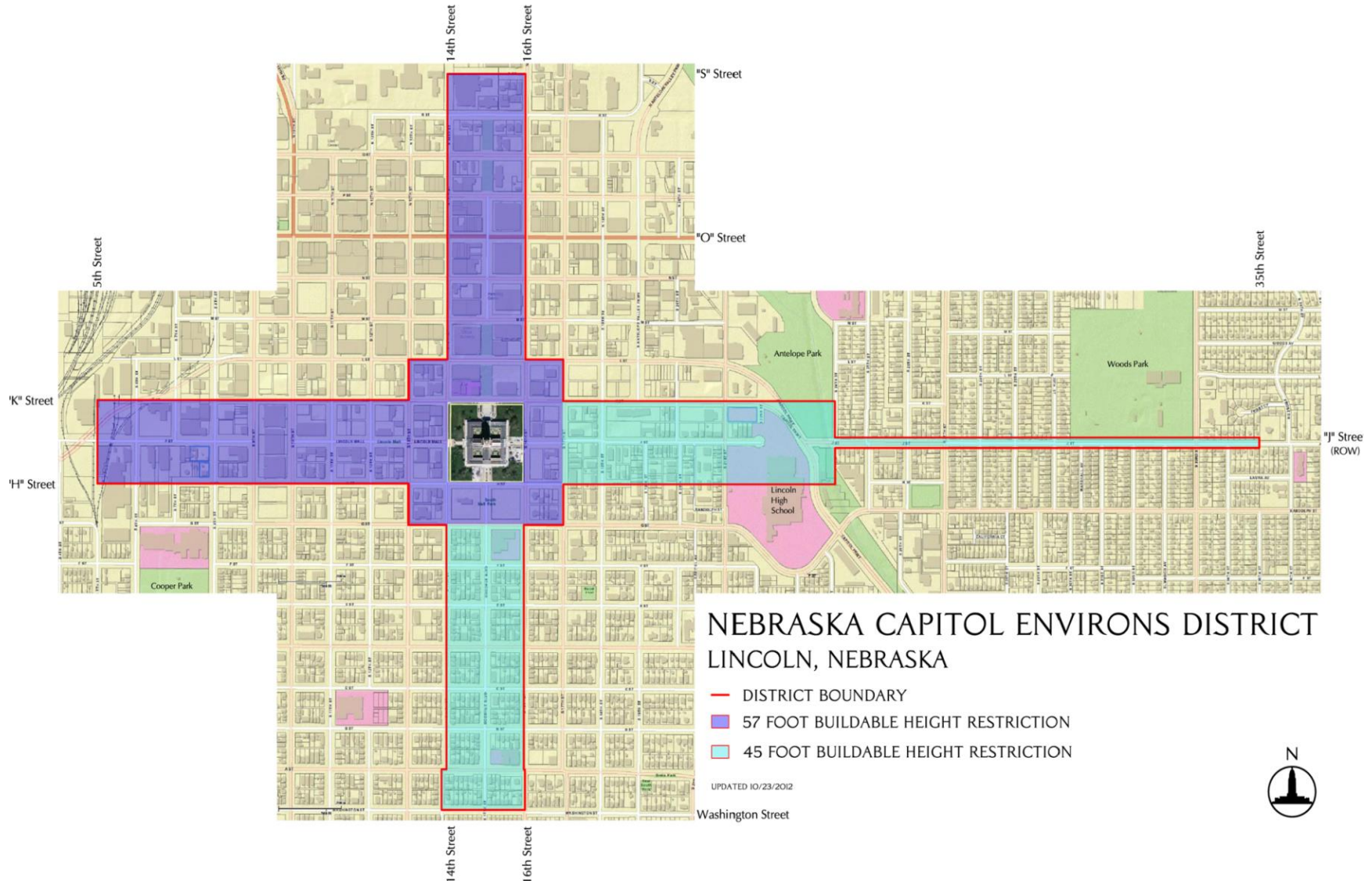


Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission - Annual Report 2015



The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission was established in 1988 to strengthen existing protections for the setting of Nebraska's landmark State Capitol. Commission membership of seven citizen volunteers includes five members appointed by the City of Lincoln and two appointed by the State of Nebraska.

In 2015 Cecil Steward, one of the Commission's founding members, retired from service and Gene Crump was appointed in his place. Otherwise membership remained unchanged with Jeff Searcy continuing as chair, and Commissioners Christine Dionisopoulos, John Kay, Tom Laging, Karen Nalow, and Jon Weinberg. The seven appointed citizen members are assisted

by three *ex officio* members—Bob Ripley of the Office of the Capitol Commission (for the State of Nebraska), the director of Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department (David Cary), and Lynn Johnson (director of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department). Staffing is provided by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department.

The Commission is required to meet at least quarterly by Section 27.56.060 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. The Commission met eight times in 2015, including the annual joint meeting with the Capitol Commission on November 17th.

Nebraska's Centennial Mall (Centennial Mall, K Street to R Street)

Continued, substantial progress on rebuilding Nebraska's Centennial Mall was again this year's banner project in the Capitol Environs. Substantial completion is expected by the end of this year. Planting has begun, from south to north, with final planting occurring in 2016.

The Commission reviewed numerous inscriptions for the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway, with an editorial committee assisting in that detailed process. Sixty-eight inscriptions have been approved honoring a broad spectrum of Nebraska people and organizations. The approved inscriptions are attached as an appendix.



*Detail of fountain
Centennial Mall at K Street* ▶

1220 Lincoln Mall Building

Farmers Mutual Insurance Company completed exterior work to renovate the former headquarters at 1220 Lincoln Mall. Interior finishes will be completed as tenants sign leases.



▲
1220 Lincoln Mall from north

III Landmark Centre (Lincoln Mall, 11th Street to 12th Street)

III Landmark Centre has been completed on the block bounded by Lincoln Mall, South 11th Street, K Street, and South 12th Street, directly west of the Farmers Mutual Block. Lincoln

Chamber of Commerce is a key tenant in the handsome building.



▲
III Landmark Centre from northeast

Nebraska History Museum—1% for Art enhancements

In August and October, the Commission reviewed proposals and designs for colorful metal panels to be installed on the east façade of the Museum, under the State’s 1% for Art program. Jeanine Centuori and Russell Rock of “Urban Rock” are the

designers of “Inside Outside,” working with curators to select iconic images of objects in the collection. The installation is scheduled to be completed to accompany the reopening of the Museum in the second quarter of 2016.

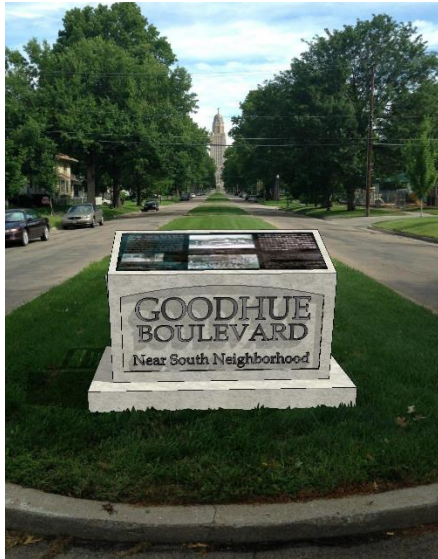
*Inside Outside proposal for
Nebraska History Museum ▶*



Goodhue Boulevard Monument

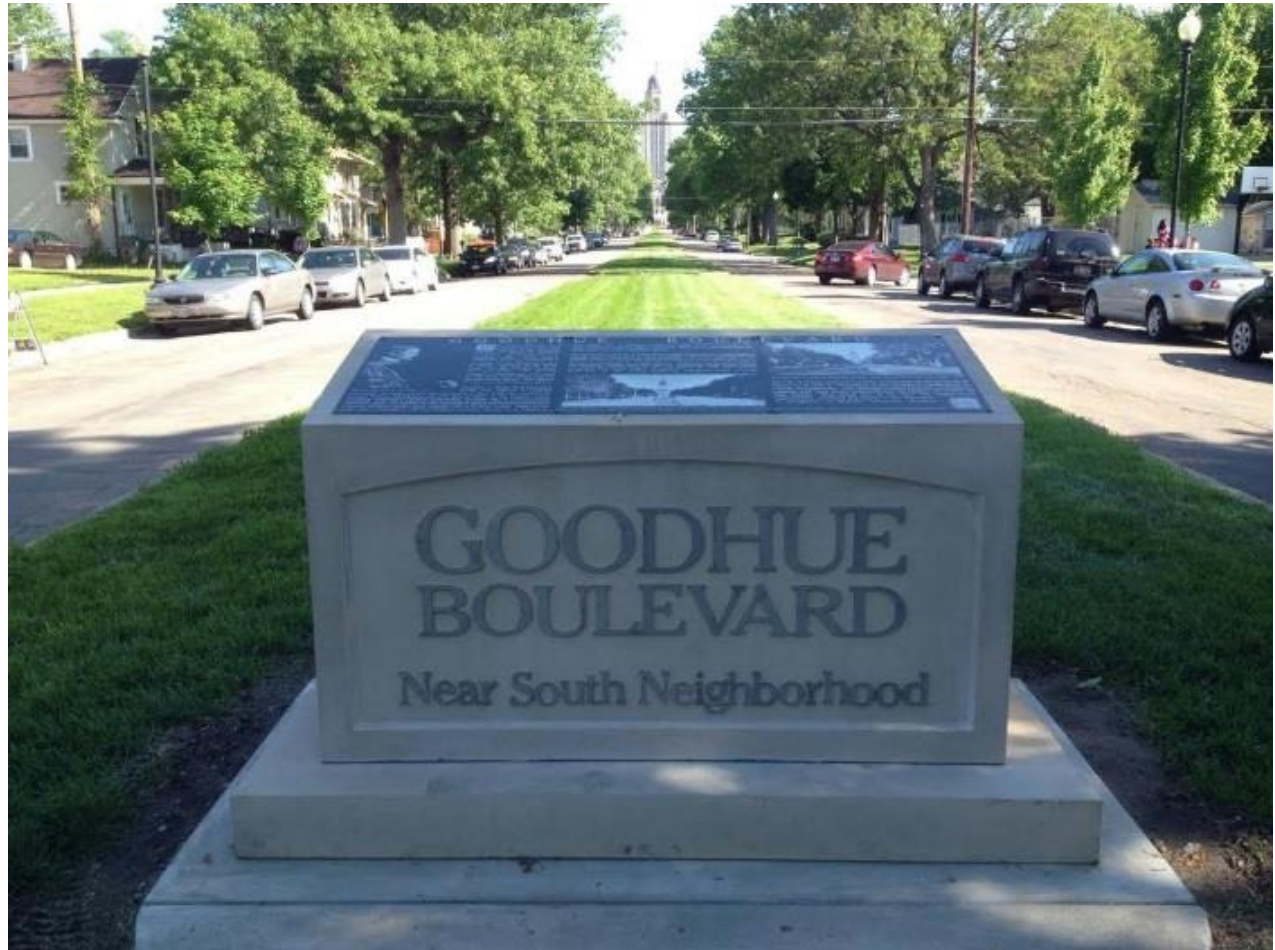
The Near South Neighborhood Association worked with the Commission extensively in 2014 and 2015 on a monument to

honor Bertram Goodhue, for installation at Goodhue Boulevard and A Street. The monument was installed in May 2015.



▲
*Conceptual Design for
Goodhue Monument*

Installed Goodhue Monument ▶



Other Projects

Residential improvements reviewed by the Commission in earlier years are under construction this year at the President and the Ambassador apartments (Lincoln Mall and South 14th Street), 1421 P Street adjacent to the Nebraska History Museum, and at Century House (1201 Lincoln Mall). The Commission approved a submission from the Lincoln Urban Development Department for two new houses to be built on South 19th Street, south of J Street, replacing substandard housing that had been removed from that site. The Commission recommended enhancement to the design and the plans submitted for building permits reflected those suggestions.

Maintaining a variety of good quality housing units throughout the Environs District is among the goals of the Environs Commission.

The Commission also reviewed proposed amendments to the Design Standards for the Environs District, addressing past additions to the boundaries of the district and “lessons learned” in the Commission’s years of service. Some of the proposals are intended to reflect the proposed South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan, which includes a portion of the west (J Street) extension of the District. The Commission reviewed and commented on the draft South Haymarket Neighborhood Plan which was subsequently approved by Planning Commission and City Council.

*Respectfully submitted January 28, 2016
Ed Zimmer, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department*