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Introduction

This Report marks a continuing effort in data collection for key community indicators outlined in the Lincoln-Lancaster County 2030 Comprehensive Plan. This Report is designed to evaluate and monitor changes in the community, and assess whether the assumptions in the Comprehensive Plan are valid and its goals are being achieved.

The Comprehensive Plan is based upon an understanding of current conditions as well as assumptions about the future. The fact that change is inevitable underscores the importance of developing a comprehensive monitoring approach that will allow the Comprehensive Plan to remain relevant in an environment of community change.

What are Community Indicators?

Community indicators are bits of information that, when combined, generate a picture of what is happening in a local system. They provide insight into the overall direction of a community: whether it is improving, declining, or staying the same, or is some mix of all three.

A combination of indicators can therefore provide a measuring system to provide information about past trends, current realities, and insight into future directions in order to aid decision making. In this sense, community indicators can also be thought of as grades on a report card that rates community well-being and progress.

Indicators themselves do not provide a model of how a community works or how to determine planning choices; rather, they provide information that can be used by citizens, policy makers, government agencies, the media, businesses, community activists and others when faced with decisions about the community. Indicators are a tool for helping us understand ourselves as a community.

As stated in the Plan, no conclusion can be made or trends determined through the analysis of a single year’s information. For some indicators, there continues to be limited information currently available to monitor progress. The Planning Department strives to provide the best data available for the indicators to track the Comprehensive Plan’s policies adopted in 2006. On an annual basis, the Planning Department will revise and, if necessary, correct and adjust data when new and better sources or updates become available. It is hoped that these indicators can be supplemented with additional information and evaluation.

Using this Report

The Community Indicators Report includes measures of many Benchmark areas and includes data on thirty-six (36) different Indicators. A Benchmark is identified along with the Indicator and is shown in the left corner of the top bar. The Benchmark is a measurable goal or target identified in the Comprehensive Plan, or a general principle or policy that is intended to be implemented over the planning period for the community.

The 2009 Report is divided into six major areas of interest: Growth, Economy, Environment, Housing, Transportation and Recreation. Every year new areas of interest will be evaluated for inclusion in future editions of the Report.

Each indicator is formatted to provide the following standard information:

Subheading information

This section appears immediately below the Indicator title and describes the Indicator’s relationship with the Benchmark, as well the reasons why it is important to monitor over a period of time.

Synopsis

This section highlights the key trend or observation about the Indicator as reflected by the data.

Trends/Observations

This section highlights the key trends or observations that are identified in the data. Data collected since
2000 are emphasized, marking the beginning point for monitoring the assumptions identified in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Change is described in terms of percentage or nominal differences in the data between each year or a specific time period. Trends are not interpreted for additional meaning.

**Definitions**
This section explains where the data comes from, the caveats, limitations, time period, and definitions for uncommon terms or phrases.

**Data Resources**
This section identifies the resources from which data were obtained, and if relevant, provides a website address where further information can be found.

**Evaluating the Data**
The process of updating community indicators promotes regional cooperation and encourages public, non-profit, and private sector action through an understanding of specific trends and outcomes. Indicators are selected using the following general criteria:

- **Validity** - Does the indicator provide meaningful information about what is being measured?
- **Understandability** - Can the indicator be easily understood by the general public?
- **Reliability** - Can the indicator be consistently measured over time?
- **Availability** - Is the data available in a timely manner?

Two other issues create a further challenge in evaluating the findings of Indicators included in this Report. The diversity of the type of measured data included in the Report is accompanied by a similar diversity in publication times or "availability" for the information. The time lag associated with many of the Indicators presents a major obstacle in monitoring the current conditions occurring throughout the community. This Report comprises data that has publication release dates spanning from one month to five years. While data availability or timeliness is important, it has a slightly lower level of importance than the other data criteria, which are critical elements in selecting information. As noted earlier, trends take years to manifest in data, and conclusions garnered from year to year findings should be avoided.

Another important issue impacting the effectiveness of monitoring current conditions throughout the community is isolating the influence of local, state and national policy, conditions and/or mandates. Each Indicator may be influenced more or less from a particular level of government involvement than another. Determining a cause and effect relationship over time becomes a challenging enterprise in light of the competing policies that exist between the different levels of government. This does not lessen the importance of monitoring such Indicators, but does add caution for decision makers and readers of this Report when interpreting trends depicted in the data.

An complete analysis of data which comprises income measurements requires adjustment using an index, so that values from different years are expressed in terms of a single year’s income. Inflation adjustments are made by applying price indexes to the current value data, the resulting data is expressed in terms of real dollars. Converting current dollars to real dollars provides comparisons in the change of purchasing power over time. This adjustment provides a more complete understanding of the Indicator and determines the amount of real growth in these measures. This Report utilizes the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for "All Urban Consumers for the U.S. City Average" and the base year selected for adjusting the measures is 2007, that is, the adjusted or real dollars are shown in 2007 values. The CPI is the most widely used measure of inflation and is sometimes viewed as an indicator of the effectiveness of government economic policy.

**Next Steps - From Indicators to Action**
The value of community indicators is not as a static, one-time exercise in identifying important community trends, but, rather its importance is realized over a period of time. If updated on an annual basis, community indicators can show progress, or the lack of progress, in accomplishing community priorities. With broad participation in their targeting and update, community indicators can influence local policy
and decision making. A more direct benefit of the Report is to provide information that counteracts bad data that do not accurately reflect community issues or trends.

The interconnections among the Indicators presented in this Report are substance for a wealth of discussions on our changing community. Report readers are encouraged to discover ways that these Indicators inter-relate, and how they can use the information to improve conditions throughout the community.

Another benefit of the Community Indicators Report is raising awareness of the people who live in the community, and the quality of life experienced by all residents. A changing community does not always result in positive outcomes for all residents. It is hoped that the information presented in this Report will make people think about their community, and the quality of life of their neighbors and the entire community.

The Report should prompt readers to ask questions, such as, "How does this information relate to my friends, family, colleagues, employees and neighbors?" The information should tell a story about the community, like, "Where have we come from and where are we going?" In order to get where we are going, we need to measure where we want to be.

We hope you find this Report useful and welcome comments and suggestions for later editions.

For more information contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department or visit our website at lincoln.ne.gov.
Assumptions on the rate of population growth are instrumental in numerous land use and development projections to formulate the Comprehensive Plan. The population growth rate of 1.5 percent is projected as an average over the 25-year planning horizon of the Plan.

- The population of Lancaster County through July 2008 was estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau to be 278,728 persons, an increase of 1.46 percent since 2007.
- The County population grew by 79.51 percent since 1960 -- a higher growth rate than both Nebraska and the United States. Lancaster County rate of growth between 2000 and 2008 has been 10.88 percent or approximately 1.3 percent per year.
- The rate of growth between 2000 and 2008 for Nebraska has been 4.10 percent and 7.76 percent for the United States.
- The County population in 2007 was 87 percent white followed by 4.56 percent Hispanic, 3.37 percent African-American and 3.16 percent Asian.

Average Annual Growth Rate by Decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
<td>1.39%</td>
<td>1.03%</td>
<td>1.59%</td>
<td>1.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>0.47%</td>
<td>0.55%</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
<td>0.82%</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>1.27%</td>
<td>1.03%</td>
<td>0.94%</td>
<td>1.24%</td>
<td>0.94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Change in Population Since 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lancaster County</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Avg Annual Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>251,378</td>
<td>254,343</td>
<td>257,984</td>
<td>262,032</td>
<td>264,351</td>
<td>267,987</td>
<td>271,091</td>
<td>274,725</td>
<td>278,728</td>
<td>3,418.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change</td>
<td>1.18%</td>
<td>1.43%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
<td>0.89%</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
<td>1.16%</td>
<td>1.34%</td>
<td>1.46%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Race Composition of Lancaster County

- AIAN: American Indian and Alaska Native alone
- NHPI: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
Numbers of live births and deaths in Lancaster County may indicate what population factors are generating change in the overall population. Changes in births and deaths affect the age structure of a community’s population and have implications on public services.

**Natural change accounts for about 75 percent of the overall increase in estimated population since 2000.**

### Births
- The total number of births in a given year has increased by nearly 39 percent since 1986 from 2,993 to 4,151 in 2008 (preliminary data).
- Since 2000, the birth rate (births per 1,000 population) has fluctuated between a low of 14.6 in 2001 to a high of 15.6 in 2004.
- 2008 preliminary data indicates a birth rate of 14.9 per 1,000 Lancaster County residents.

### Deaths
- The total number of deaths in a given year has increased by about 17 percent since 1986 from 1,418 to 1,664 in 2008 (preliminary data).
- Since 2000 the death rate (deaths per 1,000 population) has fluctuated from a high of 6.8 in 2002 to a low of 6.1 in 2006.
- 2008 preliminary data indicates a death rate of 8.9 per 1,000 Lancaster County residents.

### Natural Change
- In 2008, preliminary statistics indicate the population change due to natural factors in Lancaster County amounted to an increase of 2,487 in population.
- 2008 preliminary data Natural Change accounts for about 20,684, or 75.63 percent, of the overall estimated population increase of 27,350 people since 2000.

### Crude Birth and Death Rates for Lancaster County and the U.S. (per 1,000 population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lancaster County 2008</th>
<th>U.S. Average 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crude Death Rate</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude Birth Rate</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definitions:**
- These figures represent total live births and deaths for Lancaster County residents.
- Natural Change is the difference between the number of births and deaths.
- Numbers for 2008 are preliminary.

**Sources:**
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Division of Health Data and Evaluation
U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of Population Change
**Benchmark:**
Embrace a Growing, Changing Community

**Indicator 3:**
County Migration Trends, 1980-2008

**This Indicator measures how attractive the community is to non-residents. The measures include the two largest components of population change: Natural Change and Migratory Change.**

**Migration accounts for an increase of 10,400 persons since 2000 in Lancaster County even as the State of Nebraska lost population to domestic migration.**

- Lancaster County has been attracting a significant immigrant population, both international and domestic since the 1990’s.
- Between 1990 and 2000, immigrants accounted for 54.30 percent of the Lancaster County population increase.
- Between 2000 and 2008, migration in Lancaster County accounts for an increase of 10,400 persons of which 65.55 percent was international migration.
- In 2001, International migration was highest in the County at 1,001 persons, but 2001 was one of the lowest in domestic migration at 189 persons.
- The State of Nebraska has experienced a net migration of negative 15.85 percent since 2000. The State has been consistently losing population to domestic migration.

### Net Migration in the County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Int'l Migration</th>
<th>Domestic Migration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1,001</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>1,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>-634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,817</td>
<td>3,583</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definitions:**
- Natural Change is the difference between resident births and deaths.
- Migratory Change is the difference between people moving into and out of an area.
- "Total Population Change" is the sum of Natural Change and Migratory Change.
- In the 2007-2008 estimate year, corrections and adjustments were made to census estimates going back to 2000. This caused a change in migration data reported in previous Community Indicator Reports.

**Sources:**
U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of Components of Population Change for Counties in Nebraska. County population, population change and estimated components of population change: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008 (CO-EST 2008-alldata)

### Components of Population Change since 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>4,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>4,003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Includes residual population, may not equal sum of Natural Change and Migratory Change.
Benchmark:
Lancaster County Population Increases 1.5 Percent Annually by 2030

Indicator 4:

The growth rate for utility service connections may be utilized to monitor annual fluctuations in the local development economy. These figures may reflect the level of activity in the housing industry.

Residential Electric Customer Accounts have experienced a slower annual growth rate since 2004.

- LES residential electric account growth rates have historically been higher than population growth in Lincoln.
- In 2000, the number of accounts was 97,449 showing an increase of about 21 percent since 1990. There was an increase of about 17 percent between 1980 and 1990.
- Between 2000 and 2008, new residential electric accounts increased by 12 percent serving a total of 110,720 customers in 2008, an average annual growth rate of 1.61 percent.
- In 2008, a net total of 716 new residential accounts were added to LES showing an increase of 0.65 percent since 2007.
- Single family houses accounted for 66.29 percent of new accounts in 2008.
- In 2008, building permits for construction of 667 dwellings units were issued - however, the year a building permit is issued may not be the year the dwelling is constructed or the year the LES connection is made.

Definitions:
- LES serves all of Lincoln and portions of Lancaster County (outside the City of Lincoln’s corporate limits).
- Figures represent accounts for all types of dwelling units and do not correspond to dwelling units directly.
- For instance, a duplex or multifamily building may have a single account, or a multifamily building may have additional accounts for common areas and laundry rooms.

Sources:
Lincoln Electric System

Comparison of Annual Growth Rates by Decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Avg. Annual Population Growth Rate</th>
<th>Avg. Annual New Account Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-1990</td>
<td>1.03%</td>
<td>1.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-2000</td>
<td>1.59%</td>
<td>1.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2008</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electric Residential Customer Account Growth Rate by Decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Lancaster County</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LES Accounts</td>
<td>68,926 80,624 97,449 110,720</td>
<td>11,698 16,825 13,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>16.97% 20.87% 11.99%</td>
<td>11.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. Annual Growth Rate</td>
<td>1.58% 1.91% 1.61%</td>
<td>1.61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The growth in water customers may be utilized to examine fluctuations in the local economy. These figures may reflect the level of activity in the housing industry.

Residential Water Customer Accounts have had a slower annual growth rate since 2003.

- In FY 2000, a total of 1,010 new residential customers were added to the system, serving a total of 62,887 residential customers.
- In 2008, a total of 697 new residential customers were added to the system, and a total of 72,971 residential connections were served by the Lincoln Water System. This was a 0.96 percent increase over 2007 residential customers.
- Between 2000 and 2008, the growth rate for new water customer accounts was 16.04 percent, with an annual average increase of 1.88 percent.
- The highest increases have been reported in 2002, 2004 and 2005 followed by a sharp decline in the annual growth rate through 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of Annual Growth Rates by Decade</th>
<th>Avg. Annual Population Growth Rate</th>
<th>Avg. Annual New Account Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980-1990</td>
<td>1.03%</td>
<td>1.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-2000</td>
<td>1.59%</td>
<td>1.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2008</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definitions:
- Lincoln Water System service area includes development within City of Lincoln corporate limits.
- Reporting period reflects Fiscal Year (FY) of September to August each year.
- Multiple-family dwellings (apartments and duplexes) are "master-metered" where only one service connection is provided to the development.

Sources:
City of Lincoln, Lincoln Water System Annual Report
Since 1980 the City of Lincoln’s population has amounted to about 90 percent of the County’s population.

The City/County population ratio reached the Comprehensive Plan benchmark of 90 percent in 2007.

- Lincoln continues to reflect the ratio of 90 percent of Lancaster County’s population.
- In 2000, Lincoln’s population was 90.46 percent of the County population.
- In 2007, the ratio of City to County population reached 90.54 percent.

### Definitions:
- US Census data for Lincoln and Lancaster County is used to determine population ratios. US Census population estimates are provided July 1 of each non-decennial year.
- Population includes persons in all incorporated and unincorporated communities in Lancaster County.
- Data used in this indicator was released in July 2007. Revised data for the County released in March 2008 will be used in future reports when revisions have also been made to City figures.

### Sources:
- US Census Bureau, Population Division, March 2008
- Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dept., Information and Technology Services, Data Bank

### Growth Rate of growth of City and County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lancaster County</th>
<th>Lincoln City</th>
<th>County Excluding Lincoln</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1.18%</td>
<td>1.24%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1.43%</td>
<td>1.53%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
<td>1.63%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>0.89%</td>
<td>0.97%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
<td>1.18%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1.16%</td>
<td>1.11%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1.34%</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The amount of land planned for residential purposes in Lincoln may reflect the general level of development activity throughout the community.

**The City has a 14-year supply of detached single family lots.**

- As of July 2000, the number of lots available for single/two-family units totaled 8,504, and multi-family units totaled 5,083 in final, preliminary and “in-process” submitted plats.
- As of January 1, 2009, there were 11,826 single/two-family lots final platted, preliminary platted or formally submitted and in process of review – this latest figure reflects a significant increase of 76.22 percent in lot supply from January 2004 (6,711).
- As of January 1, 2009, of the 11,826 platted lots, 33.54 percent were final platted, 60.26 percent were preliminary platted and 6.20 percent were submitted for preliminary plat.
- Since 1998, the City has increased its final and preliminary platted supply of housing units by 42.2 percent.
- As of January 1, 2009, the supply of detached single-family lots available or in process (8,200) should last about 14 years at the 3-year average rate of 591 detached single-family building permits per year, or 8 years at the 10-year average of 997 building permits per year.

**Definitions:**
- Latest figures are January 2009.
- The data reflects a periodic point-in-time inventory of housing lots that could be developed with housing units in the future.
- Platted Residential lots are single, two-family and multiple family units that are final platted, preliminary platted or are pending submitted plats.
- Prior to 1997, the number of lots in pending submitted plats were not included in the residential lot inventory.

**Sources:**
Student enrollment trends are important to monitor because they show potential need for new schools.

Enrollment in Lincoln Public Schools continues to rise by 1.02 percent per year.

- Between 1990 and 2000, the growth rate for net student enrollment in Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) was 12.03 percent; absolute change in enrollment was 3,368 students. The annual average growth rate was 1.14 percent.
- Total LPS student enrollment reached 34,001 in 2008, an addition of 591 students since 2007.
- Between 2000 and 2008, there were 2,647 additional students enrolled in the LPS district showing an increase of 8.44 percent. The annual average growth rate was 1.02 percent.
- From 2000 to 2008, an additional 115 students were enrolled in non-public schools in Lincoln showing an increase of 1.70 percent, an average annual rate of 0.21 percent.

Definitions:
- Enrollment census is taken in the Fall of each year and includes Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade students.
- Lincoln Public Schools students, as well as non-public schools students, may live outside City of Lincoln corporate limits.

Sources:
- Lincoln Public Schools Annual Statistical Handbook
- Nebraska Department of Education
One of the core indicators in the Economy section is the average wage per job from 1980 to 2007. The average wage per job in Lancaster County increased by 1.45 percent since 2000, significantly lower than both Nebraska and the U.S. In 2007, the current and real dollar value of the average annual wage for Lancaster County was $34,689. County-wide, real wages per job (adjusted to 2007 dollars) increased through 2001 and has been level since. Adjusting for inflation to reflect 2007 dollars, the wage per job increased by 15.71 percent between 1980 and 2007. The State of Nebraska had a similar increase of 15.40 percent, but the U.S. had a much higher increase of about 25 percent in the same time period. Lancaster County had a significant increase in average wage (in real dollars) of 9.83 percent between 1990 and 2000, but only increased by 1.45 percent between 2000 and 2007. The average wage per job decreased by about 1 percent from 2006 to 2007. From 2000 to 2007, both Nebraska and the U.S. have shown a higher percentage increase than Lancaster County.

### Change in Average Wage per Job in Real Dollars (2007) by Decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>$29,979</td>
<td>$31,131</td>
<td>$34,192</td>
<td>$34,689</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>$30,665</td>
<td>$29,882</td>
<td>$33,381</td>
<td>$35,390</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$35,225</td>
<td>$37,004</td>
<td>$41,803</td>
<td>$43,889</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definitions:
- Estimates used to compute figures represent wages and salaries paid to all workers divided by the total number of jobs.
- People holding more than one job are counted in the wage estimates for each job they hold.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to express “Real Dollars” in terms of their value in 2007. Since Inflation varies over years, the ‘Real Dollar’ values are dependent on the choice of year and may not be the same as reported in the last report.

Sources:
Bureau of Economic Analysis, CA34 - Average wage per job, Table 30
Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) is an indicator of financial well-being and shows how well the economy is performing over time. PCPI is viewed as a key proxy for the overall economic health of a community.

Per capita personal income in real dollar values has shown little increase since 2000 in Lancaster County while it has increased in Nebraska and the U.S.

- In 2006, the current dollar PCPI amounted to $34,079 for each Lancaster County resident, an increase 1 percent over 2005, adjusted for inflation.
- The increase in PCPI since 2000 was 16.70 percent – When adjusted for inflation, PCPI decreased by 0.32 percent, remaining level over the last six years.
- The growth in PCPI between 1980 and 2006 for the residents of Lancaster County amounted to an overall increase of 244 percent – When adjusted for inflation, increase in PCPI was 40.76 percent.
- Lancaster County had a significant increase of 22.35 percent between 1990 and 2000 (adjusted for inflation) but significantly decreased to a negative 0.32 percent between 2000 to 2006.
- After the high of 1990-2000, where the percentage increase in CPCI (adjusted for inflation) for Lancaster County residents was more than Nebraska and the U.S., there has been little change since 2000, whereas Nebraska and the U.S. show an increase of about 5 to 6 percent since 2000.

### Definitions:
- PCPI does not reflect income distribution as it reflects an average for the population. PCPI gauges how income grows over time per person, by adjusting for the growth in population.
- PCPI is computed using Census Bureau midyear population estimates.
- PCPI is calculated as the sum of all wage, salary and other disbursements, divided by the number of people residing in Lancaster County.
- Real dollars are adjusted to reflect a base year of 2007.

### Sources:
Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, CA1-3 Per capita personal income, Table 3.0
An annual growth rate of 2.0 percent is anticipated in the Comprehensive Plan. Employment levels for “Business and Commerce” sectors may reflect the level of economic activity within the community. These employment sectors are generally tied to the use and expansion of retailing complexes, office buildings, business parks, and service centers throughout the community.

Employment in this sector is growing by 1.61 percent annually with Education and Health and Professional Services being the highest employment providers.

- In 2007, the total annual employment for “Business and Commerce” sectors in Lancaster County comprised 73,803 jobs distributed amongst 4,884 establishments with a 47 percent share of total county employment.
- In 2001, the annual employment for “Business and Commerce” sectors in Lancaster County comprised 67,054 jobs distributed amongst 4,064 establishments.
- Between 2001 and 2007, the average annual change in employment for “Business and Commerce” sectors was 1.61 percent per year in the County, which is higher than Nebraska (1.01 percent per year).
- From 2001 to 2007, the employment share for “Business and Commerce” sectors increased from 45 percent to 47 percent of the total county employment.
- Education and Health and Professional Services are the highest employment providers in this sector contributing more than 50 percent of jobs in this sector.
An annual growth rate of 2.5 percent is anticipated in the Comprehensive Plan. Employment levels for “Industrial” sectors may reflect the level of economic activity within the community. The Industrial employment sectors tend to drive the need for siting and supporting additional industrial land throughout the community.

**Definitions:**

- “Industrial” sectors are used to monitor industrial land needs.
- Figures reflect average annual employment by sector and number of establishments.
- These employment categories are based upon the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and reflect data for workers covered by Nebraska Employment Security Laws.

**Sources:**

Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

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**Employment in this sector is growing by 0.15 percent annually with Trade, Transportation and Utilities being the highest employment providers.**

- In 2007, the total annual “Industrial” sector employment in Lancaster County comprised 51,082 jobs distributed amongst 2,869 establishments, having a 33 percent share of total county employment.
- In 2001, the annual “Industrial” sector employment in Lancaster County comprised 50,620 jobs distributed amongst 2,626 establishments.
- Between 2001 and 2007, the average annual change in County-wide employment in the “Industrial” sectors was about 0.15 percent per year, higher than Nebraska (0.10 percent per year).
- From 2001 to 2007, employment share for “Industrial” sectors decreased slightly from 34 percent to 33 percent of the total county employment.
- The number of establishments in this sector grew from 2,626 in 2001 to 2,869 in 2007, an increase of 9.3 percent.
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities is the highest employment provider in this sector contributing about 57 percent in 2007.

---

### Distribution of Industries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, Transportation, Utilities</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Number of Establishments in Industrial Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishments</td>
<td>2,626</td>
<td>2,714</td>
<td>2,751</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>2,860</td>
<td>2,859</td>
<td>2,869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An annual growth rate of 1.5 percent is anticipated in the Comprehensive Plan. Employment levels for “Government” sectors may reflect the level of economic activity within the community. Employment in this sector is generally tied to the use and expansion of office buildings and service centers throughout the community.

In 2007, the total annual “Government” sector employment in Lancaster County comprised 31,895 jobs distributed amongst 257 establishments having a 20 percent share of total county employment.

In 2001, the annual “Government” sector employment in Lancaster County comprised 30,536 jobs distributed amongst 176 establishments.

Between 2001 and 2007, the average annual change in County-wide employment in the “Government” sectors was 0.73 percent per year, slightly higher than Nebraska (0.69 percent per year).

From 2001 to 2007, the employment share for “Government” has been steady at about 20 percent of the total county employment. This is higher than Nebraska (17 percent) and the U.S. (18 percent), reflecting the usual pattern in a state capitol city.

The State government is the highest employment provider in this sector contributing about 50 percent, followed by Local government (42 percent) and then Federal government (8 percent).

---

### Definitions:
- Figures reflect average annual employment by sector and number of establishments.
- These employment categories are based upon the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and reflect data for workers covered by Nebraska Employment Security Laws.

### Sources:
Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

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### Employment in this sector is growing by 0.73 percent annually with State government being the highest employment providers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Gov’t</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Growth in Government Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,500</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Number of Establishments in Government Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishments</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall, County-wide employment is anticipated to grow at a rate of over 2 percent per year during the planning period. Monitoring changes in local employment trends is critical in projecting the community’s need for new urban infrastructure.

Employment since 2000 has not kept pace with the growth exhibited in the 1990’s.

- Total Lancaster County employment in 1993 was 121,084, rising to 146,368 in 2000, a change in employment of about 20.88 percent or about 2.75 percent per year. The growth was higher than Nebraska (8.53 percent) and the U.S. (18.89 percent).
- From 2000 to 2007, 10,412 new jobs were added in Lancaster county for a total of 156,780 in 2007. This is an increase of about 7.11 percent or an average of 0.99 percent per year.
- Employment growth since 2000 has not kept pace with the growth exhibited in the 1990’s. The average annual growth rate from 2000 to 2007 is less than 1 percent per year, with the slowest year being 2002 (-0.47 percent) and the fastest being 2007 (1.78 percent). Both Nebraska and the U.S. had a slower growth rate than Lancaster County.
- The growth rate in employment in Lancaster County from 1993 to 2007 is 1.86 percent per year, slightly lower than the 2 percent projected growth rate.
- Between 2001 and 2007, general employment in the industrial sector declined, increased in business and commerce, and remained steady in the government sector.

Definitions:
- Figures reflect average annual employment for all industries according to location of job, not residence (persons working in Lancaster County, but living outside the county, are counted).
- These figures reflect data for workers covered by Nebraska Employment Security Laws.

Sources:
Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, November 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20.88%</td>
<td>7.11%</td>
<td>1.78%</td>
<td>29.48%</td>
<td>2.75%</td>
<td>0.99%</td>
<td>1.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>121,084</td>
<td>146,368</td>
<td>156,780</td>
<td>8.53%</td>
<td>0.86%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
<td>9.46%</td>
<td>1.18%</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>837,361</td>
<td>908,800</td>
<td>916,580</td>
<td>18.89%</td>
<td>4.41%</td>
<td>1.11%</td>
<td>24.14%</td>
<td>2.50%</td>
<td>0.62%</td>
<td>1.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. (000’s)</td>
<td>110,844</td>
<td>131,785</td>
<td>137,598</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Labor Force conditions during the planning period may reflect the general level of economic activity in the community. A growing workforce is an asset to economic development activities such as supporting business retention and expansion efforts, recruiting new businesses to the community, and providing employment opportunities for County-wide residents.

The increase in labor force in Lancaster County is higher than Nebraska and the U.S. and has a lower rate of increase of unemployed.

**Labor Force**

- In 2008, the Civilian Labor Force reflected continued growth and comprised 159,943 persons either employed or unemployed in Lancaster County, an increase of about 1.02 percent since 2007.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the labor force grew by 21 percent or an average annual rate of growth of 1.93 percent. Between 2000 to 2008 the Labor Force increased by 7.28 percent with an annual growth rate of 0.88 percent.
- Between 2000 and 2008, the growth of Civilian Labor Force in Nebraska has been lower than that of Lancaster County.

**Unemployment**

- With the increase in labor force, there has also been an increase in unemployment in Lancaster County. In 2008, the unemployment rate was 3.01 (4,899 persons unemployed), a slight increase over unemployment rate of 2.82 in 2007 (4,365 persons unemployed).
- In 2008, the unemployment rate for Nebraska was 3.3 and for the U.S. was 5.8, both higher than Lancaster County.
- In 2000, the unemployment rate for Nebraska was 2.80 and for the U.S. was 3.99, both higher than Lancaster County which was 2.38.
- Between 2000 and 2008, the lowest unemployment rate in the County was 2.8 in 2000 and the highest was 3.66 in 2003.

---

**Definitions:**

- Civilian Labor Force is defined as persons 16 years of age and older, employed and unemployed, who are not inmates of institutions and who are not on active duty in the Armed Forces.
- These figures exhibit lower numbers than employment figures, as the Civilian Labor Force counts individuals only once, regardless of how many jobs they work.
- Figures reflect the annual average for the Civilian Labor Force living in Lancaster County.

**Sources:**

Nebraska State Department of Labor, WEBNSTARS, Labor Force
The provision of a well-educated workforce is a key factor in attracting new businesses and industry to the area. The Comprehensive Plan identifies seven primary target businesses, the majority of which require a workforce with a solid general and post-secondary education.

Lancaster County continues to show a high growth rate of population with at least some college or an Associate’s degree or higher.

- In 2007, an estimated 142,530 of the 207,797 people 18 years of age and above had at least some college or an Associate’s degree or higher. In 2007, 24.5 percent were high school graduates and 6.9 percent did not finish high school.
- Since 2000, the number of people with a high school degree or higher has increased and people with less than a high school degree has decreased by 29 percent. The number of people with a Bachelor’s degree or higher grew the most with an increase of about 22 percent.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of people with at least some college or an Associate’s degree increased by about 25 percent and number of people with a Bachelor’s degree or higher increased by about 38 percent.
- In 2007, Lancaster County population 18 years of age and above who had at least some college or an Associate’s degree or higher (68.6 percent) is higher than both Nebraska and the U.S.

**Comparison of Educational Attainment in 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Less than High School Graduate</th>
<th>High School Graduate</th>
<th>Some College or Associate’s Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree or higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sales tax revenues are a good indicator of a community’s economic well being. Sales tax revenues reflect the amount of revenue that a municipality is able to generate on an annual basis, and the levels of service that can be provided to the community.

Average annual increase of sales tax collected by the City has slowed since the 1990’s.

◇ In FY 2007-08, a total of $55.73 million in sales tax revenues were collected by the City of Lincoln.
◇ In FY 1999-2000, a total of $43.80 million in sales tax revenues were collected by the City of Lincoln, for an average annual increase of 6.6% since FY 1989-1990. This compares to an average annual increase of 9.7% in the 1980s.
◇ Between FY 1999-2000 and FY 2007-2008, the average annual growth rate (unadjusted for inflation) for sales tax revenues for the City of Lincoln was 3.06 percent, with FY 2002-2003 having the highest increase of 7.2% and FY 2006-2007 having the lowest increase of negative 0.57%.

Definitions:
- Figures represent the City’s Fiscal Year (FY) from September 1 to August 31.
- Figures reflect actual sales tax revenues generated within the City of Lincoln.
- These figures are not adjusted for inflation.
- The City sales tax rate is 1.5% and has been in effect since the early 80s.
- Since 1980 various goods and services have been removed or added to the list of taxable goods: food, remodeling labor and construction labor for example.

Source:
City of Lincoln, Finance Department, Budget Office
**Tourism, sporting events and conventions are an important component of Lancaster County’s economy, and the lodging tax gives an indication of outside visitation into the local economy.**

**Lodging tax collection continues to grow steadily.**

- In FY 2007-08, the lodging tax collected was $2.06 million in Lancaster County showing an increase of 6.76 percent since 2006.
- In FY 2006-07, lodging taxes rose dramatically, 21.2 percent over the previous year, the highest rate of growth since 1982.
- Lodging taxes have shown steady growth over the past 27 years. In the 1980’s, the average annual growth was 14.82 percent per year. In the 1990’s, this slowed to 9.41 percent per year.
- Between 2000 and 2004, the average annual growth rate in lodging taxes was only 1.43% per year, probably due to the September 11th tragedy and the following economic downturn.
- In 2005, revenues from the lodging tax increased dramatically to reach $1,595,700 from $865,170 in 2004. This was due to an additional 2% tax that was collected for the Visitor Improvement Fund.

**Definitions:**
- Lodging tax revenues represent dollars spent on lodging in Lancaster County.
- Up until 2004, the tax was 2% of the cost of lodging. In 2005, collection of an additional 2% to be deposited in the Visitors Improvement Fund began.
- The Lodging Tax revenue is affected by the number of rooms, occupancy rate, and the cost of a night’s lodging.
- Dollars are current and unadjusted for inflation.
- Includes lodging tax revenues only – visitors also spend money on goods and services in the community, adding further to the local economy and tax base.

**Source:**
Lancaster County Budget Office, March, 2008
Benchmark: 
Preserve Riparian, Floodplain and Stream Corridors

Indicator 19: 
Lincoln, Permits Issued in the 100 Year Floodplain, 1995-2008

"Riparian, Floodplain and Stream Corridors" is one of the three Core Resource Imperatives identified in the Comprehensive Plan."

--2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan

Definitions:
• Building Permits also include filling the floodplain; however, "non-substantial" improvements, which include interior improvements, are included and may not impact the floodplain.
• Included in this information are permits for bridge and culvert construction and replacement, and wetland restoration.
• Fill permits reflect dirt and other material placed in the floodplain.
• Conservation easement data includes only easements that were established specifically for the preservation of flood storage.

Sources:
City of Lincoln, Building and Safety Department, Public Works & Utilities Watershed Management
Lower Platte South Natural Resource District

Building and Fill Permits issued for property within the 100 Year Floodplain are regulated by the City of Lincoln and over time may exhibit trends concerning the level of development in these areas. Core Resource Imperatives were selected to receive the greatest consideration in the long range planning process.

Since 1995, permit activity in the 100 Year Floodplain has steadily increased.

♦ In 1995, the number of building and fill permits issued by the City of Lincoln for development in the floodplain totaled 27 permits.
♦ The number of building and fill permits issued by the City of Lincoln totaled 158 permits in 2000 and 138 in 2008.
♦ Building permits for new or existing structures in the floodplain (including interior improvements to existing buildings) are the most common type of permits issued in the floodplain.
♦ The City of Lincoln and the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District (LPS-NRD) also protect floodplains through the purchase of conservation easements that preserve the flood storage volume. In 2008, the total protected area was 1,275.04 acres.
High levels of air pollution contribute to health problems, ecosystem degradation, and deterioration of the quality of life. Failure to comply with the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) could jeopardize federal highway funding, limit the expansion of industrial operations and hinder economic activity for the community.

Over the past ten years, 2008 air pollution levels have been the lowest.

- Lincoln/Lancaster County currently meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and is an air quality attainment community. As long as percentages remain below 100 percent, a community is considered to meet the standard.
- Between 1998 and 2008, levels of carbon monoxide (CO) measured from 66.7 to 20 percent of the NAAQS ambient air quality standard. CO levels have been generally decreasing for the last 6 to 7 years with the lowest to date in 2008.
- Ozone (O₃) air pollution levels measure the closest to the permitted NAAQS attainment threshold in the last decade – peaking in 2003 at 80 percent of the standard. It was the lowest in 2008 at 68 percent.
- Annual mean Value of PM2.5 “Particulate Matter less than 2.5 Microns in diameter” measured from 55 to 77 percent of permitted ambient air quality standard in the last 20 years.

### Definitions:
- NAAQS are designed to achieve air quality that protects human health, animal and plant life.
- Measurements are stated as a percent of the permitted NAAQS - anything below 100 percent indicates attainment status.
- Some excess of the standard is permitted before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would find the City to be in violation.

### Sources:
- Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department, Environmental Public Health, Air Quality
- US Environmental Protection Agency, Monitor Values Report - Critical Air Pollutants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Air Pollutant</th>
<th>Highest Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Max 1-hr value for CO</td>
<td>35 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Max 8-hr value for CO</td>
<td>9 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Max 1-hr value for O₃</td>
<td>0.12 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Max 8-hr value for O₃</td>
<td>0.075 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98th Percentile value for PM2.5</td>
<td>35 microgms per cu mt of air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Mean value for PM2.5</td>
<td>15 microgms per cu mt of air</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About 78 percent of the County is utilized for growing crops, raising livestock, or producing other agricultural produce. These lands are an integral element in the natural landscape providing habitat as well as being a basic piece of the County’s historic signature landscape. Farming trends will be monitored to measure changes in the agricultural economy in Lancaster County.

The number of farms has increased since 2002 as the average size of a farm has decreased.

**Number of Farms**
- The total number of farms in Lancaster County has declined from its highest point of 2,361 farms in 1950 to 1,698 in 2007.
- Since 1987, the overall number of farms has fluctuated, and the trend has generally been toward an increase in the number of farms in Lancaster County.
- In 2002, the definition of farm changed to a “place with annual sales of agricultural products of at least $1,000”. Prior to 2002, the definition included a minimum farm size of 20 acres.

**Number of Acres**
- The total number of acres classified as farm land has been consistent over time, ranging from 448,286 acres in 1987 to 421,089 in 1997 and 421,409 in 2007 covering about 77 percent to 84 percent of the County.

**Average Size of Farms**
- Between 1987 and 2002, the average farm size in Lancaster County fluctuated between 279 and 305 acres. The average farm size decreased in 2007 to 248 acres.
- Lancaster County is an ‘Urban County’ and the farming practices are slightly different than other counties. Lancaster County has seen a trend towards niche farming of horticulture products, organic products, trees, etc., which generate high income for lesser area coverage.

### Structure of Agriculture in Lancaster County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms</td>
<td>1,508</td>
<td>1,359</td>
<td>1,457</td>
<td>1,607</td>
<td>1,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land in Farms (acres)</td>
<td>448,286</td>
<td>414,763</td>
<td>421,089</td>
<td>448,600</td>
<td>421,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Total Land</td>
<td>83.50%</td>
<td>77.30%</td>
<td>78.40%</td>
<td>83.60%</td>
<td>78.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Farm Size (acres)</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Market Value</td>
<td>$219,605</td>
<td>$305,459</td>
<td>$399,604</td>
<td>$568,129</td>
<td>$629,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested Cropland (acres)</td>
<td>265,802</td>
<td>278,854</td>
<td>287,382</td>
<td>314,148</td>
<td>288,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operators whose Principal Occupation is Farming</td>
<td>53.60%</td>
<td>52.50%</td>
<td>46.00%</td>
<td>52.70%</td>
<td>41.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definitions:**
- The U.S. Census of Agriculture is undertaken every five years.
- The next Census of Agriculture will be undertaken in 2012, results expected in 2014.
- The Census of Agriculture is the only source of uniform agricultural data for every county in the United States.

**Sources**

2007 US Census of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistics Service (USDA)
**Environment**

**Benchmark:**
Efficient and Environmentally Safe Recycling

**Indicator 22:**
Lancaster County Annual Voluntary Recycling Per Capita (Pounds), 1991-2008

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Recycling efforts help conserve resources and lessen demands placed on the environment by reducing landfill waste, which contaminate air and water resources. This indicator may be used to measure the efforts relating to public education and awareness programs that promote recycling.

Per capita recycled materials deposited at voluntary recycling centers remained at an all-time high in 2008.

- Overall, the amount of recycled materials collected throughout the community generally increased since 1991, to reach a high in 1999 at 51 pounds per capita.
- However, between 1999 and 2006, the amount of recyclables declined only to come back to 53 pounds per capita in 2008.
- In 2008, an estimated 4,500 tons of recycled material was collected by residential subscription curbside recycling programs which increased the per capita annual recycling to 85.65 pounds.
- In 1991, the amount of material deposited at voluntary recycling collection centers was approximately 3.4 million pounds, reflecting a per capita recycling amount of 16 pounds per person per year county-wide.
- In 2000, the amount of recycling material deposited at voluntary recycling collection centers reached approximately 12.7 million pounds, reflecting a per capita recycling amount of 51 pounds per person per year county-wide.
- In 2008, the average per capita annual recycling increased to 53 pounds from 51 pounds in 2007.
- Data from other communities indicates that Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln have a potential to increase recycling efforts.

---

**Definitions:**

- Recycled materials are deposited at Voluntary Recycling Centers located throughout the community.
- Per Capita Recycled is the total amount of materials collected, divided by the Census Bureau midyear population estimates for Lancaster County.
- Census population estimates released in March of 2008 included updated estimates for each year since 2000. These updates have been used in the calculations.

**Sources:**


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**Note:** Recycling from private curbside waste haulers, metal recyclers, shredders, and direct private drop-off sites are not included in these figures.
Environment

Benchmark:

Trees on City Property will be Systematically and Pro-Actively Maintained.

Indicator 23:

Care and Maintenance of the City’s Urban Forest, 1998-2008

As of 2008, Lincoln’s city trees provided an estimated $1.58 return in economic & environmental benefits for every $1.00 expended to plant & maintain them for a total net benefit of $2,190,729.

Definitions:

- Street trees are trees that are planted in the public right-of-way along public streets and on private streets.
- Street trees are most often planted by the developer of a subdivision and public street trees are maintained by the City Parks & Recreation Department, Community Forestry Division.
- Per capita cost is figured by dividing the actual annual expended Community Forestry Division budget by the July 1 US Census population estimate for Lincoln for that year.

Sources:

Parks and Recreation Department, Community Forestry Division, Quarterly Reports and 30 year synopsis

Trees on City property, including street right-of-way, are maintained by the City Parks & Recreation Department, Community Forestry Division. Public trees, as well as private trees, have been shown to have environmental and economic benefits.

As of 2008, there are an estimated 123,304 trees on public land in the City of Lincoln valued at over $64 million.

- In general, more trees are currently removed from public property than are planted. Trees are removed if dead, damaged or diseased beyond treatment, or if they become a hazard to life or property.
- A large number of trees were either removed or trimmed in fiscal year 1997-1998 due to an early and heavy snowfall in October 1997 that caused much tree damage.
- In 1999-2000, over 8,000 volunteer cedar and locust trees were removed from the Wilderness Park Tree Management Area.
- In 2008, per capita expenditures for public tree care were $5.59. In 1998, per capita expenditures were $4.49, or $5.55 when adjusted for inflation.
- Since 1998, the Community Forestry Division has performed or overseen 128,459 tree trimmings, 9,496 tree plantings, and the removal of 38,728 volunteer, dead, diseased or hazardous trees.
- As of 2008, there are an estimated 123,304 (valued at over $64 million) trees on public land in the City of Lincoln compared to an estimated 112,651 in 2004 showing an increase of about 9.5 percent.
- Lincoln has been designated as a Tree City USA for 32 years, received the Tree City Growth Award for 18 consecutive years, and was one of the first 27 communities to become a Sterling Tree City USA in 2000. In 2008, the UNL campus became a Tree Campus USA. Currently, Lincoln is the only community nationwide to concurrently have all such designations.

Note: These numbers reflect trees removed or replaced by the Forestry Section and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget.

Urban Forest

- The graph shows the number of trees trimmed, planted, and removed from 1998 to 2008.

23 Community Indicators Report April 2009
Housing

Benchmark:
Add Approximately 53,000 Dwelling Units in Lincoln by 2030

Indicator 24:
Lincoln, Residential Building Permits, 1980-2008

The number of issued building permits for new residences in Lincoln reflects the level of activity in the housing industry. The provision of new housing to accommodate the projected population growth over the 25-year planning period is a fundamental assumption in the Comprehensive Plan.

The total number of residential building permits issued last year is the lowest since 1983.

- In 2003, a total of 2,410 residential units were permitted for construction in Lincoln. This was the highest number of permits issued for any single year in this reporting period.
- In 2008, permits totalling 667 dwelling units were issued for construction of new residential units, the lowest since 1983.
- Between 2000 and 2008, residential permits were issued for construction of 15,461 dwelling units, for an average of 1,718 residential dwelling units permitted each year.
- Between 1990 and 1999, 18,202 building permits were issued for new residences. The average annual number of units for this period was 1,820 per year.
- The most recent 3-year average of residential building permits issued is 1,235. This is the lowest 3-year average since 1984-1986.
- In 2008, 410 detached single-family permits were issued, the lowest amount for that type of residential unit since 1985.

Definitions:
- Dwellings include single-family detached, attached single-family, townhome, duplex and apartment units permitted within the City of Lincoln’s corporate limits.
- Building permit data are based on the date the building permit was issued, not actual construction and occupancy -- some permits are issued where the homes are never built.
- Issued building permits allow a two-year period for construction to be completed.

Sources:
City of Lincoln, Building and Safety Department, Construction Report
This indicator serves as a proxy to monitor annual population and development change in the unincorporated parts of the County. For the purpose of long term planning, the rural population is anticipated to comprise about 7% of the County’s population (6% acreages and 1% farm related).

2008 showed a decrease in all residential building activity throughout the County.

- New residential activity within the three mile extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) area of Lincoln has leveled off since 1999. Between 2000 and 2008, an average of about 40 building permits per year were issued. In 2008, there were 35 permits for new residential dwelling units issued in the three mile ETJ.
- New “County Rural” residential dwelling units activity in Lancaster County shows a marked increase between 2000 and 2005, with a drop in years 2006, 2007 and 2008 – the 8 year average of about 70 issued building permits per year was exceeded in 2003 (96), 2004 (115), and 2005 (110). The 2008 permits were below the average at 40 issued permits.
- The 1990 Census reports 1,892 homes in the county’s small towns. In 2000, this number rose to 2,427, an increase of 28.3 percent for the decade. Since 2000, permits indicate 743 dwelling units (corrected for 87 units replaced due to Hallam tornado) have been added for a total of approximately 3,170, an increase of 30.61 percent overall or 3.4 percent per year.
- The cities of Hickman and Waverly have shown strong growth over the past five years, accounting for 64% of all small town permits.
- The assumptions in the Comprehensive Plan are currently meeting the anticipated targets for the 25 year planning period.
The Comprehensive Plan goal is to preserve existing affordable housing and promote the creation of new affordable housing throughout the community. The trends exhibited by single-family home prices may reflect the influence of local, state and national economic policy and conditions.

Housing prices fell in 2008 after a continuous increase since 2001.

- In 2000, the median price for existing detached single-family homes was $103,000, and for a new detached single-family home, it was $166,384.
- In 2008, the median price for existing detached single-family homes in the Lincoln MLS Area, reported by the REALTORS Association of Lincoln (RAL) was $126,750, a decrease of about 2.5 percent from 2007.
- In 2008, the national average was $197,100 for existing detached single-family homes, a decrease of 9.5 percent from 2007, and $150,500 for the Midwest showing a decrease of 6.8 percent since 2007.
- In 2008, the median price for new detached single-family homes in the Lincoln MLS Area, reported by the RAL was $199,900, a decrease of about 5.5 percent from 2007.
- The median price for existing homes in Lancaster County in 2008 was slightly higher than Lincoln at $128,000 but lower for new houses at $191,335.

Definitions:
- The REALTORS® Association of Lincoln (RAL) reports annual median sale prices of single-family detached homes sold through the Midlands Multiple Listing Service (MLS).
- Median housing price refers to the median cost of housing actually purchased.
- Median housing price indicates the point where half of the houses are below and above the median price.
- Condominiums, mobile homes, duplexes, and townhomes are not included in data.
- Homes that are sold by an owner or agent who does not participate in the Midlands MLS are not included in data.

Sources:
US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
National Association of REALTORS®
REALTORS Association of Lincoln
The Comprehensive Plan aims to provide the broadest range of housing choices throughout the community. A mix of housing types improves the quality of life for the whole community by providing greater lifestyle choices, opportunities for homeownership and creates possibilities for unique and efficient residential developments.

Construction of housing has declined since a peak in 2003. Detached single-family dwellings continue to be the most preferred choice of housing.

- Since the late 1990’s, detached single-family homes have been the most prevalent choice of housing.
- Prior to 2003, townhomes and duplexes historically comprised the lowest number of new units permitted. From 2003 to 2005, these types of units exceeded the number of multi-family units permitted.
- The number of new multi-family permits fluctuated between 2000 and 2008, registering a low of issued permits in 2005 with 192 units, increasing to 841 permits issued in 2006, and then falling to 73 units in 2008.
- The number of building permits issued for townhomes and duplexes has exhibited a general growth trend from the early 1980’s to 2003, ranging from 57 in 1982 to 585 in 2003, but has shown a decline since then.
- Permits for detached single-family homes have declined over the past several years from a peak of 1,565 in 2003 to 410 in 2008.
- Townhomes and duplexes (attached single-family homes) have become one of the more popular housing choices in Lincoln with many new developments catering to residents seeking home-ownership opportunities for this type of home.
- Since 2007, construction of all housing types declined. Multi-family units declined by a steep 76.8 percent, townhomes and duplexes by 34.3 percent, and single-family by 27.9 percent.

Definitions:
- Based on date building permit issued, not actual construction and occupancy – some permits are issued where the homes are never built.
- Detached single-family is a home on a single lot.
- Attached single-family includes townhomes and duplexes.
- Multi-family is three or more units on a single lot, typical of apartments or condominiums.

Sources:
City of Lincoln, Building and Safety Department, Construction Report
Median Family Income (MFI) is a barometer of the standard of living for families as it controls for changes in family size. Median Family Income is also used to determine eligibility for numerous housing assistance programs and allows comparisons with other communities and the U.S.

- In 2008, the MFI for a 4 person household was approximately $65,800 for Lancaster County and $59,800 for Nebraska, an increase of about 2 percent for each since 2007. Factoring inflation, however, shows that this is actually a decrease of about 1.5 percent since 2007.
- The County has a historically consistent higher MFI than the State.
- Since 2000, the MFI for Lancaster County has increased by about 15 percent - when inflation is factored in, it has decreased by about 8 percent. The decrease has been consistent since 2001.
- In the past two decades, the MFI has increased by about 26.8 percent for Lancaster County. When inflation is factored in, it has actually decreased by about 4.3 percent since the high in 2001.
- In 2008, the median value of a new detached single-family unit was $191,335 which is about three times or 291 percent of the median family income in Lancaster County. For an existing detached single-family unit, the median value is $128,000 which is about two times or 195 percent of the median family income in Lancaster County. These ratios are lower than the U.S. average.


The Comprehensive Plan aims to increase the use of public transit ridership by improving and expanding facilities and services. Public transportation is necessary for those residents who lack other transportation means. Growing ridership can indicate that this transportation option is a viable alternative to the single occupant vehicle. StarTran provides fixed-route service, paratransit (Handi-Van), and brokerage door-to-door demand responsive disability service to comply with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

StarTran ridership has increased by 24.3 percent since 2000.

- The majority of trips taken on Lincoln’s public transit system are on the fixed-route StarTran bus system that provides scheduled service throughout Lincoln.
- In 1987, StarTran fixed-route bus service ridership exhibited the highest number in the reporting period with over 2.11 million trips taken by residents. Brokerage and Handi-Van ridership combined for less than 4.0 percent (82,997 trips) of total trips in 1987.
- Between 1990 and 2000, transit ridership generally declined. However, there have been periods of increased ridership.
- In 2000, StarTran provided 1.59 million transit trips for Lincoln residents.
- In 2008, StarTran’s total ridership increased to 1.975 million transit trips, while the Brokerage and Handi-Van service combined for 56,085 of these trips.
- StarTran ridership has generally stabilized and increased since 2000. In each of the past four years (2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008), StarTran has experienced increases in ridership likely due to new fare programs such as “Ride for 5” and increases in driving costs, such as a rise in gas prices. Since 2000, StarTran ridership has increased by 24.3%, or an average annual increase of 2.75%.
- In 2008, a new fixed route system was implemented and ridership experienced a 5.6% increase from 2007.

Definitions:
- Brokerage program provides eligible disabled persons with door-to-door transit services.
- Ridership numbers for StarTran Bus and Handi-Van are collected via automated farebox collections collected for the Fiscal Year September to August.

Sources:
City of Lincoln Public Works & Utilities - StarTran
This indicator examines the spatial relationship of the public fixed-route bus system with proximity to Lincoln residences. The Comprehensive Plan aims to increase the use of public transit ridership by improving and expanding facilities and service. Coverage analysis identifies areas that currently lack bus service and where service improvements may be targeted. Public transportation is an essential component of the transportation system and should be integrated with all other transportation modes.

**Nearly 82 percent of homes in Lincoln are located within ¼ mile of a fixed transit route.**

- The majority of transit ridership in Lincoln is provided by fixed-route bus service.
- Since 2000, the service area StarTran endeavors to cover has expanded through annexations of over 12 square miles.
- In 2008, 81.9% of homes (89,400 out of 109,067) were located within ¼ mile of a StarTran fixed-route.
- There are about 19,667 (18.1%) homes located outside the ¼ mile service area standard – these homes are generally located in newer developments along Lincoln’s fringe areas.

**Definitions:**

- Fixed-route public transit provides scheduled pick-up and drop-off service throughout Lincoln.
- The industry standard for providing fixed-route public transit service is a ¼ mile radius from a home to the nearest route.
- The ¼ mile standard reflects the walking distance most people are willing to travel to get to bus service.

**Sources:**

City of Lincoln Public Works & Utilities - StarTran
STARTRAN BUS ROUTES
81.91% Of Lincoln Residences Are Within 1/4 Mile
City Limits and Residences as of December 31, 2008

Map Explanation
StarTran operates 21 scheduled fixed route bus routes weekly throughout Lincoln. The shaded areas on the map reflect the 1/4 mile radius from the StarTran bus routes.
This indicator examines the spatial relationship for multi-use trails with proximity to Lincoln homes. Such a coverage analysis identifies potential areas for new or improved trail service. The existing trail system serves both commuter and recreational bicyclists, walkers, runners and students. Trails play an important role in the community by providing an alternative to the automobile, reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, providing health and quality of life benefits, and creating a more balanced transportation system.

Nearly 93 percent of homes in Lincoln are located within 1 mile of a public multi-use trail.

- In 2008, 92.9 percent of homes (101,351 of 109,067) were located within 1 mile of a public multi-use trail.
- There are approximately 7,716 (7.1%) homes located outside the 1 mile service area standard – these homes are generally located in newer developments along Lincoln's fringe. One part of an existing neighborhood in the vicinity of 56th and Randolph Streets is outside of the service area, and the Arnold Heights neighborhood in northwest Lincoln is also outside the service area.
- In many newer developments along Lincoln’s edges, trails are planned but are not yet constructed.
- Since 2000, 30.7 miles of trails have been improved or constructed.
- Since 2000, the area the multi-use trail system attempts to serve has expanded through the annexation of over 12 square miles.

Definitions:
- Lincoln has approximately 128 miles of multi-use trails.
- The 1 mile standard reflects the walking or biking distance most people are willing to travel to get to the nearest trail.
- On-street bike routes totaling about 86 miles provide additional service for bikers throughout the community.
- The Comprehensive Plan's Trails Master Plan identifies about 131 miles of additional multi-use trails to be constructed throughout the community.
- Bike lanes also are in use in Downtown Lincoln.

Sources:
2030 Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan
MULTI-USE TRAILS

92.9% Of Lincoln Residences Are Within 1 Mile

City Limits and Residences as of December 31, 2008

Map Explanation

The shaded areas on the map reflect the 1 mile radius from the existing multi-use trails.
The Comprehensive Plan encourages the development of a transportation system that meets the mobility needs of the community and supports the land use projections in the Plan by continuing the street network into newly developed areas and linking all neighborhoods together. Roads will continue to form the backbone of the entire region’s transportation system into the future. The Community’s ability to fund new road construction to serve future urban areas and maintain existing roadways is critical to Lincoln’s continued growth and development.

**As of 2008, 2,676 lane miles were maintained throughout Lincoln.**

- In 1990, 1,883 lanes miles of roadways were maintained throughout the City of Lincoln.
- In 1999, lane miles had increased to 2,170 miles of roadway.
- In 2006, the total number of lane miles was 2,450 miles throughout Lincoln.
- In 2007, the total number of lane miles was 2,641 miles throughout Lincoln.
- In 2008, the total number of lane miles was 2,676 miles throughout Lincoln.

**Definitions:**
- Lane miles include all traffic lanes (i.e. one mile of a four lane road is 4 lane miles) that include arterial, residential and unpaved streets within the City of Lincoln corporate limits.
- Figures are a point-in-time snapshot and include newly constructed paved streets and existing paved streets that were annexed into the City of Lincoln.

**Sources:**
City of Lincoln Public Works & Utilities - Engineering Services

* In 2000, GIS technology and a new State of Nebraska computation formula changed the calculation of lane miles, which resulted in 2,656 lane miles of roadway being identified throughout Lincoln.

** In 2005, a correction in the number of lane miles was made using GIS technology and the State of Nebraska computation formula resulting in a noticeable decrease in the number of lane miles.
The Comprehensive Plan acknowledges cars and trucks will continue to be the primary mode of travel for Lincoln and Lancaster County. Roads will form the backbone of the entire region’s transportation system. Passenger vehicle occupancy data is an increasingly recognized key element of an effective urban travel monitoring program.

**Average automobile occupancy has decreased over the past 30 years.**

- The graph shows the trend of average occupancies during the a.m. and p.m. peak hours over the last 30 years.
- Between 1977 and 2006, the average automobile occupancy during the a.m. peak hour dropped from 1.23 persons per vehicle to 1.17 persons per vehicle.
- Between 1977 and 2006, the average automobile occupancy during the p.m. peak hour dropped from 1.34 persons per vehicle to 1.24 persons per vehicle.
- The 2006 a.m. peak hour occupancy rate was slightly higher than 2004.
- People are more likely to carpool for social and recreational trips than for work trips.

**Definitions:**
- Average automobile occupancy rates in the a.m. and p.m. hours reflect observations throughout the community.
- The higher the occupancy rate the more persons per vehicle on average.
- Occupancy Rate cannot be below "1.0".
- The Automobile Occupancy Study is completed approximately every two-years.
- Baseline information on the travel characteristics and trends can be used to plan and evaluate the need for additional or improved street segments.

**Sources:**
2006 City of Lincoln Vehicle Occupancy Study (August 2006)
This indicator is used to evaluate transportation system utilization and performance. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) serve as a proxy for how well localities are incorporating the principles of accessible and walkable communities, increased public transportation and a shift away from development practices centered on the automobile. VMT correlate with various economic and lifestyle factors such as increased car ownership, more women in the workforce, more teen driving and more dispersed development patterns.

The rate of increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled in Lincoln has slowed since 2006.

- In 1985, 2.25 million vehicle miles were traveled on Lincoln roads each day.
- In 1990, 2.78 million vehicles miles were traveled throughout Lincoln each day.
- In 2000, the estimate for daily VMT reached 3.86 million throughout Lincoln.
- Between 1985 and 2000 VMT steadily increased at an average annual rate of 3.6 percent per year, or with a total increase of 71 percent in miles traveled.
- The year with the smallest increase occurred from 1990 to 1991 when the daily VMT increased by only 5,000 miles, or less than 1 percent for the year.
- The VMT estimate passed 4.0 million daily VMT in Lincoln in 2002.
- By 2007, the VMT estimate reached 4.39 million miles traveled daily in Lincoln.
- The average annual change in daily VMT since 2000 has been an increase of approximately 1.75 percent per year. Population during this time has increased approximately 1.3 percent per year. The VMT rate of increase has slowed since 2006.

Definitions:
- Figures represent an estimate of the Daily VMT during each day in Lincoln.
- VMT is a measure of the vehicle miles people travel.
- VMT data is a derived measure using output from the Urban Area Traffic Model.
- The Lincoln Urban Area Boundary is an area larger than the City of Lincoln used for transportation modeling.

Sources:
- Lincoln Area Metropolitan Planning Organization - Urban Area Traffic Model
Transportation

**Benchmark:**
Provide for an Efficient, Convenient & Safe Road Network to Serve the Community

**Indicator 35:**
Lincoln’s Vehicle Crash Rate, 1985-2007

Monitoring Vehicle Crash Rates throughout Lincoln is a measure of implementation activities such as roadway safety improvements, design factors and driver education. Reductions in the crash rate indicate a safer road network is available to the community for travel.

**10-Year Historic Crash Trends**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Crashes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>9,112</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>9,251</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>9,283</td>
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<td>8,860</td>
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<td>8,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>7,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>8,642</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There has been an annual decline in Lincoln’s crash rate of 3.3 percent per year since 1985.

- In 1985, the City-wide crash rate was 10.59 per million vehicle miles traveled within Lincoln.
- In 1990, the crash rate declined to 8.59 per million vehicle miles traveled.
- In 1995, the crash rate continued a trend of decline and reached 7.1 per million vehicle miles traveled.
- Total crashes in 2006 decreased to a historical low of 7,584.
- In 2007, the most recent year for which data is available, total crashes amounted to 8,642 and the vehicle crash rate was 5.5 crashes per million vehicle miles traveled. This is an average annual decline of 3.3% per year since 1985.
- The City's Engineering Services Department continues to make significant strides toward improving traffic safety. These improvements include intersection advancements, signage, striping, signal timing, site distance enhancements, safety programs, driver education, and school safety programs. Heightened vehicle safety standards at the national level - such as anti-lock brakes and running lights - have also contributed.

**Definitions:**
- The Vehicle Crash Rate is a derived measure based upon the number of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and actual vehicle crashes within the City of Lincoln.

**Sources:**
- 2007 City of Lincoln Crash Study (December 2008)

The 2007 Crash Study was published in December 2008 and is the most recent comprehensive crash data available.
**Benchmark:**

A Neighborhood Park within ½ mile of all homes in Lincoln

**Indicator 36:**

Lincoln’s Neighborhood Park Coverage, 2008

This indicator examines the spatial relationship of public neighborhoods parks with proximity to Lincoln homes. Coverage analysis identifies new and built-out neighborhoods that lack adequate parks and open areas. Parks and open areas located within walking distance of homes provides multiple health and quality of life benefits for residents.

Over 70% of Lincoln residences are located within ½ mile of a neighborhood park.

- In 2008, 72.8 percent of homes were located within a ½ mile of a City neighborhood park.
- In 2004, 73.9 percent of homes were located within ½ mile of a City neighborhood park.
- About 27.2 percent of homes are located outside the ½ mile service area standard – these homes are located throughout Lincoln’s new and established neighborhoods.
- Some neighborhoods may have parks or open space facilities other than neighborhood parks within a ½ mile.
- Since 2004, about 9 square miles of land have been annexed into the City of Lincoln. While parks are planned in these and other new areas, many have yet to be developed.
- In 2008, there were over 60 neighborhood parks throughout Lincoln.

**Definitions:**

- Typical activity areas include playground equipment, open lawn area for informal games and activities, play court, seating and walking paths.
- The neighborhood park service area goal is approximately a ½ mile radius in the urban area, generally located within the center of each mile section.
- The ½ mile standard reflects the walking distance most people are willing to travel to get the nearest park.
- Each City-owned park is classified into a "park" category for planning and service purposes.
- Neighborhood parks may differ in size and amenities throughout community.
- Private, Homeowners Association, or School playgrounds not included with this data.
- Lincoln’s Community and Regional Parks not included with this data.

**Sources**

Lincoln Parks and Recreation Dept.
Analysis by Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dept., Information Technology Services
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
72.8% Of Lincoln Residences Are Within 1/2 Mile
City Limits and Residences as of December 31, 2008

Map Explanation

The shaded areas reflect the ½ mile radius around each City neighborhood park.