ANTELOPE VALLEY PROJECT IS UNDER WAY!

July 2004

Two years ago, the Antelope Valley Partners planted a tree at the site of a new north-central Lincoln park to mark the beginning of construction on the long-needed Antelope Valley Flood Control Project. On June 24 of this year, the partners - the City of Lincoln, the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) - gathered again at the same location to officially dedicate the Fleming Fields Recreational Sports Park. Dignitaries tossed baseballs to area children and shared ice cream to celebrate the event.

This kind of neighborhood revitalization is a key component of the Antelope Valley Project. Just as important as the revitalization and flood control aspects are the traffic improvements planned as part of phase one, which is scheduled to be completed over a ten-year period.

Work has been completed on the Antelope Creek flood control channel from Salt Creek to the railroad tracks along the west side of the Devaney Sports Center. Work has begun on new roadways and bridges over Antelope Creek at Military, "Y" and Vine streets. Improvements to Vine Street include, paving, sidewalks, retaining walls, landscaping, a center-turn lane and ornamental lighting. Improvements at the intersection of 27th and Vine streets include upgrading the pavement and traffic signals and lengthening the left-turn lanes.

When completed, Lincoln will enjoy flood protection, a beautiful open waterway, 12 new bridges, 6.2 miles of new roadway, more new parks and exciting development projects.

The Antelope Valley Project is estimated to cost about $240 million in 2004 dollars. Funding is coming from seven sources: the federal government, the State of Nebraska, the City of Lincoln, the LPSNRD, the Railroad Transportation Safety District and private sources. So, do the benefits outweigh the project costs?

The answer is YES! The project's benefits are estimated at $745.3 million, 3.34 times the cost. The benefits include the following:

- Train traffic in the Antelope Valley area now blocks motorists five hours a day. Average travel times are increasing as drivers cut through neighborhoods to avoid congestion. This also reduces safety on the neighborhood streets. Eliminating these delays with the new roadway and the railroad overpass south of the Devaney Sports Center will have a positive economic impact of about **$147 million**.

- In 1957, flood waters up to three feet deep and five feet wide filled the Antelope Valley from South 48th Street to the UNL campus. The construction of Holmes Lake Dam helped, but not enough. Localized flooding has occurred several times, including 2003, when the area between "N" and "O" streets near 21st was flooded following a summer storm. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimated the project's reduction in the flooding threat to government properties, 961 residential structures and 336 commercial structures at **$64.3 million**. Savings in flood insurance premiums add another **$7 million**.

- The main UNL campus will no longer be in a floodplain, which will allow it to expand research and development facilities. That could add **$235 million** to the Lincoln economy and another **$67 million** to the state economy

- The new parks, trails and enhanced property values total more than $79 million.

- Finally, another **$101 million** is generated in Lincoln by the jobs created by the construction activity and community revitalization. The positive impact to the state is **$128 million**.

Lincoln will continue to grow and prosper at its edges. Eliminating the floodplain in the heart of our community will spur economic development in central Lincoln. Antelope Valley Project was developed through a community consensus process. It provides a vision to strengthen the historical core of our City by removing the flooding threat, improving traffic flow and revitalizing neighborhoods. That vision already is reflected in the City's capital construction program. Later this year, a far-reaching redevelopment plan for neighborhood revitalization will be adopted as a guide for how the vision will be realized through private reinvestment in the neighborhoods.

Maps and other information are available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov. Information can also be obtained by leaving a message at the Antelope Valley Hotline at 402-458-5999.