

# MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

Monday, August 12, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

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- **Welcome and Introductions**

- **Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments**

- **Budget:** grateful for those who have participated in the process, council discussed amendments today and will vote Wednesday on amendments, final vote August 26<sup>th</sup>; budget helps grow economic opportunity, increase safety and health of city, and support strong neighborhoods; questions can be directed to Jon Carlson on budget
- **Legislature Special Session:** city monitoring it closely; haven't seen definitive action yet, but what has come out yet is problematic on caps to grow resources to serve city which jeopardizes ongoing funding of vital city programs; will continue advocating for city along with League of Nebraska Municipalities; pushing back on misinformation from Governor's office on excessive spending in localities; we have reduced property taxes 3 times in last several years; property tax rate is lowest since 2010. If special session fails to see closure, it will likely continue on in the next session. City is providing as much information as possible on what this legislation will do to city resources. We have been working to fill department budgets that have not fully recovered since last session, so this legislation would undercut that work.
- **Lead Safe Lincoln:** Lead paint mitigation and lead pipe replacement is improving housing and making it safer and address Health Department information on elevated blood levels in children. Working with State on Biden-Harris Administration funding to replace the lead pipes; 125 private lines signed up for the grant program. Aimed to replace 2,000 lead lines over next few years. Looking for neighborhoods to share information about the program at [www.lincoln.ne.gov/leadsafe](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/leadsafe).
- **EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant:** Nebraska one of 25 successful applicants out of 300 helped by NDEE to secure the grant. Much focused on reducing methane through ag sector; Chief Sustainability Officer ensured Lincoln priorities were included in the application to help further our climate action work.
- **Storm Recovery:** Incredible leadership by Maggie Stuckey-Ross and the team at Parks to get the city back online along with first responders to help clear the streets.
- **Discussion:** If Water 2.0 (second water source) would have been online we

would have had less impact and would improve resilience in future storm events. Power outages are the greatest threat to the water infrastructure.

• **July 31 Storm Damage and Mitigation Presentation** by Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Weather Underground showed wind speed gusts at airport over 80 mph at around 5pm when at storm peak with wind speeds around 50 mph
- Friday before storm metrics showed 790 trees planned for removal; 25 forestry team members; 83,799 street trees; 1,114 trees removed in the last year
- Following storm: 1,215 calls about street trees; 3 inspectors visited 473 trees in the first week with 742 trees to visit; 418 work orders with work to be done (55 trees cutting tree down, 79 large limb removals, 32 top removals, 250 pickup limb orders)
- Prioritization by: blocked arterial streets, residential streets, driveways; trees with hanging limbs, blocked sidewalks; tree debris in the right-of-way between curb and sidewalks
- Drop Off Sites: Star City Shores (27<sup>th</sup> and Hwy 2), Woods Park (south lot off J Street), Oak Lake Park (main lot off Charleston), Hoefling Enterprises (2200 S. Folsom Court); other sites closed because fall athletic leagues are starting up; contractors are starting to grind up piles; Dudley's Dew-Right Tree Service (4100 N 48<sup>th</sup> St) is also taking debris for free
- All trails open at this point, debris still out there though
- Reporting damage: after hours non-emergency LPD (402-441-6000), NOT 911; during business hours LPRD at 402-441-7847; also can use UPLNK App or email [parks@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:parks@lincoln.ne.gov)
- Lincoln Electric System urges residents to stay away from downed power lines and report to 1-888-365-2412 or [les.com/report-outage](http://les.com/report-outage)
- Responsibility: trees between street curb and sidewalk City; outside property owner's responsibility generally
  - Report street tree falling on car, garage, private property to your insurance company
  - Property that the tree is on is typically responsible for taking care of it
- Owners can prune the adjacent street tree if they are knowledgeable and follow ANSI A300 pruning standards
- Mulch will be made available at Bowling Lake Park parking lot (NW 48<sup>th</sup> and West Cuming streets), Fleming Fields parking lot (31<sup>st</sup> St and Leighton Ave), and Homes Lake Park (Parking lot five, 70<sup>th</sup> Street and North Shore Drive)

- Question on whether the wood could be saved as logs for residents to pick up for their wood burning stoves rather than mulch it all; can cause fire hazard if there's any wood that's not fully dry burned in a fireplace
- City has a \$300 voucher program towards planting a new street tree to replace any lost parks.lincoln.ne.gov; Parks held back funds for storm response to help clear the lots, add additional funds to the voucher program, sending contractors down city streets to finish clearing debris
- City restored City Forester position 3 months ago that went away during 2007/2008 recession;
- Budget amendments by Councilwoman Washington for Community Forestry Master Planning RFP release planned for fall 2024 (first Arbor Day Tree City in 1976) with plans to engage the community and this group and street tree inventory last updated in 2016
- Full look at storm damage once leaves begin to fall because you can't fully see it now because of canopy
- Tree distributions this fall with Trick or Tree with Arbor Day and partner with Arbor Day to get more trees out this fall
- Focus on priority areas
- Discussion:
  - Most homeowners aren't aware of what they need to do to keep and maintain their trees; would like to see education program to reach out to owners to let them know what they need to do/how to reach out to arborist to maintain their trees; lots of damage could have been prevented in this last storm had there been more preventative maintenance; need full urban canopy to be healthy, both street trees and backyard trees
  - Concern that nurseries are selling bad trees that are going into the street tree zone; install may not always be done correctly because strong roots can't establish
  - Any particular variety of trees damaged more than others; usually fast-growing varieties; Parks not certain about the trend, but more commonly it's the age that's an issue; good opportunity to look at Beehive data to see if there's a variety that should be removed from the Street Tree list. If broken limb isn't cut off properly, water gets in and causes rot in the tree
  - Analysis comparing tree work orders and home damage to see if trend exists to show trees protected homes better, possibly partnership with UNL; Parks, LTU, LES are all coordinating with their inventory systems
  - Do you take volunteers? Law department recommends against it, but looking at volunteer program to help in situations like this

- Possibly adopt a trail/park for maintenance perspective
- Is city insured against damage to private property from public trees? Yes, typically 5 trees a month, but saw 40 in the first week after the storm; Will there be additional funds built up to account for the increase in claims? The claims are citywide pool and aren't coming out of the Parks budget; Parks budgets for storm response annually, sometimes needed, others not; Haven't had to use the storm response money yet so budget is intact and unused funds roll over to new cycle

• **Announcements**

- 17 neighborhood night outs held this year; Prescott Area Neighborhood Association coordinated with National Night Out and do freewill donation for hot dogs and chips, Pepsi donates drinks, had a live band; Eastridge Neighborhood Association had 200-250 people come out and had food trucks come in and a band, cookies for everyone, a clown paid for by membership fee and donations (less than 1/3 neighborhood are members)
- Witherbee has pool party Sunday before school starts each year, would conflict with Neighbors Night Out, 194 swimmers this year
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> 7pm-10pm moving night with yard games and popcorn to start, the Rise of Gru playing in the greenspace at the NeighborWorks Lincoln office (2530 Q Street)
- College View 5<sup>th</sup> Celebrate College View on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 48<sup>th</sup> and Prescott in conjunction with the Farmers Market 10 am to 2 pm (bounce house, clown, classic car, walking tour of neighborhood); funded via sponsorships by businesses
- Would like repository of how each neighborhood funds activities; NeighborWorks Lincoln could put this on their website

• **Next Meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Potential Next Meeting Items:
  - Climate Action midway update
  - Historic Preservation Design Standards
  - Safe Streets Lincoln: A Vision Zero project

• **Adjourned at 6:38 pm**



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Parks and Recreation

July 31, 2024 Storm Response  
Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable

August 12, 2024

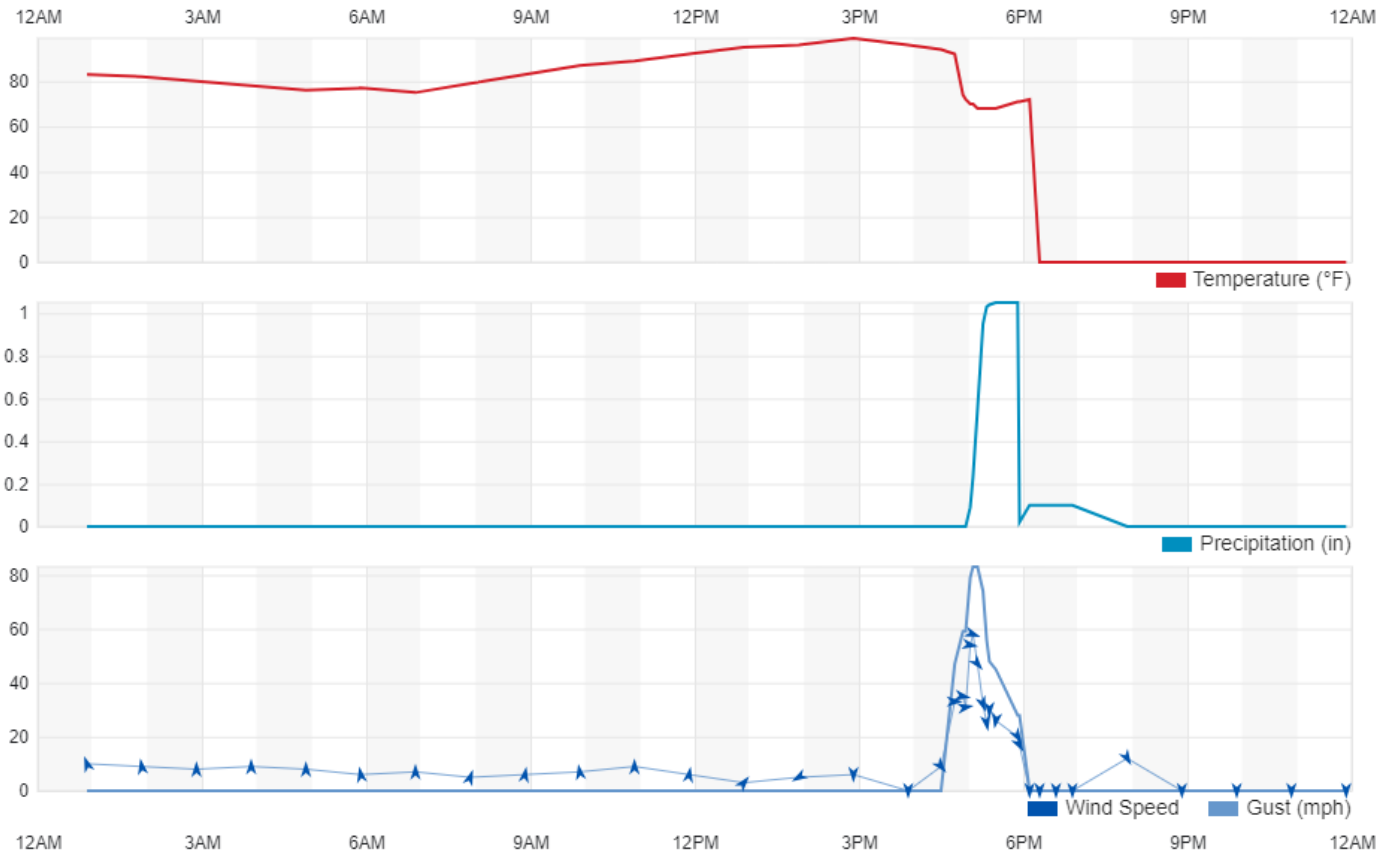
# July 31, 2024

Weather Reports



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# Lincoln Airport Station



# Lincoln Airport Station

Time	Temperature	Dew Point	Humidity	Wind	Wind Speed	Wind Gust	Pressure	Precip.	Condition
2:54 PM	99 °F	75 °F	46 %	VAR	6 mph	0 mph	28.55 in	0.0 in	Fair
3:54 PM	96 °F	75 °F	51 %	CALM	0 mph	0 mph	28.54 in	0.0 in	Fair
4:30 PM	94 °F	76 °F	56 %	NW	9 mph	0 mph	28.56 in	0.0 in	Thunder in the Vicinity
4:45 PM	92 °F	74 °F	55 %	W	33 mph	47 mph	28.60 in	0.0 in	Thunder / Windy
4:54 PM	74 °F	67 °F	79 %	W	35 mph	59 mph	28.71 in	0.0 in	Light Rain with Thunder
4:57 PM	72 °F	67 °F	84 %	W	31 mph	59 mph	28.74 in	0.0 in	Heavy T-Storm / Windy
5:02 PM	70 °F	68 °F	93 %	W	54 mph	79 mph	28.73 in	0.1 in	Heavy T-Storm / Windy
5:05 PM	70 °F	68 °F	93 %	WNW	58 mph	83 mph	28.73 in	0.2 in	Heavy T-Storm / Windy
5:10 PM	68 °F	66 °F	93 %	NW	47 mph	83 mph	28.71 in	0.6 in	Heavy T-Storm / Windy
5:16 PM	68 °F	67 °F	96 %	NNW	32 mph	74 mph	28.71 in	0.9 in	Heavy T-Storm / Windy
5:20 PM	68 °F	67 °F	96 %	N	25 mph	56 mph	28.70 in	1.0 in	Heavy T-Storm / Windy
5:23 PM	68 °F	67 °F	96 %	N	30 mph	48 mph	28.67 in	1.0 in	T-Storm / Windy
5:30 PM	68 °F	67 °F	96 %	N	26 mph	45 mph	28.66 in	1.1 in	Light Rain with Thunder
5:54 PM	71 °F	68 °F	90 %	NNW	20 mph	28 mph	28.68 in	1.1 in	Heavy T-Storm
5:56 PM	71 °F	68 °F	90 %	NNW	17 mph	28 mph	28.66 in	0.0 in	Heavy T-Storm
6:07 PM	72 °F	68 °F	87 %		0 mph	0 mph	28.61 in	0.1 in	Thunder
6:18 PM	0 °F	0 °F	0 %		0 mph	0 mph	28.59 in	0.1 in	Thunder in the Vicinity
6:36 PM	0 °F	0 °F	0 %		0 mph	0 mph	28.60 in	0.1 in	N/A
6:54 PM	0 °F	0 °F	0 %		0 mph	0 mph	28.58 in	0.1 in	N/A
7:54 PM	0 °F	0 °F	0 %	NNW	12 mph	0 mph	28.62 in	0.0 in	Haze
8:54 PM	0 °F	0 °F	0 %		0 mph	0 mph	28.61 in	0.0 in	N/A





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→ This is well above what is considered normal weather for this area. Our trees are not expected to withstand winds this strong.



# July 26, 2024 Report

	Eff. 7-26-24
Trees planned for removal	790
Forestry Team members	25 staff
Total number of street trees	83,799
Street Trees per Arborist	1:3,985 trees
Trees Removed (July '23-July '24)	1,114
Ash Trees Removed	304
Non-Ash Trees Removed	810



# August 8, 2024 Report (1 week later)

## **1,215 call-ins on street trees:**

- 473 inspections completed (LPRD has 3 inspectors)
  - Averages each has inspected 158 trees/appx 23 trees a day (7 days)
- 742 inspections yet to go

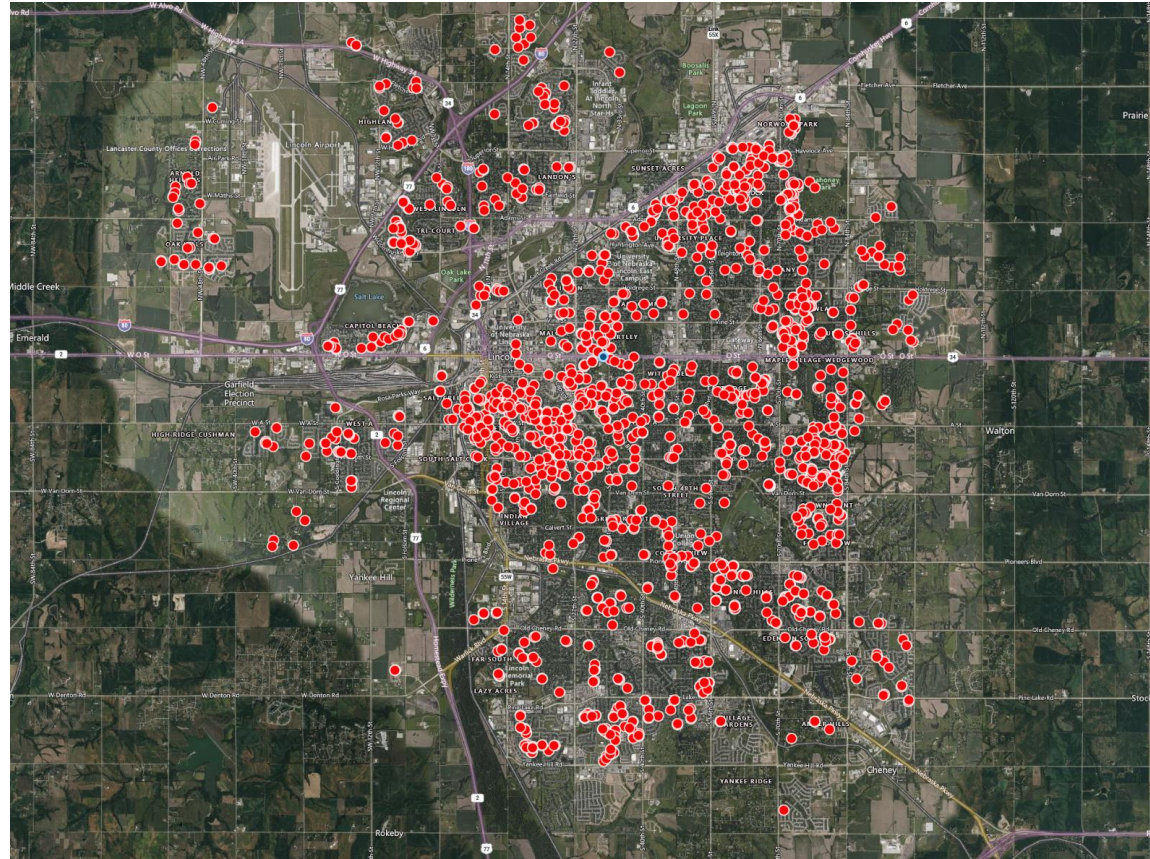
## **418 work orders have been created on street trees, park trees, and golf trees (meaning work has been ordered):**

- 2 for removal by a contractor
- 55 for crash removal (*cut down from the ground*) by LPRD Forestry
- 32 for top removal (*bucket truck used to remove limbs piece by piece from the top down*) by LPRD Forestry
- 79 for hanger removals by LPRD Forestry
- 250 pick-up-limb orders by LPRD Forestry

**87 trees (street, park, golf) have been or are scheduled to be removed.**



# Beehive Work Orders (7/31/24 Storm)





# Prioritization of Forestry Response

1. Blocked arterial streets
2. Blocked residential streets
3. Blocked driveways
4. Trees with hanging limbs
5. Blocked sidewalks
6. Tree debris in the right-of-way between the curb & sidewalk



# Debris Drop-Off Sites

Southeast Lincoln – Star City Shores, 27<sup>th</sup> and Nebraska Parkway

Central Lincoln – Woods Park, specifically the south lot off of J Street

Northwest Lincoln - Oak Lake Park, the main lot off of Charleston

Southwest Lincoln - Hoefling Enterprises at 2200 S Folsom Court







# Frequently Asked Questions



# How do I report tree damage?

1. AFTER normal business hours, contact LPD non-emergency at 402-441-6000. Do NOT call 911.
2. DURING normal business hours, contact LPRD at 402-441-7847. Voicemail is available at this number.
3. Residents can also report damage on the UPLNK App or by email at [parks@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:parks@lincoln.ne.gov).
4. For damage to trees along trails, contact LPRD at 402-441-7847.
5. Lincoln Electric System (LES) urges residents to stay away from downed power lines. Report any damaged equipment or downed lines to LES immediately at 1-888-365-2412 or [les.com/report-outage](https://les.com/report-outage).

Regardless of the method of reporting, residents are encouraged to provide their name, address, phone number and the nature of the problem, including the estimated size of the tree and/or its limbs





# How do I know if a tree is the City's responsibility or my responsibility?

- Generally speaking, trees between the street curb and the sidewalk are the City's responsibility ("street trees").
- Trees outside that area are generally the property owner's responsibility.



# What if a street tree falls on my car, garage, or other private property?

It is appropriate to report to your insurance company for all acts of nature causing damage.





# What if my neighbor's tree fell and/or damaged my private property?

Please contact your insurance company and your neighbor, if appropriate. A list of licensed arborists can be found on the City website.



# May I prune a street tree?

Yes, individual property owners may prune street trees located on city property, provided ANSI A300 pruning standards are followed.



# What happens to the tree debris picked up by Community Forestry?

Debris will be made into wood chips and made available to the public free of charge. The mulch may not be used for commercial purposes. The locations include:

- Bowling Lake Park parking lot, NW. 48th and West Cuming streets
- Fleming Fields parking lot, 31st Street and Leighton Avenue
- Holmes Lake Park, parking lot five, 70th Street and North Shore Drive





# Anyone need mulch???



# My street tree was significantly damaged and will need to be removed. How do I get a new street tree?

The City offers vouchers to help replace street trees.

Process:

1. Forestry staff will visit the address to determine there if adequate space to plant a street tree(s) in coordination with the Street Tree Master Plan, existing trees and anticipated mature size.
2. Once approved, a no-fee street tree planting permit and voucher will be issued. The voucher will have a specified redeemable value for each street tree(s) identified. Voucher and permit are good for one year.
3. Homeowner will contact and work with one of the participating tree nurseries to purchase/plant the approved street trees.
4. Homeowner will care for the tree as directed from nursery.



# So what comes next?



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# On the horizon...

3 months since City Forester position restored

Budget amendment for Community Forestry Master Planning

*RFP released in fall 2024*

Budget amendment for updated street tree inventory

Full look at storm damage once leaves begin to fall

Tree distributions this fall

Focus on priority areas and continuing the good work





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