exist between the different levels of government. This does not lessen the importance of monitoring such Indicators, but does add caution for decision makers and readers of this Report when interpreting trends depicted in the data.

A complete analysis of data which comprises income measurements requires adjustment using an index, so that values from different years are expressed in terms of a single year's income. Inflation adjustments are made by applying price indexes to the current value data, the resulting data is expressed in terms of real dollars. Converting current dollars to real dollars provides comparisons in the change of purchasing power over time. This adjustment provides a more complete understanding of the Indicator and determines the amount of real growth in these measures. This report utilizes the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for "All Urban Consumers for the U.S. City Average" with a base year adjusted according to the year of the latest available data. For the specific real dollar value used for each table, see the "Definitions/Notes" section for that indicator. The CPI is the most widely used measure of inflation and is sometimes viewed as an indicator of the effectiveness of government economic policy.

Next Steps - From Indicators to Action

The value of community indicators is not as a static, one-time exercise in identifying important community trends, but, rather its importance is realized over a period of time. If updated on an annual basis, community indicators can show progress, or the lack of progress, in accomplishing community priorities. With broad participation in their targeting and update, community indicators can influence local policy and decision making. A more direct benefit of the Report is to provide information that counteracts bad data that do not accurately reflect community issues or trends.

The interconnections among the Indicators presented in this Report are substance for a wealth of discussions on our changing community. Report readers are encouraged to discover ways that these Indicators inter-relate, and how they can use the information to improve conditions throughout the community.

Another benefit of the Community Indicators Report is raising awareness of the people who live in the community, and the quality of life experienced by all

residents. A changing community does not always result in positive outcomes for all residents. It is hoped that the information presented in this Report will make people think about their community, and the quality of life of their neighbors and the entire community.

The Report should prompt readers to ask questions, such as, "How does this information relate to my friends, family, colleagues, employees and neighbors?" The information should tell a story about the community, like, "Where have we come from and where are we going?" In order to get where we are going, we need to measure where we want to be.

We hope you find this Report useful and welcome comments and suggestions for later editions.

For more information contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department or visit our website at lincoln.ne.gov.

Highlights

Growth

- As of July 1, 2016, the County Population is 309,637 persons as reported by estimates conducted by the Census Bureau. This reflects an average rate of growth of 1.32 percent per year since 2010.
- International migration in the County was highest in 2015 at 1,145 people.
- About 16,252 dwelling units are approved or in the process of platting which provides a 12.8 year supply based on the 3 year average of 1,271 for new growth areas.

Economy

- In 2015, the per capita personal income (PCPI) value was $44,057, an increase of 2.6 percent over 2014, adjusted for inflation.
- From 2010 to 2015, 13,251 new jobs were added to Lancaster County for a total of 166,057 in 2015. This is an increase of 13.45 percent or an average of 1.68 percent per year.
- The 2015 unemployment rate (2.61) dropped below the pre-recession rate of 2.79 in 2007. It is the lowest unemployment since 2000, which saw a rate of 2.36. The 2015 rate is less than Nebraska (2.99), and less than half of U.S. (5.28).
- In 2015, 72 percent of the Lancaster County population, 18 yrs. and older, had some college or higher education. This is higher than both Nebraska and the U.S.

Environment

- Since 2010, the City of Lincoln and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District have added 253 acres of protected area through the purchase of conservation easements that preserve flood storage volume.
- Approximately 20 percent of trees on City-owned property are ash trees. Due to the expected approach of the Emerald Ash Borer, 870 trees have been identified to be removed and replaced.
- Although the number of LES residential customers has increased by 6.83 percent since 2010, electrical consumption decreased by 0.88 percent in the same period.

Housing

- Residential building activity in Lincoln has continued to increase. Since a low of 604 units in 2009 (the lowest since 1983), building permits issued in 2016 totaled 1,267 dwelling units.
- Since 2010, multi-family dwellings have accounted for 44.2 percent of all residential building permits, followed by single-family detached dwellings at 40.1 percent and townhomes plus duplexes at 15.8 percent.
- In 2015, the median gross rent in Lincoln was $729 compared to $928 for the U.S.

Transportation

- StarTran 2016 ridership was 2.27 million, 43.1 percent higher than 2000 and 8.3 percent lower than 2014.
- In 2016, bike racks on StarTran buses were used an average of 84 times each operating day for a monthly total average of 2,157 rack users.
- Approximately 97.3 percent of homes in Lincoln are located within 1 mile of a public multi-use trail.
- The crash rate in Lincoln has declined by an average 2.21 percent per year since 1985.
- As of 2015, almost 20 percent of Lincoln residents commute by means other than a single-occupant vehicle.

Recreation

- In 2016, over 84 percent of the homes in Lincoln were located within ½ mile of a Neighborhood Park. In 2004, this number was approximately 73 percent.
- The City has 73 community parks and neighborhood parks.
- The City has a total of 7,389 acres of parkland and open space. This figure includes 5 golf courses on 781 acres of land.

Growth

Benchmark: Lancaster County's Population is Assumed to Reach Over 412,000 Persons by the Year 2040

Indicator 1: Lancaster County Population, 1960-2016

1

Race and Ethnicity, 2015 5-Year American Community Survey

Race and Ethnicity, 2015 5-Year ACS	Population	Percentage
White, NH	247,609	83.07%
Hispanic	19,030	6.38%
Asian, NH	11,895	3.99%
African-American, NH	11,304	3.79%
Two or more races, NH	6,544	2.20%
American Indian / Alaskan Native, NH	1,337	0.45%
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander, NH	212	0.07%
Other race, NH	149	0.05%
Total	298,080	

Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

Average Annual Growth Rate by Decade

Area	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2016
Lancaster	0.79%	1.39%	1.08%	1.59%	1.30%	1.32%
Nebraska	0.47%	0.55%	0.05%	0.82%	0.64%	0.69%
U.S.	1.27%	1.03%	0.94%	1.24%	0.90%	0.61%

Annual Change in Population since 2010

Lancaster County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Avg Annual Growth Rate
Population	286,195	289,945	293,606	297,489	302,097	305,705	309,637	
Change		1.31%	1.26%	1.32%	1.55%	1.19%	1.29%	1.32%

Note: 2016 is the latest available data.

Definitions/Notes:

- *The data reflects US Census Bureau estimates for Lancaster County.*
- *Estimates are made annually on non-census years using data supplied by the states and reflect the estimated population on July 1st of that year.*
- *"NH" means "Not Hispanic".*

Sources:

- *U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census*
- *U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 Census Estimates*

Why Is It Important?

The Plan energetically recognizes the long-term growth potential of the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County, and opportunities presented by the fundamental demographic changes in the community. This growth is based on an assumed rate of 1.2 percent per year over the thirty year period, an assumption that is supported by three independent demographers.

Key Observation

Annual average rate of growth for Lancaster County was 1.32 percent since 2010. That is higher than the projected 1.2 percent per year growth assumed in LPlan 2040.

How Are We Doing?

- The estimated population of Lancaster County on July 1, 2016 was 309,637, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This was an increase of 1.29 percent over 2015's estimated population.
- Lancaster County has grown by 8.2 percent between 2010 and 2016 at approximately 1.32 percent per year.
- Lancaster County surpassed the 300,000 milestone in 2014. Based on growth rates, Lincoln will reach that milestone by 2022.
- In 2015, the County population was 83.07 percent White, not Hispanic (NH) followed by 6.38 percent Hispanic, 3.99 percent Asian NH, 3.79 percent African-American NH, and 2.77 percent all other NH.

What Does This Mean?

Population growth near the assumed rate of 1.2 percent per year indicates the amount of housing and commercial space planned for in the 2040 Plan is adequate.

"LPlan 2040 embraces a growing, changing community."

-- 2040 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan

Growth

Benchmark: Lincoln will Continue to be 90 Percent of the County Population by 2040

Indicator 2: Ratio of Lincoln to Lancaster County Population, 2000-2016

2

Why Is It Important?

Since the 1960s, the City of Lincoln has made up about 90% of the County population, with the remaining population being divided between other towns in the County and the rural and unincorporated areas. It is important to know if this ratio is changing such that planning for urban and rural infrastructure and services can be done accordingly.

Key Observation

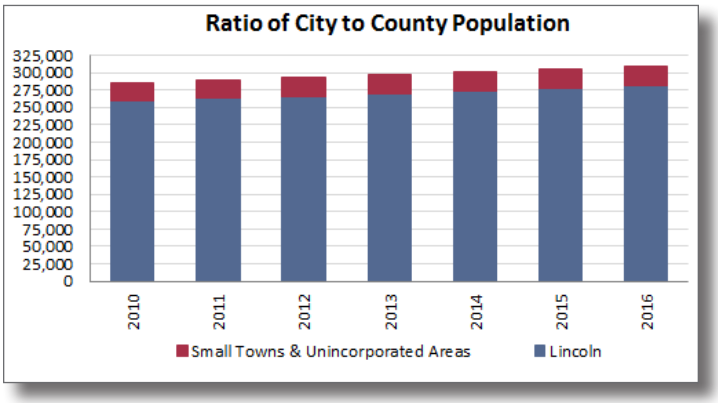
Lincoln continues to reflect the ratio of 90 percent of Lancaster County's population.

How Are We Doing?

- Lincoln continues to reflect the ratio of 90 percent of Lancaster County's population.
- In 2000, Lincoln's population was 90.7 percent of the County population.
- In 2016, the ratio of City to County population was 90.6 percent.

What Does This Mean?

Lincoln continues to be the primary focus of population and growth for the County. While often more noticeable in rural areas and small towns, development in these areas comprises only a small percentage of County population and growth.



Annual Percent Growth of City and County

Year	Lancaster County	Lincoln City	County Excluding Lincoln
2010	1.09%	1.10%	1.04%
2011	1.31%	1.27%	1.74%
2012	1.26%	1.25%	1.39%
2013	1.32%	1.32%	1.34%
2014	1.55%	1.74%	-0.28%
2015	1.19%	1.26%	0.59%
2016	1.29%	1.15%	2.64%

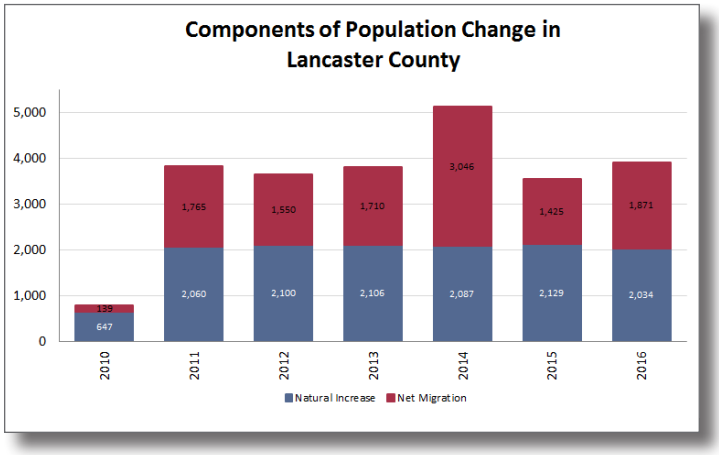
Note: 2016 is the latest available estimate for City population.

Definitions/Notes:

- *US Census estimates data for Lincoln and Lancaster County is used to determine population ratios. US Census population estimates are provided July 1 of each non-decennial year.*
- *Population includes persons in all incorporated and unincorporated communities in Lancaster County.*

Source:

- *US Census Bureau, population estimates*



Components of Population Change since 2010

Lancaster County	Years							Change and Composition of Change			
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2015	2010-2016
Population Change*	780	3,802	3,635	3,953	5,165	3,726	3,932	20,757	36,650	31,240	24,993
Net Migration	139	1,765	1,550	1,710	3,046	1,425	1,871	18.3%	54.3%	34.5%	46.6%
Natural Change	647	2,060	2,100	2,106	2,087	2,129	2,034	81.5%	45.7%	65.5%	53.4%
Residual	-6	-23	-15	137	32	172	27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Includes residual population, may not equal sum of Natural Increase and Net Migration

Note: 2016 is the latest available data.

Why Is It Important?

This Indicator measures how attractive the community is to non-residents. The measures include the two largest components of population change: Natural Increase and Net Migration.

Key Observation

Since 2000, natural increase has accounted for 60.9 percent of the total population change.

How Are We Doing?

- Lancaster County has been attracting a significant immigrant population, both international and domestic, since the 1990s.
- Between 1990 and 2000, immigrants accounted for 54.30 percent of the Lancaster County population increase.
- A higher percentage of population change from 2000-2016 was from Natural Increase (65.5%), whereas the period from 1990 to 2000 experienced a higher percentage of net migration (54.3%).
- International migration in the County was highest in 2015 at 1,145 people.

What Does This Mean?

Lancaster County has strong components to population change, with positive growth in both net migration and natural increase.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Natural Increase is the difference between resident births and deaths.*
- *Net Migration is the difference between people moving into and out of an area.*
- *"Total Population Change" is the sum of Natural Increase and Net Migration.*
- *Corrections and adjustments are customarily made to Census estimates. This causes changes in migration data reported in previous Community Indicators Reports. 2000 and 2010 data in particular should be interpreted as a statistical anomaly related to the decennial Census.*

Sources:

- *U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of Components of Population Change for Counties in Nebraska*
- *County population, population change and estimated components of population change*

Year	Int'l Migration	Domestic Migration
2010	185	-46
2011	791	974
2012	940	610
2013	1,003	707
2014	1,136	1,910
2015	1,145	280
2016	1,090	781
Total	1,505,965	1,257,190

Indicator 4: Lincoln's Supply of Urban Residential Lots, 2000-2017

4

Why Is It Important?

The number of lots available for residential purposes in Lincoln may reflect the general level of development activity throughout the community.

Key Observation

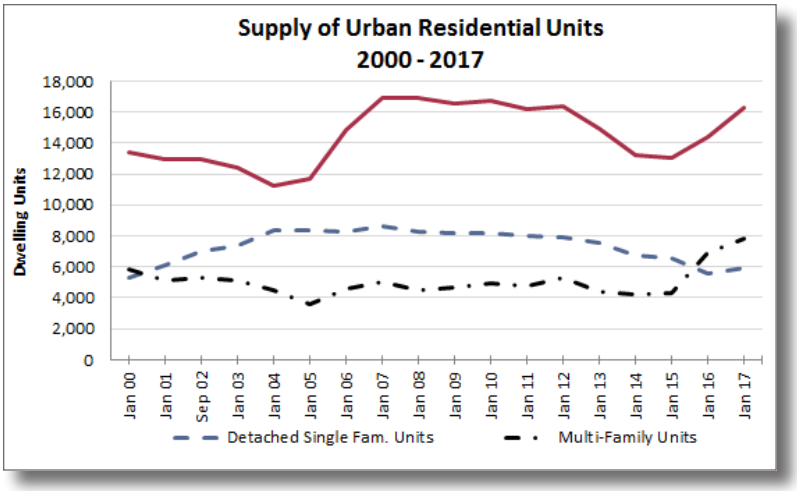
As of January 1, 2017, Lincoln has a potential for 40,420 new dwelling units within the 2040 Future Service Limit for Lincoln. About 16,252 are approved or in the process of platting. The remainder of the potential units are currently without infrastructure and on raw land.

How Are We Doing?

- As of January 2010, the number of lots available for single-family detached units totaled 7,479 and multi-family units totaled 4,461 in final and preliminary platted land.
- As of January 1, 2017, the number of lots available for detached single-family units totaled 5,906 and multi-family units totaled 7,789 in final and preliminary platted land.
- As of January 1, 2017, of the 5,906 detached single-family lots, 29.0 percent were final platted and 71.0 percent were preliminary platted.
- As of January 1, 2017, the supply of detached single-family lots available (5,906) should last about 10.2 years at the 3-year average of 579 building permits per year.

What Does This Mean?

An adequate supply of land is available for development within the Future Service Limit to meet demand for approximately 40,000 dwelling units.



Note: January 2017 is the latest available data.

Definitions/Notes:

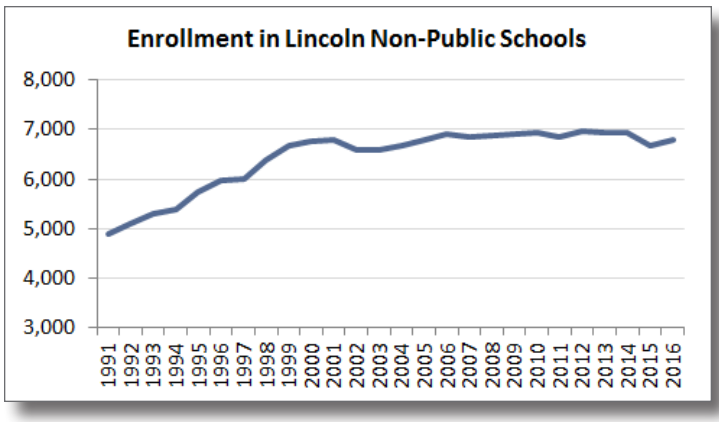
- *The data reflects a periodic point-in-time inventory of housing lots that could be developed with housing units in the future.*
- *Platted residential lots are single, two-family and multiple family units that are final platted, preliminary platted or are pending submitted plats.*
- *Final platted lots have streets and utilities installed or guaranteed with over 90% of these lots having all facilities installed.*

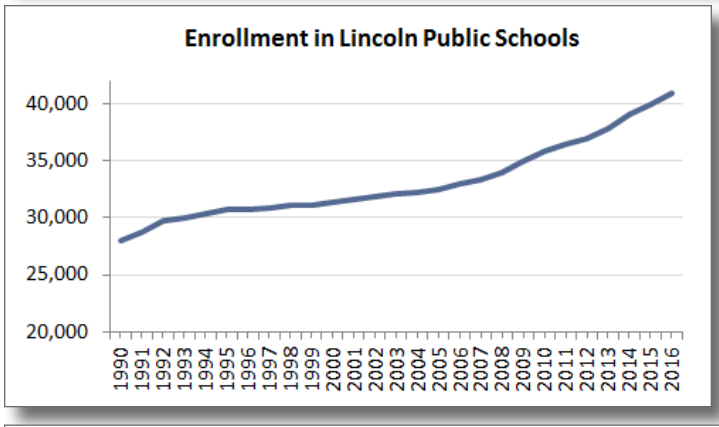
Source:

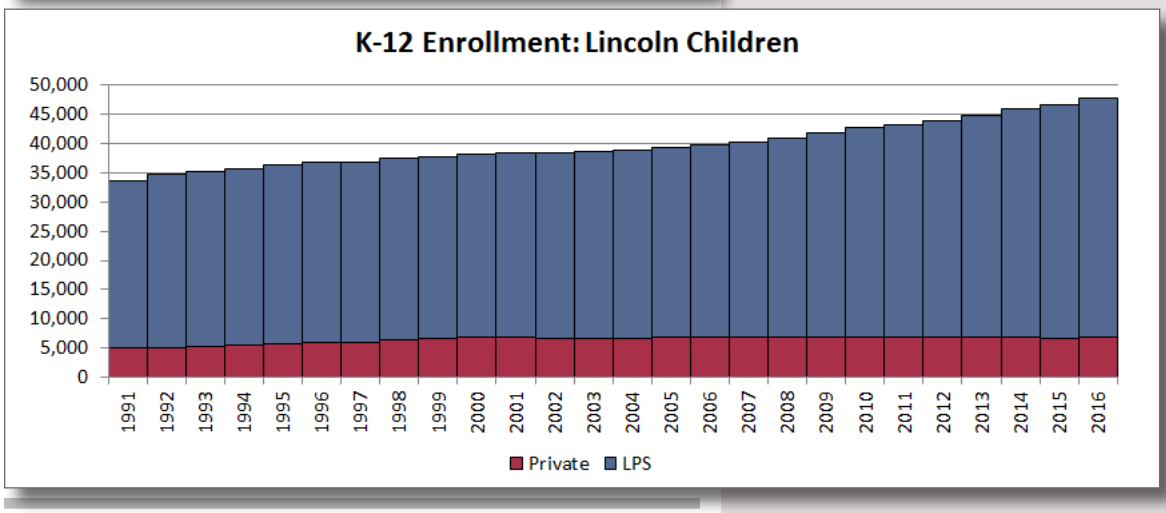
- *Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Dept, Residential Land Inventory and Residential Building Permits, January, 2017*

Indicator 5: Lincoln Public Schools and other Non-public Schools in Lincoln Student Enrollment, 1990-2016

5







Why Is It Important?

Student enrollment, diversity and poverty level trends are important to monitor because they help determine what needs must be met in planning for future schools.

Key Observation

Lincoln Public Schools surpassed 40,000 students in 2016.

How Are We Doing?

- Between 1990 and 2000, the growth rate for net student enrollment in Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) was 12.02 percent; absolute change in enrollment was 3,364 students. The annual average growth rate was 1.14 percent.
- Between 2000 and 2016, the percent change for net student enrollment in LPS was 30.6 percent; absolute change in enrollment was 9,581. The annual average growth rate was 1.7 percent.
- Total LPS student enrollment reached 40,935 in 2016, an addition of 987 students since 2015.
- From 2000 to 2016, only 17 more students were enrolled in non-public schools in Lincoln showing an increase of 0.25 percent, an average annual rate of 0.02 percent.
- Non-public schools are at their lowest enrollment as a percentage of Lincoln students since 1991, comprising 14.2 percent of enrollment. 14.6 percent of Lincoln students were enrolled in non-public schools in 1991 and a high of 17.8 percent was reached in 2000.
- Since 2000, the number of students in LPS below poverty has increased from 25.6 percent to 45.8 percent.

What Does This Mean?

Continued growth in LPS enrollment, while private school enrollment has plateaued for over 17 years, indicates a strong public school system in Lincoln.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Enrollment census is taken in the fall of each year and includes Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade students.*
- *Lincoln Public Schools students, as well as non-public schools students, may live outside City of Lincoln corporate limits.*
- *Poverty is defined as students who qualify for the 'Free/Reduced Lunch Program.'*

Sources:

- *Lincoln Public Schools Annual Statistical Handbook*
- *Nebraska Department of Education*

Indicator 6: Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Lincoln and Public Schools, 2000-2016

6

Why Is It Important?

Increases within the minority community — both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the area's overall population – are anticipated to continue into the future. This trend is embraced by the LPlan 2040 Vision and is to be considered as the Plan's policies and programs are implemented.

Key Observation

Students in the Lincoln Public School system are more diverse than Lincoln as a whole.

How Are We Doing?

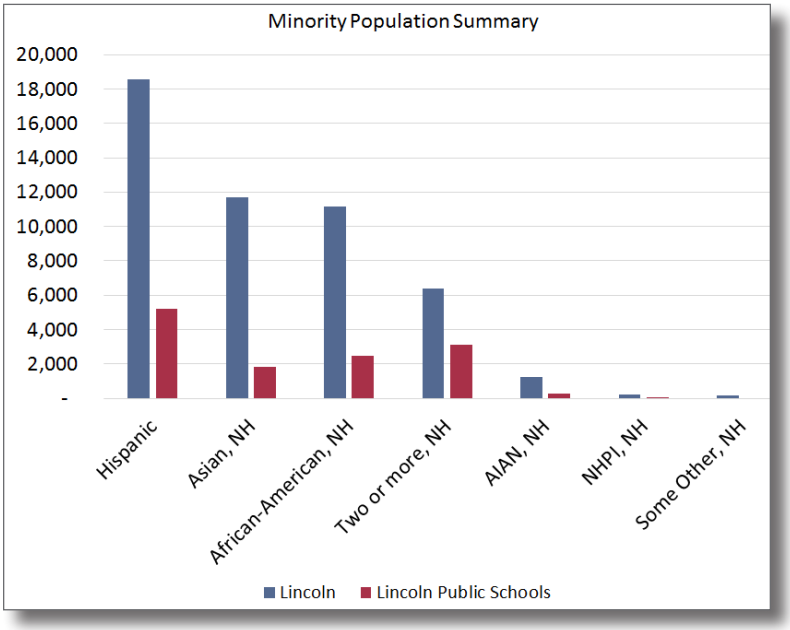
- The Lincoln Public School system has historically shown more diversity in the student population as compared to Lincoln.
- In 2000, while LPS had 13.7 percent minority students, Lincoln had only about 12.2 percent people who were non-white.
- In 2016, LPS had a remarkable 31.5 percent minority students, while Lincoln had only about 18.3 percent people who were non-white in 2015.

What Does This Mean?

As these students grow up and have families of their own, Lincoln can expect an increased diversity in its racial and ethnic composition.

	Lincoln		Lincoln Public Schools	
White, NH	220,302	81.7%	26,457	64.6%
Hispanic	18,560	6.9%	5,229	12.8%
Asian, NH	11,688	4.3%	1,809	4.4%
African-American, NH	11,161	4.1%	2,460	6.0%
Two or more, NH	6,404	2.4%	3,104	7.6%
AIAN, NH	1,259	0.5%	265	0.6%
NHPI, NH	203	0.1%	30	0.1%
Some Other, NH	149	0.1%	N/A*	N/A*

Notes: Lincoln Data: 2015 ACS 5-Year Estimate
Lincoln Public Schools Data: LPS Statistical Handbook
* Lincoln Public Schools does not have this category



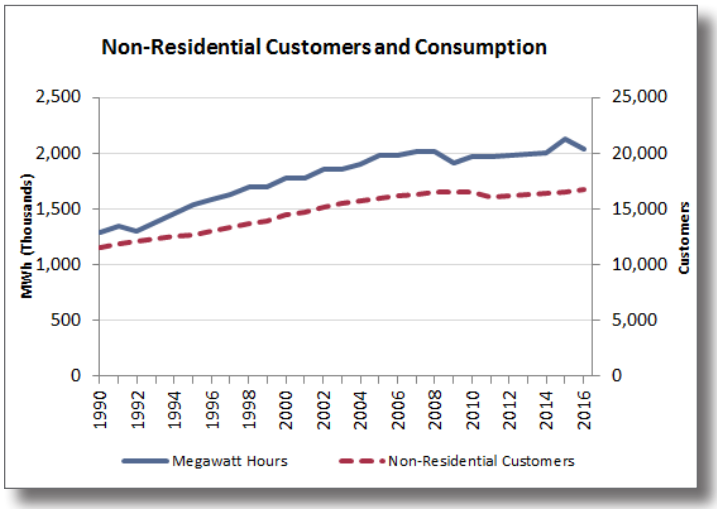
Definitions/Notes:

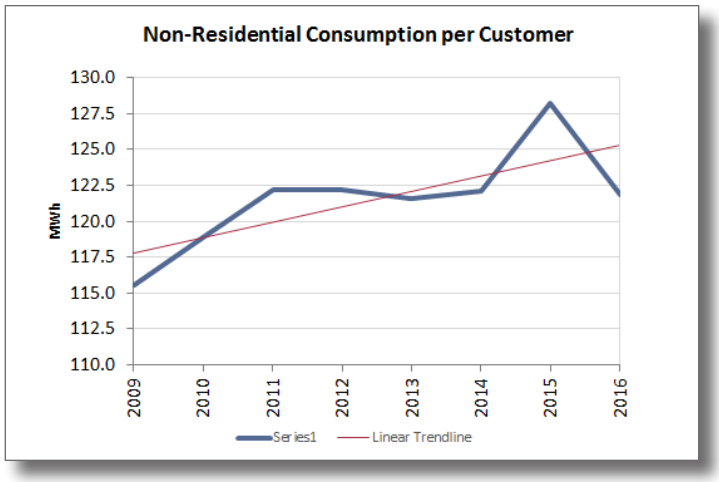
- *NHPI: Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander*
- *AIAN: Americna Indian or Alaska Native*
- *NH: not Hispanic*

Sources:

- *U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2015*
- *Lincoln Public Schools, Statistical Handbook 2000 and 2016*

Indicator 7: Lincoln Electric System Non-Residential Electrical Consumption and Customer Accounts, 1990-2016





Why Is It Important?

The growth rate for non-residential utility service connections and electrical consumption may be utilized to monitor annual fluctuations in the local economy. These figures may reflect the level of economic activity in the non-residential sector.

Key Observation

Consumption of electricity by non-residential accounts suggests a reviving economy, even as increased use of energy efficient electrical and electronics conserves energy.

How Are We Doing?

- In 2016, non-residential electrical consumption was 2.04 million megawatt-hours by 16,730 customer accounts.
- In 2010, the consumption was 1.97 million megawatt-hours by 16,565 customer accounts. In 1990, these numbers were 1.29 million megawatt-hours by 11,514 customer accounts.
- Although non-residential megawatt-hours decreased by 3.92 percent from 2015 to 2016, electrical consumption increased by about 0.58 percent annually since 2010.
- Per customer non-residential megawatt-hours have been generally increasing since 2010.

What Does This Mean?

Electrical consumption in the non-residential sector has been growing at a faster rate, indicating that expansion within that sector may be underway.

Definitions/Notes:

- *LES serves all of Lincoln and portions of Lancaster County (outside the City of Lincoln's corporate limits).*

Sources:

- *Lincoln Electric System*

Indicator 8: Lancaster County, Average Wage per Job, 1980-2015

8

Why Is It Important?

Wage levels reflect conditions of the local economy and indicate the health of local companies and the economic well-being of workers. Adjusting for inflation determines the real growth in wages and the relative buying power over a time period.

Key Observation

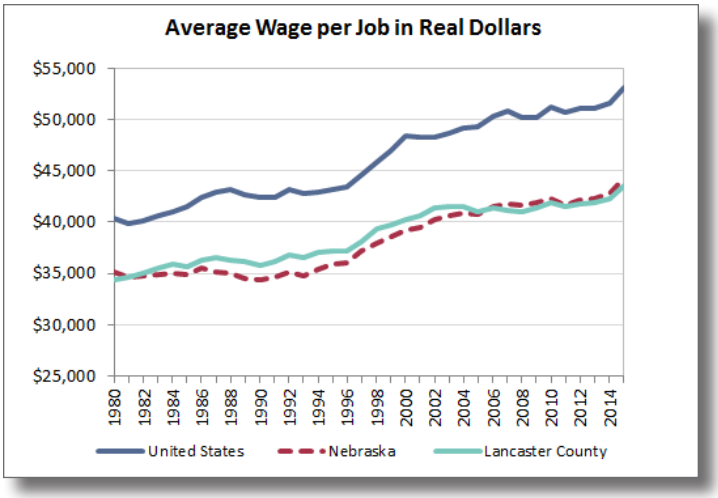
Average wage per job is slowly recovering in Lancaster County, Nebraska and the U.S. overall.

How Are We Doing?

- In 2015, the real dollar value of the average annual wage for Lancaster County was $43,576 compared to $44,385 for Nebraska and $53,162 for the U.S.
- Countywide, real wages per job have steadily increased since 1980, with the largest increase (12.34 percent) between 1990 and 2000. Wages remained relatively stagnant through 2010 and have steadily increased since.
- Overall, the real wage per job has increased by 27 percent in Lancaster County since 1980. The State of Nebraska saw a similar increase of 26.45 percent, and the U.S. had a significantly higher increase of 31.86 percent in the same period.
- The largest increase in real wages between 2010 and 2015 of 5.0 percent was in the State. The County and Nation increased by 3.9 percent and 3.8 percent respectively. The greatest annual increase for all three occurred between 2014 and 2015, with 3.1 percent for Lancaster County, 3.7 percent for Nebraska and 3.1 percent in the U.S. with Nebraska outpacing Lancaster County and the U.S.
- Lancaster County had a significant increase in average wage (in real dollars) of 3.09 percent between 2014 and 2015, the highest annual increase since 1997 to 1998.

What Does This Mean?

Although real dollar wages in Lancaster County have grown faster than the state as a whole since 1980, national real dollar wages have significantly outpaced both.



Change in Average Wage per Job in Real Dollars by Decade

Area	1980 - 1990	1990 - 2000	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2015	1980 - 2015
Lancaster County	4.4%	12.3%	4.1%	3.9%	27.0%
Nebraska	-2.0%	14.2%	7.6%	5.0%	26.4%
United States	5.2%	14.1%	5.9%	3.8%	31.9%

Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

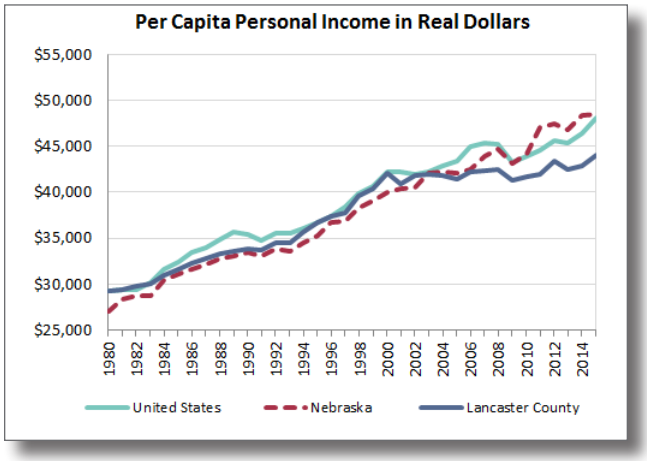
Definitions/Notes:

- *Estimates used to compute figures represent wages and salaries paid to all workers divided by the total number of jobs.*
- *People holding more than one job are counted in the wage estimates for each job they hold.*
- *The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to express "Real Dollars" in terms of their value in 2015. Since inflation varies over years, the 'Real Dollar' values are dependent on the choice of year and may not be the same as reported in the last report.*

Source:

- *Bureau of Economic Analysis, CA30 - Economic Profile, Average Wages and Salaries*

Indicator 9: Lancaster County, Per Capita Personal Income, 1980-2015



Change in Personal Income (Adjusted for Inflation)

	1980 - 1990	1990 - 2000	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2015
Lancaster County	15.4%	24.5%	-1.0%	5.7%
Nebraska	23.6%	19.6%	10.4%	9.9%
United States	21.3%	19.1%	4.0%	9.6%

Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

Why Is It Important?

Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) is an indicator of financial well-being and shows how well the economy is performing over time. PCPI is viewed as a key proxy for the overall economic health of a community.

Key Observation

Since 2000, Lancaster County's PCPI has shown little change, when adjusted for inflation.

How Are We Doing?

- In 2015, the per capita personal income (PCPI) value was $44,057, an increase of 2.6 percent over 2014.
- From 1980 to 2015, increase in PCPI was just over 50 percent for the residents of Lancaster County compared to nearly 80 percent for the state and 65 percent for the nation.
- Lancaster County had a significant increase in PCPI of 24.5 percent between 1990 and 2000 but decreased 1.0 percent in the following decade.
- After the high of 1990-2000, where the percentage increase in PCPI for Lancaster County residents was more than Nebraska and the U.S., adjusted incomes for Lancaster County have only increased by 4.6 percent since 2000, whereas Nebraska and the U.S. show an increase of 21.4 percent and 13.9 percent respectively.

What Does This Mean?

Although Lancaster County saw significantly higher per capita personal income growth between 1990 and 2000, when adjusted for inflation, PCPI has remained relatively flat since 2000.

Definitions/Notes:

- *PCPI does not reflect income distribution as it reflects an average for the population. PCPI gauges how income grows over time per person, by adjusting for the growth in population.*
- *PCPI is computed using Census Bureau midyear population estimates.*
- *PCPI is calculated as the sum of all wage, salary and other disbursements, divided by the number of people residing in the area.*
- *Real dollars are adjusted to reflect a base year of 2015.*

Source:

- *Bureau of Economic Analysis, CA1 - Personal Income, Population, Per Capita Personal Income*

Benchmark: Total Employment is Expected to Grow at 1.4 Percent Annually.

Indicator 10: Lancaster County Employment, 1993-2015

10

Why Is It Important?

The projected rate of growth of employment is higher than the projected rate of growth of population due to individuals holding more than one job and the Lincoln metropolitan area attracting workers who live in other counties. Monitoring changes in the local employment numbers is critical to projecting the need for new urban infrastructure in the community.

Key Observation

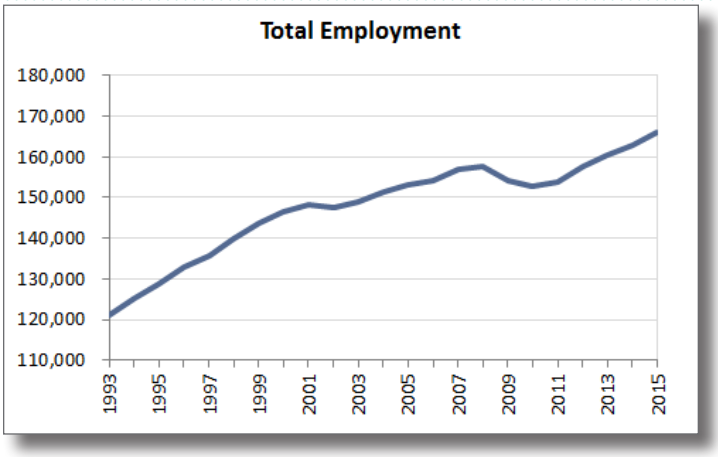
Lancaster County has experienced faster employment growth than Nebraska and the U.S. since 1993.

How Are We Doing?

- Employment growth since 2010 has not kept pace with the growth exhibited in the 1990s, but is significantly higher than growth between 2000 and 2010.
  - Total Lancaster County employment between 1993 and 2000 rose 20.88 percent or 2.75 percent per year. This growth was higher than Nebraska (8.53 percent) and the U.S. (18.89 percent) in the same period.
  - From 2010 to 2015, 13,251 new jobs were added in Lancaster County for a total of 166,057 in 2015. This is an increase of 13.45% or an average of 1.68 percent per year.
- The average annual growth rate in employment in Lancaster County from 1993 to 2015 is 1.45 percent, just higher than the 1.4 percent projected growth rate.
- Since 2010, general employment increased in all sectors.

What Does This Mean?

Although total employment growth between 2000 and 2015 grew at about two thirds the rate of the population, employment growth (8.67 percent) has outpaced population growth (7.09 percent) since 2010. This is likely a reflection of the recovering economy.



Growth in Employment from 1993-2015

Total Employment	Change				Average Annual Change			
	1993 - 2000	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2015	1993 - 2015	1993 - 2000	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2015	1993 - 2015
Lancaster County	20.88%	4.40%	8.67%	37.14%	2.75%	0.43%	1.68%	1.45%
Nebraska State	8.53%	-1.31%	6.94%	14.55%	1.18%	-0.13%	1.35%	0.62%
U.S. (000's)	18.89%	-3.01%	9.13%	25.85%	2.50%	-0.30%	1.76%	1.05%

Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

In 2015, 166,057 people were employed by establishments divided into the following sectors:

- Business and Commerce (Information, Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services, Education and Health Services, Leisure and Hospitality and Other Services)
- Industrial (Natural Resources and Mining, Construction, Manufacturing and Trade, Transportation and Utilities)
- Government (Local, State and Federal)

Definitions/Notes:

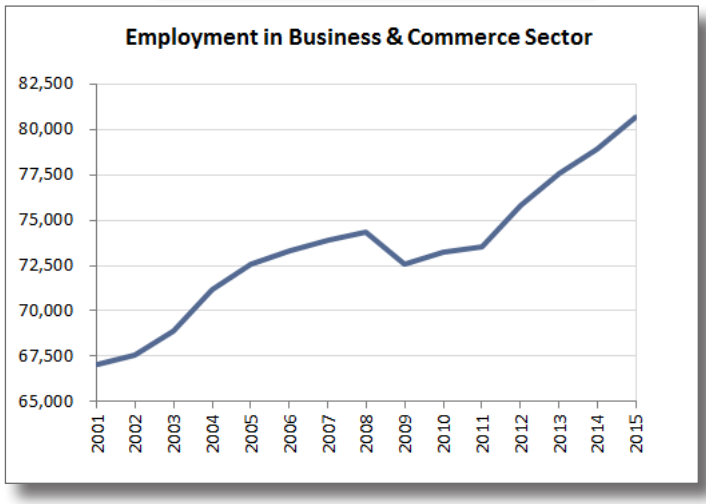
- *Figures reflect average annual employment for all industries according to location of job, not residence (persons working in Lancaster County, but living outside the county, are counted).*
- *These figures reflect data for workers covered by Nebraska Employment Security Laws.*

Source:

- *Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Benchmark: Business and Commerce Sector: Employment is Projected to Grow at 1.75% Annually

Indicator 11: Lancaster County, Business and Commerce Employment and Establishments, 2001-2015



Number of Establishments in Business and Commerce Sector

Year	2001	2005	2010	2015
Establishments	4,064	4,626	4,980	6,717

Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

Definitions/Notes:

- *"Business and Commerce" employment sectors are used to monitor commercial land needs.*
- *Figures reflect average annual employment by sector and number of establishments.*
- *Employment categories are based upon the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and reflect data for workers covered by Nebraska Employment Security Laws.*

Source:

- *Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Why Is It Important?

The City and County have experienced significant increases in commercial development over the last several decades. Numerous new shopping centers and office complexes have been built, which are valuable economic resources for the community. Employment in this sector is used to monitor the future land requirements.

Key Observation

Education and Health is the highest employment provider in the "Business and Commerce" sector.

How Are We Doing?

- From 2010 to 2015, the total annual employment for "Business and Commerce" sectors in Lancaster County increased by 10.2 percent (2.0 percent per year) from 73,508 jobs in 2010 to 80,685 jobs in 2015.
- In the same period, the number of "Business and Commerce" establishments increased by 34.9% from 4,980 to 6,717.
- Since 2001, the employment share for "Business and Commerce" sectors increased from 45.2 percent to 48.6 percent of the total county employment.
- Education, Health and Professional Services are the highest employment providers in this sector contributing more than 30 percent of jobs in this sector.

What Does This Mean?

Growth in business and commerce has been the strongest of all sectors and at about 2.0% per year is slightly faster than population growth rates. This recent growth is a reflection of the recovering economy.

Distribution of Industry in Business and Commerce Sector

Industry	2001	2015
Information	5.1%	3.1%
Financial Activities	14.5%	15.5%
Professional Services	25.4%	23.6%
Education and Health	26.2%	30.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	21.5%	21.5%
Others	7.3%	6.0%

Benchmark: Industrial Sector: Employment is Projected to Grow at about 1% Annually

Indicator 12: Lancaster County Industrial Employment and Establishments, 2001-2015

Why Is It Important?

The City and County have experienced some increases in industrial development over the last several decades. Some industrial facilities have been built, which are valuable economic resources for the community. Employment in this sector is used to monitor the future land requirements for the industrial sector.

Key Observation

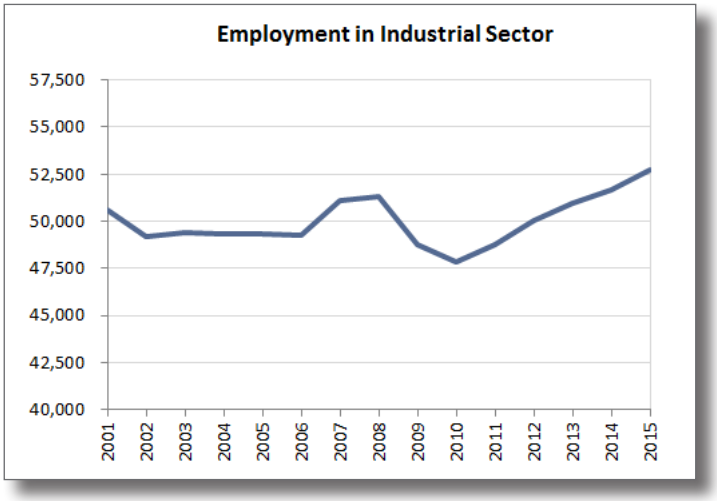
2010 showed the lowest employment numbers in industrial sectors in the past two decades. Since 2010, industrial sector employment has increased by 2.0 percent per year and has surpassed pre-recession levels.

How Are We Doing?

- From 2010 to 2015, the total annual employment for "Industrial" sectors in Lancaster County increased by 10.3 percent (2.0 percent per year) from 47,807 jobs in 2010 to 52,751 jobs in 2015.
- In the same period, the number of "Industrial" establishments increased by 4.4 percent from 2,817 to 2,940.
- Since 2001, the employment share for "Industrial" sectors decreased from 34.2 percent to 31.8 percent of the total county employment.
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities is the highest employment provider in this sector contributing about 60 percent of industrial jobs in 2015.

What Does This Mean?

The industrial sector and business and commerce sector have grown at nearly the same rate since 2010 and both have outpaced the government sector growth rate.



Distribution of Industries

Industry	2001	2015
Natural Resources & Mining	1.0%	0.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	50.4%	60.1%
Construction	14.8%	15.1%
Manufacturing	33.7%	24.1%

Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

Number of Establishments in Industrial Sector

Year	2001	2005	2010	2015
Establishments	2,626	2,860	2,817	2,940

Definitions/Notes:

- *"Industrial" sectors are used to monitor industrial land needs.*
- *Figures reflect average annual employment by sector and number of establishments.*
- *Employment categories are based upon the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and reflect data for workers covered by Nebraska Employment Security Laws.*

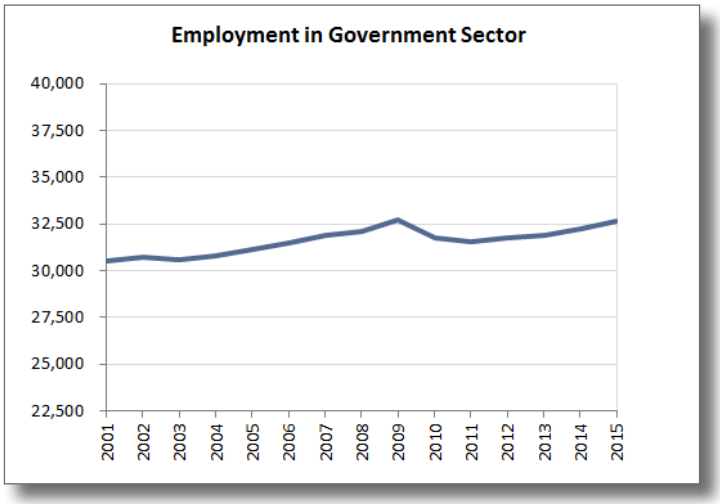
Source:

- *Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Benchmark: Government Sector: Employment is Projected to Grow at about 1% Annually

Indicator 13: Lancaster County Government Employment and Establishments, 2001-2015

13



Distribution by Level of Government

Level of Government	2001	2015
Local	40.2%	40.9%
State	50.2%	49.3%
Federal	9.6%	9.8%

Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

Number of Establishments in Government Sector

Year	2001	2005	2010	2015
Establishments	176	238	282	272

Why Is It Important?

As the state capital, a large number of jobs in the city and county are in the government sector. With a strong Federal, State and Local government presence, employment in this sector is generally tied to the use and expansion of office buildings and service centers in the community.

Key Observation

As the state capital, state government in Lincoln is the highest employment provider in this sector.

How Are We Doing?

- From 2010 to 2015, the total annual employment for "Government" sectors in Lancaster County increased by 2.7 percent (0.5 percent per year) from 31,774 jobs in 2010 to 32,621 jobs in 2015.
- In the same period, the number of "Government" establishments decreased by 3.6 percent from 282 to 272.
- Since 2001, the employment share for "Government" sectors decreased from 20.8 percent to 19.6 percent of the total county employment.
- State Government is the highest employment provider in this sector contributing over 49 percent of government jobs, followed by local government (40.9 percent) and federal government (9.8 percent).

What Does This Mean?

As the state capital and county seat Lincoln shows steady government sector employment numbers, however the growth rate is only about one third the overall population growth rate.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Figures reflect average annual employment by sector and number of establishments.*
- *Employment categories are based upon the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and reflect data for workers covered by Nebraska Employment Security Laws.*

Source:

- *Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Why Is It Important?

Labor Force conditions during the planning period may reflect the general level of economic activity in the community. A growing workforce is an asset to economic development activities such as supporting business retention and expansion efforts, recruiting new businesses to the community, and providing employment opportunities for County-wide residents.

Key Observation

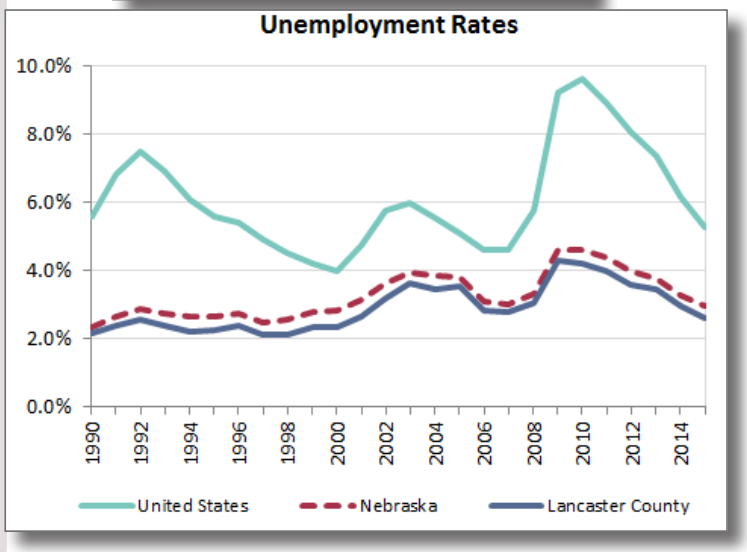
Unemployment in Lancaster County is consistently lower than Nebraska and the U.S.

How Are We Doing?

- In 2015, the Civilian Labor Force was 168,402 persons in Lancaster County, an increase of 3.6 percent (0.7 percent per year) since 2010. During the same period the unemployment rate dropped from 4.21 (6,851 persons unemployed) to 2.61 (4,393 persons unemployed).
- In the 1990s, the labor force grew by 19.2 percent (1.8 percent per year). In the following decade, 2000 to 2010, it increased by 9.6 percent (0.9 percent per year).
- Since 1990 the average annual growth of the Civilian Labor Force has increased faster in Lancaster County (1.2 percent) than in Nebraska (0.8 percent) or the U.S. (0.9 percent).
- The 2015 unemployment rate (2.61) dropped below the pre-recession rate of 2.79 in 2007. It is the lowest unemployment since 2000, which saw a rate of 2.36. The 2015 rate is less than Nebraska (2.99), and less than half of U.S. (5.28).

What Does This Mean?

Nebraska's agriculturally based economy and generally conservative private and public financial ideology helped Lancaster County to weather the economic downturn with lower unemployment than most other parts of the country.



Average Annual Increase in Total Civilian Labor Force

Year	Lancaster	Nebraska	U.S.
1990 - 2000	1.77%	1.37%	1.26%
2000 - 2010	0.92%	0.50%	0.77%
2010 - 2015	0.71%	0.39%	0.42%
1990 - 2015	1.22%	0.82%	0.89%

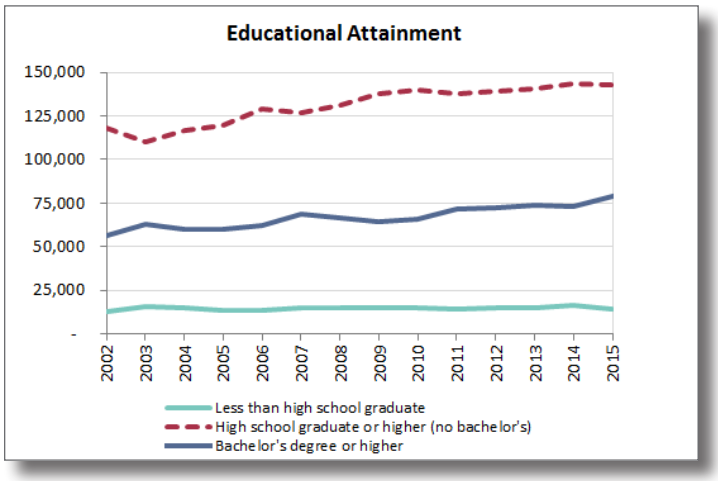
Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Civilian Labor Force is defined as persons 16 years of age and older, employed and unemployed, who are not inmates of institutions and who are not on active duty in the Armed Forces.*
- *These figures exhibit lower numbers than employment figures, as the Civilian Labor Force counts individuals only once, regardless of how many jobs they work.*
- *Figures reflect the annual average for the Civilian Labor Force living in Lancaster County.*

Source:

- *Nebraska State Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Local Area Unemployment Statistics*



Comparison of Educational Attainment in 2015

Area	Less than High School Graduate	High School Graduate or better, no Bachelor's degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
U.S.	13.5%	59.3%	27.2%
Nebraska	9.7%	63.6%	26.8%
Lancaster County	6.5%	61.4%	32.1%

Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Educational Attainment data is taken from the Decennial Census and from the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year aggregate data.*
- *Educational attainment reflects the highest level of education reached by an individual.*
- *High School Graduate includes equivalency diplomas.*

Sources:

- *Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2010*
- *Census Bureau, ACS*

Why Is It Important?

The provision of a well-educated workforce is a key factor in attracting new businesses and industry to the area. The Comprehensive Plan identifies seven primary target businesses, the majority of which require a workforce with a solid general and post-secondary education.

Key Observation

Lancaster County continues to have higher educational attainment than Nebraska and the U.S.

How Are We Doing?

» In 2015, an estimated 214,524 of the 229,291 people 18 years of age and above (about 93.5 percent) had at least a high school diploma or higher where 32.1 percent had a Bachelor's Degree or higher and 6.5 percent did not finish high school.

» Since 2010, the number of people with a high school degree or higher increased by 8 percent, much of that attributed to a 20 percent increase of those with a Bachelor's degree or higher. At the same time, the number of people with less than a high school degree decreased by 5 percent.

» Lancaster County's 18 and over population with at least some college or higher (72 percent) is higher than both Nebraska and the U.S.

What Does This Mean?

There are likely several factors to which the increase in educational attainment may be linked. Lancaster County has several public and private educational institutions available, the economic downturn has nationally been linked to an increase in students delaying entering the work force in favor of continuing their education, and the low unemployment rates and cost of living in the County may have caused more young graduates to remain that may have left in the past.

Benchmark: Lincoln and Lancaster County must have a Sustainable Tax Base to Provide Quality Services to Residents

Indicator 16: Lincoln's Sales Tax Revenues, 1989-2016

16

Why Is It Important?

Sales tax revenues are a good indicator of a community's economic well-being. Sales tax revenues represent a key revenue source that contributes to the levels of service that can be provided to the community.

Key Observation

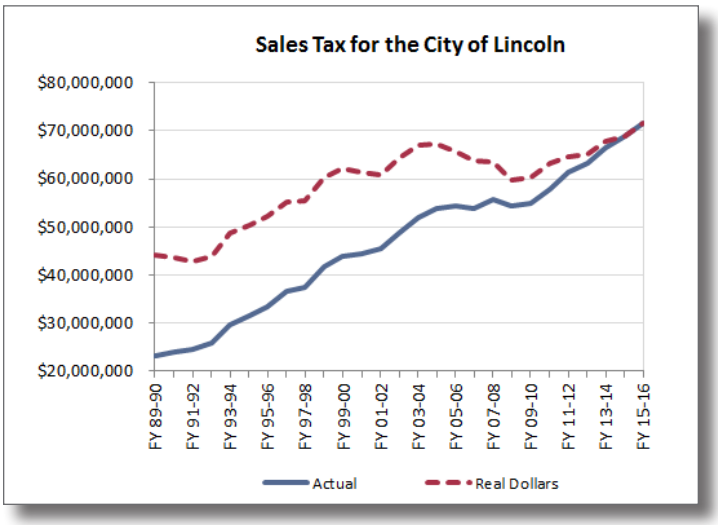
Sales tax revenue has increased since the economic downturn.

How Are We Doing?

- In FY 2015-2016, a total of $71.62 million in sales tax revenues were collected by the City of Lincoln, an increase of about 4.0 percent over last year's collection. Since a low in FY 2008-2009, actual revenues have increased 32.0 percent.
- In FY 1999-2000, a total of $43.80 million in sales tax revenues were collected by the City of Lincoln, for an average annual increase of 6.6% since FY 1989-1990. This compares to an average annual increase of 9.7% in the 1980s.
- Between FY 2009-2010 and FY 2015-2016, the average annual growth rate for sales tax revenues was 4.5 percent, with FY 2011-2012 having the highest increase of 6.1 percent.
- When adjusted to 2015 dollars, there has been an increase in real sales tax dollars collected of 2.5 percent per year since FY 2009-2010 after four consecutive years of declining real sales tax dollars.

What Does This Mean?

As the nation slowly comes out of recession, local sales tax dollars are beginning to increase. A decrease in building permit activity in Lincoln starting in 2005 may be linked to a decrease in sales tax dollars that appears to precede the national recession of 2008.



Definitions/Notes:

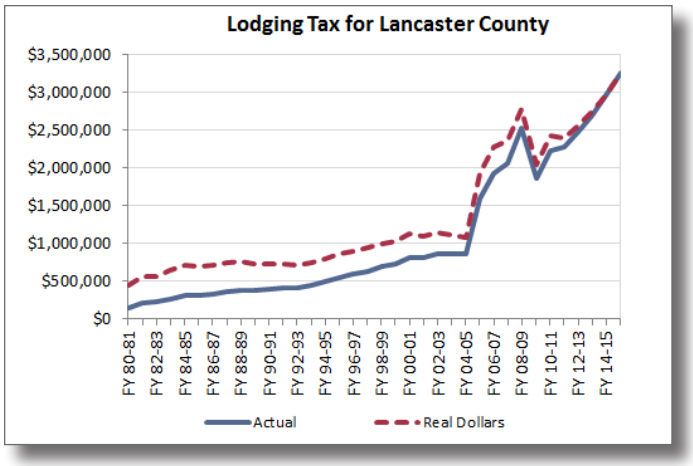
- *Figures represent the City's Fiscal Year (FY) from September 1 to August 31.*
- *Figures reflect actual sales tax revenues generated within the City of Lincoln.*
- *Real dollar sales tax figures are adjusted to 2015 dollars.*
- *The city's sales tax rate is 1.75 percent and has been in effect since the early 80s.*
- *Since 1980 various goods and services have been removed or added to the list of taxable goods: food, remodeling labor and construction labor for example.*

Source:

- *City of Lincoln, Finance Department, Budget Office*

Indicator 17: Lancaster County, Lodging Tax, 1980-2016

17



Definitions/Notes:

- *Figures represent the County's Fiscal Year (FY) from September 1 to August 31.*
- *Lodging tax revenues represent dollars spent on lodging in Lancaster County.*
- *Until 2004, the tax was 2% of the cost of lodging. In 2005, collection of an additional 2% to be deposited in the Visitors Improvement Fund began.*
- *The lodging tax revenue is affected by the number of rooms, occupancy rate, and the cost of a night's lodging.*
- *Real dollar lodging tax figures are adjusted to 2015 dollars.*
- *Includes lodging tax revenues only – visitors also spend money on goods and services in the community, adding further to the local economy and tax base.*

Source:

- *Lancaster County, Budget and Fiscal Office*

Why Is It Important?

Tourism, sporting events and conventions are an important component of Lancaster County's economy, and the lodging tax gives an indication of outside visitation into the local economy.

Key Observation

Lodging tax revenue has continued to increase in recent years since the economic downturn in FY 2007-2008 and 2008-09 and has surpassed pre-downturn levels.

How Are We Doing?

- » In FY 2015-2016, the lodging tax collected was $3.25 million in Lancaster County showing an increase of 9.6 percent since FY 2014-2015.
- » FY 2009-2010 had uncharacteristically low collections. The tax collected decreased 26.5 percent from FY 2008-2009 but increased 19.6 percent in the year immediately following.
- » Despite the dramatic increases and decreases, lodging tax has shown steady growth since 1980. In the 1980s, the average annual growth was 10.8 percent per year. In the 1990s, this slowed to 6.6 percent per year. In the following decade and since 2010, growth continued at a rate of 9.8 percent per year.
- » Between FY 2000-2001 and FY 2004-2005, the average annual growth rate in lodging taxes was only 1.41% per year, probably due to the September 11th tragedy and the following economic downturn.
- » In FY 2005-2006, revenues from the lodging tax increased dramatically to reach $1,595,737 from $865,170 in FY 2004-2005. This was due to an additional 2% tax that was collected for the Visitors Improvement Fund. Since then, collections have increased by an average 7.4 percent per year.

What Does This Mean?

Lodging tax collected reflects the number of visitors to Lincoln as well as the tendency of those visitors to stay more than one day. Decreases may reflect economic conditions that discourage travel, a reduction in the number of events to draw visitors, or a national event, such as the September 11th tragedy, which reduced travel nationwide.

Benchmark: Preserve Riparian, Floodplain and Stream Corridors

Indicator 18: Lincoln, Permits Issued in the 100 Year Floodplain, 2000-2016

18

Why Is It Important?

Building and fill permits issued for property within the 100 year floodplain are regulated by the City of Lincoln and over time may exhibit trends concerning the level of development in these areas. Together, these resources represent one of three Core Resource Imperatives selected to receive the greatest consideration in the long range planning process.

Key Observation

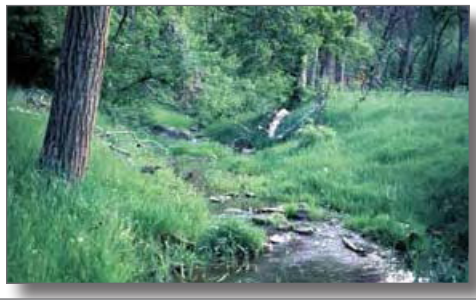
In 2016, no additional acres were added to the total protected floodplain area in Lancaster County.

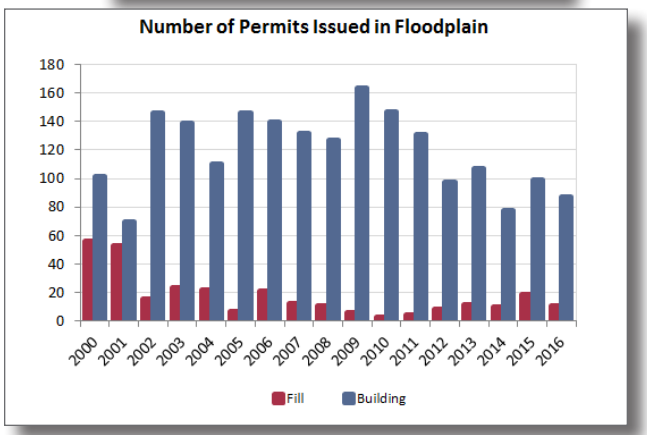
How Are We Doing?

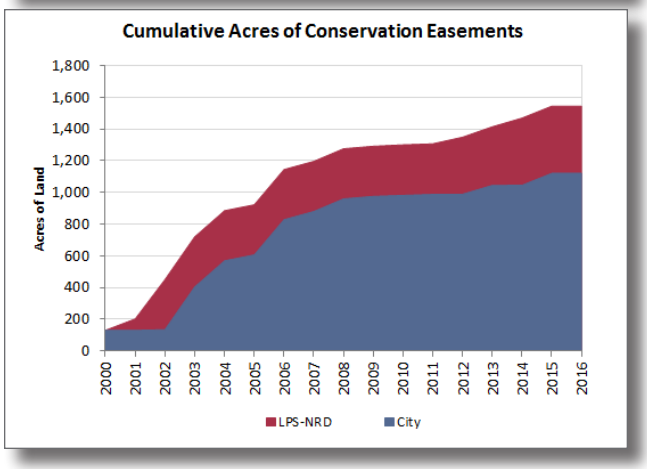
- Building permits for new or existing structures in the floodplain (including interior improvements to existing buildings) are the most common type of permits issued in the floodplain.
- The number of building and fill permits issued by the City of Lincoln totaled 158 permits in 2000, 150 in 2010 and 98 in 2016.
- Since 2000, the number of building and fill permits issued by the City of Lincoln for development in the floodplain is 2,321 permits.
- The City of Lincoln and the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District (LPS-NRD) also protect floodplains through the purchase of conservation easements that preserve the flood storage volume. Since 2010, a total of 253 acres have been added to the total protected area.

What Does This Mean?

Open space preservation that guarantees vacant floodplain will be kept free of development and higher regulatory standard for development in floodplains are two of the factors considered in the Community Rating System (CRS), which establishes flood insurance rates for communities. Lincoln has a rating of 5, one of the highest in the nation, and those who own property in the floodplain and have flood insurance receive a 25 percent discount as a result.







Definitions/Notes:

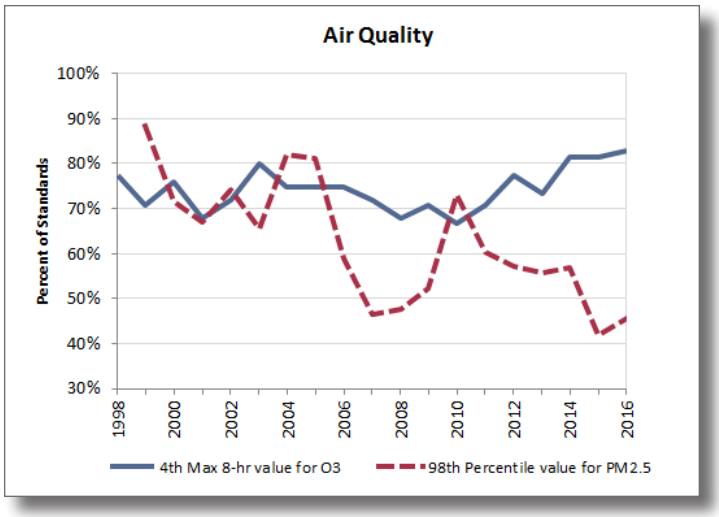
- *Building Permits also include filling the floodplain; however, "non-substantial" improvements, which include interior improvements, are included and may not impact the floodplain.*
- *Included in this information are permits for bridge and culvert construction and replacement, and wetland restoration.*
- *Fill permits reflect dirt and other material placed in the floodplain.*
- *Conservation easement data includes only easements that were established specifically for the preservation of flood storage.*

Sources:

- *City of Lincoln, Building and Safety Department*
- *City of Lincoln, Public Works & Utilities Department, Watershed Management*
- *Lower Platte South Natural Resource District*

Air quality in Lancaster County has historically been high. Lancaster County benefits from prevailing westerly winds and an extensive rural landscape between Lincoln and Denver, CO.

--2040 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan



Definitions/Notes::

- *NAAQS are designed to achieve air quality that protects human health, animal and plant life.*
- *Measurements are stated as a percent of the permitted NAAQS -- anything below 100 percent indicates attainment status.*
- *Some excess of the standard is permitted before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would find the City to be in violation.*
- *In 2016 the EPA standard for 03 was decreased from 0.075 ppm. Percentages for 2016 and later will be higher due to the lower permitted amount.*

Sources:

- *Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department, Environmental Public Health, Air Quality*
- *US Environmental Protection Agency, Monitor Values Report - Critical Air Pollutants*

Why Is It Important?

High levels of air pollution contribute to health problems, ecosystem degradation, and deterioration of the quality of life. Failure to comply with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) could jeopardize federal highway funding, limit the expansion of industrial operations and hinder economic activity for the community.

Key Observation

Lincoln continues to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

How Are We Doing?

- Lincoln/Lancaster County currently meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and is an air quality attainment community. As long as percentages remain below 100 percent, a community is considered to meet the standards.
- Ozone (O3) air pollution levels consistently measured the closest to the permitted NAAQS attainment threshold in the last decade. The 2016 value rose to 82.9 percent.
- Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) is made up of very fine particles of smoke, fumes, ash, pollen and other solids. These particles are small enough to get deep into, and sometimes pass through, lung tissue, posing a danger to human health. Since 2010 collected data shows 98th percentile readings of 14.7 to 25.6 micrograms per cubic meter of air. These readings vary from 42.0% to 73.1% of the NAAQS for PM2.5, with the lowest reading in 2015.

What Does This Mean?

Lincoln air quality is consistently within the limits set by the Environmental Protection Agency, although it can vary dramatically year to year due to local, regional, and global factors such as levels of traffic, seasonal fires, and weather conditions that demand higher than average heating and air conditioning levels.

Standards Permitted by the EPA

Air Pollutant	Highest Value
4th Max 8-hr value for O3	0.070 ppm
98th Percentile value for PM2.5	35 microgms per cu m of air

Why Is It Important?

About 90 percent of the County is utilized for growing crops, raising livestock, or producing other agricultural produce. These lands are an integral element in the natural landscape-providing habitat as well as being a basic piece of the County's historic signature landscape. Farming trends will be monitored to measure changes in the agricultural economy in Lancaster County.

Key Observation

The number of farms increased from 2007 to 2012 as did the average size of a farm and total land in farms.

How Are We Doing?

The following information is updated every five years by the U.S. Census of Agriculture. Data collected in 2012 was not reported until late 2014.

Number of Farms

- The total number of farms in Lancaster County has declined from its highest point of 2,361 farms in 1950 to 1,698 in 2007, but rose to 1,836 in 2012.
- Since 1987, the overall number of farms has fluctuated, and the trend has generally been toward an increase in the number of farms in Lancaster County.
- In 2002, the U.S. Census of Agriculture definition of farm changed to a "place with annual sales of agricultural products of at least $1,000." Prior to 2002, the definition included a minimum farm size of 20 acres.

Number of Acres

- From 1987 to 2007, the number of acres classified as farmland remained relatively steady. However, in 2012 the number of acres increased dramatically, while the number of operators whose principal occupation is farming fell by 43.9% over the 20 year average and the average market value of farms nearly doubled from 2007.

Average Size of Farms

- Between 1987 and 2012, the average farm size in Lancaster County fluctuated between 248 and 305 acres.
- Lancaster County is an 'Urban County' and the farming practices are slightly different from other counties. Lancaster County has seen a trend towards niche farming of horticulture products, organic products, trees, etc., which generate high income for lesser area coverage.

What Does This Mean?

The number of farms in Lancaster County, which is almost 90% rural, is higher than any other county in Nebraska – by nearly a factor of two. The size of these farms is much smaller than every other county except that Sarpy, Saunders and Washington are nearly as small and Douglas is slightly smaller (all counties including or surrounding the Omaha Metro area), possibly indicating more niche farms and farmers that don't rely on farming as their main source of income.

Farm Definition: A farm or ranch is defined as any place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the reference year.

Structure of Agriculture in Lancaster County

	Years					
	1987	1992	1997	2002	2007	2012
Number of farms	1,508	1,359	1,457	1,607	1,698	1,836
Land in Farms (acres)	448,286	414,763	421,089	448,600	421,409	489,023
Percent of Total land	83.50%	77.30%	78.40%	83.60%	78.50%	90.30%
Average Farm Size (acres)	297	305	289	279	248	266
Average Market Value	219,605	305,459	399,604	568,129	629,050	1,219,781
Harvested Cropland (acres)	265,802	278,854	287,382	314,148	288,523	373,212
Operators whose Principal occupation is farming	53.60%	52.50%	46.00%	52.70%	41.20%	34.20%

Note: 2012 is the latest available data.

Definitions/Notes:

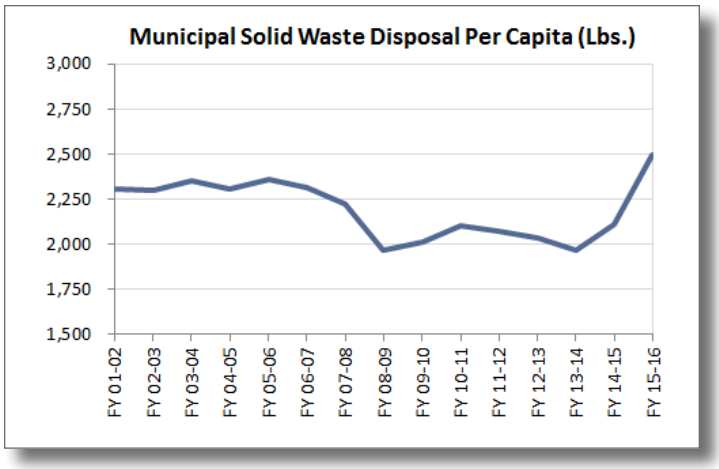
- *The U.S. Census of Agriculture is undertaken every five years.*
- *The next Census of Agriculture will be undertaken in 2017, results expected in 2019.*
- *The Census of Agriculture is the only source of uniform agricultural data for every county in the United States.*

Source:

- *2012 US Census of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistics Service (USDA)*

Indicator 21: Lancaster County Annual Municipal Solid Waste Per Capita (Pounds), 2001-2016

In 2016, there were 33 Voluntary Recycling Drop-Off Centers in Lancaster County, most located in Lincoln.



Definitions/Notes:

- *Recycled materials are deposited at Voluntary Drop-off Recycling Centers located throughout the community and collected curbside by area contractors.*
- *Per Capita municipal solid waste is the total amount of materials by fiscal year placed in the landfill divided by the Census Bureau mid-year population estimates for Lancaster County.*

Sources:

- *Lincoln Public Works & Utilities, Solid Waste Recycling Office*
- *U.S. Census Population Estimates*

Why Is It Important?

Per Capita municipal solid waste not only reflects consumption and disposal patterns but also indicates waste reduction, material reuse and recycling opportunities that are available to residents and businesses in the area and the extent that they divert waste from disposal. Increased diversion helps to conserve resources and lessens demands placed on the environment by reducing landfill waste which can contaminate air, land and water resources.

Key Observation

Lancaster County has both voluntary recycling drop-off centers and subscription curbside recycling programs.

How Are We Doing?

- In 2012 and 2013, the City went through a public process to update the Solid Waste Management Plan with the assistance of a 20 member Advisory Committee. The recommendations of that committee were to reduce the per capita Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) 10 percent by 2018, 20 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2040.
- Another recommendation of the Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committtee was that curbside recycling be included as part of the base service provided by all private waste haulers.
- Many private waste haulers have already integrated curbside recycling services as part of their solid waste collection menu of services. In 2017, the City passed an ordinance to ban cardboard from the City landfill beginning April 1, 2018.
- A baseline community survey conducted in August, 2012 indicated that 24 percent of the households subscribe to curbside recycling and 56 percent have used recycling drop-off sites.
- Area businesses have established voluntary "take back" programs for selected materials. For example, televisions, computers, rechargeable batteries, compact florescent light bulbs, print cartridges, cell phones and grocery sacks are accepted by some area businesses.

What Does This Mean?

Per capita waste has been steadily declining since about 2006, with a dramatic increase in the most recent years. A dramatic increase in FY 2015-2016 can be attributed to an uncharacteristically large amount of contaminated soil being moved to a facility outside Lancaster county, most likely coming from an increase in construction-related waste.

Benchmark: Trees on City Property will be Systematically and Pro-Actively Maintained

Indicator 22: Care and Maintenance of the City's Urban Forest, 1997-2016

22

Why Is It Important?

Trees on City property, including street right-of-way, are maintained by the City Parks & Recreation Department, Community Forestry Division. Public trees, as well as private trees, have been shown to have environmental and economic benefits.

Key Observation

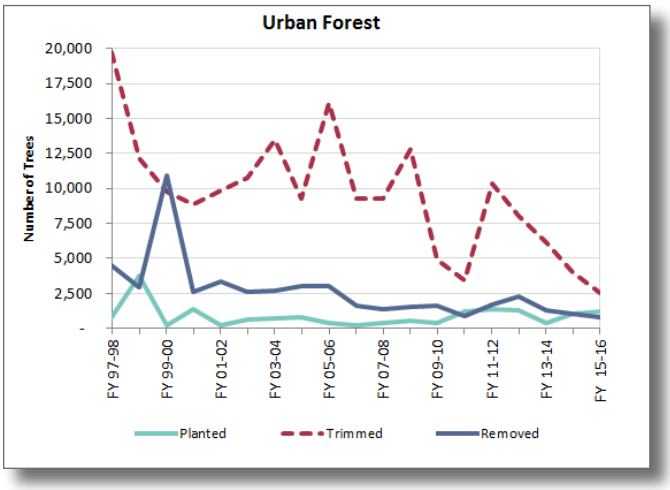
As of 2016, there are more than 87,000 street trees and about 38,000 additional trees on City owned land.

How Are We Doing?

- In general, more trees are removed from public property than are planted. Trees are removed if dead, damaged or diseased beyond treatment, or if they become a hazard to life or property.
- A large number of trees were either removed or trimmed in FY 1997-1998 due to an early and heavy snowfall in October 1997.
- In FY 1999-2000, over 8,000 volunteer cedar and locust trees were removed from the Wilderness Park Tree Management Area.
- In 2013, per capita expenditures for public tree care were $4.94. In 1998, per capita expenditures were $4.49, or $5.55 when adjusted for inflation.
- Since 1998, the Community Forestry Division has performed or overseen 180,783 tree trimmings, 17,091 tree plantings, and the removal of 49,881 volunteer, dead, diseased or hazardous trees.
- Lincoln has been designated as a Tree City USA for 39 years, received the Tree City Growth Award for 26 consecutive years, was one of the first 27 communities to become a Sterling Tree City USA in 2000, and is the only city in the nation to hold all three titles. The UNL and Wesleyan campuses are designated as Tree Campus USA, and LES is a Tree Line USA Utility.
- Approximately 20% of trees on City owned property are ash trees, which are threatened by the expected approach of the Emerald Ash Borer, a beetle that has decimated ash tree populations in the eastern U.S. and was detected in Nebraska in 2016. In 2009, the City approved the Nebraska Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan to guide efforts to pro-actively address this issue. So far 870 ash trees have been identified to be removed and replaced.

What Does This Mean?

Lincoln's publicly owned trees are highly valued by the community, however, funding of tree management programs is not keeping pace with the requirements of the urban forest.

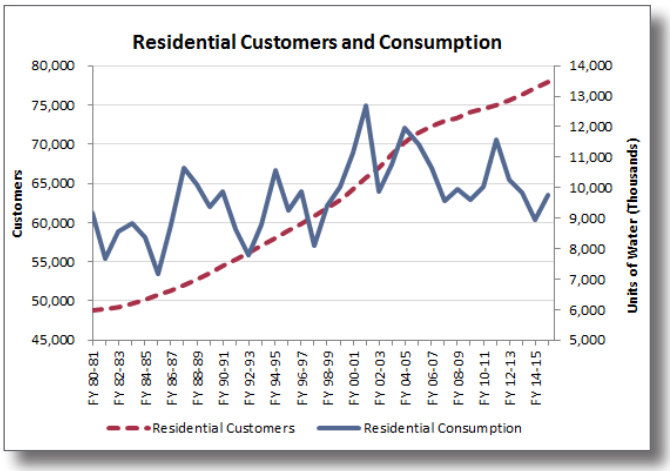


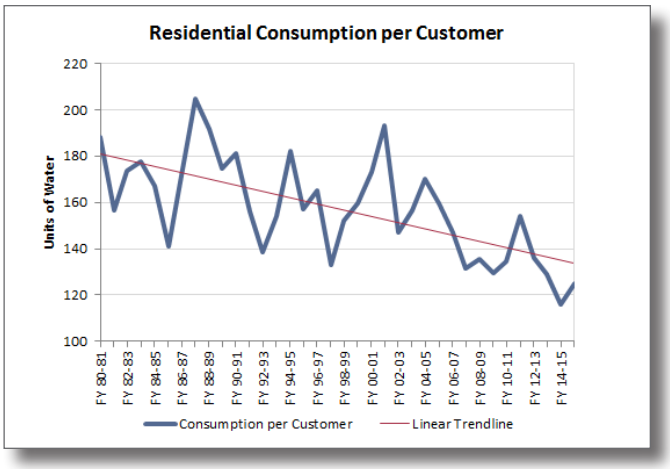
Definitions/Notes:

- *Street trees are trees that are planted in the public right-of-way along public streets and on private streets.*
- *Street trees are most often planted by the developer of a subdivision and public street trees are maintained by the City Parks & Recreation Department, Community Forestry Division.*
- *Data regarding trees planted in the Urban Forest graph above includes those replanted on right-of-way and in parks as well as new trees planted in new subdivisions.*
- *Per capita cost is figured by dividing the actual annual expended Community Forestry Division budget by the July 1 US Census population estimate for Lincoln for that year.*

Source:

- *Parks and Recreation Department, Community Forestry Division, Quarterly Reports and 30 year synopsis*





Definition:

- *Consumption is measured in units of water where 1 unit = 748 gallons = one hundred cubic feet.*

Source:

- *City of Lincoln, Lincoln Water System Annual Report*

Why Is It Important?

Lincoln's only source of water is groundwater recharged from the Platte River northeast of Lincoln. The well fields currently owned by the Lincoln Water System have a projected maximum capacity approximately equal to the projected need for the year 2050. Additional well field property and water rights will need to be acquired in the planning period to meet future demand beyond 2050.

Key Observation

Residential water consumption suggests a correlation to annual rainfall data, perhaps due to increased irrigation of lawns in drier years.

How Are We Doing?

- In FY 2015-2016, the number of residential customers was 77,982 with an annual consumption of 9.76 million units.
- Between FY 2009-2010 and FY 2015-2016, both water consumption and number of customers have increased by 1.7 percent and 5.2 percent respectively. However, the trend since 1980 is that consumption per customer has been declining.
- Building permit policies requiring water conserving fixtures and higher efficiency appliances have contributed to the trend of declining consumption per customer.
- Although the drought of 2012 was one of the worst on record, the annual increase in consumption was only the 5th highest since FY 1980-1981, likely due to the underlying gains in efficiency and significant efforts by the community to conserve water during the summer months.

What Does This Mean?

Changes in plumbing code, increasing appliance efficiency and efforts to educate the public in water conservation practices have resulted in a general growth in consumption that is slower than the growth in customers. Drier years see higher consumption mainly because of irrigation, but also because as ground dries it shrinks and can cause older mains to break and leak.

Benchmark: Continue to encourage energy conservation practices in the City and County.

Indicator 24: Residential Electric Accounts and Consumption, 1990-2016

24

Why Is It Important?

Because of the limited amount of nonrenewable energy sources on Earth, it is important to both reduce consumption of resources and substitute non-renewable resources with renewable ones, so that our natural resources will be available for future generations.

Key Observation

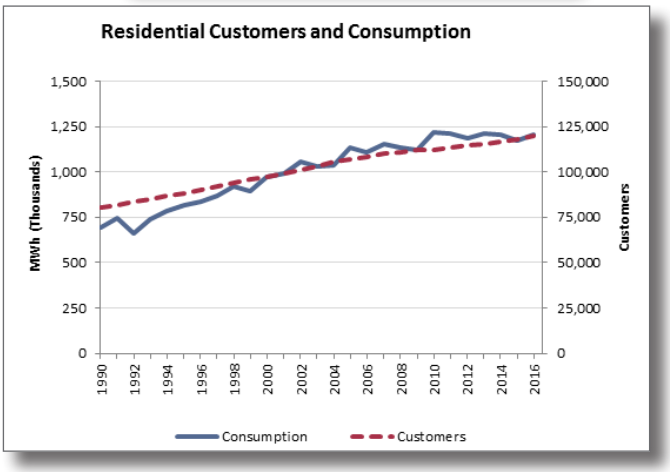
Residential electrical consumption indicates awareness of and investments in energy-efficient practices and equipment. Although residential electrical consumption has increased steadily since 1990, trends show that consumption per customer has decreased in recent years.

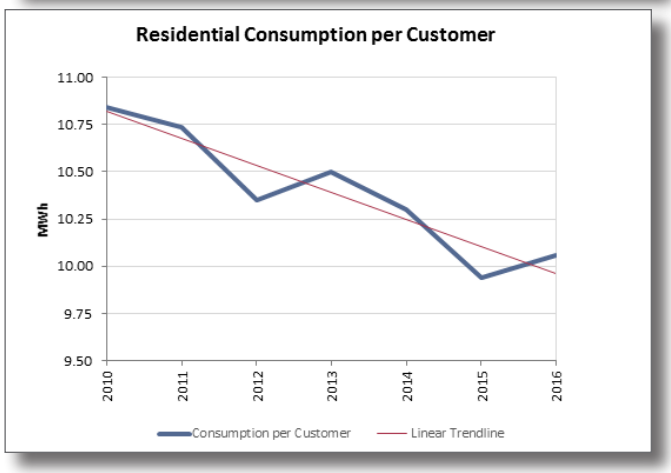
How Are We Doing?

- In 2016, the number of residential customers was 119,905 with an annual consumption of 1.21 megawatt-hours.
- Although the number of LES residential customers has increased by 6.83% since 2010, residential electrical consumption decreased by 0.88% during the same period.
- The LES generating capacity portfolio is now essentially split equally between renewables, natural gas, and coal.
- The LES Sustainable Energy Program provides financial incentives to reward residential and business customers for energy efficiency improvements. In 2015, the LES Sustainable Energy Program allocated $4 million in financial incentives for more than 1,500 projects. In addition, customers recycled 642 inefficient, secondary refrigerators and freezers as part of the program.
- LES added 273 megawatts of wind energy and 5 megawatts of solar energy capacity in 2015.

What Does This Mean?

Increasing efficiency efforts that educate the public in energy conservation practices have resulted in a recent decline in the residential energy consumption per customer.





Definitions/Notes:

- *The amount of energy comsumed as reported does not differentiate between fossil fuels and renewable energy source.*

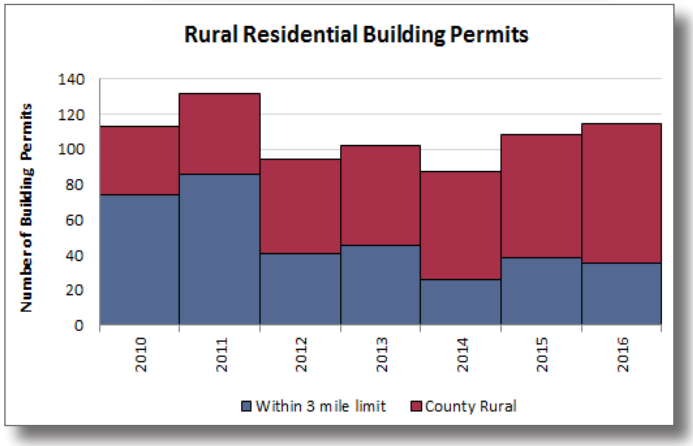
Sources:

- *2015 LES Annual Report, www.les.com*

Benchmark: Accommodate 6% Population in the Unincorporated Parts of Lancaster County

Indicator 25: Rural Residential Home Activity, 2010-2016

25



Building Permits Issued for New Construction

Building Permits Issued for New Construction	Years							Total
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Lincoln	80.9%	83.7%	90.4%	87.8%	92.2%	91.3%	87.1%	88.5%
Within 3 mile limit	5.1%	7.6%	2.7%	2.9%	1.3%	1.7%	2.4%	3.0%
County Rural	3.8%	4.3%	3.5%	3.7%	3.0%	3.2%	5.5%	3.7%
Small Towns	10.3%	4.4%	3.4%	5.6%	3.6%	3.8%	5.0%	4.8%
Total Building Permits	1,040	1,075	1,507	1,529	2,051	2,174	1,455	10,831

Note: Small towns and part of the rural county are not under the jurisdiction of Lincoln and Lancaster County. Some small towns did not respond to requests for information, others do not issue building permits.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Data are based on building permits issued, not actual construction and occupancy – some permits are issued where the homes are never built.*
- *The extra-territorial jurisdiction, or ETJ, is the area under the planning and zoning control of an incorporated area.*
- *"County Rural" is the remainder of the County not part of the small town ET or three mile ETJ of Lincoln.*
- *Small towns are other incorporated towns in Lancaster County.*
- *"Within three mile" comprises homes within Lincoln's three mile ETJ at time of permit approval.*

Sources:

- *City of Lincoln, Building and Safety Department, Construction Reports*
- *Incorporated Villages and Cities, Building Permit (Self-Reported)*

Why Is It Important?

This indicator serves as a proxy to monitor annual population and development change in the unincorporated parts of the County. This 10% of the County population has seen a shift over the years from about 2% in the incorporated towns and 8% on acreages and farms, to a current split of about 3% in towns and 7% in the unincorporated area. This plan assumes the shift will continue and that 4% of people will live in incorporate villages and cities by 2040, with the remaining 6% on acreages, farms and in the unincorporated villages in the County.

Key Observation

The last five years have seen an increase in the building permit activity in the County, primarily in Lincoln.

How Are We Doing?

» New residential activity within the three-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) area of Lincoln, which had leveled off since 1999, increased in 2010 and 2011, only to return to the lower levels of the 2000s. Between 2010 and 2016, an average of 46 building permits per year were issued. In 2016, there were 35 permits for new residential dwelling units issued in the three mile ETJ.

» The villages of Hickman and Waverly have shown strong growth over the past five years, accounting for 68.2 percent of all small town permits since 2010.

What Does This Mean?

The small towns have accounted for a higher percentage of building permits issued in the last 15 years than in the County's jurisdiction.

Benchmark: Add Approximately 42,000 Dwelling Units in Lancaster County by 2040

Indicator 26: Lincoln, Residential Building Permits, 2000-2016

26

Why Is It Important?

The number of issued building permits for new residences in Lincoln reflects the level of activity in the housing industry. The provision of new housing to accommodate the projected population growth over the 24-year planning period is a fundamental assumption in the Comprehensive Plan.

Key Observation

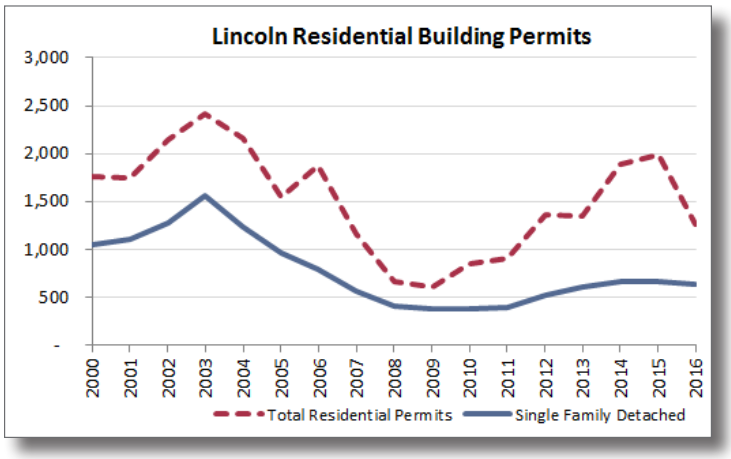
Based on demographic projections, Lincoln needs to add roughly 800 - 1,200 dwelling units per year. The ten-year average is currently 1,202 dwelling units per year.

How Are We Doing?

- In 2003, a total of 2,410 residential units were permitted for construction in Lincoln. This was the highest number of permits issued for any single year in this reporting period.
- In 2009, 604 building permits were issued in Lincoln for construction of new residential units, the lowest since 1983.
- Between 2007 and 2016, residential permits were issued for construction of 12,020 dwelling units, for an average of 1,202 residential dwelling units permits each year.
- Between 1990 and 2000, 17,867 building permits were issued for new residences. The average annual number of units for this period was 1,787 per year.
- In 2016, building permits were issued for a total of 1,267 dwelling units. Of that total, 632 permits were for detached single-family dwellings.

What Does This Mean?

The pace of residential construction is close to what the Comprehensive Plan projections recommend to keep pace with population and household growth.



Note: 2016 is the latest available data.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Dwellings include single-family detached, attached single-family, townhome, duplex and apartment units permitted within the City of Lincoln's corporate limits.*
- *Building permit data are based on the date the building permit was issued, not actual construction and occupancy -- some permits are issued where the homes are never built.*
- *Issued building permits allow a two-year period for construction to be completed.*

Source:

- *City of Lincoln, Building and Safety Department, Construction Report*

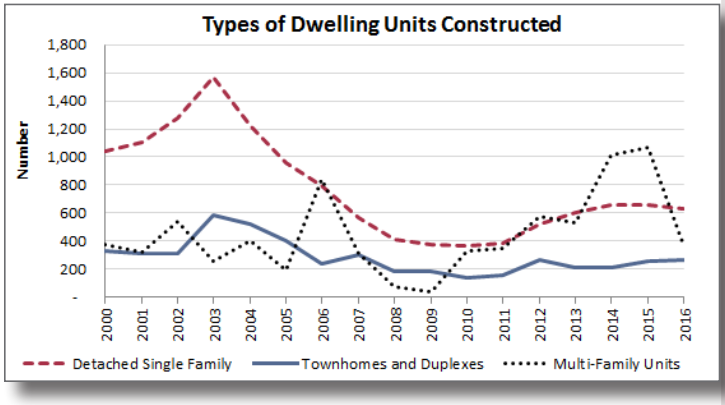
Benchmark: Provide a Wide Variety of Housing Types and Choices for an Increasingly Diverse and Aging Population.

Indicator 27: Housing Choices in Lincoln, 2000-2016

27

"Provide different housing types and choices, including affordable housing, throughout each neighborhood for an increasingly diverse population."

--2040 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan



Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Based on date building permit issued, not actual construction and occupancy -- some permits are issued where the homes are never built.*
- *Detached single-family is a home on a single lot.*
- *Attached single-family includes townhomes and duplexes.*
- *Multi-family is three or more units on a single lot, typical of apartments or condominiums.*

Source:

- *City of Lincoln, Building and Safety Department, Construction Reports*

Why Is It Important?

Due to socio-economic and other trends in the country, LPlan2040 assumes an increase in the proportion of dwelling units that will be multi-family such as apartments, townhouses, condominiums etc. As the demographics shift towards an increasingly diverse and aging population, providing a wide variety of housing types and choices is an important goal.

Key Observation

Since 2010, multi-family detached dwellings have accounted for 44.2 percent of all residential building permits, followed by single-family detached at 40.1 percent and townhomes plus duplexes at 15.8 percent.

How Are We Doing?

- Single-family detached permits have stabilized in the last few years following a major decline from 2003-2010.
- The number of new multi-family permits between 2000 and 2009 was 3,365 over ten years. In the past seven years, permits for 4,236 units have been issued.
- The number of building permits issued for townhomes and duplexes has exhibited a steady trend since 2006 ranging from 139 in 2010 to 280 in 2007. 263 permits were issued in 2016.
- Permits for detached single-family homes have increased to 632 in 2016 from a low of 370 in 2010, however, still well behind the peak of 1,565 in 2003.
- Townhomes (attached single-family homes) have become one of the more popular housing choices in Lincoln with many new developments catering to residents seeking home-ownership opportunities for this type of home. 19.1 percent of all new units since 2000 have been townhomes or duplexes.
- From 2000-2009, the split of dwelling units was 58.1 percent detached single-family, 21.0 percent townhomes and duplexes, and 20.9 percent multi-family. From 2010-2016, the split has changed to 44.2 percent multi-family, 40.1 percent detached single-family and 15.8 percent townhomes and duplexes.

What Does This Mean?

The last seven years of recovery have shown a wider variety of housing types than 2000-2009.

Benchmark: Maintain Affordable Housing in Both New and Existing Neighborhoods

Indicator 28: Lincoln's Single-Family Detached Home Median Price, 2000-2016

28

Why Is It Important?

Ensuring safe, adequate, and affordable housing is an important function in maintaining the vitality of neighborhoods and the city as a whole. One of the goals of LPlan2040 is to provide safe and decent affordable and special needs housing for low- and moderate-income households.

Key Observation

Existing median single family home sales prices in Lincoln are not recovering from the recent recession to the same magnitude as the Midwest or U.S.

How Are We Doing?

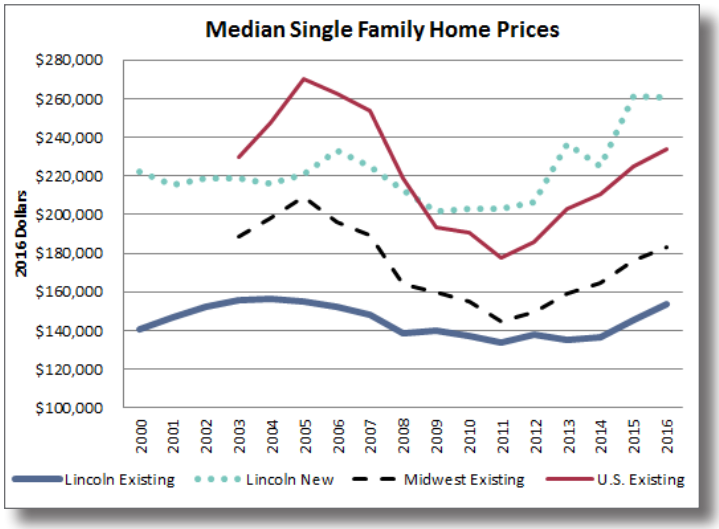
- In 2000, the median price for existing detached single-family homes was $140,390 (2016 Dollars), and for a new detached single-family home, it was $222,400 (2016 Dollars).
- In 2016, the median price for existing detached single-family homes in the Lincoln MLS Area, reported by the REALTORS Association of Lincoln (RAL) was $153,500, an increase of about 5.5 percent from 2015.
- In 2016, the median price for new detached single-family homes in the Lincoln MLS Area, reported by the RAL was $260,604, an increase of about 0.4 percent from 2015.
- In 2016, the national average was $233,800 for existing detached single-family homes, an increase of 4.1 percent from 2015 and $183,300 for the Midwest showing an increase of 4.1 percent since 2015.

What Does This Mean?

Based on 2016 Dollars, existing median single-family home prices in Lincoln have not increased at the same rate as new home prices. The difference between existing median home price and median new home price was $60,211 (2016 dollars) in 2004 compared to $107,104 in 2016.

"The key to both developing and existing urban neighborhoods is land use diversity. The diversity of architecture, housing types and sizes are central to what makes existing neighborhoods great places to live."

--2040 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan



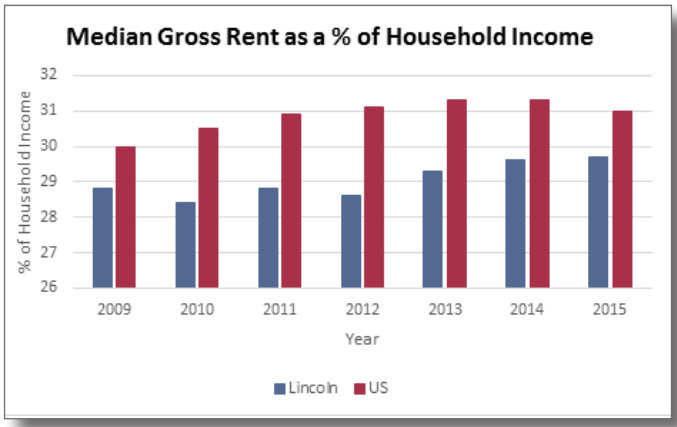
Note: 2016 is the latest available data.

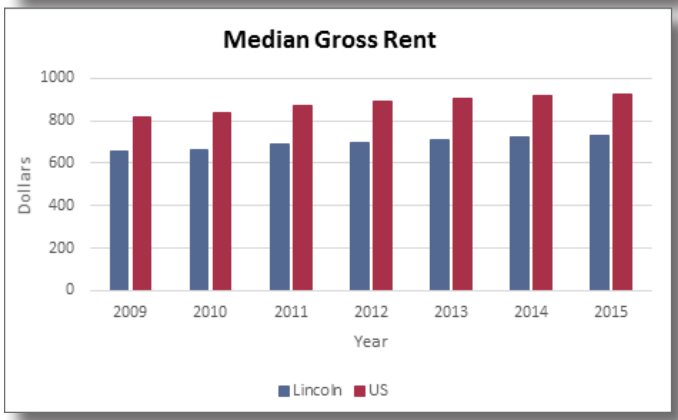
Definitions/Notes:

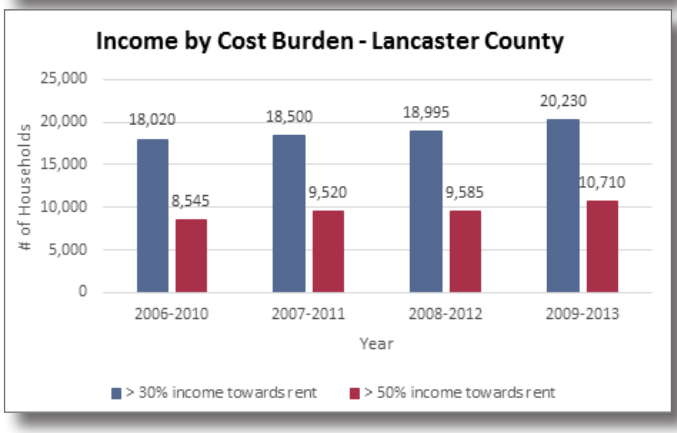
- *All numbers shown are based on 2016 Dollars adjusted by the Consumer Price Index.*
- *The REALTORS® Association of Lincoln (RAL) reports annual median sale prices of single-family detached homes sold through the Midlands Multiple Listing Service (MLS).*
- *Median housing price refers to the median cost of housing actually purchased.*
- *Median housing price indicates the point where half of the houses are below and above the median price.*
- *Condominiums, mobile homes, duplexes, and townhomes are not included in data.*
- *Homes that are sold by an owner or agent who does not participate in the Midlands MLS are not included in data.*

Sources:

- *US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development*
- *National Association of REALTORS®*
- *REALTORS Association of Lincoln*







Note: 2015 is the latest available data.

Why Is It Important?

Ensuring safe, adequate, and affordable housing is an important function in maintaining the vitality of neighborhoods and the city as a whole. One of the goals of LPlan2040 is to provide safe and decent affordable and special needs housing for low- and moderate-income households.

Key Observation

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan (LPlan 2040) expects that 40% of all new dwelling units will be multi-family through 2040. Since 2010, multi-family dwellings have accounted for 44.2 percent of all residential building permits.

How Are We Doing?

- Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.
- The median gross rent in Lincoln has been steadily rising at a rate that is comparable to the United States. In 2015 the median gross rent for the United States was about 21 percent higher than that of Lincoln. In general, the lower income households have a higher cost burden for gross rent.
- The median gross rent in Lincoln has been steadily climbing from $656 in 2009 to $729 in 2015. In 2015, the median gross rent in Lincoln was $729 compared to $928 for the U.S.
- For Lincoln, the median gross rent in 2015 compared as a percentage of household income was 29.7 percent. This is approximately a 3 percent increase over 2009 when the percentage was 28.8 percent.
- For the data period of 2009-2013, 20,230 households paid over 30% or more of their income towards rent, and 10,710 paid 50% or more of their income towards rent. This indicates that approximately 27% of rental households in Lancaster County are cost burdened, according to the definition by HUD.

What Does This Mean?

Increasing affordable housing options in Lincoln will reduce the level of cost burdened households.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Cost burden is the ratio of housing costs to household income. For renters, housing cost is gross rent (contract rent plus utilities).*
- *CHAS data is based on a 5-year rolling average. This was used for the Income by Cost Burden chart.*

Sources:

- www.hud.gov
- www.factfinder.census.gov
- www.huduser.gov *(CHAS Data Sets)*

Why Is It Important?

Median Family Income (MFI) is a barometer of the standard of living for families because it accounts for differences in family size. Median Family Income is also used to determine eligibility for numerous housing assistance programs and allows comparisons with other communities and the U.S.

Key Observation

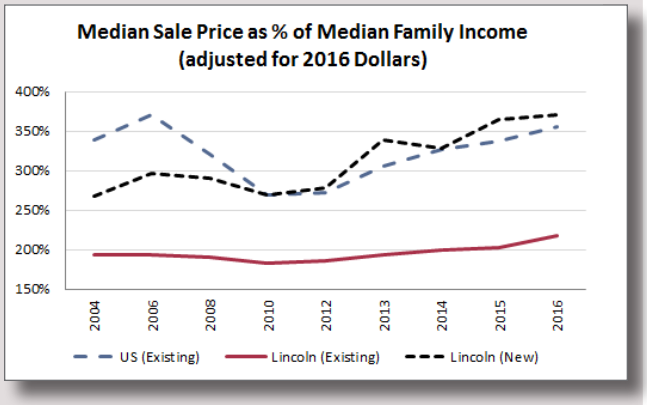
Median Family Income has generally declined steadily in Lancaster County since 2001 based on 2016 dollars.

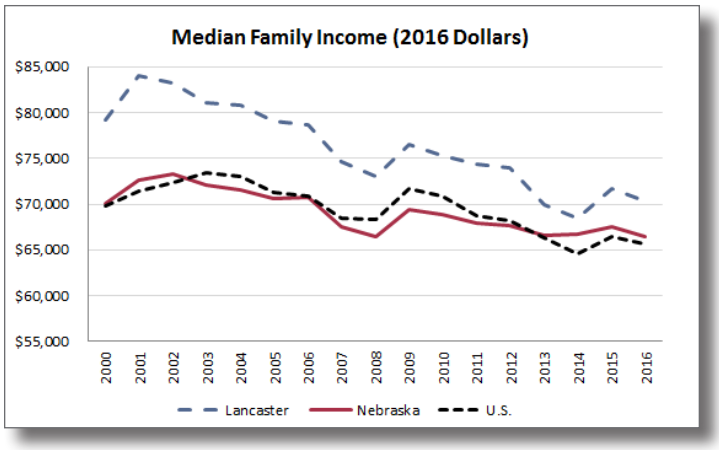
How Are We Doing?

- In 2016, the MFI for a 4 person household was approximately $70,400 for Lancaster County and $66,500 for Nebraska, a decrease of about 0.85 and and 0.45 percent respectively since 2015.
- The County has a historically consistent higher MFI than the State.
- Since 2000, the MFI for Lancaster County has increased by about 23.5 percent. However, when inflation is factored in, it has decreased by about 11.1 percent. The decrease has been consistent since 2001.
- In 2016, the median value of a new detached single-family unit was $260,604, which is more than three times (370 percent) of the median family income in Lancaster County. For an existing detached single-family unit, the median value is $153,500 which is over two times (218 percent) of the median family income in Lancaster County.

What Does This Mean?

Median Family Incomes in Lancaster County have been shrinking (in 2016 dollars) while existing home prices have stayed relatively stable. A new home in Lincoln is a little more than an existing home elsewhere in the country.





Note: 2016 is the latest available data.

Median Family Income, 2016	
US	*$65,700*
Nebraska	*$66,500*
Lancaster Co.	*$70,400*

Definitions/Notes:

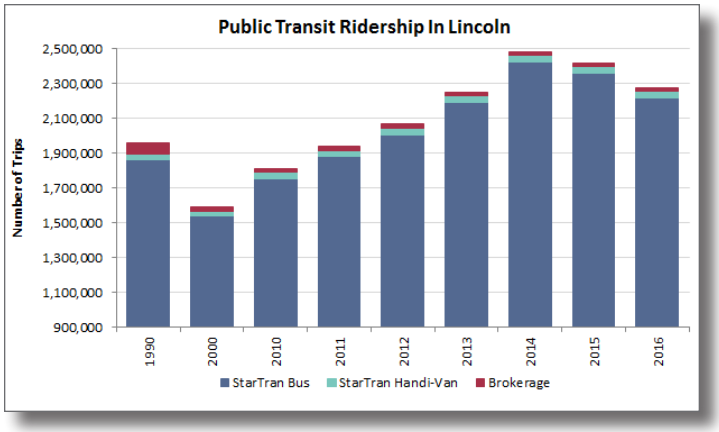
- *A "family" is defined as two or more related individuals living in the same household.*
- *MFI reflects a 4 Person Household, typically two adults and two children.*
- *MFI is usually higher than "Median Household Income" because a family includes all wage earners in a household older than 15 years of age.*
- *MFI measures the point where half of the family households have lower incomes and half have higher incomes.*
- *Real dollars are adjusted for inflation via the CPI to reflect a base year of 2016.*

Sources:

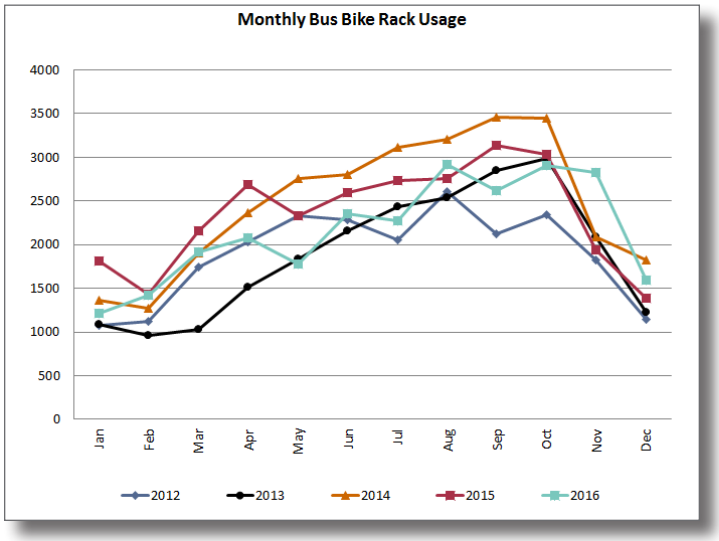
- *US Department of Housing and Urban Development*
- *HUD USER Policy Development and Research*

Indicator 31: Lincoln's Public Transit Ridership, 1990-2016

31



2016 StarTran ridership exceeded 2.27 million trips.



In 2016, the bike racks on StarTran buses were used an average of 84 times each operating day for a monthly total average of 2,157 rack users.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Brokerage program provides eligible disabled persons with door-to-door transit services.*
- *Ridership numbers for StarTran Bus and Handi-Van are collected via automated farebox collections collected for the Fiscal Year September to August.*

Source:

- *City of Lincoln Public Works & Utilities - StarTran*

Why Is It Important?

The Comprehensive Plan aims to increase the use of public transit ridership by improving and expanding facilities and services. Public transportation is necessary for those residents who lack other transportation means. Growing ridership can indicate that this transportation option is a viable alternative to the single occupant vehicle. StarTran provides fixed-route service, paratransit (Handi-Van), and brokerage door-to-door demand responsive disability service to comply with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Key Observation

StarTran 2016 ridership was 2.27 million, 43.1% higher than in 2000, and 8.2% lower than 2014.

How Are We Doing?

- The majority of trips taken on Lincoln's public transit system are on the fixed-route StarTran bus system that provides scheduled service throughout Lincoln.
- In 2016, StarTran fixed-route bus service ridership exhibited the third highest number in the reporting period with over 2.27 million trips taken by residents. Brokerage and Handi-Van ridership combined for less than 3 percent (61,123 trips) of total trips in 2016.
- Between 1990 and 2000, transit ridership generally declined. However, StarTran ridership has generally stabilized and increased since 2000.
- Since 2005, StarTran experienced increases in ridership likely due to new fare programs such as "Ride for 5," increases in driving costs such as gas prices, and an updated route system.
- Since 2000, StarTran ridership has increased by 43.1 percent, or an average annual increase of 2.5 percent. Population during this time has increased approximately 1.36 percent per year in Lincoln (2000-2015).

What Does This Mean?

Due to many factors, including gas prices, service, updated routes and the introduction of bike racks on buses, Lincoln's public transit ridership has been generally increasing since 2000. In 2014, ridership was higher than anytime in over 25 years. In addition, since 2000 public transit ridership growth has outpaced population growth.

Benchmark: A Multi-Use Trail within 1 Mile of all Residences in Lincoln

Indicator 32: Lincoln's Multi-Use Trails Coverage, 2016

32

Why Is It Important?

This indicator examines the spatial relationship for multi-use trails with proximity to Lincoln homes. Such a coverage analysis identifies potential areas for new or improved trail service. The existing trail system serves both commuter and recreational bicyclists, walkers, runners and students. Trails play an important role in the community by providing an alternative to the automobile, reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, providing health and quality of life benefits, and creating a more balanced transportation system.

Key Observation

97.31 percent of homes in Lincoln are located within 1 mile of a public multi-use trail.

How Are We Doing?

- In 2016, 97.31 percent of homes (115,691 of 118,886) were located within 1 mile of a public multi-use trail.
- There are approximately 3,195 homes (2.69 percent) located outside the 1 mile service area standard – these homes are generally located in newer developments along Lincoln's fringe. One part of an existing neighborhood in the vicinity of 56th and Randolph Streets is outside of the service area.
- In many newer developments along Lincoln's edges, trails are planned but are not yet constructed.
- Since 2000, 43.5 miles of trails have been constructed.
- Since 2000, the area that needs to be served by the multi-use trail system has expanded through the annexation of approximately 17.68 square miles.
- In 2016, the Rock Island Trail had a total of 235,948 users (bicyclists and pedestrians) at the permanent counter located south of Bishop Heights Park. The daily average of Rock Island Trail users was 646.

What Does This Mean?

The proximity of trails to homes is an indicator of resident's accessibility to this important infrastructure. As a result of Lincoln's high level of trails coverage, an increasing number of commuters are using the trail system as a part of their daily bicycle commute trips.

The percentage of workers who biked to work increased between 2000 and 2015 from 1.0% to 1.6%, which is 60% increase in the number of bike commuters.

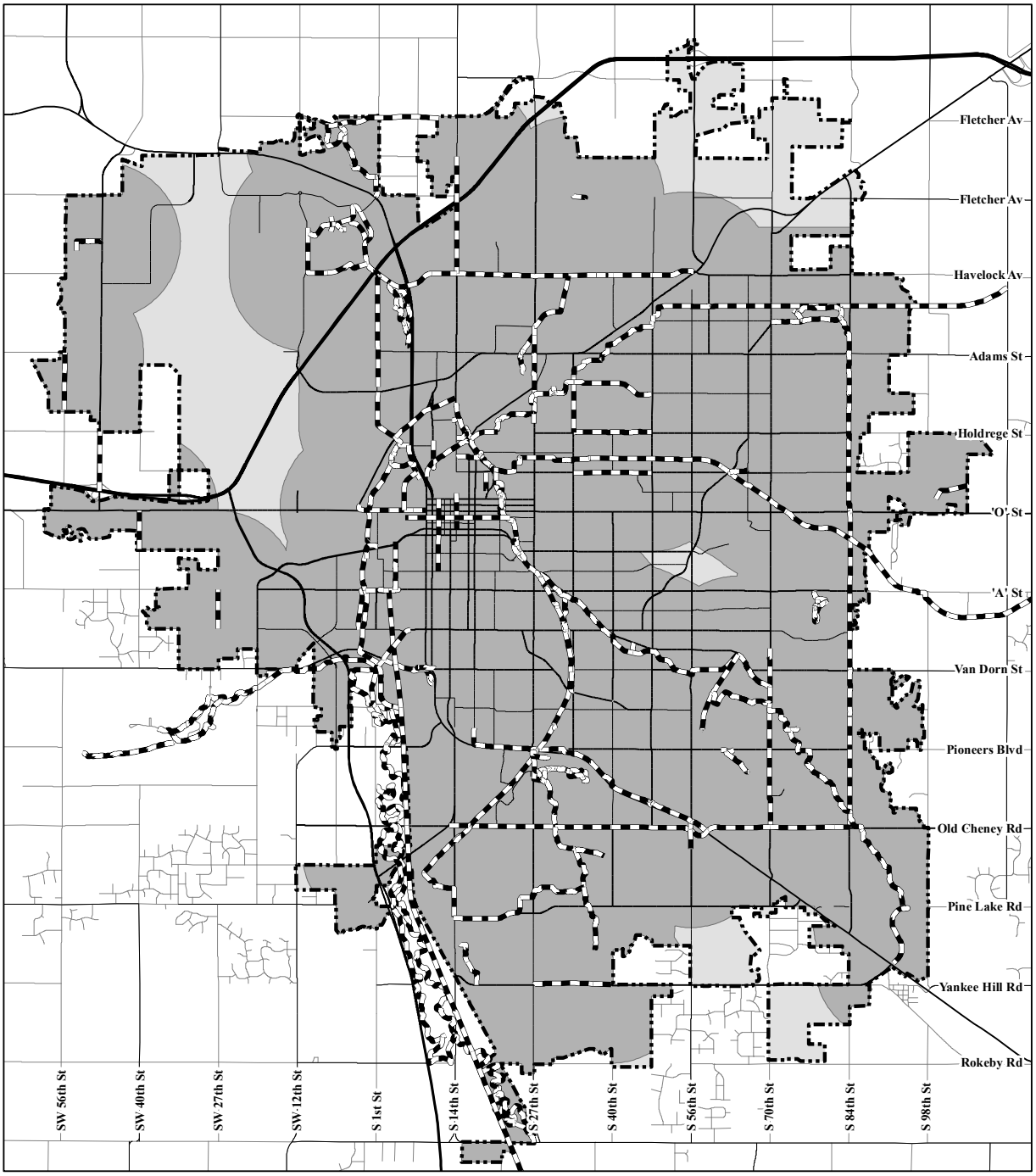
--Source: U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000 and 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Lincoln/ Lancaster County has approximately 151.50 miles of existing and funded multi-use trails.*
- *The 1 mile standard reflects the walking or biking distance most people are willing to travel to get to the nearest trail.*
- *On-street bike routes totaling about 82 miles provide additional service for bikers throughout the community.*
- *The Comprehensive Plan's Trails Master Plan identifies about 84 miles of additional multi-use trails to be constructed throughout the community.*
- *Bike lanes (2.8 miles) are in use in Lincoln.*

Source:

- *2040 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan*



MULTI-USE TRAILS

97.31% Of Lincoln Residences Are Within 1 Mile

City Limits and Residences as of December 31, 2016

Map Explanation: The shaded areas on the map reflect the 1 mile radius from the existing multi-use trails.

Indicator 33: Lincoln's Means of Transportation to Work Other than the Single Occupant Vehicle

33

Why Is It Important?

The Comprehensive Plan aims to study and implement ways to increase the use of alternative transportation modes such as carpooling, transit use, walking, biking, telecommuting, and use of flexible work schedules. Increased trips using alternative transportation modes reduce the number of single occupant vehicles on the street network and therefore help reduce congested travel periods and traveler delay, improve air quality, and improve access to schools, jobs, and other needs for all users of the transportation system. This is especially important during peak commuting times.

Key Observation

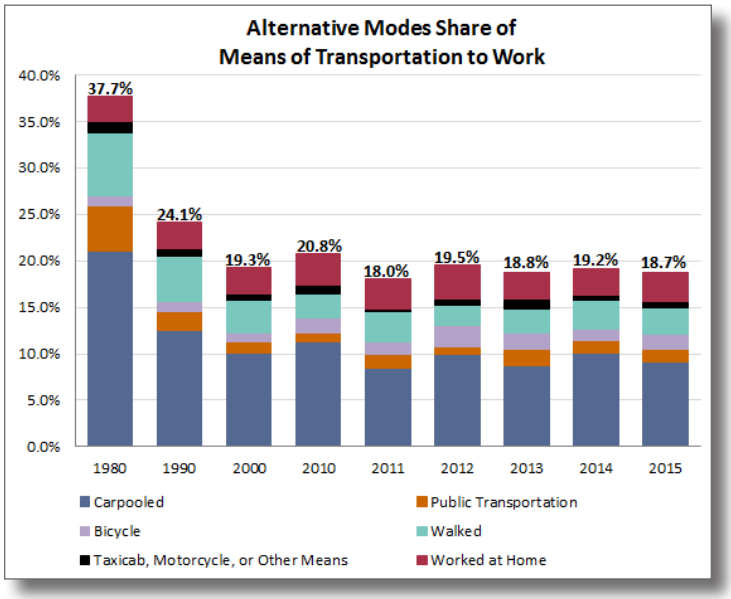
Between 1980 and 2000, the use of alternative modes for the work trip in Lincoln decreased by 49%. This decreasing trend ended between 2000 and 2010.

How Are We Doing?

- The use of alternative modes of travel as a means of transportation to work was at 37.7% of the total work trips in 1980.
- This decreased to 24.1% in 1990, and further decreased to 19.3% in 2000.
- Between 2000 and 2014, the percentage of work trips using alternative modes stabilized at about 19%.
- The 1980 data was reported during the energy crisis, a time when demand for options to the single occupant vehicle increased significantly.
- The mean travel time to work increased from 15.8 minutes in 1980 to 17.7 minutes in 2015, an increase of 12%. During this time period the size of the City of Lincoln increased by 55%.
- A study of Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies to reduce demand for single occupancy vehicles on the transportation network was called for in the Comprehensive Plan and was completed in 2013. This study identifies the best opportunities to increase use of alternative modes of travel in Lincoln.
- The Comprehensive Plan identifies an increase in infill and redevelopment projects as a vital part of the growth strategy for the community. Such development will provide opportunities for increasing use of alternate modes of travel due to the potential for shorter trip lengths and shared trip purpose.

What Does This Mean?

As of 2015, almost 20% of Lincoln residents commute by a means other than the single occupant vehicle. Since 2000, bicycling and transit have been increasing as a share of the commute types. This has been caused by many factors including improvements in the bicycling infrastructure.



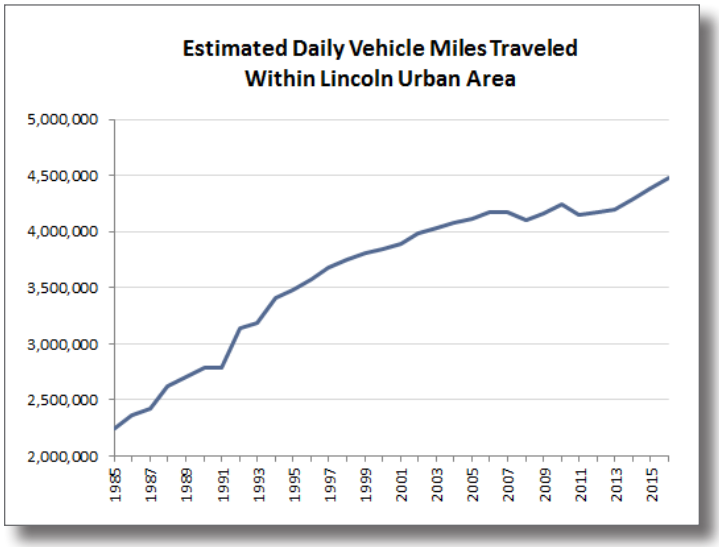
Year	Mean Travel Time to Work (Minutes)
1980	15.8
1990	15.6
2000	17.1
2010	17.3
2011	17.4
2012	17.9
2013	17.7
2014	18.5
2015	17.7

Source:

- *1980, 1990, 2000 United States Census and 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.*

Indicator 34: Lincoln, Estimated Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled, 1985-2016

34



Why Is It Important?

This indicator is used to evaluate transportation system utilization and performance. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) serve as a proxy for how well localities are incorporating the principles of accessible and walkable communities, increased public transportation and a shift away from development practices centered on the automobile. VMT correlate with various economic and lifestyle factors such as increased car ownership and more dispersed development patterns.

Key Observation

The rate of increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled in Lincoln has slowed considerably between 2006 and 2014 due in part to increased fuel prices and the economic downturn. Since 2015, VMT increased significantly compared to past years.

How Are We Doing?

- In 1985, 2.25 million vehicle miles were traveled on Lincoln roads each day.
- In 2000, the estimate for daily VMT reach 3.84 million throughout Lincoln.
- The VMT estimate passed 4.0 million daily VMT in Lincoln in 2003.
- In 2008, the VMT estimate decreased to 4.1 million miles traveled daily in Lincoln from 4.17 million in 2007. This is the first year over year decrease reported since 1981. In 2011, another year over year decrease in VMT was reported dropping from 4.24 million in 2010 to 4.15 million in 2011.
- Between 1985 and 2000 VMT steadily increased at an average annual rate of 3.63 percent per year, with a total increase of 71 percent in miles traveled.
- The average annual change in daily VMT from 2000 to 2016 has been an increase of approximately 0.98 percent per year. The population of Lancaster County during this time has increased approximately 1.33 percent per year.
- In 2015, the annual changes in VMT increased by 3.15 percent which was the largest increase in the VMT rate in the past 20 years. In 2016, the annual changes in VMT increased by 2.37 percent.

What Does This Mean?

Since 1985, the daily vehicle miles traveled in Lincoln have almost doubled. Although this has been caused by a number of factors, it has resulted in an increasing demand on public infrastructure. During the recession, there was a slow down in growth and a VMT that was fairly unchanged between 2006 and 2014. During that time, transit and cycling showed an increase in use.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Figures represent an estimate of the Daily VMT during each day in the Lincoln Urban Area. The estimate is based on local traffic sampling as well as local and state trends.*
- *VMT is a measure of the vehicle miles people travel.*
- *The Lincoln Urban Area Boundary is an area larger than the City of Lincoln used for transportation modeling.*

Source:

- *Lincoln/Lancaster County Metropolitan Planning Organization*

Indicator 35: Lincoln's Vehicle Crash Rate, 1985-2016

35

Why Is It Important?

Monitoring Vehicle Crash Rates throughout Lincoln is a measure of implementation activities such as roadway safety improvements, design factors and driver education. Reductions in the crash rate indicate a safer road network is available to the community for travel.

Key Observation

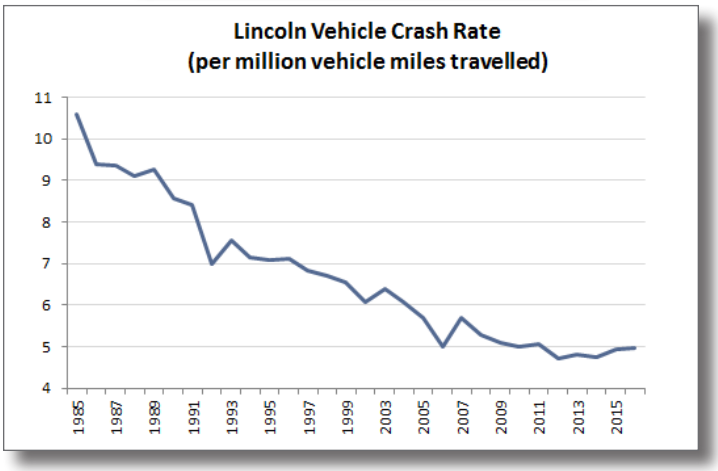
There has been an annual decline in Lincoln's crash rate of 2.5 percent per year since 1985.

How Are We Doing?

- In 1985, the crash rate was 10.59 per million vehicle miles traveled.
- In 1995, the crash rate declined to 7.1 per million vehicle miles traveled.
- Total crashes in 2006 decreased to a historical low of 7,584, and the crash rate dipped under 5 per million vehicle miles traveled for the first time.
- In 2012, total crashes decreased to a new historic low of 7,178 and the vehicle crash rate was at a new record low of 4.72 crashes per million vehicle miles traveled. Since 2012, the crash rate has remained under 5 per million vehicle miles traveled.
- The City's Engineering Services Department continues to make significant strides toward improving traffic safety. These improvements include intersection advancements, signage, striping, signal timing, site distance enhancements, safety programs, driver education, and school safety programs. Heightened vehicle safety standards at the national level - such as anti-lock brakes and day running lights - have also contributed.

What Does This Mean?

As a result in safety improvements in public infrastructure and better vehicle safety equipment such as anti-lock brakes and stability control, the Lincoln vehicle crash rate has continued to decline despite growth in the community.



Year	Total Crashes
2000	9,251
2001	9,283
2002	8,860
2003	9,400
2004	9,044
2005	8,539
2006	7,584
2007	8,642
2008	7,890
2009	7,748
2010	7,710
2011	7,673
2012	7,178
2013	7,384
2014	7,422
2015	7,891
2016	8,102

In 2016, the average number of vehicle crashes per day was approximately 22 in the City of Lincoln.

Definitions/Notes:

- *The Vehicle Crash Rate is a derived measure based upon the number of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and actual vehicle crashes on city streets within the City of Lincoln.*

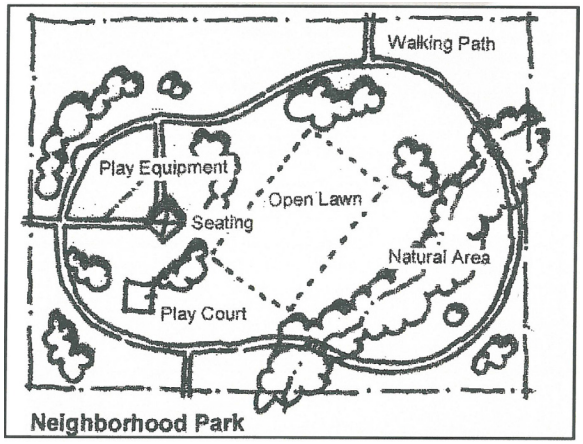
Sources:

- *2016 City of Lincoln Crash Study*
- *Lincoln/Lancaster County Metropolitan Planning Organization*

Benchmark: A Neighborhood Park within 1/2 Mile of all Homes in Lincoln

Indicator 36: Lincoln's Neighborhood Park Coverage, 2016

36



Why Is It Important?

This indicator examines the spatial relationship of public neighborhood parks* to Lincoln homes. Coverage analysis identifies new and built-out neighborhoods that lack adequate parks and open areas. Parks and open areas located within walking distance of homes provide multiple health and quality of life benefits for residents.

Key Observation

84.7 percent of Lincoln residences are located within 1/2 mile of a neighborhood park.

How Are We Doing?

- In 2016, 84.7 percent of homes were located within a ½ mile of a City neighborhood park.
- About 15.3 percent of homes are located outside the ½ mile service area standard - these homes are located throughout Lincoln's new and established neighborhoods.
- In 2016, there were 73 community parks and neighborhood parks throughout Lincoln.
- In 2016, the City of Lincoln had 161 parks and recreation facilities on 7,389 acres of parkland and open spaces. This figure includes 5 golf courses on 781 acres of land.

What Does This Mean?

A strong majority of Lincoln's residents live within walking distance of neighborhood park facilities.

* Community Parks often include activity areas consistent with those located in Neighborhood Parks and as a result, Community Parks may serve as the Neighborhood Park for surrounding residential areas.

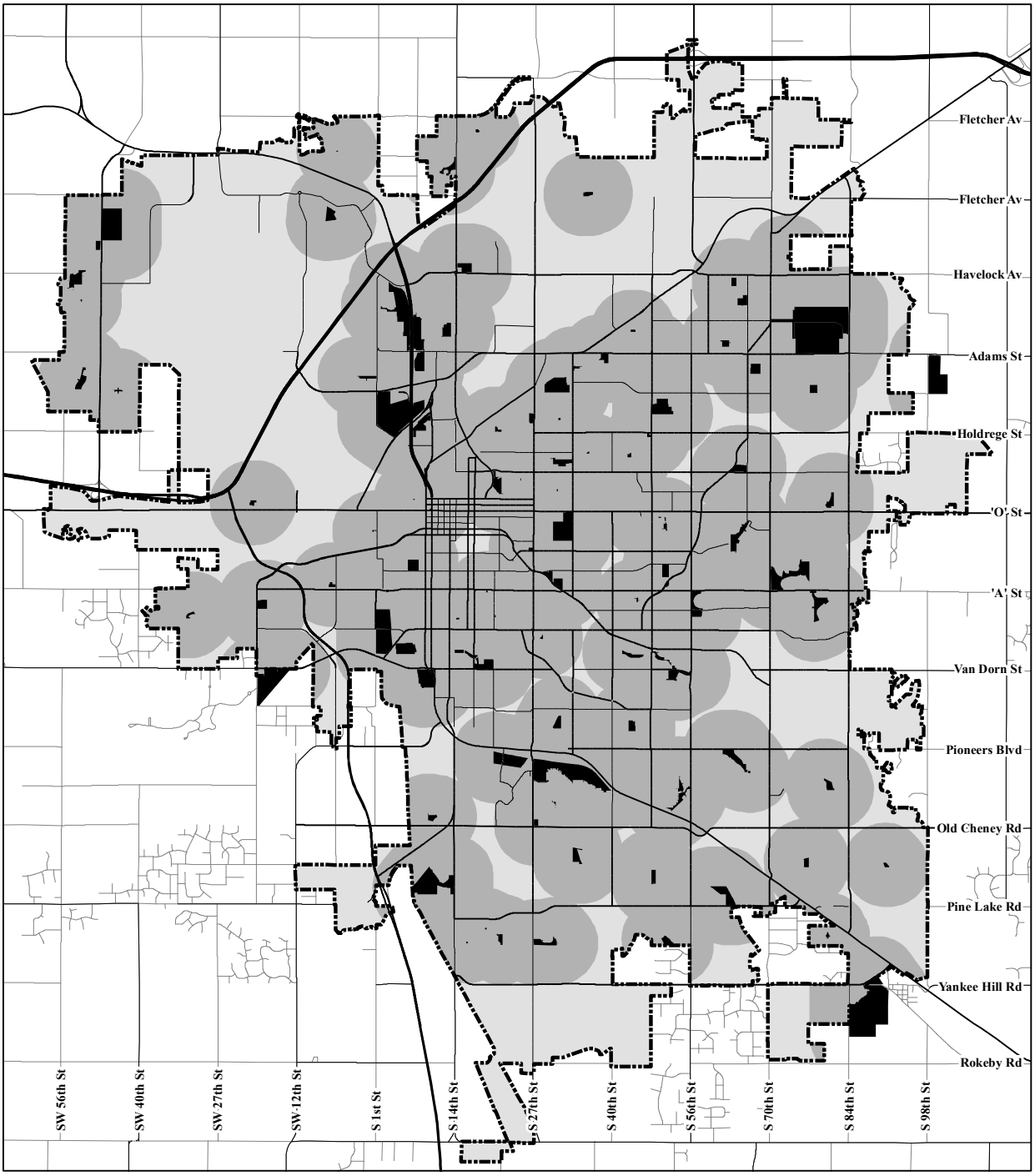
Note: 2016 is the latest available data.

Definitions/Notes:

- *Only improved parks are included in this Indicator.*
- *Typical activity areas include playground equipment, open lawn area for informal games and activities, play court, seating and walking paths.*
- *The neighborhood park service area goal is approximately a ½ mile radius in the urban area, generally located within the center of each mile section.*
- *The ½ mile standard reflects the walking distance most people are willing to travel to get the nearest park.*
- *Each City-owned park is classified into a "park" category for planning and service purposes.*
- *Neighborhood parks may differ in size and amenities throughout community.*
- *Private, Homeowners Association, or School playgrounds not included with this data.*
- *Lincoln's Regional Parks not included with this data.*
- *Golf course acreage has been reduced as a result of redefining some of the adjacent space as parks.*
- *Additional information is being gathered and will be used to analyze travel distances using the transportation network with the 2018 report.*

Sources:

- *Lincoln Parks and Recreation Dept.*
- *Analysis by Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dept., Information Technology Services*



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

84.73% Of Lincoln Residences Are Within 1/2 Mile

City Limits and Residences as of December 31, 2016

Map Explanation: The shaded areas reflect the 1/2 mile radius around each City neighborhood park.

Note: Only improved parks are included in this Indicator.