

Bennet Profile

Bennet is located about 6 miles southeast of Lincoln. It is primarily accessed by Highway 43 on the north (S. 158th St) and south (S 161st St). Bennet is built along the upper reaches of the Little Nemaha River and unlike other towns in Lancaster County, is not within the Salt Creek watershed. Bennet is within the Lancaster County Rural Water District 1 boundary, so rural water services are available. There is some acreage development adjacent to Bennet, but also still room for expansion. The Lancaster County Board designated a large area at the intersection of Highway 2 and 158th Street as future Commercial and Industrial. This was supported by the Bennet Village Board but not by the Bennet Planning Commission.

Bennet grew from a population of 590 in 2000 to 719 in 2010. This increase of more than 20% is the result of multiple new subdivisions within the village. Residents include among their village's strengths this growing population as well as their close proximity to Lincoln (about a 10 minute drive), paved roads, 4th of July celebration, and a successful farmer's market.

Like many other Lancaster County towns, Bennet finds it challenging to get people involved and there is a perception that many residents, who mostly work outside of Bennet, are missing passion or concern for their community. However, the Planning Commission identified an opportunity to get young people involved, who they say are very fired up.

Another challenge Bennet faces is that there are not a lot of businesses in town. Most residents do their shopping in Lincoln, especially since Wal-Mart is very nearby. Bennet has a number of projects they've identified but they have a difficult time getting funding and funding matches are hard to accomplish.

GOALS:

1. Illuminate the mural for visibility at night.
2. Complete a splash pad and find appropriate funding.
3. Plan and install hiker/biker trails that connect to others throughout the county.
4. Install an electronic information sign for community announcements that is visible from Highway 2.
5. Build a community center.
6. Attract businesses like a grocery store.