

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

COUNTY/CITY BUILDING

555 SOUTH 10TH STREET

Room 303

Monday, October 14, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- Tracy Corr (40th and A/College View), Rosina Paolini (Indian Village), Nick Hernandez (Havelock) Mary Unger (Prescott), Isaac (Irvingdale), Kay Wenzl (Meadowlane), Mo Neal (Irvingdale), Tut Kailech (East Campus/NWL), Dick Piersol (Country Club), Paul Johnson (East Campus), Riley Slezak (Mayors Office), Pat Steer (Hartley)

- **Mayor Gaylor Baird Comments**

- [State of the City](#) address given last week (pamphlet has information on strategic priorities and progress in the past year)

- **Stormwater Bond** –Liz Elliott, Director of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities

- Stormwater bond on November 5th ballot; stormwater bonds have helped protect Lincoln in decades past dating back to 1977 (15 bonds total, 9 retired, 6 outstanding with 3 refinanced into the others)
- Fund all stormwater CIP projects (no other funding allotted for projects) and usually leverage matching funds through the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District and FEMA
- Past funded project examples: Beal Slough, 56th and Norton (culvert and channel improvement) Salt Creek at Old Cheney, and Watershed Master Plan.
- \$13.9 million requested would fund flood reduction, floodplain preservation, stream stabilization, urban drainage improvements and standards, and Water Quality spread throughout community in all four quadrants
 - Includes Deadman's Run which will make this a local project rather than lead by the Army Corp of Engineers allowing removal of 480 structures out of the floodplain quicker
 - Should have been completed in 2022, but the 2019 floods pushed this project back and wasn't restarted by Corp until

about 10 months ago and project deadline pushed to 2027 and cost went up significantly with the addition of 3 more levees

- City can complete the project without Corp at about original cost with 2027 deadline with storage basin design instead
 - 11th and Harrison is an urban drainage study to improve storm drains (enhancing the storm pipe sizes to remove water from streets)
 - Includes inlet repair and a new street sweeper to keep debris out of the sewer system
 - \$9.66/year approximate costs to each household, roughly in line with previously approved stormwater bonds
 - Flooding in streets is keeping it out of basements and buildings, but need more infrastructure to move out the standing water
 - If not funded, the mapped projects would not proceed, except Dead Man's Run which has funding from a previous bond
 - Well field repairs are all completed from the 2019 flooding, but waiting on repayment from FEMA
 - In process of updating floodplain maps (some projected to be done by 2027 based on watershed), until then developers can build in floodplain if they build up 2 feet above the floodplain per the most recent floodplain regulation updates; will go back to 1 foot once maps updated
 - Interest in handout on taking care of leaves in street or to moving cars from street parking when the sweepers come through (Liz to share the street cleaning schedule for neighborhoods to convey to residents)
 - Some projects outside city limits to protect water quality and limit amount before the water reaches us and some in future development areas; partnering with Lower Platte South NRD
 - Link to information on the Stormwater Bond at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/LTU-Projects/WSM/Bond-Issues/2024>.
- **Announcements**
- Understanding Lead workshops 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Bennett Martin Library on October 23rd and Gere Library on October 22nd
 - Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance Meeting October 26th at 10 am Bennet Martin Library (20 attendees at last months meeting) to discuss partnering with CLC's (find out if you have a CLC in your neighborhood [here](#).)
 - Trunk or Treat on 27th at United Methodist at 33rd and Pioneers
 - Teammates willing to come to neighborhood events (3rd grade through 12th grade, students are nominated and meetings with mentor-mentees happen at the schools)

- Make sure to share out information through neighborhoods on various media channels
- November 12th Indian Village Neighborhood Association presenting the results of their Walk Audit (at Irving Rec Center at 7 pm)
- January [AARP Community Challenge Grant's](#) opening which could fund community gardens, walk audits, etc. if they can bring multigenerational together
- **Next Meeting / Agenda Ideas**
 - Lincoln Arts Council outdoor artist markets in 2025.
- **Adjourned at 6:38 pm**

Understanding Lead

Learn about lead and how to
protect children



Date: October 22, 2024

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Location: Gere Library
2400 S 56th ST.
Lincoln, NE**

**Sign up today for a free
session near you!**

To register, scan the QR code to the left
with your smartphone or visit:

eventbrite.com/e/1031177528747?aff=oddtcreator



For more info about
lead visit: www.epa.gov/lead



Lincoln-Lancaster County
Health Department

Understanding Lead

Learn about lead and how to
protect children



Date: October 23, 2024

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Location: Bennett Martin Library
136 S 14th St.
Lincoln, NE**

**Sign up today for a free
session near you!**

To register, scan the QR code to the left
with your smartphone or visit:

eventbrite.com/e/1031236996617?aff=oddtcreator



For more info about
lead visit: www.epa.gov/lead



Lincoln-Lancaster County
Health Department

TOPPING THE CHARTS

- ▶ 14th Best City for Outdoor Recreation
- ▶ 6th Best State Capital
- ▶ Named one of the Best Places to Retire in the U.S.
- ▶ #1 Top City for Renters
- ▶ Top 5 for Cleanest Air in America (only city in the Midwest on the list)
- ▶ 4th Best Mid-Sized City for Gen Z
- ▶ 6th Best-Run City in America (for the third year in a row)



“In Lincoln, we ask not what our community can do for us, we ask what we can do for our community.”



LINCOLN

THE STATE OF OUR CITY IS STRONG SAFE

HEALTHY
RESILIENT
EQUITABLE
INCLUSIVE

with a

VIBRANT
ECONOMY
and QUALITY
of LIFE

SOURCES: *ActivelyPlay, WalletHub, Forbes, American Lung Association, CommercialCafe, Stacker*

THE CITY OF LINCOLN BY THE NUMBERS

As part of our mission to cultivate the Quality-of-Life Capital of the Country, our City of Lincoln team achieved impressive outcomes in service to our community members. Here is a snapshot of accomplishments over the past year that make Lincoln safe, healthy, equitable, inclusive, strong, and resilient, with a vibrant economy and quality of life.

Safe and Healthy

- ▶ Part 1 crime (including violent crime) reached a **25-year low**, while we achieved the **highest clearance rate of those cases since 2010**
- ▶ We made great progress recruiting police officers, achieving **94% of LPD's authorized strength**, which includes one of the largest recruit classes in the past decade
- ▶ We successfully **diverted over 1,200 calls for service** involving unsheltered individuals to CenterPointe's Street Outreach Team, who helped more than **25 people become housed**
- ▶ Community members performed **bystander CPR** in 75% of non-traumatic cardiac arrest cases, a rate nearly **double the national average**
- ▶ We provided more than **700 families with newborns** free health visits from public health nurses



Strong and Resilient

- ▶ We **invested \$47 million in street infrastructure**, resulting in **18 lane miles** of new or resurfaced arterial streets and **eight lane miles** of residential streets
- ▶ Since 2019, we have **completed 50** additional street construction and improvement projects, thanks to an additional **\$78 million** from the voter-approved Lincoln on the Move sales tax
- ▶ **329 Lincoln homeowners** installed energy-efficient heat pumps with City incentives, lowering energy costs, improving air quality, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- ▶ We kicked off efforts to **replace all private lead water service lines** in the city by 2035

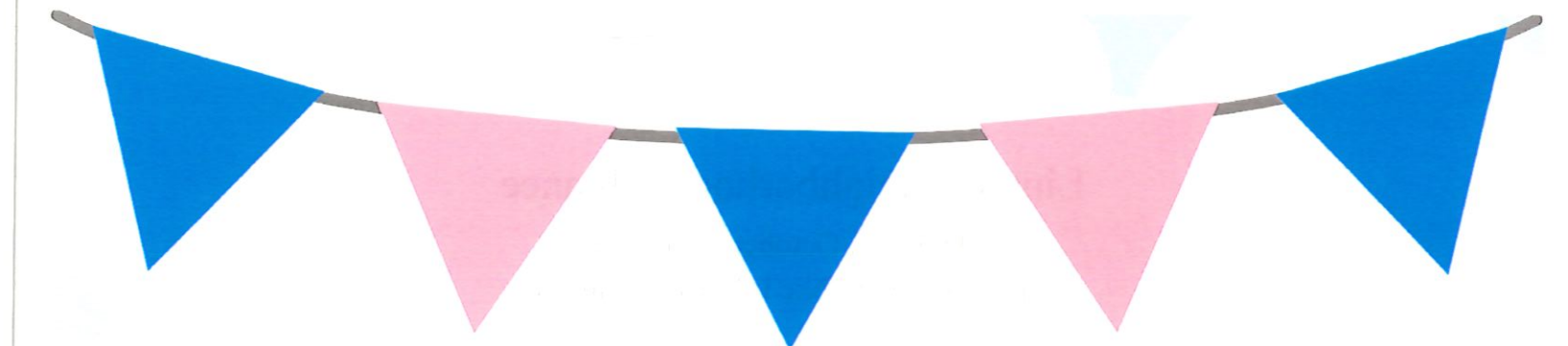
Equitable and Inclusive

- ▶ To preserve and enhance our existing affordable housing stock, we **improved 106 affordable housing units** by funding energy-efficient upgrades and key repairs
- ▶ We incentivized the creation or rehabilitation of **2,641 affordable housing units**, putting us more than halfway toward our goal of 5,000 units by 2030
- ▶ To grow the overall supply of housing, which increases affordability for all, we issued a record-setting number of residential building permits over the past three-year period, with **more residential permits issued than in any previous three-year span**
- ▶ We issued more than **17,000 new library cards** this year, a **13% increase** over last year

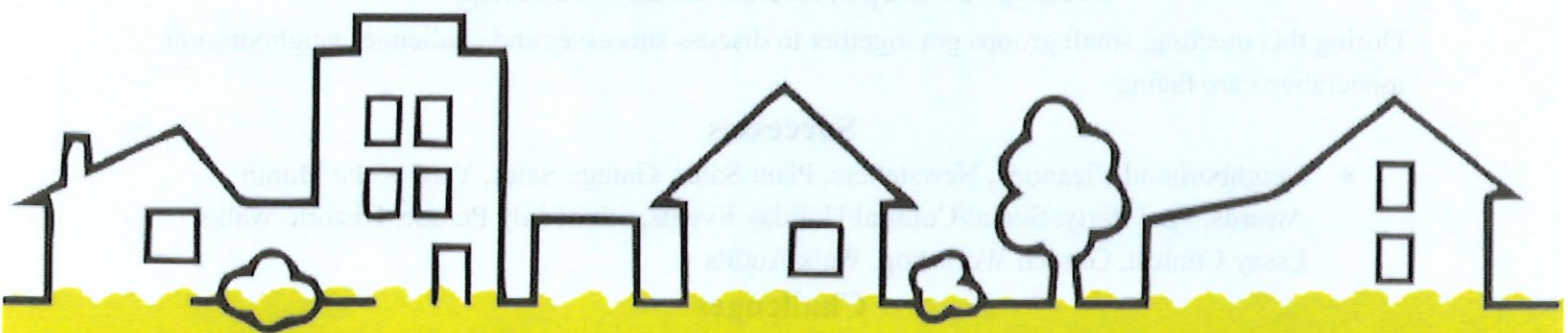
- ▶ To address health disparities, we partnered with the Cultural Centers of Lincoln to empower more than **5,600 community members** from racial and ethnic minority groups to access vital behavioral health care and take proactive steps in managing and preventing chronic diseases
- ▶ Our public dental clinic provided **over 12,000 appointments** for low-income children, adults, pregnant women, and refugees without dental insurance or enrolled in Medicaid

Vibrant Economy and Quality of Life

- ▶ As part of our workforce development efforts, we utilized federal funds to serve **over 1,300 residents**, helping many secure higher wages and careers in high-demand fields
- ▶ We leveraged \$21.9 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to **spur \$183 million in private investments**
- ▶ We issued **32,269 building permits** in the last fiscal year
- ▶ We allocated **\$200,000** to Lincoln Littles and Cedars, and extended a **one-million-dollar investment** in Community Action to **improve access to high-quality early childhood education**
- ▶ We opened two new parks in north Lincoln that together serve **over 1,600 total households**
- ▶ We acquired land that will become Cornhusker Bank Park, a **154-acre gem** at the northwest edge of Lincoln
- ▶ We increased the footprint of South Haymarket Park by **over two acres** and our capital campaign **raised seven million dollars**, putting us over halfway toward our updated fundraising goal



Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance



Join us for socializing, collaboration, and snacks at the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance! We will be revisiting topics from last month, and welcoming a speaker from CLC on engaging schools and neighborhoods.

October 26th, 2024
Saturday, 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
Bennet Martin Public Library
Auditorium (4th Floor)

For more info contact: isaac@irvingdale.org

Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance

10:00 AM, October 26th 2024

Bennett Martin Public Library Auditorium

- Introductions and snacks
- Collaboration Session
 - Emily Trauernicht - CLC Community Builder
 - Emily will discuss how Neighborhood Associations can collaborate with Schools, Community Learning Centers (CLC), and School Neighborhood Advisory Committees (SNAC) to engage residents.
 - Discussion and Q/A
 - Group discussion and questions for Emily
- Neighborhood Alliance Business
 - Announcements
 - Future Topics
 - Working Groups
- Cleanup

Recap of September 28th Meeting

During this meeting, small groups got together to discuss successes and challenges neighborhood associations are facing.

Successes

- Neighborhood Cleanups, Newsletters, Plant Sales, Garage Sales, Yard of the Month Awards, Pool Party, Social/Cultural/Holiday Events, 4th of July Parade, Historic Walks, Essay Contest, Garden Workshop, Walk Audits

Challenges

- Membership, specifically how to get young people, renters, ESL or non-english speakers, and new neighbors involved.
 - Isaac developed a New Members spreadsheet that was distributed to attendees after the meeting.
 - CLC and SNAC were identified as a way to reach out to the community.
 - Housing Advocates and Scout Troops were also identified.
- Lack of housing, housing justice issues, absentee landlords and dilapidated houses.

Issues and Working Group Items

- 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Funding and Grant Opportunities, Event Planning Resources

Prescott Area Neighborhood Association's Trunk or Treat

When: Sunday, October 27th

Where: Southgate United
Methodist
Church

3500 Pioneers Blvd.

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Those sponsoring a trunk,
please be at the church's
parking lot at 2:30 p.m. to set
up.

Come and Trick or Treat at the Prescott Area Neighborhood Association's Trunk or Treat event.

You may decorate a trunk in spooky fun themes to join in the fun.

We will also have tables for those who wish to be inside.

Kids (of all ages) be sure to wear your costumes.

PANA will have candy to supplement what you bring with you.

PANA will also be collecting new/gently used books for Little Free Libraries in our neighborhood at this event.

**This is privately sponsored and not sponsored or endorsed by Lincoln Public Schools.*



LINCOLN
Transportation and Utilities

2024 Stormwater Bond Fact Sheet

Protecting Lincoln homes and businesses from flooding

Updated July 22, 2024

How many stormwater bonds have Lincoln voters approved?

- Fifteen bonds have been offered and all of them passed by Lincoln voters since 1977.
 - 1978, 1980, 1983, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2019
- That's over 40 years of improvements to help protect Lincoln homes and businesses from flooding.
- Eight bonds have been retired (paid off).
- Three of the remaining seven bonds have been refinanced for lower interest rates.

What are the biggest projects with this bond?

We have several urban drainage projects. They include:

- 10th Street and Park Avenue Area Storm Drainage Improvements,
- 11th Street and Harrison Avenue Area Storm Drainage Improvements, and
- 63rd Street and Aylesworth Avenue Area Storm Drainage Improvements.

These urban drainage projects will reduce localized flooding in those areas to protect properties from flood damage.

Another project includes:

- 48th Street at Cornhusker Highway Railroad Undercrossing Improvement. As we saw with the recent rain event, this area flooded and made it impossible for vehicles to travel. This project will evaluate and implement solutions that will reduce the flood risk.

Additional 16 projects that the Stormwater bond will fund include:

- Haines Branch near South Folsom Street Stream Stabilization
- Southeast Upper Salt Creek near 27th Street Stream Stabilization
- Southeast Upper Salt Creek near 40th Street Stream Stabilization
- Middle Creek near SW 40th Street Stream Stabilization
- Upper Wagon Train Stream Stabilization
- Herbert Park Channel Stabilization
- Stuhr Park Channel Stabilization
- Mahoney Park Channel Stabilization
- Beal Slough at Pine Lake Trail Underpass Rehabilitation
- Miscellaneous Stream Stabilization

- Deadmans Run Flood Reduction Project
- Floodplain Preservation
- Street Sweepers to help keep storm drains free from debris or clogs
- Street Drainage Projects
- Citywide Inlet Top Repairs
- Urban Drainage Studies

Are other bonds falling off?

Six of the 12 previous bonds have been retired, including the 8.09 million bond from 2012, which was retired in June 2023.

Three of the remaining six bonds have been refinanced for lower interest rates.

What's the cost per house?

The cost will be \$9.65 per year (80 cents per month) for a home valued at \$281,610, according to the assessor's 2023 valuation. Debt service will start in 2025-26 fiscal year, which is when the bonds will first be included in the tax levy.

What is a stormwater bond?

The City is required to seek Council approval to place issuance of a stormwater general obligation bond on the ballot. This allows the citizens of Lincoln to decide whether the City should issue a general obligation bond utilizing property tax to fund important stormwater related projects. The bond provides capital for these projects and is repaid over 20 years with general funds (property tax receipts).

A stormwater bond assists with:

- Proposed projects address both the existing urban area and new growth areas
- Projects affect urban drainage, floodplain management, and streams stability
- Projects affect infrastructure renewal and public safety
- Projects leverage other funds

How much is the stormwater bond?

The City is asking for \$13.9 million to be divided up into \$3.6M for flood reduction, \$3.6M for stream stabilization, \$1M for water quality, and \$5.3M for urban storm drainage projects in all four quadrants of the city. Also includes \$0.4M for urban drainage studies.

Why does Lincoln need stormwater bonds?

Stormwater improvements protect Lincoln homes, businesses, and families from the dangers of flooding. For over 40 years Lincoln's community members have approved

Stormwater bonds to fund the capital improvements in our storm and drainage systems.

No other revenues are utilized for these projects except those provided by our partners including Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and occasionally federal funds through the Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Stormwater bonds fund storm water projects that reduce stormwater runoff and flooding, repair degraded stream channels, repair/improve the existing urban drainage system and improve water quality. A variety of projects stormwater bonds have funded in the past include:

- Flood Reduction Projects
- Urban Storm Drainage Projects
- Implementation of Watershed Projects
- Channel Rehabilitation of Parks Property
- Street Drainage Projects
- Urban Drainage Studies

How does a stormwater bond bring value to Lincoln and my community?

In May 2025, we will be remembering the 10-year anniversary of the 2015 100-year flood event in Lincoln. This was an important moment in Lincoln's history as the Salt Creek levee held during this flooding and prevented millions of dollars of potential flood damage.

Over the decades, Lincoln has been mostly spared from the devastating flooding that has taken place in many other Nebraska municipalities and rural locations over the years, including the 2019 flood being the most recent. These storm water projects that we do following our master planning efforts fortify Lincoln from flooding.

Steady, planned renewal and stream stability projects are built to protect our overall community, residents, and businesses. Both the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and the Federal government recognize the importance of this work.

Don't our taxpayer dollars pay for stormwater pipe maintenance and growth?

No other revenues are utilized for stormwater projects except those provided by our partners including Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and often federal funds through the Army Corps of Engineers.

Why did you decide to do these projects?

The City has completed several studies that have helped determine where stormwater issues occur in the Lincoln community and where projects would help

manage these issues. The Comprehensive Watershed Master Plan adopted in 2022 identified priority projects to address stream erosion issues.

For example, channel stabilization assists with ensuring flood waters won't damage infrastructure or increase the risk of flooding along the channel.

Another example includes Urban Drainage/Street Drainage which is where crews repair, maintain, and replace stormwater pipes that are currently already under the street. Some pipes in different neighborhoods need to be replaced with larger ones to minimize flooding in the street. By replacing them, it assists to reduce flooding in the already developed area.

How do I know the stormwater bond will benefit me, personally?

The City works to designate stormwater projects in all four quadrants of the city. This helps provide a balanced approach of work to prevent and manage flood risks across the community. The City also prioritizes areas of where flooding has been reported by homeowners and businessowners.

Is there a benefit to cost ratio?

There is not a calculated benefit to cost ratio.

What will happen if I vote no on the stormwater bond?

We lose significant funds if we don't pass this due to sharing costs with Lower Platte South NRD. There will continue to be areas that are impacted by flooding or stream erosion in the City that could cause damage to individuals' property and continue to be unsafe for the community.

What have past stormwater bonds done for Lincoln? How have they benefitted me?

- 2019 Bond Projects
 - Forest Lake Blvd area flood reduction project
 - Parks channel stabilization projects (Tierra/Williamsburg Trail, Gapp Park, Seacrest Park, Olympic Heights Park)
 - Stream stabilization project (Little Salt Creek, Southeast Upper Salt Creek NW Tributary)
 - Comprehensive Watershed Master Plan
- 2016 Bond Projects
 - 56th & Morton flood reduction project
 - Urban storm drainage projects (35th & Gladstone, 8th & Park, 44th & Calvert, 27th & Woodsdale, 33rd & Holdrege, 60th & Leighton, SW 30th & West A, 7th & Fletcher, 20th & Calvert, NW 7th & Highland)
 - Parks channel stabilization projects (Irvingdale/Rudge Park, 84th & Old Cheney undercrossing)

- Stream stabilization projects (Salt Creek at Old Cheney, Salt Creek at Pioneers)
- Once completed, the Deadmans Run project will:
 - Remove approximately **480** Structures from flood plain due to funding provided from stormwater bonds.
 - Eliminates need for flood insurance.
 - Saves \$450 - \$2400 per property owner
- Helps to Keep Lincoln in the top 5% of the Community Rating System
 - Lincoln has flood insurance premiums 25% below national.
- Bond dollars help the City leverage other funds
 - ~\$6M in leveraged funds from the LPSNRD
- Out of these 480 structures, approximately 30 of them are businesses.