

within the existing urban area. A comprehensive watershed management program needs to incorporate a range of strategies including land use planning, conservation efforts, appropriate standards for floodplains and stormwater, flood warning system development/expansion, stream stabilization, stormwater storage basins, and other structural flood control efforts.

As part of the overall watershed management program, the City, in cooperation with the LPSNRD, is developing a unified master watershed management plan. This plan will provide information and computer models to aid in analyzing stormwater management alternatives. Individual *watershed plans* for seven watersheds in Lincoln and the surrounding area have already been completed and are adopted as subarea plans in this document (see "*Plan Realization*" chapter). These plans evaluate and propose projects to address a wide range of water resources, and they are formulated in cooperation with other local, state and federal agencies. Ideally, additional watershed plans are completed and adopted prior to urban development occurring within a new basin. This allows projects and recommendations in the plan to be considered during the review of specific development proposals.

Watershed planning and the performance and adequacy of stormwater storage basins and other measures to prevent increases in peak flows will require continued assessment with the growth of the City. Upstream detention facilities are critical to preventing further increases to the floodplain, and if properly designed also help to reduce pollutant loads to downstream waterbodies. Detention facilities should be identified and developed in a manner that incorporates water quality best management practices and causes minimal adverse impact to existing residential, agricultural and other land uses.

Basin management plans are a more recent watershed planning initiative that is part of the ongoing effort to proactively forecast, evaluate,

and manage stormwater quality impacts associated with existing and future development and redevelopment of the City. These plans provide available information on the source of contaminants and how such contaminants can be reduced through projects and programs. They also include information for the education of the public on water quality and include projects to protect and restore stream channels. The first of these basin management plans (Antelope Creek from Holmes Lake to Salt Creek) provides a framework upon which future plans can be built.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

The overriding policy for the floodplain is a "No Adverse Impact" policy for the City and County, which means that the community has a goal of insuring that the action of one property owner does not adversely impact the flooding risk for other properties. The majority of the strategies below relate back to and support this umbrella concept.

The No Adverse Impact concept is supported by the "*Map 1.3: Growth Tiers with Priority Areas*" which designates the majority of floodplain areas outside of the existing urban area as Green Space, Environmental Resources, and Agricultural Stream Corridors. This supports the opportunity to reduce the risk of flood damage to life and property and to preserve the important functions of floodplains. This concept is more explicitly supported by the Salt Creek Flood Storage Area Standards and the *Flood Regulations for New Growth Areas* which protect flood storage in the areas with greatest risk for impacts. While regulations to support the No Adverse Impact concept have not been fully adopted throughout the "*Existing Urban Area*" or in the County's jurisdiction, goals and strategies in this plan support minimizing impacts to the floodplain in all circumstances.



STRATEGIES FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

- Designate areas for future urban development outside of floodplain and floodway to avoid introducing new development to flood risks and to preserve the important functions of the floodplain.
- Create a stormwater utility, as a division of the Public Works and Utilities Department, to provide for a steady revenue source as well as an organizational structure to address the growing needs of the stormwater and watershed management system.
- Develop and utilize watershed plans during the review and evaluation of proposed developments and as a guide in the preparation of future capital improvement projects; unify individual plans into a Watershed Management Master Plan for Lincoln and future growth areas.
- Utilize naturalized approaches or bioengineered solutions to drainage issues wherever possible, and use public projects as an opportunity to set positive examples. Seek opportunities for “*Best*



Management Practices” (e.g. Rain to Recreation, Rain Gardens, etc) that reduce flood damages, protect water quality and natural areas, while providing for recreational and educational opportunities so as to realize multiple benefits.

- Develop project approaches which view stormwater as an asset, by working with the natural topography and using wetlands, floodplains, and natural drainage corridors as natural ways to manage flood flows and stormwater runoff.
- Preserve and enhance vegetative buffers along stream corridors to slow the flow of stormwater, filter pollutants, protect the biological health of the stream, and conserve other natural functions of the floodplain.

- Develop and implement a floodplain buyout program for the City and County to restore floodplain functions while being sensitive to the need to minimize impacts on neighborhoods and historic districts.
- Seek broad public participation in the location and design of specific watershed management projects, and evaluate the relative benefits as they relate to flood hazard reduction, water quality, channel integrity, natural character, bridges, culverts, and existing public and private structures.
- Continue to develop a comprehensive, watershed approach to floodplain mapping and to improve the accuracy by making it a priority to which specific resources are dedicated.
- Retain City or County property in the floodplain in public ownership, and consider the purchase of easements or land when other publicly-owned property in the floodplain is proposed for surplus. Retain conservation easements to protect floodplain functions where unusual circumstances merit the consideration of surplus floodplain property.
- Continue to implement education efforts to notify floodplain property owners and prospective buyers of flood risks.

SOLID WASTE

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The City of Lincoln has entered into interlocal agreements with Lancaster County and all the villages and cities in Lancaster County, with the exception of Hallam, to serve as the lead agency for solid waste management in the County. The Public Works and Utilities Department, Solid Waste Operations in conjunction with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Environmental Division oversees the City and County’s solid waste management programs. The City will be developing a Solid Waste Management Plan within the early years of the LPlan 2040 planning period.



is generally available or planned for in the near term.

Annexation generally implies the opportunity to access all City services within a reasonable period of time. Voluntary annexation agreements may limit or otherwise outline the phasing, timing or installation of utility services (e.g., water, sanitary sewer), and may include specific or general plans for the private financing of improvements to the infrastructure supporting or contributing to the land uses in the annexed area. The annexation of large projects may be done in phases as development proceeds.

The character of existing residential areas should be respected as much as possible during the annexation process. When low density “acreage” areas are proposed for annexation due to the City’s annexation policy, additional steps should be taken to ease the transition as much as possible, such as public meetings, advance notice and written explanation of changes as a result of annexation. In general, many aspects of acreage life may remain unchanged, such as zoning or covenants. However, any annexation of existing residential areas will include some costs that must be the responsibility of property owners.

Annexation to facilitate the installation of improvements and/or possible assessment districts is appropriate if it is consistent with the annexation policies of the Plan listed above.

Plans for the provision of services within the areas considered for annexation shall be carefully coordinated with the Capital Improvement Program of the City and the County.

Each town in Lancaster County will have its own procedures for annexation.

ON-GOING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ACTIVITIES

While the Comprehensive Plan may have received formal approval, certain long-range planning tasks

remain to be completed or continued as part of the Plan’s implementation. These include:

- **Interagency Cooperation and Coordination.** Broad involvement of numerous public agencies and departments were used in the Plan’s formulation. The cooperation and coordination of efforts with these groups needs to remain in place during the Plan’s implementation.
- **Joint Planning Commission and Planning Department.** The City and County created a joint City-County Planning Commission and a single City-County Planning Department more than fifty years ago. This structure has served the community well over this period. It is intended that this structure remain in place as a means for furthering the implementation of the Plan.
- **City-County Common.** The City Council, County Board, and Lincoln Mayor hold a joint meeting each month to discuss issues of common concern to them. This group is known as the City-County Common. The Common provides a regular opportunity for the elected officials to discuss planning issues of joint interest to them.
- **MPO Officials Committee and Technical Committee.** Through the Metropolitan Planning Organization structure, the Officials and Technical Committees lend additional policy and technical oversight to the process. These standing groups meet on a regular basis to review, discuss, and approve matters relating to the area-wide transportation planning process. This includes the annual MPO Work Program, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP),



Annual Certification, Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and other related studies and programs.

- **Subarea Planning.** The Comprehensive Plan provides broad guidance for achieving the community's stated Vision. Putting details to the Plan takes additional effort. One means of doing this is through the preparation of subarea plans. Subarea plans offer greater details about the intended future of an area of the community — including land uses, infrastructure requirements, and development policies and standards. Many of these subarea plans are prepared by the City-County Planning Department, while some are prepared by other agencies and departments. Subarea plans considered part of this Comprehensive Plan include:
 - Wilderness Park Subarea Plan; February, 2000
 - NRGIS Greenprint Challenge, August, 2001
 - City of Lincoln Strategic Plan for HUD Entitlement Programs; FY 2010-2012, Urban Development;
 - Lincoln Water System Facilities Master Plan Update, Public Works and Utilities Department; April, 2007.
 - Lincoln Wastewater Facilities Master Plan, Public Works and Utilities Department; November, 2007.
 - Watershed Master Plans:
 - Beal Slough Stormwater Master Plan, May, 2000.
 - Southeast Upper Salt Creek Watershed Stormwater Master Plan, 2003.
 - Stevens Creek Watershed Master Plan, 2005
 - Cardwell Branch Watershed Master Plan, 2007
 - Deadmans Run Watershed Master Plan, 2007
 - Little Salt Creek Watershed Master Plan, 2009
 - Antelope Creek Watershed Basin Management Plan, 2012

- Lincoln Public Schools 10 year Plan, April, 2010
- North 48th Street/University Place Plan: Neighborhood Revitalization & Transportation Analysis, 2004
- Lincoln Airport F.A.R. Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study, 2003
- Airport West Subarea Plan, 2005
- Downtown Master Plan, 2005 (including the 2012 Downtown Master Plan Update)
- Transit Development Plan, September, 2007
- Antelope Valley Project, 1999
- West Haymarket Integrated Development Plan, July, 2009
- The Implementation Plan for the Conservation of Nebraska's Eastern Saline Wetlands, 2003

As part of the Annual Plan Status Report process, the Planning Director should complete a yearly review of all subarea plans that become five years of age and older. This review would be for the purpose of determining the continued viability and relevance of those subareas plans to the Comprehensive Plan and the long range planning process.

- **Human Services Planning.** Explore points of common concern and emphasis between LPlan 2040, the future land use plan, and the Community Services Implementation Plan (CSIP). Enhancing the coordination of these endeavors should be initiated and completed.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE PLAN

Approximately one year following adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and on an annual basis thereafter, the Planning Director will prepare a report entitled the Annual Review of the Comprehensive Plan. Such report may include new and pertinent information about the community; changes in the Plan's underlying assumptions or any other factors affecting the health or welfare of the community. Such report may include specific proposals to amend the Plan.

