

**DIRECTORS' ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**  
**Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**  
**555 S 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Council Chambers**

**I. MINUTES**

**II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

**III. CITY CLERK**

**IV. MAYOR'S OFFICE**

1. Mayors Award of Excellence for the month of January. Recipient is a team from Finance Information Services division. Nicholas Wemhoff and Christopher Plock.

**V. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE**

1. BPC220427-1 PC Final Action Notice – Shelli Reid
2. BPC220427-2 PC Action – Shelli Reid

**VI. BOARDS/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS**

**VII. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE**

1. wilderness crossing proposed development – Moni Usasz
2. NC: Time to Move Foreword – George Wolf
3. Fwd: Protect Wilderness Park – Patty Forsberg
4. Please vote no on the zone change for Wilderness Crossing - petition link below – Adam Hintz
5. Wilderness Park – Will Maynard
6. Vote Against #CZ21057 – Mariah Lundgren
7. OutNebraska – Abbi Swatsworth
8. Residential development near Wilderness Park – Emily Brodersen
9. Zone Change CZ21057 – Margaret Vrana
10. concern about racket-sport survey – Jane Holt
11. Alarm Registration Program – Tommy George
12. Change of Zone 21057 - Wilderness Crossing LLC – Jennifer Lyons
13. Municipal Code Revisions in Cincinnati – George Wolf
14. Please join us Sunday at the Fish Farm. (And vote no or delay on Monday) – Erin Poor
15. Wilderness Park Development – Benjamin Vogt
16. Wilderness Park Development – Ethan Freese
17. 1st and Pioneer Development – David Spinar
18. Please reject wilderness crossing – Elizabeth Nelson
19. protect Wilderness Park – Jane Reinkordt
20. No on CZ21057 – Adria Chilcote
21. RE: URGENT - Proposed Housing Development near Wilderness Park – Anni Poetzl
22. No to wilderness crossing – Brandon Stabler

23. No to wilderness crossing – L. Crist
24. No to Wilderness Crossing – Maya Abourezk
25. No to Wilderness Crossing! – Caleb Frew
26. No to Wilderness Crossing! – Erin Poor
27. NO to wilderness crossing – Jessica Kelly
28. No to Wilderness Crossing – Julia Haller
29. No to Wilderness Crossing – Maria Fortune
30. No to Wilderness Crossing! – Madison Zucco
31. NO to Wilderness Crossing – Susan Alleman
32. No to Wilderness Crossing – Gabriel Bruguier
33. No to Wilderness Crossing – Casey Welsch
34. No To Wilderness Crossing – Kama Ogden
35. No to wilderness crossing – Bill Smith
36. No To Wilderness Crossing – Wally Graeber
37. Wilderness Crossing – Clint Densberger
38. No to Wilderness Crossing – Spencer Munson
39. No to Wilderness Crossing – Steve Clements
40. No to Wilderness crossing – Judy King
41. City council – Whatisreal Studios
42. No to Wilderness Crossing – Jason Schmaderer
43. No to Wilderness crossing – Robert Klein
44. No to Wilderness Crossing – America Reid
45. No to Wilderness Crossing – Amelia Long
46. No to Wilderness Crossing – Katia Pilar Carranza
47. No to wilderness crossing – Wyatt Nelson
48. No to Wilderness Crossing – Larry Pelter
49. NO TO WILDERNESS CROSSING – Montanna Smallbear
50. No to wilderness crossing – Robert Rieck
51. NO to Wilderness Crossing – Jodi Reese
52. 1st & Pioneers zoning decision: No. – Molly Phemister
53. Wilderness Crossing – dabrambila4151
54. No to Wilderness Crossing – Penny Costello
55. Council packet – Iclawncare
56. Inipi at Fish Farm. – Michael Farrell
57. 1st and Pioneers zoning change – Katya Eriksen
58. NO to Wilderness Crossing – Michelle Hess
59. No to Wilderness Crossing – Harold Smith
60. No to Wilderness Crossing!! – Delan Lonowski
61. NO to Wilderness Park Crossing – Magali Napier
62. No to Wilderness Crossing – Gary Stevens
63. Please vote no on wilderness crossing PUD – Mark Napiertec
64. Wilderness park – Jen Burianek
65. Please read and listen – Lenore Scott
66. Wilderness crossing – DM Mills
67. Wilderness park – Carol Irons
68. NO to Wilderness Crossing – Gretchen & Torsten Mills
69. No to Wilderness Crossing – Denise Teahon

70. Opposition to Wilderness Park residential development – Noah Clayton
71. (no subject) – Maggie Wallace
72. Re-zoning Wilderness Park – Teresa Kuper
73. Oppose wilderness development rezoning – Bob Hier
74. No To Wildness Crossing – Mark Brohman
75. Intersectionality of Wilderness Crossing & the Fairness Ordinance – Lucas Peterson
76. Propsed zone change CZ21057 – Lisa Kort-Butler
77. proposed zoning change CZ21057. – James Chilcote
78. Wilderness crossing – Deb Brambila
79. Wilderness Park – Maggie Pleskac
80. Opposition to re-zoning change by wilderness park – Skylar Falter
81. No to Wilderness Crossing – Alison Hays
82. Wilderness Park – Karen O'Hara
83. Wilderness Crossing Rezoning (Please, No) – Jodie Morgenson
84. Vote NO on Wilderness Crossing housing development – Jackson Meredith
85. Please vote NO on the Wilderness Crossing Housing Development – Joy Castro
86. Wilderness Park – Shawna
87. Wilderness Park – Kaitlyn Hopkins
88. Wilderness Crossing- no thanks – Alexandra Mayes
89. Wilderness Crossing Housing Development – Janana Khattak
90. Rezoning at Wilderness Park – Carla McCullough
91. No to Wilderness Crossing – LeAnn Kern
92. Please protect Wilderness Park – Judy Hart
93. Protect Wilderness Park – Ann Bauer
94. Wilderness Crossing – Keri Smith
95. Pls Stop Wilderness Park Development – Cindy Boeselager
96. Please protect Wilderness Park – Tiffany Baker
97. opposition to the proposed zone change CZ21057 – Sophia Sonenberg
98. Protect Wilderness Park! – Amanda Marie
99. No To Wilderness Crossing – Dakota Altman
100. Save wilderness park – Grace Gaard
101. No to Wilderness Crossing – Aila Ganic
102. Wilderness park – Hanna Sonenberg
103. Please delay zoning change for proposed "Wilderness Crossing" development – Fran Kaye
104. Opposing the change of zone for the property west of Wilderness Park southeast of 1st and Pioneers – Luke Norris
105. Protect Wilderness Park – Valerie Wolf
106. (no subject) – Bradley Clevinger
107. "Wilderness Crossing" – Emily Levine
108. Wilderness Park – Anne Kingsley
109. Wilderness Park – Randall Gilbert
110. No To Wilderness Crossing – Dennis Vodehnal
111. No to Wilderness Crossing – Wanda Vodehnal
112. NO to Wilderness Crossing – Amelia Montes
113. stop the development at wilderness crossing – Linda Fogerty
114. Please leave them be. – Connie Beckman

115. Protect Wilderness Park! – Pat Halderman
116. Wilderness Park – Charles Struble
117. Keep wilderness park wild – Leigh Finner
118. Wilderness Crossing – Darwin Michalski
119. Wilderness Park, please save this this Sacred site, and Snell Hill – Don Wendling
120. Wilderness Crossing decision – Rosina Paolini
121. CZ21057 Wilderness Park – Carol Mitchell
122. Fwd: NO to Wilderness Crossing Housing Development – Linda Pawlenty
123. No to Wilderness Crossing – DiAnn White
124. Wilderness Park – James Vinton
125. Wilderness Park housing project – Joyce Pacula
126. Wilderness Park – Mike Schneider
127. Save wilderness! – DioseLina Estevez
128. No to Wilderness Crossing – Chris Baum
129. Wilderness Park – Susan Schiever
130. Oppose wilderness park development – Maggie Aldrich
131. Please do not approve. . . - Kerry Eddy
132. Wilderness Park – Sue Dobson
133. Wilderness Crossing Development – Saraphina Masters
134. Opposition to rezoning motion – Isabel Salas
135. Wilderness Crossing – Suzy Landreth
136. Protect Wilderness Park – Diane Amdor
137. Development of Wilderness park – Maggie Wallace
138. Please vote no on the Wilderness Crossing re-zoning effort – Corey Rumann
139. Wilderness Park Concerns – Marina Kushner
140. Protect Wilderness Park – Barbara Straus
141. Wilderness Park – Nathan Judds
142. Wilderness Park – Gretchen Demitroff
143. No to Wilderness Crossing – Deno Noe
144. DONT TEAR WILDERNESS PARK DOWN – Ava Bridges
145. Keep Wilderness Park Wild, please – Lindsay Limbach
146. Wilderness Park – Brigid Amos
147. Rezoning opposition re Wilderness Park area – Juanita Rice
148. Avoid a monumental mistake – Glenn Friendt
149. No to Wilderness Crossing – Korynne Bolt
150. Protect Wilderness Park – Cathy Shaner
151. Wilderness crossing project – Susan Allen
152. Protect Wilderness Park – Twyla Hansen
153. Wilderness Park Development – Emily Burkhardt
154. Oppose the zone change for Wilderness Park – Melissa Aguilar
155. Zoning action next to Wilderness Park – C. Liesveld
156. Please don't harm Wilderness Park! – John Carlini
157. Wilderness Crossing – Terry Langan
158. Please Protect Wilderness Park – Marilyn Wilson
159. Wilderness Park – Sara Mann
160. Wilderness Crossing – Heather Nobert
161. Protect Wilderness Park – Kateri Lawson



162. Wilderness Park Development – Erin Peck
163. Wilderness Park – Kit Romjue
164. Proposed zoning change CZ21057 - please protect Wilderness Park – Mary Jensen
165. (no subject) – Chris Brown
166. Opposing zone changing for Wilderness Park – Sheldon Brummel
167. opposition to Wilderness Crossing plan – Betty Levitov
168. Wilderness park – Jean Miranda
169. Protect Wilderness Park - Stop rezoning that threatens the Park. – Ron Lawson
170. No to Wilderness crossing – Arden Eli Hill
171. No to Wilderness Crossing – Shari Rosso
172. OPPOSING WILDERNESS DEVELOPMENT REZONING – Amber Clough
173. From our 9yr old, re: Wilderness Park – Dia Jennings
174. wilderness crossing development – Lorene Ludy
175. Wilderness Park – Carla Stromberg
176. Wilderness Park – Jeanne Hevener
177. please delay Wilderness Park development vote – Kim Kachiya
178. Please Vote to Protect Wilderness Park - Please Vote No – Stephanie Walker
179. Wilderness Park – Bonnie Debus
180. Vote NO on Wilderness Crossing Housing Development (more signatures) – Dr. Lory Dance, Dr. Joy Castro, Dr. Christina D Falci, Dr. Margaret Huettl, Dr. Francis W. Kaye, Dr. Amelia M. L. Montes, Dr. Laura Munoz, Dr. Ingrid Robyn, Dr. Luis Othoniel Rosa, Dr. Colette Yellow Robe, Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams, Jaskson Meredith, John Raible, Margaret Williams, Kevin Abourezk, Dr. Belinda Acosta, Susan Alleman, Joseph BadMoccasin, Dr. Stephanie Bondi, Jennifer Bordeaux, Charles Bordeaux, Brittany Cooper, Lolita Esparza, Nebraskans for Peace, Wyatt Nelson, Shauna Oetting, Jodi Reese, Dr. Corey Rumann, Renne Sans Souci, Dr. Sarah Sawin-Thomas, Montanna Smallbear, Phyllis Stone, Freedom Thompson, Nichole Vesely, Nature Medicine Song Villegas, and Malana Yankton.
181. (no subject) – Jenn Beebe
182. NO TO WILDNERNESS CROSSING – Braxton Coleman
183. Wilderness Park – Cindy Hayes
184. Wilderness Park – Judy King
185. Opposition to proposed zoning change CZ21057 – Annie Bohling
186. Re: Proposed development of Wilderness park – Frances Wood
187. Wilderness Park – Jenny Tyner
188. I oppose Wilderness Crossing – Hollie Urbauer
189. Oppose Wilderness Crossing! – Foster Collins
190. wilderness crossing – Mary Roseberry-Brown
191. Wilderness Park – Michelle Clifford
192. Wilderness Par – Evelyn Kryzsko
193. No to Wilderness Crossing – Dan Kirk
194. Further thoughts on the Zoning change for the Wilderness Crossing Proposal – Bruce Mellberg
195. Protect Wilderness Park! – Janelle Corr
196. Wilderness Park – Nick Svoboda
197. No to Wilderness Crossing – Sara Brubacher
198. Our opposition to the Wilderness Crossing development – Karen Sue Amen
199. Wilderness adjacent development – Kitty Fynbu

200. oppose the proposed zone change CZ21057 – Amber Reinkordt
201. Wilderness park – Pat & Julia Miron
202. Wilderness Park – Danielle Lee
203. NO to Wilderness Crossing – Bulent Tunakan
204. Delay Action on development bordering Wilderness Park – Steven Larrick
205. Vote No on Wilderness Crossing Housing Development (even more signatures) – Lory Dance
206. Opposing Change to Zoning Regulations – Kalyssa Williams
207. Wilderness Park is worth protecting – Monica Starr
208. Wilderness Re-Zoning – Shahriar Uddin
209. Please save Wildness Park. – Karen Loseke
210. Wilderness Crossing – Dan Stratman
211. No to wilderness crossing – Chucky Darkside
212. Wild Learning Student's Testimony – Samara Kuwa, Mary, Jude, Ruby, Gus, Billy, and Lyra
213. Oppose Wilderness Crossing – Ingrid Olson
214. Please protect Wilderness Park and do not vote to have it annexed so residential and business' will be built on it. It's a special, peaceful place for many to retreat to. Thank you!!  
– Joyce Porter
215. Wilderness Park Zoning Regulations Vote – Ryan Martz
216. Please Vote Against Rezoning #CZ21 – Jacob Purcell
217. Zoning Regulations Near Wilderness Park – Zoe Edlund
218. Wilderness Crossing – Alex Houchin
219. oppose zoning wilderness park – Carlee Koehler
220. Vote No on Wilderness Crossing Housing Development (even more signatures than before) – Deveron Baxter, Dr. Dawne Y. Curry, Maria Fortune, Martha Haas, Alison Hays, Intertribal Spiritual Lodges, Dr. Jeannette Eileen Jones-Vanzansky, Terry Langan, Jeff Mohr, Jason Schmaderer, Nicole Sica, Stand In For Nebraska, Ron Todd-Meyer, Dr. Kara Mitchell Viesca, Stephanie Walker, Levelle Wells, Larry Wexelman, Linvca WhiteEyes, Catherine Lee Wilson, Michelle YellowEyes, Nicole Church, Susan Roan Eagle, Carrie Fegley, Carol Flora, Dr. Margaret Jacobs, Wendy LittleElk, Loretta McGeisey, and Heather Young.
221. No to Wilderness Crossing. – Joseph Pahr
222. Vote No on Wilderness Crossing Housing Development (signatures added since the 5:30 pm addition/edition) – Dennis Carlson, Nancy Carlson, Tanya Encalada, Pepe Fierro, Wendell Bird Head, LaFaya ZHelmstadter, Dr. Alice Kang, and Stephanie Knight.
223. Wilderness park. – mmdbqia
224. !!DONT TEAR WILDERNESS PARK DOWN !! - Jordan Ramaekers
225. Diocese of Lincoln or Wilderness Park – Richard Piersol
226. Wilderness Park – Kit Romjue
227. Wilderness Park conservation – Lindsey Dudek
228. Please protect Wilderness Park – Lori Wood
229. Wilderness Park – Jeanne Johnson
230. Wilderness Park – Rosemary Thornton
231. Wilderness Park – Kathy Neugebauer
232. Wilderness park – Kathie Starkweather
233. No to Wilderness Crossing – Ali Loker
234. Video footage for Wilderness Park Hearing – Marissa Kraus

- 235. Adopt an Ash – PJ & Laura Book
- 236. Save Wilderness Park! – Mary Gabel
- 237. Another Entity in NC adopts Nondiscrimination Ordinance – George Wolf
- 238. Fyi – Ronald Case

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

## PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION NOTIFICATION

**TO:** Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird  
Lincoln City Council

**FROM:** Shelli Reid, Planning

**DATE:** April 27, 2022

**RE:** Notice of final action by Planning Commission: April 27, 2022

Please be advised that on April 27, 2022, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission adopted the following resolutions:

**Resolution PC-01802**, approving SPECIAL PERMIT 22006, to allow for a Community Unit Plan (CUP) for up to 16 townhome dwellings, with associated waivers to setbacks, the requirement to provide turnarounds at the ends of permanent dead-end streets, and the design standards for sanitary sewer, on property generally located at Northwoods Drive and Dawson Creek Bay.

**Resolution PC-01803**, approving PRELIMINARY PLAT 21003, consisting of 18-single-family acreage lots on 66.28 acres. on property generally located at generally located at Southwest 56<sup>th</sup> Street and West Van Dorn Street.

**Resolution PC-01804**, approving SPECIAL PERMIT 22008, to allow for the construction of a new commercial building, with associated waivers to a front yard setback and minimum parking, on property generally located at 2201 North Cotner Boulevard.

**Resolution PC-01805**, approving SPECIAL PERMIT 22011, to allow for an Early Childhood Care Facility in an existing building, with an associated waiver to the playground area fencing design standards, on property generally located at 3825 Wildbriar Lane.

The Planning Commission action on these applications is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a notice of appeal with the Planning Department within 14 days of the action by the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission Resolution may be accessed on the internet at [www.lincoln.ne.gov](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov) (search for "PATS"). Click on "Planning Application Tracking Service (PATS)" at the top of the page, click "Selection Screen" under "PATS Tools" on the right side of the screen, type in the application number (i.e. SP22006, PP21003, SP22008, SP22011), click on "Search", then "Select", and go to "Related Documents".

## **\*\*ACTION BY PLANNING COMMISSION\*\***

**NOTICE:** The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 112 on the first floor of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, Nebraska. For more information, call the Planning Department, (402) 441-7491.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** The Planning Commission action is final action on any item with a notation of \*FINAL ACTION\*. Any aggrieved person may appeal Final Action of the Planning Commission to the City Council or County Board by filing a Notice of Appeal with the City Clerk or County Clerk within 14 days following the action of the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission action on all other items is a recommendation to the City Council or County Board.

The Planning Commission will be allowing testimony on agenda items by videoconferencing. For those who wish to testify by video, you must register with the Planning Department Office to participate by calling 402-441-7491 or emailing [Plan@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:Plan@lincoln.ne.gov) by 10:00 a.m. the day of the meeting. You will be asked to provide your name, address, phone number and the agenda item(s) you wish to speak on, and your position on this item. On the day of the hearing, you will receive a link via email, which will be needed to join the hearing to provide your testimony.

### **AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022**

#### **[All Commissioners present]**

Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held April 13, 2022. **\*\*APPROVED: 9-0\*\***

#### **1. CONSENT AGENDA (Public Hearing and Administrative Action)**

##### **CHANGE OF ZONE AND RELATED ITEMS:**

- 1.1a CHANGE OF ZONE 22007, from H-4 (General Commercial District) to R-5 (Residential District), on property generally located at Northwoods Drive and Dawson Creek Bay.

**Staff recommendation: Approval**

**Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, [rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov)**

**Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 9-0 , Public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2022, 3:00 p.m.**

- 1.1b SPECIAL PERMIT 22006, to allow for a Community Unit Plan (CUP) for up to 16 townhome dwellings, with associated waivers to setbacks, the requirement to provide turnarounds at the ends of permanent dead-end streets, and the design standards for sanitary sewer, on property generally located at Northwoods Drive and Dawson Creek Bay. **\*\*\* FINAL ACTION \*\*\***

**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**

**Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, [rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov)**

**Planning Commission “final action”: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated April 12, 2022: 9-0. Resolution No. PC-01802.**

**PRELIMINARY PLAT:**

- 1.2 PRELIMINARY PLAT 21003, consisting of 18-single-family acreage lots on 66.28 acres. on property generally located at generally located at Southwest 56<sup>th</sup> Street and West Van Dorn Street. **\*\*\* FINAL ACTION \*\*\***  
**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Tom Cajka, 402-411-5662, [tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:tcajka@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission “final action”: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated April 18, 2022: 9-0. Resolution No. PC-01803.**

**SPECIAL PERMITS:**

- 1.3 SPECIAL PERMIT 22008, to allow for the construction of a new commercial building, with associated waivers to a front yard setback and minimum parking, on property generally located at 2201 North Cotner Boulevard. **\*\*\* FINAL ACTION \*\*\***  
**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Rachel Christopher, 402-441-7603, [rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:rchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission “final action”: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated April 8, 2022: 9-0. Resolution No. PC-01804.**
- 1.4 SPECIAL PERMIT 22011, to allow for an Early Childhood Care Facility in an existing building, with an associated waiver to the playground area fencing design standards, on property generally located at 3825 Wildbriar Lane. **\*\*\* FINAL ACTION \*\*\***  
**Staff recommendation: Conditional Approval**  
**Staff Planner: Benjamin Callahan, 402-411-6360, [bcallahan@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:bcallahan@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission “final action”: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL, as set forth in the staff report dated April 14, 2022: 9-0. Resolution No. PC-01805.**

2. **REQUESTS FOR DEFERRAL:** None.
3. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:** None.
4. **PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION:**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONFORMANCE:**

- 4.1 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONFORMANCE 22005, to review as to conformance with the 2050 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, the City of Lincoln's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2022/2023 to FY 2027/2028.  
**Staff recommendation: In Full or General Conformance with Comprehensive Plan**  
**Staff Planner: Andrew Thierolf, 402-441-6371, [athierolf@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:athierolf@lincoln.ne.gov)**  
**Planning Commission recommendation: FINDING OF FULL OR GENERAL CONFORMANCE: 9-0. The public hearing before the City Council is currently pending.**

**MISCELLANEOUS AND RELATED ITEMS:**

- 4.2a MISCELLANEOUS 22002, to revise the Lancaster County Fiscally Constrained Plan in the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan to include South 68th Street from Firth Road to Stagecoach Road.

**Staff recommendation: Approval**

**Staff Planner: Paul Barnes, 402-441-6372, [pbarnes@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:pbarnes@lincoln.ne.gov)**

**Planning Commission recommendation: APPROVAL: 9-0. The Planning Commission recommendation will be forwarded to the Lincoln MPO final action.**

- 4.2b MISCELLANEOUS 22003, to review the draft of FY2023 to FY2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for conformance with the current Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

**Staff recommendation: In Conformance with the Long-Range Transportation Plan**

**Staff Planner: Paul Barnes, 402-441-6372, [pbarnes@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:pbarnes@lincoln.ne.gov)**

**Planning Commission recommendation: FINDING OF CONFORMANCE WITH THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN: 9-0. The Planning Commission recommendation will be forwarded to the Lincoln MPO final action.**

**5. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONFORMANCE:**

- 5.1 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONFORMANCE 22004, to review as to conformance with the 2050 Lincoln-Lancaster Comprehensive Plan, for Bishop Heights Redevelopment Plan, a proposed guide for redevelopment activities within the Redevelopment Plan Area, including mixed use commercial and residential uses, on property generally located at the Bishop Heights Shopping Center at South 27<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 2.

**Staff recommendation: In Conformance with Comprehensive Plan**

**Staff Planner: Benjamin Callahan, 402-441-6360, [bcallahan@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:bcallahan@lincoln.ne.gov)**

**Planning Commission recommendation: FINDING OF CONFORMANCE: 9-0. The public hearing before the City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**

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**AT THIS TIME, ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM  
NOT ON THE AGENDA, MAY DO SO.**

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**Adjournment: 2:17 p.m.**

**From:** [Moni Usasz](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** wilderness crossing proposed development  
**Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 11:55:48 AM

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Council Members,

Thank you for considering carefully whether this development should go forward. My testimony Monday night was mostly about flooding concerns.

I don't remember anyone really bringing up just how dense this development would be but I did leave at 7:30.

550 units equals probably about two people per unit or at least 1,100 people living there. This is way too dense to be so close to the park.

Then we add the car problem. Most people have a car and this development will add at least 2,200 cars to the roads. That additional 2,200 cars on Old Cheney and Pioneers Blvd. adds even more congestion to already busy roads. When I go to Wilderness Park between 7:30 and 8:30 AM - both streets are bumper to bumper now. I used to feel comfortable on foot crossing the vehicle bridge at Old Cheney to get to the trails on the other side. I don't do that anymore. It is not safe.

Are there traffic studies of vehicle usage on these streets already?

Respectfully,  
Moni Usasz  
3340 S. 31  
402-202-3100



**From:** [George Wolf](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NC: Time to Move Foreword  
**Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 1:19:34 PM

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Dear Councilmembers:

FYI:

<https://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2022/04/20/wake-county-leaders-unite-to-celebrate-new-non-discrimination-ordinances/>

George Wolf

**From:** [Patty Forsberg](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 6:21:43 PM

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PLEASE. It is wild areas and green spaces like these that set communities apart and make them particularly attractive for the long term. Patty Forsberg

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Elsa Forsberg <[forsberg.elsa@gmail.com](mailto:forsberg.elsa@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 1:14 AM  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park  
**To:** <[councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov)>

Dear Council Members,

It is with great concern that I am writing to you all today. I and many others vehemently oppose the proposed zone change of the land west of Wilderness Park along Pioneers Blvd for the purpose of building the housing development Wilderness Crossing. Concerns about the environmental impacts of this proposal need to be more heavily considered, especially in regards to our beloved Wilderness Park.

Wilderness Park is a refuge for wildlife, plants, and the Lincoln community. The stretch of park between Pioneers Blvd and Old Cheney Road could be considered the heart of the park itself for its central location, trail system, and popularity for visitors. Wilderness Park is a haven of peace, a retreat into nature, and a treasure for so many in the Lincoln community. Light pollution, noise pollution, increased traffic, and other negative disturbances and effects from human development will not only tarnish the tranquil wildness of the park but will disturb the ecosystem that sustains it. As an applied ecology graduate student at UNL, I am very concerned about how this zone change would impact wildlife populations that not only reside in our area but also those that pass through. The effects on the environment make ripples elsewhere.

Riparian ecosystems are important corridors that connect wildlife through a landscape that has been increasingly fragmented and degraded by human development. Wilderness Park follows a significant swath of Salt Creek. Not only will any consequences of urban runoff bring harm to the park and Salt Creek, but repercussions will be felt downstream where the creek empties into the Platte River- the source of our drinking water. Wilderness Park and Salt Creek are an integral component of our watershed and provide a home and safe passage for myriad wildlife species. Without this corridor many wildlife would need to find refuge elsewhere and face increased risk of vehicular collision and mortality and suffer from a lack of resources on the landscape. I have specifically chosen to wander the Wilderness trails with my binoculars to marvel at migrating warblers. In fact, only one week ago I saw both ruby- and golden-crowned kinglets in the same bush! I cannot begin to stress the magnificence of this occurrence, an experience I would not have witnessed if Wilderness Park had not provided food and shelter for the birds on their migratory journey. This is of incredible importance in light of the recent report by Cornell University that North America has lost a devastating amount of songbird species in the last 30 years. Preserving Wilderness Park is vital to conserving what remains before it is too late. More human disturbance from increased housing development so close to this important habitat area

will not allow the park to continue providing for our wildlife in such a way. On many other visits I have had magical encounters with deer, woodpeckers, great blue herons, wood ducks, eastern bluebirds, Baltimore orioles, fox squirrels, wild turkeys, and many many more. If we do not protect the integrity of Wilderness Park and its ecosystem, then we are failing not only our wildlife but ourselves and the future generations of the Lincoln community.

As the world around us changes and becomes more developed and urbanized, pockets of nature like Wilderness Park are increasingly precious. Where else will the youth of Lincoln hear chorus frogs for the first time, build a tree fort, or swim in Salt Creek? Where will their wonder grow for the natural world and be called to save it? Where will they find a place where they can find escape from the stresses of school or work and be purely themselves for just a few hours? Or hug a ginormous ancient oak tree, trying to stretch their arms all around the circumference of the great trunk. Where else will our children have these enriching, life-changing experiences? Green spaces have been shown to be crucial for the mental and physical health of communities. We need Wilderness Park as much as the park needs us to protect it.

Wilderness Park is a home for me and many others. My heart aches in tandem with the alarms ringing in my biologist brain at the possible degradation such a unique and valuable place. Please, Council Members, hear the cries of the community you pledged to serve. Let us speak for those who call Wilderness Park home. Let us give a voice to the wildlife, the trees, the creek, and many others who cannot advocate for themselves. Please hear what we are saying. Do not approve this zone change. Protect our park. We are asking you to listen. I trust that you will.

Thank you,  
Elsa Forsberg

--

Peace. ~ patty

**From:** [Adam Hintz](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Please vote no on the zone change for Wilderness Crossing - petition link below  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022 7:59:26 AM

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Hello,

I'm sure by now you've been able to digest all of the comments given during last Monday's meeting.

I hope you can now see how much of the comp plans goals and policies were not followed and this zone change is not appropriate until more data is received.

Friends of Wilderness Park has started a petition and the link to it is below. As of this writing we are standing strong at 1,118 names all opposed to this zone change.

[https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/protect-wilderness-park-your-voice-matters?fbclid=IwAR2GWv01viWeHJZN4uQeOBseJ5j2EZhqwnKVAal4YhuH8b\\_jC82rqLuwR4](https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/protect-wilderness-park-your-voice-matters?fbclid=IwAR2GWv01viWeHJZN4uQeOBseJ5j2EZhqwnKVAal4YhuH8b_jC82rqLuwR4)

Just to be thorough, here is the complete testimony I wanted to deliver at the last meeting. Thankfully, many of these points were voiced Monday. Happy Earth Day..

Adam Hintz  
402-853-6613

Good afternoon chairman Bowers and members of the council.

My name is Adam Hintz, 1919 Prospect Street. I have both personal comments to share in addition to testimony on behalf of the Friends of Wilderness Park, a local nonprofit for which I am the current president. For this reason, I ask that the council please permit me extra time at the end of the hearing. This will allow me time to finish my presentation on behalf of FWP in addition to my own statement detailing reasons why a delay of vote is wise and prudent in this situation. Thank you.

The Friends of Wilderness Park organization has existed for 25 years and is dedicated to the protection and celebration of Wilderness Park and the Salt Creek riparian corridor. The Friends are composed of members and supporters from across the entire Lincoln community and beyond. This includes Wilderness Park users, elected officials, scientists, parents, grandparents, business leaders, teachers and children. This long-standing organization and proud partner of the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department stands in firm opposition to the council resolutions being considered today. This includes the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment (22001), annexation (21013) and change of zone (21057) all in relation to the Wilderness Crossing development. These important decisions were not satisfactorily presented at the March 30th Planning Commission meeting and should have been better vetted at that planning level. Needless to say, here we are

today asking for time and patience so the community and you as leaders can make the best, and most well-informed decision that could have lasting impacts with regard to the development in questions and future developments in and along the Salt Creek riparian corridor and watershed.

Friends of Wilderness Park was first contacted by the developer in late 2021. The FWP asked the developer to contact us again once a tentative plan was better defined. We then met with the developer in early March and the proposed development was presented. [See attachment] The day after our meeting FWP sent the developer a message thanking them for meeting along with listing our initial concerns pertaining to water quality - stormwater management, grading, light pollution, and noise pollution. We also outlined the needed protection of the rare sandstone prairie ecotype which has been identified on the adjacent park land and painstakingly restored by the parks department and community volunteers. This same ever-decreasing prairie gem existed on and across the property connected to the development. The developer did not contact us again until over a week later to schedule a meeting. The next meeting we had with the developer was on March 28th, two days before the Planning Commission Hearing. They reaffirmed their commitment for the proposed development with minor modifications in answer to our concerns. We informed the developer of our preference to wait until the council hearing before meeting again and asked the developer to let us know if they were able to make the development more sensitive to Salt Creek and Wilderness Park, especially the sandstone prairie. The primary reason not to meet with the developer involved not wanting the developer or City planning to again use interactions with FWP as a rubber stamp for the project which was seemingly the case before and at the March 30th Planning Commission meeting. Our conservation-minded organization, with hundreds of members, cannot support a development that threatens the park in any way and this position must be clear. What was presented to us today by the developer will need time to be looked at before FWP is able to give a thumbs up or thumbs down. We need to delay the vote today on the noted resolutions so FWP and the broader community can better understand the potential impacts and possible shared solutions that we can all agree on. Why rush decisions to approve this development which could have long-lasting repercussions that we might all regret?

The comprehensive plan designated and zoned this parcel as residential since 2002. This was news to many of us at the Planning Commission hearing. Let's keep in mind the comprehensive plan has changed much in the past 20 years with new environmentally-focused elements that speak to sustainability, conservation design, the Salt Valley Greenway, ecology and habitat, natural resource conservation and much much more. The comp plan was also updated during a pandemic when civic participation was presented with many challenges. We were under the assumption that having this new language in the Comprehensive Plan in addition to the Wilderness Park Master Plan, The Salt Creek Resiliency Study, and the Climate Action Plan would have been sufficient to educate developers and the planning commission for a much more sensitive path forward when considering growth and development around Wilderness Park and in the Salt Creek watershed. Once we read the planning commission's staff report, we were alarmed by how insensitive

and off-target the staff report was when considering important environmental resources. It's not that we were not aware that this area was marked for zone change that surprised us (although it is a poorly placed location), it was the lack of due diligence adhering to elements already in the Comprehensive Plan, other studies and plans plus the lack of sufficient answers on these questions at the planning commission hearing that left us baffled. Until we can answer how a productive agricultural area with wonderful soils can be rezoned with strong adherence to ALL relevant environmental policies (especially conservation design) and elements of Comp Plan 2050, we must request that you delay these resolutions before you and not set a precedent for rushed and poorly-informed planning that stand to have long-lasting implications.

There are several reasons to be patient while building community consensus. For instance, the Nebraska Department of Transportation will not have a report on the future of the Highway 77 and Pioneers Boulevard until the end of the year or perhaps sooner. Therefore the traffic study submitted is not sufficient to predict the future of the area. Bob Simmering from Lincoln Traffic and Utility has stated the future of Hwy 77 and Pioneers won't be fully reflected in the traffic study. This information should influence a change from agriculture to residential with up to 575 homes butting up against it. A new study must be conducted with the possibilities of Hwy 77 and Pioneers considered. Peak times and the use of semi trucks traveling to and from the grain elevator to the east should be a part of this study.

By delaying for six months to a year, we will also be able to acquire the new floodplain maps from FEMA which are expected later this year and that will truly help to protect the public from a 100 year flood as opposed to using old data from 2016. Unfortunately, the stormwater waiver to allow a plan to be submitted later will only be using this old data. It would be prudent to wait until we hear from FEMA at the end of the year. The Salt Creek Resiliency Study points to our need to update the floodplain maps.

Advisory boards, the parks department, wastewater management, public conversations, and community input must be seriously considered when developing a plan in and along the Salt Valley Greenway. Not only are stormwater retention areas and other mitigations needed, Wilderness Park and surrounding area is a place for the community to stay spiritually, emotionally, and physically healthy. Since 2020, and the global pandemic, the usage of Wilderness Park in particular has doubled. It has been more than a sanctuary for wildlife. It has been Lincoln's go-to-spot for recharging our mental batteries and souls while weathering the challenges we faced together. We need to know the pulse of the community before you, our trusted leaders, vote on these resolutions.

The Planning Department has done well in other areas when considering smart growth and urban sprawl. Unfortunately, it is in this specific case the city of Lincoln planning department stumbled and these resolutions have found their way onto your desk. At the planning commission's meeting 2 commissioners were absent, 2 voted against, and 2 were very conflicted. Although I did offer the option to delay the vote at that time, the commissioners hesitantly decided to second a motion

that was ill-informed, hasty and not fully supported by the updated 2050 Comp Plan. Thankfully, the rules do allow for a delay. Today, we as a community are presented with the opportunity for recalibration and to develop a plan forward that takes all environmental elements of the comp plan into account and they relate to Wilderness Park and the greater Salt Creek watershed.

As a wholly volunteer nonprofit, FWP has already contributed at least 500+ hours (est. at \$15,000) of volunteer time to change the dangerous and mis-informed course we're on. The Friends of Wilderness Park organization is prepared to contribute all of our 2022 Give to Lincoln donations plus other funds for a Wilderness Park and Salt Creek Environs study or something similar. The outcomes of such a study will help the community to develop a conservation plan that takes into account important environmental planning elements of the 250 comp plan that are protective of Wilderness Park and the Salt Creek riparian corridor. Wilderness Park is our unique and wild public land. Wilderness Park is Lincoln's largest park. It is a priceless green emerald crescent that sets Lincoln apart from other communities. Please delay your vote today and give the City of Lincoln, the FWP, the developer, and other stakeholders time to revisit the property in question, the proposed development and the best path forward. Thank you for your consideration.

-The Friends of Wilderness Park Board

**From:** [Will Maynard](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022 9:22:02 AM

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Hello,

My name is Will Maynard and I am a Social Worker in the Lincoln area and a current board member for friends of Wilderness Park. I have always lived here and see it as my duty to let my voice be heard, especially for those who cannot speak for themselves. I'm writing in regard to the Manzitto plan to build adjacent to Wilderness Park. I am deeply against this idea. Wilderness park has held a deeply spiritual and impactful place in my and so many others stories. From going to the nature camp every summer as a child, to finding solitude there to reflect as an adult. It would be such a mistake to jeopardize one of the things that makes Lincoln unique. And I must say this project does that without a doubt. No matter what sort of "buffer" would be employed, irreversible damage would be done, if not directly or initially, then as a consequence of. Any sort of claim to care for this park and natural settings in general and then voting to move forward with these plans would be hypocrisy in its most high form. It would also be hypocrisy according to the study the city did in the Salt Creek Resiliency study, as there is much uncertainty about the flooding that is likely to happen in the land along Salt Creek. I implore you to look past any sort of greed that these corporations have consistently shown. Please act as humans representing the most vulnerable in Lincoln rather than as representing what you the potential economic growth. You do not exist to grow Lincoln's economy, and there are other places to build I might add. You exist to make decisions based on more than just one variable. This decision does not check any other check box, and we would pay the price in the long term that surpasses any thing that could ever be quantified. Please please please vote against this project.

Will Maynard



**From:** [Mariah Lundgren](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Against #CZ21057  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022 10:00:36 AM

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Dear City Council,

I was born and raised in Omaha, NE, and lived in Lincoln, NE, for ten years of my young adult life. While living in Lincoln, NE, Wilderness Park was the place I went to for solace, exploration, self-discovery, and practicing my newfound love for photography. I am not the only one who feels a deep passion for this place, as I know it has done wonders for so many people, mentally and physically.

Wilderness Park is home to hundreds of species, provides critical flood control for the city of Lincoln, and is a place of respite. On top of all this, the cultural significance to native peoples is invaluable. Are we really going to destroy more land from a people we have already taken so much from? Do not let that be your legacy.

The people of Lincoln have spoken. No one wants this. Lincoln does not need it. Reconsider placement of this housing development to not be so close to one of Lincoln's ONLY wild places.

I beg you, please vote against zone change #CZ21057. Thank you.

Sincerley,  
Mariah Lundgren

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Mariah Lundgren  
[mariahlundgren.com](http://mariahlundgren.com)  
402-215-5648  
Lakewood, Colorado

**From:** [Abbi Swatsworth](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** OutNebraska  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022 10:27:11 AM

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The past few months have been extremely challenging for LGBTQ people, and particularly transgender people as we have seen more legislative attacks on our rights and freedoms than ever before. We've seen calls to crisis hotlines for LGBTQ youth increase, and the LGBTQ community in Lincoln has felt this moment deeply with the death of Milo Winslow.

Our community is hurting. We are hurting. The rhetoric and lies that have been shared about transgender people in Lincoln has been devastating and deadly.

Members of the LGBTQ community have been hurt by OutNebraska's decision to testify in support of the Fairness Ordinance before the city council. We hear your anger, we welcome your dissent, and we have and will continue to examine our actions and who is involved in making decisions for the organization.

We may not all agree on what liberation looks like or what paths we take to get there. The diversity of the LGBTQ community is a strength. OutNebraska is here to advocate for our community but we cannot speak for the entire community. Neither can any other group who is currently speaking, but we can listen to each other.

While no path is without challenges and potential for backlash, we ask that our city council listen to those who have the most to gain and the most to lose: our transgender siblings. Take the time to understand the varied concerns and ask how to cause the least amount of harm in your decisions.

As we look forward, OutNebraska believes that our wider community can benefit from more conversations. We seek to engage in conversations that can change hearts and minds. We seek to build a broad coalition that can support our LGBTQ community and ultimately move us closer to our vision: a city — and state — where LGBTQ people can thrive and feel proud to call home.

We are committed to bringing the LGBTQ community and our allies together because we know our opposition will not stop. We see the ongoing attacks across the country. We need to fiercely build our community, respond to the attacks, and envision a Lincoln where every LGBTQ person can live openly and without the fear of discrimination.

**Abbi Swatsworth**  
Executive Director OutNebraska  
she.her.hers  
[abbi@outnebraska.org](mailto:abbi@outnebraska.org)

[outnebraska.org](http://outnebraska.org)

o: 402.488.1130

c: 402.217.1935

**From:** [Emily Brodersen](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Residential development near Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022 11:20:59 AM

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Development of this space would be a tremendous and irrecoverable loss to the city and state.

Emily Brodersen  
3205 S. Summit Blvd  
68502

**From:** [Margaret Vrana](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Zone Change CZ21057  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022 1:16:39 PM

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Your Honored Members of Lincoln City Council,

In alliance with the welfare of the citizens of Lincoln,  
just say "No" to this zone change.

If you haven't already done so , please walk the sacred hill that would be  
decimated if the proposed housing development was to go through.

Trusting in your wise consideration,  
Thank you,  
Margaret J Vrana  
1700 J St Apt 605  
Lincoln NE 68508

**From:** [Jane Holt](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#); [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** concern about racket-sport survey  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022 2:03:13 PM

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Dear City Officials,

I don't scuba dive, but that doesn't mean I don't have an informed opinion about the value of coral reefs. So why does the city's current racket-sports survey immediately dismiss those respondents who answer that they don't play racket sports? By dismissing respondents who don't play, the survey skews the results in favor of those who do. Additionally, the survey doesn't ask respondents where they live, which is an important piece of information as the city determines how best to use and improve its local parks.

That the survey ends by inviting only its racket-playing respondents to become more involved with the master-plan process makes me even more skeptical about the survey itself. As someone who lives near Woods Park and is concerned with proposed plans to expand the park's tennis footprint, I fear that this survey could be used to justify further encroachment of the park's finite green space.

Surely, a good idea can withstand the light of scrutiny. When it comes to this survey, why not invite everyone to the table?

Jane Holt  
3448 Woods Avenue  
Lincoln  
[jane.holt429@gmail.com](mailto:jane.holt429@gmail.com)

**From:** [Tommy George](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Alarm Registration Program  
**Date:** Friday, April 22, 2022 4:20:42 PM

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Good afternoon,

I apologize in advance for the tone of this email. I recently received a 'ticket' for \$100 because I didn't register my alarm system. My alarm system company did not notify me of a registration fee for the City of Lincoln and I wasn't aware it even existed. I've registered my system now so I can pay the city \$25 a year for you to enter my information into a database, which seems like a ridiculous fee quite in line with practices exhibited by the State of Nebraska. My question is, what is the logic for the \$25 fee? What's the logic for it being free to have a false alarm the first three times and then charging \$100? Then \$250 for each one after that? Is there a record of when City Council passed this ordinance, who voted how and why they voted that way? This whole thing seems quite unnecessary and doesn't make a whole lot of sense to somebody like me who doesn't even know why the program is structured this way in the first place. It seems like you're punishing people with fees who take extra measures to protect their home, but you don't charge people who call 911 to follow up with a potential emergency.

Again, I apologize for the tone of this email, but would appreciate a response.

Have a nice day.  
Tommy

**From:** [Jennifer Lyons](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Change of Zone 21057 - Wilderness Crossing LLC  
**Date:** Saturday, April 23, 2022 3:45:11 PM

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Councilmembers,

On April 18, 2022, we listened to the public testimony regarding the proposed zoning request of Wilderness Crossing LLC to change from AG to R-3 residential zoning on the property generally located at 4575 South 1st Street and West Pioneers Blvd. Being aware that the Lancaster County Planning Department has already endorsed this zone change, we would urge each of you, as representatives to the residents of the City of Lincoln to strongly consider all of the testimony that you heard and vote against changing the zoning on the property generally located at 4575 South 1st Street and West Pioneers Blvd.

In further support to vote against said zoning request, the following is offered:

As demonstrated in Lincoln's current Climate Action Plan: We recognize and "acknowledge that our community rests on the traditional lands of the Ponca, Omaha, Dakota and Otos Peoples past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to work in partnership with our Indigenous Peoples, continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we now inhabit as well". Land Acknowledgement, Page 5, 2021-2027 Climate Action Plan. [ClimateActionPlan](#)

In addition, as noted on the homepage of the City of Lincoln's "Resilient Lincoln" the city leaders and decision-makers acknowledge that *flooding, drought, extreme heat, and public health problems are some of the most significant climate-related risks* that will impact us all if we do not address and adhere to the proposed changes as addressed in said Climate Action Plan. [ResilientLincoln](#)

While our city needs environmentally safe - inside and outside, affordable housing, the proposed construction plan at said location offers neither. This land, currently held by the Catholic Diocese, could be so much more, so much more of a positive connection to the greater community. As we face



today's warning winds and warming temperatures, we need home spaces that provide hope and benefits to many, not more divisions and profits for only a few. A housing project of 575 units near a Native Indigenous Spiritual Holy Sweat Lodge (located in the Fish Farm) and across from Wilderness Park, which is a natural habitat for many animals, is not a complementary balance for spiritual human beings and nature. Regardless of the developer's proposed buffer zone of 10 feet or 40+ feet (or even a 1000 feet), we should not have unaffordable concrete-laden 575 housing units situated near two natural, and yes, spiritual environments.

We were reminded during testimony that Wilderness Park was a planned park (under the tutelage of Mayor Helen Boosalis) which has in its plan being a run-off for flood waters for our city. Flooding evidence from 2016 and 2021 were discussed in the public testimony; some photos were also shown that demonstrate the importance of this natural area to receive excessive waters. We must be continually mindful of the multi-faceted purposes of this important environment of wilderness.

Please seriously think and act on behalf of our City's stated commitment to the Indigenous peoples, the saving of habitat for animals and native plants; please be mindful that our own Climate Action Plan states we should be "building a climate-smart future". When you balance your thoughts and considerations around a zoning change that will only increase continual flooding concerns, will only increase noise and light pollution, will only increase traffic congestion, and will ultimately increase the impact on our city's local climate, the decision must be to **vote against** the proposed zoning request of Wilderness Crossing LLC.

As was said numerous times in the public hearing, thank you for listening, please vote with your heart and moral obligation.

Pax et bonum,  
Peace & goodwill,

Jennifer Lyons  
Bob Robinson  
2330 No. 64th St  
Lincoln



**From:** [George Wolf](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Municipal Code Revisions in Cincinnati  
**Date:** Saturday, April 23, 2022 4:16:49 PM

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Dear Councilmembers,

FYI:

<https://www.citybeat.com/news/cincinnati-takes-new-steps-toward-more-direct-lgbtq-protections-in-municipal-code-13010872>

George Wolf

**From:** [Erin Poor](#)  
**To:** [Bennie R. Shobe](#); [Council Packet](#); [James M. Bowers](#); [Jane Raybould](#); [Richard W. Meginnis](#); [Sandra J. Washington](#); [Tom J. Beckius](#); [Tammy J. Ward](#)  
**Subject:** Please join us Sunday at the Fish Farm. (And vote no or delay on Monday)  
**Date:** Saturday, April 23, 2022 6:53:28 PM

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Hello Council members,

Happy Earth Day weekend!

First I wanted to invite you all to a rally we're having at the Fish Farm tomorrow (Sunday, April 24) at 2pm. We would be so grateful if you would join us and better understand the land and people whose fate you are deciding on Monday. I know some of you have visited the general area, but until you see the community in relation to the land, and the land in relation to the people, you haven't seen enough.

The address is 4700 S. 1st street. You can park along 1st street. And if you get lost you're welcome to call me on my cell. 402-601-6642.

If you would prefer to come before the rally begins would be happy to accommodate your visit around 12pm. Please just let me or Kevin Abourezk know. Thank you for considering this invitation. We extend it respectfully and hopefully.

We hope sincerely that the beautiful testimonies you heard last week impacted you as much as it did all of us who witnessed that groundswell of support for the land, the community, and Native peoples' ceremonial rights.

I understand that you all have spoken and made a decision earlier this week that we may not like.

I have to implore you to please please vote to at least delay this vote. Conversations have been had with the Catholic Church about this land sale. And if the Manzito brothers don't close on this sale by May 15th the sale contract would be voided and the church would entertain other bidders. Many of us are working now to raise money to put in a counter offer.

Significantly, however, another conversation is being had. One of our Catholic environmentalists who also goes to ceremony at the Fish Farm spoke to one of the leaders of the Lincoln Diocese. He brought up the topic of Land Back and reconciliation in light of the Pope's work with 1st Nation's peoples in Canada and the histories of humanitarian atrocities that have come to light again with the bodies of Indigenous children found at Catholic-run Boarding Schools. The local Catholic leader indicated that he would be open to exploring the rematriation of the land to Indigenous Peoples. We could have a beautiful instance of Land going back to Indigenous stewards, right here in our own community!! That is incredible and heartening news. The Land Back movement has been gathering steam for years and we are seeing municipalities, state governments, corporations and non-profits working with Tribal Nations and Tribal peoples to return land to Indigenous people.

If you delay this vote, or if you vote no to the zone change you open the door for Land Back in Lincoln. This would be historic. And healing beyond measure. And you all would have a role to play in it, a legacy that would be remembered for generations and generations.

Please, we beg of you. Vote to delay or stop the zone change. Give us a chance. This development does not need to be the inevitable conclusion for this land.

Sincerely,  
Erin  
402-601-6642

PS here is a little info about the Land Back movement if you are not familiar.

<https://www.nebraskansforpeace.org/marapril-2021-land-back-a-movement-a-spirit-a-practice.html#:~:text=LAND%20BACK%20is%20not%20only,Nations%20seeking%20to%20purchase%20land>.



# Rally for the Fish Farm and Wilderness Park

2 PM Sunday, April 24 2022

4700 S. First St.

Park along First Street

COME SHOW YOUR SUPPORT  
FOR OUR PARKS AND  
INDIGENOUS CEREMONIES!

**From:** [Benjamin Vogt](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park Development  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:57:48 AM

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Dear City council Members,

I write this note in support of curtailing development on the western edge of Wilderness Park. Allowing a housing development will erode the city's commitment to parks and a green ring in its master plan. The negative impact to the community, wildlife, and watershed are too great to allow a housing development in such close proximity to Wilderness Park. Please help preserve this rare jewel in Lincoln that makes this a signature place to live.

Thank you.

Benjamin Vogt  
prairie inspired garden design  
author of [A NEW GARDEN ETHIC](#)



**From:** [Ethan Freese](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park Development  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:18:44 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to you today in opposition to the proposed development at First and Pioneers across the street from Wilderness Park. While development needs to happen as Lincoln grows, I believe that this location is not a good fit for residential and commercial expansion. The proposed development is across the street from a rare sandstone prairie that is home to a number of rare plant species. A development across the street from this prairie could negatively impact those species and it could complicate the management of the prairie. Additionally, the area is of cultural importance to Lincoln's Indigenous community. I believe that this area would be much better suited as another asset for Lincoln's expanding greenspace.

Thank you,  
Ethan Freese

**From:** [David Spinar](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** 1st and Pioneer Development  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:38:34 AM

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Members of the Lincoln City Council:

Please accept this message in connection with your decision to be made regarding the proposed development near 1st street and Pioneer Boulevard. I write in opposition to the proposed development. I appreciate your responsibility to balance various interests when you are confronted with Lincoln's land use planning decisions. To my mind the balance weighs in favor of caution when considering development so close to Salt Creek and its associated flood plain. Surely you understand the importance Salt Creek plays in flood mitigation and the enormous economic impacts flooding can have on city residents. As presented, it is clear that the proposed development will substantially change how that area of the Salt Creek flood plain will accept large rain fall events. To what extent that change will impede the flood plain's effectiveness in mitigating flood damage to Lincoln is thus uncertain. Equally important, climate change models suggest that rain events will become more severe in the future and that greater severity events will happen with increasing frequency. In light of the uncertainty that the development will have on Salt Creek's effectiveness in managing flooding and the likelihood that flood events will become more severe and happen with greater frequency it is at best imprudent and at worst irresponsible to proceed with this development given what you now know. Of course boldness is often required from municipal leaders and in this case the bold decision is to remain cautious. Thank you for your consideration.

David Spinar  
9611 Hollow Tree Dr.



**From:** [Elizabeth Nelson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please reject wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:16:19 AM

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Please respect the extreme value of Wilderness Park by rejecting the super dense proposal for Wilderness Crossing. Ideally this space should be added to Wilderness Park, with dedication to the Native peoples who have valued it for generations as a sacred spiritual center. You are voting on a FOREVER DECISION. Once developed, it can NEVER BE RECLAIMED. We have taken too much from nature and Native Peoples already. Let us give this little back.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Nelson  
2121 Calvert Street, Lincoln NE

**From:** [Jane Reinkordt](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 12:10:53 PM

---



I urge you to vote against the zone change west of Wilderness Park. This area should remain agricultural (or a protected natural area), and definitely not become a housing development.

Please support our environment and protect the land around Wilderness Park for the health, safety, and quality of life of the Lincoln community.

Jane Reinkordt, Denton

**From:** [Adria Chilcote](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** No on CZ21057  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 12:57:33 PM

---



Dear City Council Members,

I am writing you ahead of the vote on the proposed zoning change CZ21057.

I urge you to vote no. We need to stop this zoning change in order to protect Wilderness Park and the Salt Creek Watershed.

Wilderness Park is essential to the quality of life here in Lincoln. What other area compares? The benefits of a healthy, thriving Wilderness Park cannot be overstated or easily quantified.

There are too many unknowns at this point to decide to change the zoning. For example what would be the HWY 77 beltway interchange or resulting traffic impacts? What does this mean for our community and our values toward our ecological areas and public land?

Again, I urge you to vote no. Please preserve and protect this community gem.

Sincerely,  
Adria Chilcote  
68502

**From:** [Anni Poetzl](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Proposed Housing Development near Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 1:08:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [LincolnCityCouncil\\_WildernessPark.docx](#)

---



Dear Lincoln City Council Members,

Attached is my letter asking you to vote "NO" on the proposed housing development near Wilderness Park.

Thank you,  
Anni Poetzl

Dear Lincoln City Council Members,

I was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, but I moved here in 2020 to attend the University of Nebraska – Lincoln as a master's student. The qualities of Lincoln that make it a hospitable place are its citizens and its commitment to the environment by providing parks for connections to fragments of the natural world for its urban citizens and bike ways for alternative means of transportation.

Recently, it has come to my attention that there is proposed development for Wilderness Park, a park that boasts being the largest of our city. The ramifications of the development may not be apparent in the short-term, but the long-term effects can be disastrous for the cultural, emotional, and physical well-being of the Lincoln citizens and its short-term residents.

Nature has always held a special place in the religions of our indigenous communities, and Wilderness Park is no different. Inipi, one of the oldest sweat lodges in Lincoln, is located across the street from the proposed development. Wilderness Park serves as a place of purification for our indigenous community members, and the development would be an anathema to the purpose of holding purification rituals at pristine natural areas within the city as the proposed housing development and long-term human activities would make chemical, light, and noise pollution that degrades their holy space.

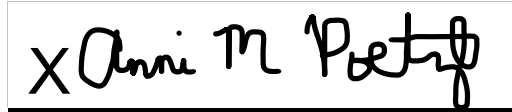
Furthermore, green spaces in urban communities are invaluable as they provide reprieve from concrete jungles and the high-paced life of our city. They provide a space where we can connect with the natural world, the world that we evolved with. The development would affect our youth and the following generations by degrading Wilderness Park and the habitat it provides for the plants and wildlife that can only be seen there relative to our inner-city apartments and suburban houses. It has been shown that green spaces promote emotional and mental well-being and are important outlets for inner city children to experience a connection with nature that has become a commodity to youth whose parents cannot afford going to our closest national parks or travel to different states/countries due to low socioeconomic income.

Lastly, the proposed development will increase habitat fragmentation for the species living within the park and promote habitat degradation that can impact the overall health of the system. In science, we learn time and time again that the size of fragmented land are major determinants in the number and diversity of species found within parks, meaning that larger spaces are ideal for species to have intact habitats and populations, and contribute to higher species diversity within those spaces. Similarly, land use and human activities can increase the nutrient inputs into the system, in this case Wilderness Park, and negatively impact the habitat. Thus, the proposed development not only affects the distribution of the species but also its own habitat, which further leads to the decline of the Wilderness Park system.

As someone who has come to love Lincoln and everything it offers, I ask you to represent the diverse community members of Lincoln, the urban Lincoln youth and the peoples of lower income, and the habitat of the plant and animal species that make Nebraska home. Your decisions will affect the generations of Lincoln citizens to come, and we should make sure that

everyone is welcome here no matter their cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, and that everything has a habitable, healthy place to live.

Thank you for representing our diverse Lincoln voices,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "X Anni M Poetzl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "X" is at the beginning, followed by "Anni", then "M", and finally "Poetzl". The signature is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Anni Poetzl

E-mail address: [apoetzl2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:apoetzl2@huskers.unl.edu)

**From:** [Brandon Stabler](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:24:00 PM

---

I am against the wilderness crossing

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lcrist2011](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:24:11 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change of wilderness crossing.



**From:** [maya a](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing.  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:24:15 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change for Wilderness Crossing.

**From:** [Caleb Frew](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing!  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:24:18 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change.

**From:** [Erin Poor](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing!  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:24:19 PM

---



Please vote no to the zoning change. I oppose.

I've written to you before and you know my heart. I welcome any dialogue you may be willing to have.

Thank you.

Erin  
402-601-6642

**From:** [Jess Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NO to wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:24:23 PM

---

I oppose the zoning change to wilderness crossing. This is beautiful sacred land.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Kelly

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [julia haller](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:24:47 PM

---



Dear Lincoln Council and City leaders,  
I oppose the zoning change for wilderness crossing. This is the land of indigenous people, this is the land of nature, we must save the history and the culture.  
Julia Haller

**From:** [Maria Fortune](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:25:04 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change for wilderness crossing.

It would devastate our spiritual grounds. We have a right to religious expression.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Fortune

**From:** [Madison Zucco](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing!  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:25:19 PM

---

I oppose the zoning case to wilderness crossing. Not only does this directly and negatively affect a sacred Indigenous site in Lincoln, it creates a fire hazard to a biologically diverse area that so many Lincolniters depend on. I urge you to protect religious freedom in Lincoln and understand the significance of this situation.

Best

Madison Zucco

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [susan.alleman](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NO to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:25:21 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change for Wilderness Crossing.

Please respect the Native sacred space in this area. So much has been taken from our Native relatives.

Please we asked you to please say NO.

Respectfully,  
Susan Alleman  
402-327-0573



**From:** [Gabriel Bruguier](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:25:35 PM

---



Hello,

I wanted to write that I am in opposition to the Wilderness Crossing development. Please do not let this encroach upon Wilderness Park and the sacred spaces within. Thank you for your consideration,

-Gabe

--

Gabriel Bruguier, Ph.D.  
Education and Outreach Coordinator  
Nebraska Transportation Center  
262L Prem S. Paul Research Center at Whittier School  
Phone: 402-472-1927  
[NTC Page](#)

**From:** [Casey Welsch](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:25:37 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change for Wilderness Crossing. Please uphold the religious liberty of the native peoples of Lincoln. You wouldn't bulldoze a Christian church that was still holding sermons. Don't do it to Lincoln's first peoples. --

Thanks,  
Casey Welsch

**From:** [Lenore Scott](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No To Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:25:47 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change for Wilderness Crossing. Please stand up and oppose this change with me.

Kama Ogden  
401 Sycamore Dr  
Lincoln NE 68510  
402-617-3084

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Bill Smith](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:25:54 PM

---

Wilderness park and the native sweat lodge area will be negatively impacted by this project. I am opposed to the zoning change. There are other areas that can be developed.

Thank you.

Bill Smith

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Wally Graeber](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No To Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:25:54 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change for Wilderness Crossing on Monday 4/25.

The sacredness of this site for the indigenous community and all of Lincoln is worth more than the proposed housing project.

Please give a sacred moment of silence during the City Council Meeting for the indigenous women who have been silently murdered after projects like this have been approved.

--

Wally Graeber

[pronouns:](#) he/him/his

As a leader, I acknowledge the land I inhabit occupies the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Pâri ([Pawnee](#)), the Otoe-Missouria ([Jiwere](#)), and the Očhéthi Šakowinŋations ([Sioux](#)) nations

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Might you want to set some time aside on my calendar to connect? If so, please [click here](#) to reserve up to an hour together in the coming weeks. :)

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"Everything is impossible until it happens." -Nelson Mandela

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**From:** [cdensberger](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:25:55 PM

---



Do not approve the Zone Change

Clint Densberger

Sent from my Galaxy

**From:** [Spencer Munson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:26:06 PM

---



Dear council people,

I oppose the zone change for Wilderness Crossing. Please vote no Monday.

Thank you,

Spencer

--

**Spencer Munson**

Assistant Director of Student Engagement - [Doane University](#)

[Lincoln Calling](#)

[Spindle Records](#)

#LNK

402-429-2642

**From:** [s.j.clements54@gmail.com](mailto:s.j.clements54@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:26:19 PM

---

Dear Council Members:

I oppose the zoning change at Wilderness Park. This would negatively impact the quality of life for the City of Lincoln. I would like a chance to speak of my feelings.

Steve Clements  
4151 S 31st Street, Lincoln 68502  
402-730-3908

Sent from Steve Clements cell phone



**From:** [Judy King](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:26:21 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change to wilderness crossing.  
Judy King

**From:** [Whatisreal Studios](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** City council  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:26:40 PM

---



I disapprove of the building on Indegionus land.

**From:** [Jason Schmaderer](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Cc:** [Max Mueller](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:26:46 PM

---

As a resident of Lincoln, i want to ensure you know I oppose the zoning change to the land near Wilderness Park. I ask you to also oppose this change on our behalf. Thank you.

Jason Schmaderer

**From:** [Robert Klein](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:26:48 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change for c 21057. We have at least 10 years of already available lots for housing. This proposal for this location at this time is not appropriate for the community for Lincoln.

Thank you,  
Robert Klein

**From:** [America's Abstracts](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:26:57 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change for Wilderness Crossing. Please know that this is a sacred space that has biodiversity and it's extremely important to keep this space in it's current state.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
America Reid  
America's Abstracts

**From:** [Amelia Long](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:26:59 PM

---

Hello council members,

I oppose the proposed development at Wilderness Crossing. The effects on indigenous communities in Lincoln and natural ecosystems would be too great. The land in Wilderness Park is shared by all of us and must be maintained and cared for. Please consider saying no to this proposed development.

Thank you,  
Amelia Long

**From:** [Katia Pilar Carranza](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:28:41 PM

---



Please listen to the people you represent. Protect Fish Farm and Wilderness Park. Vote no on the zone changes for Wilderness Crossing.

It is time for the City of a Lincoln to uphold equity and the voices of Indigenous people that have long been ignored by the civic process.

The zone change would inhibit their sacred rites that have occurred for thousands of years here and would degrade the biodiversity of our city.

Thank you,

Katia

--

Katia Pilar Carranza  
[Equity and Sustainability](#)  
M.S. Student in Natural Resource Sciences  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
(224) 475-3006 | [carranzakatiap@gmail.com](mailto:carranzakatiap@gmail.com)

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars.”— Norman Vincent Peale

**From:** [Wyatt Nelson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:28:46 PM

---



Dear coucilman Bowers

There is a great need for underground magnetic imaging of Snell Hill to ensure there are not Native American burial grounds that will be disturbed by construction.

There is a major fire risk created by wilderness crossing for the park, especially by fourth of July fireworks.

If you vote yes, you will be knocking down on of the four walls of our church. Please respect this church.



**From:** [Larry Pelter](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:30:49 PM

---

Honorable Lincoln City Council Members,

I urge you to please vote NO on the approval of the Wilderness Crossing project.

This project as planned is just too detrimental to the wellbeing of Wilderness Park, the people who now live in the area and to the religious activities of the indigenous people whose ceremonial ground is in very close proximity to the proposed project.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Larry Pelter  
3440 South Hope Ct  
Lincoln Ne 68502

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Montanna Smallbear](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** !!NO TO WILDERNESS CROSSING!!  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:34:30 PM

---

As an indigenous youth, 21 years young. I am opposing the build of over 500 new housing projects crossing the wilderness park.

**From:** [ROBERT RIECK](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:34:51 PM

---



Please do the right thing for our native family, wildlife and mother nature!

Do not make a mistake like Nathan Appleton.

Nathan Appleton 1847 of New England (geographic region in the United States) was in the business of making "slave cloth" for the 4 million slaves. He said slavery is a "Tremendous Evil," but he would lose so much money if slavery was abolished, so he also said "No reason why we of the Free States should make ourselves unhappy about it. Why not leave it to the parties immediately involved?"

Robert Allen Rieck Jr  
105 North 8th Street apartment 508  
Lincoln Nebraska 68508  
402-802-1806

**From:** [Jodi Niemants](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NO to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:45:00 PM

---

I oppose the zoning change for Wilderness Crossing. If you are getting a flood of emails in this moment, they are from all the people gathering at the Fish Farm prayer service. There are people from all across the socioeconomic, cultural and spiritual spectrum residing in Lincoln. We are here as a community united to protect the sanctity of Wildness Park and Mother Earth. I encourage you to find a different place to develop housing that doesn't rob all Lincolniters of their backyard. This effects you and your family, too.

See you tomorrow.

Respectfully,  
Jodi Reese

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Molly Phemister](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** 1st & Pioneers zoning decision: No.  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:47:58 PM

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Dear City Council Members:

Please vote no on the massive condo development poised to destroy a very special and unique portion of Lincoln. I came down to a stretch of Wilderness Park today that I walk often and I think other people do, too. It's right off of 1st Street, I slip past weird little former merry-go-round pieces I think, and slide into the park there. It is beautiful, it is quiet, it is sacred. And I knew that it was sacred before I knew that the land next-door to where I was entering was and has been a Native American sweat lodge for most of my lifetime, tracing back to the era of time when Native Americans were finally given the religious freedom that started in the Maryland colony in 1632, but somehow took nearly 350 years longer to be granted to Native Americans. It is quiet here, if you could hear an audio recording of where I am, there is wind in the trees and there are birds singing. If there was video, you'd see the quiet creek, the violets blooming, the gentle green haze slowly softening the tree canopy. If this development across the street goes in, I'll still be able to see the creek, but I won't be able to hear the wind, I won't be able to hear the birds. It would take be the same at all. Lincoln is Lincoln because of the Salt Creek basin. Most of the rest of the country was settled based on access to freshwater and navigability for boats. But here we had salt, beautiful glorious life requirement salt. Salt is the mineral that Gandhi began his peace marches for, he sought free and equitable access, protesting the British Salt Tax. The salt here drew the European Americans to found a community, as it had been drawing people for millennia before that: the name for this place in so many different Native American languages refers to the salt. The names for our state all refer to the flat wide waters of the Platte, and the names for Lincoln all refer to the salt and the gathering of the many. We are still a gathering of the many: Community Crops has been working with Yazidi farmers at their farm training program. There's a Karen garden being developed in their traditional community patterns. The South Sudanese have joined us, and now without doubt we will become home to Afghanis and Ukrainians. And the people who were here before us are still gathering, and often it is at the sweat lodge just north of where I stand. I heard somebody say "why don't they just move the sweat lodge to another spot", but they've already moved. We've been making Nebraska's indigenous citizens move around since before this was even a state. It's time for Lincoln to have the biggest heart that I know it can have and to understand the 1st & Pioneers area to constitute something akin to a church. It is time for us to begin to value the gifts that the indigenous community brought and bring to Lincoln, now, for hundreds of years in the past, and for hundreds of years to come. I have to assume other people are writing to you to talk about the floods that that much water would cause, the pipelines that would have to cross this creek, the fires that would kick up in the wind here, so I'm focusing on the land, the holiness of the water that flows through this city, and the refuge that the forest surrounding the water provides for so many hearts and minds. If there was going to be a zoning change, I'd rather see a massive buffer of development around Wilderness Park that protected the park and all of the haptic, proprioceptive qualities that make this place what it is, constant and changing, wondrous and humbling.

Thank you,  
Molly Phemister

**From:** [dabrambila4151](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:49:08 PM

---



I oppose the proposed change of change CZ21057.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Penny Costello](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:51:01 PM

---



Dear Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to the zoning change proposed for the Wilderness Crossing development.

In addition I would like to express my desire for the creation of a buffer zone to protect the sacred sites adjacent to Salt Creek, and around Wilderness Park.

Over 50 well-informed and eloquent citizens who spoke at the April 18 City Council meeting well reflect my feelings about this issue, as well as those of many other Lincolniters.

Having served on the board of Friends of Wilderness Park for six years, I often heard city government officials express pride and optimism about Lincoln's future, about the promise of a vibrant start-up community, and the fact that the beautiful green spaces in Lincoln were some of the more attractive amenities for people moving to Lincoln to be part of that vibrant culture. Now is the time to ensure that a vibrant, healthy, sustainable community continues into the future.

Please preserve and protect those places and spaces that make Lincoln so unique and inviting. And please respect the wishes and desires of Lincolniters who are already fully committed to and invested in this community.

Vote no on the zoning change request for Wilderness Crossing.

Thank you.

Penny Costello  
3648 Woods Ave.  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-432-0605

**From:** [lclawncare@live.com](mailto:lclawncare@live.com)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Council packet  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:52:47 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change of Wilderness Crossing

Sent from myMail for iOS





**From:** [Katya E](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** 1st and Pioneers zoning change  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 4:08:15 PM

---



Oppose the zone change and development of the area southwest of this intersection until more studies done on the Wilderness Park environs and the Fish Farm.

**From:** [Michelle H](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NO to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 4:18:58 PM

---



I oppose the zoning change for wilderness crossing.

**From:** [Highlands Vet](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 4:22:50 PM

---



I am writing to voice my opposition to Wilderness Crossing.

Harold Smith, DVM  
6710 NW 2nd St  
Lincoln, NE.  
68521

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

**From:** [del.nowski@gmail.com](mailto:del.nowski@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing!!  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 4:29:39 PM

---

I oppose the zoning change at 1st and Pioneers, CZ21057. More study needs to be done with this area because what they have proposed here is not at all in character with the surroundings. Listen to these dissenters. We're not just a bunch of crazy people. We genuinely care about this area and for the people who practice their spiritual needs here. It is essential that there at least be a buffer but it seems that the developers are unwilling to make any concessions. You MUST listen to us. We know the policies in the comp plan have not been followed; we know that the traffic studies are woefully insufficient; we know that the flood plain data is outdated; we know that the planning department would sell their mother's land if they thought it would increase their housing count. Nothing seems sacred but we know that this land is very important to Native spiritual practice and that should be the indicator.

Whats the problem?

No and delay

Delan Lonowski

402-450-8989

**From:** [Magali Napier](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NO to Wilderness Park Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 5:15:50 PM

---



Please vote NO to the PUD Wilderness Park Crossing.

Thank you,

Maggie

**From:** [Gary Stevens](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 5:20:08 PM

---



At this time Wilderness Crossing is a bad fit for this area .....

Sincerely Gary Stevens

**From:** [mark.napiertec.com](mailto:mark.napiertec.com)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please vote no on wilderness crossing PUD  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 5:22:36 PM

---



This is not the right project to put up against wilderness park please listen to the people and stop this project



**From:** [Jen Burianek](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 5:32:04 PM

---



Hello Council,

I am writing you as a mother, designer, advocate for natural spaces, and community. Please delay the vote on the resolutions relating to Wilderness Crossing as written.

We have so many questions and we need time to find answers. What will be the impact of the development next to the sandstone prairie, Salt Creek, and others downstream?

How will traffic be affected once the Highway 77 and Pioneers Blvd intersection is decided? How does the community truly want to move forward with policies already in the comprehensive plan relating to conservation design, ecology and habitat, and the Salt Valley Greenway and what would the community want added? We need time for input.

Let's slow the roll on this resolution until we find some good answers.

For 50 years Wilderness Park has stood strong protecting the people of Lincoln, it's time to be strong for Wilderness Park. Wisdom and prudence are the strengths we need.

Lover of Wilderness Park

**From:** [Lenore Scott](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please read and listen  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 6:08:09 PM

---



Please read this message that just came out today from Chief Avrol Looking Horse. I feel it has meaning in our corner of the the plains.

Please oppose the Wilderness crossing zoning change and help protect Lincoln's oldest and only Native Inipi site.

Kama



June 21, 2022

We warned that one day you would not be able to control what you have created, that day is here. Now we must unite once again to create an energy shift upon Grandmother Earth. She cannot take any more impact from all the selfish decisions being made.

We have come to that place in this time upon Earth, to now make a stand together. To unite - each in our own sacred life-ways we have chosen to walk, whatever religion or belief, go to your sacred spaces and join us in these special prayers for the Earth on June 21st. It has been proven we can create miracles when we unite spiritually.

Many white animals have shown their sacred color throughout the world now, and they continue to communicate that we are at the crossroads. We have walked through two years of losing many relatives through a terrible disease, and so have the animals and plant life also continue to suffer. The imbalance of Mni wic'oni (water of life) causing droughts and fires to severe flooding is everywhere, and I feel more suffering is to come from all these poor choices that are being made.

I humbly request a time from each of the two legged in this world to send a prayer to heal our precious Earth and the balance of Mni wic'oni to be restored. Begin to prepare in your homelands to unite - *All Nations, All Faiths, One Prayer* - for the sake of Grandmother Earth, our source of life not a resource.

In a sacred hoop of life where there is no ending in no beginning.

Chief Arvol Looking Horse

19th Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Sunday, April 24, 2022, 3:25 PM, Council Packet <[CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov)> wrote:

Your message has been received and we thank you for reaching out! Know that we value your input and consider this communication as one of many ways to stay connected to the heartbeat of our city. For other opportunities to remain informed, please visit: <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/Home>

Thank you!

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

**From:** [DM\\_MILLS@msn.com](mailto:DM_MILLS@msn.com)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 6:39:00 PM

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Vote no regarding wilderness crossing. Do any of you know how Beal slough that flows into salt creek in the park got its name? Jim McKee Lincoln's area historian once did a story on the Yankee hill area. John Beal back in the 1800s wanted to be famous for something; what he did was murder two native Americans which are buried somewhere around or in wilderness park. No one knows where for sure. Now you're trying to murder more of them again with this subdivision. I'm not ok with that; do the right thing for once.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Carol Irons](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 6:41:13 PM

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Please do not approve the large housing development by the park. This is part of the feeding ground for the wildlife in the park. 1st street is also needed as an access between sections of the park on the parks west side. There are frequent hikers, bikers and horse back riders here. Many cars do not respect their space and safety. More cars create a hazard and compromise the peaceful setting of the area.

**From:** [Gretchen](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NO to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 7:01:03 PM

---



Hello,

My son & are are opposed to the proposed development at Wilderness Park.

Gretchen & Torsten Mills

**From:** [Denise Teahon](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 7:01:15 PM

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This is the first time I've written a letter to the city council because I usually feel it will not have an impact. I hope this time is different. If the council allows this development it will ruin the only wilderness park we have. Noises, traffic, light pollution and potential flooding problems will change the area forever. There are other options for housing but NO other options for wilderness park. Please at least vote to wait until further study is done to learn the impact such a large development will have on the ecosystem of the park as well as the religious ceremonies of indigenous people.

The decision to move forward with the project will have irreversible consequences. Doesn't it make sense to know more first?

Thank you

Denise Teahon

Frequent park user



**From:** [Noah Clayton](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Wilderness Park residential development  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 7:02:09 PM

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My name is Noah Clayton, a resident of Lincoln and frequent Wilderness Park user. I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed residential expansion on the edge of Wilderness Park. This expansion would ruin the jewel of the Lincoln Park Park system. Wilderness Park has been a natural escape for me for decades. It's location within the the city yet in such a forested area has given me a frequent and accesible escape that allows me a wonderful opportunity for exercise and the restorative effects of nature. Every trip I make there I see smiling faces from children and adults alike. I urge the council members to maintain the current plans for Wilderness Park and vote against the large scale residential project on the border of Wilderness Park. Thank you.

Noah Clayton  
3751 Randolph Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510

**From:** [Maggie Wallace](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 7:43:51 PM

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I am writing to tell you that I oppose the Wilderness Development and Re-Zoning.

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*Thank You!*

*Maggie S. Wallace*

**From:** [Teresa Kuper](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Re-zoning Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 7:54:47 PM

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We spend time at Wilderness Park several times a week. PLEASE, do not re-zone it for housing development.

Teresa Kuper

**From:** [Bob Hier](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose wilderness development rezoning  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 8:00:27 PM

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I highly oppose rezoning wilderness park for development. I don't agree with encroachment into the park. I enjoy the wildlife in the park.

Robert Hier

**From:** [Mark Brohman](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No To Wildness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 8:01:30 PM

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City Council,

I oppose the Wilderness Crossing zone change.  
Much more information needs to be presented. The impacts from the water runoff, the traffic impacts and future road developments, impacts from noise and light to the park, and impacts to the wildlife of Wilderness Park.

Mark Brohman  
2637 Washington Street

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Lucas Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Intersectionality of Wilderness Crossing & the Fairness Ordinance  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 8:30:42 PM

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Greetings distinguished members of the Lincoln City Council,

I'm emailing to speak about how I am closely watching the issues of both the Wilderness Crossing development and the saga of the Fairness Ordinance. And it just happens to be serendipitous that these seemingly two separate issues have some cross over with each other. I'll explain...

To be clear and to properly introduce myself, my name is Luke Peterson and I have been a resident of Lincoln for nearly 15 years now. I come from rural South Central Nebraska and grew up "on the farm." I knew at a young age that I couldn't stay in Phelps County, Nebraska because let's face it; there are reasons why I consider "Greater Nebraska" a false narrative and a lie. If it was so great, then why do the young kids flee in droves the moment they have the opportunity to leave? I don't believe that it's what Governor Ricketts' argues when he says people leave because of high property taxes. Nebraskans leave because they don't see a future for themselves in this state, especially when they know that being their honest, authentic self will cost them their livelihood or even their life. But coming from rural Nebraska does teach you about how to adapt and interact with forces beyond your control. I'm grateful for teachable moments that I had when I was younger.

I like to believe in the life lesson of living truthfully is a virtue and that I carry today however there are limits to what a person will tolerate and for me, living in conservative desolate place wasn't a thrilling prospect when I was much younger. I knew I am gay when I was a child and thanks to being so close to nature growing up, I knew that I am happiest when I am enjoying Nebraska's scenic wildernesses. That's why I decided 4 years ago that, to heck with reputations; I'd do something about the existential threat of man-made climate change and run for the Lower Platte South NRD. My father questioned me about why I would put myself "out there" for people to scrutinize not only me but potentially him and my family. I reassured that if anyone wanted to talk about my life, let them. Because they are obviously too bored and uninteresting themselves. If they want to say my name in their mouth, then I hope they can't stop talking about me! Now I am proud to share that I am running unopposed for re-election and that I am continuing my mission to promote green spaces and to protect conservationism in the face of a grotesquely wealthy Governor who is willing to spend a billion dollars for a recreational lake that will do NOTHING for flood protection. It is under those principles that I am originally opposed to the proposed development of Wilderness Crossing.

During my time with the Lower Platte South NRD, we help commissioned a study of the 13 miles of levee along Salt Creek with a focus on resiliency and flood protection from historic 100 year storms and flood events. Certainly placed a lot of perspective in me when 2015 and 2019 occurred and Lincoln nearly got flooded out. You can read the information here, if you want further detail:

[https://www.lpsnrd.org/sites/default/files/files/89/salt\\_creek\\_fldpln\\_resil\\_study.pdf](https://www.lpsnrd.org/sites/default/files/files/89/salt_creek_fldpln_resil_study.pdf)

However I'll provide a brief synopsis of the study cause in short; our levee system wasn't designed to address the existential threat of human-caused climate change & that in recent

years we came to the point of where there could have been a critically and massive failure with our levee. As a colleague of mine on the NRD loves to say, people will prepare for the worst but nature always bats last in a slugfest. So what can we do about it? Well for my personal starting point, don't develop new housing in a flood plain without proper consideration. We know that for every roof going up and for every paved parking lot that gets poured from the concrete truck; we are adding more surface rainwater runoff into our local drainage system that is already stretched to it's capacity. It will only be a matter of time that this proposed development will flood out, if it is approved as is. Make no mistake, I am asking you to oppose this. I think Lincolmites deserve better than some thoughtless development to occur because of the profits envisioned. You don't have to look far to see the effects of greed and thoughtlessness, just look at Saddle Creek in Omaha. City planners there knew from the inception of westward expansion of Omaha that there are numerous flood plain issues, particularly in the Saddle Creek Neighborhood. But the city chose to ignore common sense and develop neighborhoods without doing little to mitigate flooding. Now, when Omaha experiences a storm that pours an inch of rain within an hour; you need a kayak to get around that part of Omaha instead of a car. I see a comparison here with Wilderness Crossing.

As I mentioned though, there is some serendipity between the two seemingly separate issues of Wilderness Crossing and the Fairness Ordinance. It struck me as a glaring sore thumb when I became aware. You see, I've obtained the signature list of the petition to repeal the Fairness Ordinance and like Santa Clause, I'm checking it twice to find out who's naughty or nice. I know that one of you City Council-members have signed it, same with Matt Schulte, Robert Borer & Mary Hilton. All of whom are either elected officials or candidates for local office. I'd even dare to go as far as everyone who signed that petition to repeal basic human rights as "thoughtless & heartless" Trump supporters. To my surprise though, the developer of Wilderness Crossing, Sam Manzitto, also signed the petition to repeal the Fairness Ordinance. Doesn't surprise me since the land in question for Wilderness Crossing was once owned by the Lincoln Diocese of the Catholic Church and Sam Manzitto is a devout Catholic from all observations I have had of him. As you can tell, this just hardens my opposition for this proposed development because I don't believe Lincoln is for sale for religious bigots. I would implore you to deny this proposed development in the same manner that those "thoughtless & heartless" Trump supporters dispensed with the Fairness Ordinance; with haste and malice! IF I were in your position, I would put ALL realtors who signed the petition on notice saying that if you want to discriminate against valued members of Lincoln's community; it's gonna cost them in terms of what they understand (money) by denying every single development proposal sponsored by such real estate developers. They want to do business here, well they can't do it at my expense of simply existing. Plus, their corporate greed is bad for the environment. Just say no to Wilderness Crossing and let's make an example to those who wish being queer is a sin in the name of Jesus, even though Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Your's Truly,  
Luke Peterson  
2520 R St  
Lincoln, NE 68503  
308.991.5751

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Luke Peterson  
[luke.in.lincoln@gmail.com](mailto:luke.in.lincoln@gmail.com)

**From:** [Lisa Kort-Butler](#)  
**To:** [Mayor](#); [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Propsed zone change CZ21057  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 8:35:33 PM

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Dear Mayor Gaylor-Baird and Lincoln City Councilmembers,

I write to express concern about the planned rezoning to accommodate a large development near 1st & Pioneers. As I'm sure you are aware, this area is directly adjacent to one of the jewels of our city, Wilderness Park.

Wilderness Park is one of our family's favorite places in Lincoln. We visit frequently throughout the year to enjoy hiking, bird watching, and spotting other plants and wildlife. In addition to human well-being, the Park provides an important natural barrier between 77 and the city, making it a major "thoroughfare" for wildlife in our area, giving them relatively safe and undisturbed passage along Salt Creek. It is a haven for migrating songbirds and waterfowl, nesting herons and wood ducks, and hunting turf for owls and eagles. If you've hiked the length of the park, you know that it is also home to a variety of microecosystems due to differences in soil, flood patterns, and tree cover.

A large development threatens this gem, as well as spiritual practices of the Indigenous community. I understand the need to solve the housing crunch, but I have also appreciated Lincoln's conscientious approach to balance those needs with environmental sustainability and habitat. I strongly urge the council to reconsider the large development and oppose the zone change. We need further research into the impact of a development. We need a solution that protects the park from encroachment on its space, litter, light and noise pollution (which disrupts birds), pollutant run-off from yard waste (which threatens microecosystems), as well as the safety threats posed to bikers, hikers, and wildlife by additional traffic in this area.

Thank you for your work to keep our community vibrant and verdant,  
Dr. Lisa Kort-Butler, Lincoln resident (68516)



**From:** [James Chilcote](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** proposed zoning change CZ21057.  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:00:48 PM

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I highly value nature, and I highly value Wilderness Park, Lincoln's most natural area. We all need natural experience, and to allow Wilderness Park to be victim to short term profit, for a few, is a tragic mistake. Nature is our survival, and without the experience of nature we, and future generations, won't learn to value it. Do not approve this zoning change.

James Chilcote

**From:** [Deb Brambila](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:02:38 PM

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Please vote NO to rezoning to allow development. Protect and preserve Wilderness Park, sacred grounds, wildlife habitat, natural resources. 1000s are opposed to this huge development that would destroy this area! Vote for the future, do the right thing! Thank you

**From:** [maggie pleskac](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:02:54 PM

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Please.

Nature is our primal connection in our finite lifetimes.

Let's ensure that we don't fail our future generations.

Let's leave them the Legacy of the wild. Wilderness Park.

It's our primal and pure nature to connect to our environment.

Vote in favor of real development. Address the issue of nature deficit disorder. We all need this space to thrive and survive.

Thank you for your patience and understanding and critical voice.

Maggie

Maggie Pleskac RYT

Milkweed Yoga

[www.milkweedyoga.com](http://www.milkweedyoga.com)

**From:** [Skylar Falter](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to re-zoning change by wilderness park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:14:10 PM

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Hello!

I am emailing to voice my opposition to the re-zoning changes by wilderness park. We need to protect natural spaces and do our best to reduce high traffic areas around them. I am a frequent visitor to Wilderness Park and the surrounding area and oppose re-zoning to put in a paved road. Protect this gem of a place (wilderness park) and vote no!

Sky

--

*"Let us live in a way that Earth will be grateful for us." Robin Wall Kimmerer*

**From:** [alison hays](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:37:43 PM

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Hello, my name is Alison Hays, and I am opposed to the Wilderness Crossing building. Please save the Fish Farm's peace. It is where I pray. Please do not build next to Wilderness Park.

Thank you.  
Alison Hays

**From:** [Karen O'Hara](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:43:48 PM

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I am writing once again out of concern regarding the housing development that is being proposed right next to Wilderness Park. I am begging, pleading for one more person to please, please oppose this development!

Please, please do not approve any housing developments that will encroach upon this beloved Lincoln landmark. If the development is approved we will never be able to undo it and Wilderness Park will forever be ruined.

This is not an area for residential development. It is not an area that needs more cars, streetlights, lawnmowers, leaf blowers and other noisy reminders of civilization. It is a wilderness. It is an escape from city noise into the beauty of nature.

Please do not allow developers to rob Lincoln of this beautiful place.

**From:** [Jodie Morgenson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing Rezoning (Please, No)  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:46:54 PM

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Hello,

My name is Jodie Morgenson. I live at 4111 Greenwood St in Lincoln. I am writing to implore you to NOT move forward with the rezoning of Wilderness Crossing. We need to protect the limited green spaces we have in this city. In addition, consider the impact this will have on the Fish Farm Sweat Lodge. If you could just press pause on this and take some time to consider the effect this will have on the precious natural environment of our city, I think you will see that sacrificing nature in favor of economic development simply isn't worth it in the long-run.

Thank you for considering.

Kindest regards,  
Jodie Morgenson  
402-320-1779

--

-jodie morgetron  
Read, read, read to your babies.

**From:** [Jackson Meredith](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Wilderness Crossing housing development  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:50:18 PM

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To the Lincoln City Council:

On April 6th, 2022, Native American lawyer Walter Echo-Hawk spoke at the Lied Center as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum. His talk included describing his difficulties of pursuing Native rights in court, because of how much of our law relies on the concept of precedence. So much of our law is based on how things have already been done, but this is especially challenging when the constituents are Native. Because for so much of our legal history, White judges have explicitly told Native Americans: "We conquered you. You have no rights."

Precedence is also a major factor in legislatures, all the way down to our City Council. Those of us who sat in the Council chambers on April 18th, joining dozens of opponents for the proposed Wilderness Crossing housing development, heard presentations from many city officials who are seemingly already in support of the project. Many of them said things along the lines of the city already intending to build housing there, according to the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. Before the Native-led opposition could testify about the cultural and spiritual significance of this land in question, and the adjacent sweat lodges in particular, they had to hear from city insiders about how people in higher places already had plans for the area. Where was the consideration for the plans of the descendants of the peoples who lived here centuries before this was even called Lincoln?

The City Council must understand that if they approve Wilderness Crossing, they will be acting in precedence with the settler-colonialist founding of Nebraska. The first White people who came to Nebraska found Native people already living here: Pawnee (like Walter Echo-Hawk), Ponca, Oto-Missouria, Umonhon (Omaha), Dakota, Lakota, Arapaho, Tsististas & Suhtai (Cheyenne), and Kaw Peoples. But those settlers and their descendants were willing to displace these Indigenous peoples (as well as the relocated Ho Chunk [Winnebago], Iowa, and Sac and Fox Peoples), because they too already had other plans.

Many in Lincoln believe in the importance of human rights, and want to do better in relation to Indigenous peoples in particular. Progress has been made. Land acknowledgements are becoming commonplace. We now celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in October. We have new statues celebrating historic Native heroes like Standing Bear and Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte. These are all merely a good start. Paying living Native authorities like Walter Echo-Hawk to come and share their expertise is a solid step in the right direction.

But we will not meaningfully move forward towards justice and reconciliation until our elected officials actually start serving the Natives who are still living here. And the Native community in Lincoln has spoken! The area around Wilderness Park is sacred ground, and the sweat lodges adjacent to it are perhaps the most important religious sites in Lancaster County. And the Wilderness Crossing development plan will disrupt, if not displace, these sweat lodges.

We respect the effort that city planners have to make on long-term planning, but we insist that Native people need to actually be involved in the making of these plans. That's the kind of precedent we want to see going forward. Right now, you need to protect these sweat lodges. We urge the City Council to vote NO on Wilderness Crossing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joy Castro, Lincoln  
Dr. Lory J. Dance, Lincoln  
Dr. Christina D. Falci, Lincoln



Dr. Margaret Huettl, Lincoln  
Dr. Francis W. Kaye, Lincoln  
Dr. Amelia M. L. Montes, Lincoln  
Dr. Laura Muñoz, Lincoln  
Dr. Ingrid Robyn, Lincoln  
Dr. Luis Othoniel Rosa, Lincoln  
Dr. Colette Yellow Robe, Lincoln  
Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams, Pastor of New Visions United Methodist Church, Lincoln  
Jackson Meredith, Lincoln  
John Raible, Lincoln  
Margaret Williams, Lincoln

**From:** [joy@joycastro.com](mailto:joy@joycastro.com)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on the Wilderness Crossing Housing Development  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:51:50 PM

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Dear Members of the City Council,

I write to urgently request that you vote AGAINST the Wilderness Crossing Housing Development, which would place hundreds of new homes on land sacred to local Indigenous peoples and displace two sweat lodges.

Please support Indigenous human rights and honor the fact that this land belonged to Indigenous peoples for thousands of years before white settler colonialists invaded and took the land by force. Indigenous peoples have the right to worship in their sacred places. It's a human right.

Thank you so much for doing the right thing and building a better future.

Kind wishes,  
Dr. Joy Castro  
Lincoln, NE 68508

**From:** [St Sh](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:54:55 PM

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I'm emailing in regards to the "Wilderness Crossing" development being proposed. I implore you to put the protection of Wilderness Park as a priority. At a bare minimum, at least postpone plans to move forward and take much needed time to conduct additional research, obtain solid and progressive data with the latest science and feedback from experts and the community. There os no going back once it's done. There are VERY few places within Nebraska, let alone Lancaster County, that provide the ecosystem, natural beauty, wildlife and serenity of Wilderness Park. It is truly a one-of-a-kind "gem" in the area. The park has not been given the proper respect and consideration it deserves. This is one of the beloved parts of Lincoln that had yet to be touched. It's a shame what development has done to natural areas surrounding the MoPAC, another beautiful place that has been ruined by similar development.

Please listen to the community on this one. Once the area has been developed, it'll never be the same.

Shawna

(Friend of Wilderness Park)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kaitlyn Hopkins](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:58:44 PM

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Good evening council members,

I'm writing in support of protecting wilderness park and related sacred lands and in opposition of allowing development of these areas. As a lifetime resident of Lincoln, these areas have provided me much comfort and a much needed escape from the city. Too often we forget to take time to simply breathe and move our bodies in nature, unfortunately there are limited areas in this vicinity to do so. To allow this area to be developed would be a depressing reminder of how greed and capitalism has soaked up the joy of respecting and enjoying the land we occupy. Please protect the peace these parks offer to our community.

Kaitlyn Hopkins

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Alexandra Mayes](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing- no thanks  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:07:40 PM

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Hello,

Please keep Wilderness Park the unique island of biodiversity that it is. It is an amazing place that reminds the people of Lincoln to slow down and reconnect; to themselves, each other, and the wider world. Wilderness Park is truly an asset to our community. Please say no to any rezoning that jeopardizes this unique and important place.

Thank you,  
Alie Mayes

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Alie Mayes

**From:** [J. K.](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing Housing Development  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:09:58 PM

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Hello,

I am Janana Khattak, a born and raised Lincolnite, and I'm concerned by recent proposals for a large housing development around the Wilderness Park area.

I am urging the City Council to vote "no" to the Wilderness Crossing Housing Development. I'm opposed to the project's placing of hundreds of new homes on land sacred to indigenous peoples. There are also ongoing questions of the proposed project's ecological and environmental effects, as well as effects on traffic near the highway.

I understand the great need for diversified and increased housing in Lincoln, but I am opposed to building on the current Wilderness Park area. Two planning commissioners are in agreement. Please vote "no".

Thank you,

Janana Khattak

**From:** [Carla McCullough](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Rezoning at Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:10:50 PM

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Dear City Council,

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed rezoning around Wilderness Park. My main concern is in regard to preserving the capacity for flood protection for the city and Wilderness Park plays a big part in this. Development so close to the riparian zone and surrounding floodplain would increase flood risk.

Thanks for your consideration of this concern.

Respectfully,  
Carla McCullough

**From:** [LeAnn Kern](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:22:43 PM

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I oppose the re-zoning of this property.

Please don't sacrifice the tranquility of Wilderness Park and the Fish Farm for this project.

Thank you.

LeAnn Kern

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Judy Hart](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:24:51 PM

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Please protect Wilderness Park by saying NO to the 75 acre residential and commercial development west of Wilderness park.

Judy Hart  
Lincoln Citizen and Friend of Wilderness Park

**From:** [Ann Bauer](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:28:06 PM

---

Hello,

Please vote no on the zoning change. Protect Wilderness Park.

Thank you,  
Ann King

**From:** [Keri Smith](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:32:39 PM

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I oppose the zoning change that would allow urban development to occur in the area bordering Wilderness Park. Wilderness Park is a sanctuary for many species of animals, as well as a place for individuals and families to get away from the sights and sounds of urban areas so that they may connect with nature. A zoning change would disrupt the ecosystem.

Keri Smith

**From:** [Cindy Boeselager](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Pls Stop Wilderness Park Developement  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:44:33 PM

---



Hello, I am a life long Lincolnite. I live at 3431 Van Dorn St.

I grew up riding my bike, and my pony at wilderness park. I learned to fish in the water through out the park, tagging along with my brothers or my Daddy. When I was too old to ride my pony, we retired my pony to the Snell's farm. I was sad to see him go to a new home. But we knew the Snell family, they took care of the land and treated all animals very good. The exact spot that the developer wants to plow and grade and develop. Basically destroy that hill.

20 years ago my son earned his Eagle Scout badge building the dugouts at the ball diamonds south of the area of the proposed development. Now I go out to that very area, fall collections of pine cones and hedge apples, springtime wild asparagus and mushrooms. My husband rides through Wilderness Park weekly. He came home today and told me about the fox he saw, wanting me to know it was so much bigger than the city foxes.

All of this will change if the development is allowed. It isn't the location for dense housing. The traffic alone will drive out many of the animals. Please stop this development. Think about what Wilderness Park will mean for Lincoln in 10, 25 or even 100 years.

Thank you all for your service. I hope this is development stopped now and forever.

Cindy Boeselager

Photo is an Eagle taken at Wilderness Park in March


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**From:** [Sophia Sonenberg](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** opposition to the proposed zone change CZ21057  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:49:05 PM

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Hello,

I am writing this email in opposition to the proposal zone change CZ21057. This will negatively impact all of Wilderness Park. The debris, litter, and noise position from the construction will real havoc on the parks. Wilderness park is a unquiet feature of Lincoln that draws people to Lincoln, let's not ruin one of our main features. Do the right thing, there are a million other acres that aren't right next to the only woods Lincoln has.

Thank you.

Sophia Sonenberg  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Amanda Marie](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park!  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:51:18 PM

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Council,

Please for the love of God protect Wilderness Park, the sacred sites and Snell Hill! What an honor to even call this place ours , but let's not get carried away with that idea. There is rich culture and ecology that is asking to not be disturbed.

Thank you,  
Amanda Cook



**From:** [Dakota Altman](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No To Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:52:28 PM

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Hi City Council,

I'm sending this email to you to give wilderness park my voice in saying that I oppose the zoning change to the Wilderness Crossing!

We will not stand idly by as concrete and black rooftops replace important wild habitat and potential for future green space. Once concrete is laid down that is the last thing that is planted onto that soil. The proposed properties proximity to wilderness park poses serious threat to biological integrity of this ecosystem. A rare sandstone prairie adjacent to first street on the east side is unique and contains many native species of Nebraska flora and fauna. With more traffic, concrete, street lights, and a greater rate of runoff could affect the wildlife in a negative and drastic way. What happens if an errant fireworks finds its way from a family's home to Wilderness Park, prescribed and controlled fire is good. But when something like a firework starts an uncontrollable fire it could lead to disastrous consequences.

Why is it that there is a need to build this compound of houses at this time? Why is that there is space elsewhere in Lincoln to build upon, yet it was decided to build across a most sacred of land and a site where cultural practices take place. The fact that native peoples of America have had the land they lived on ripped away from them and it is still happening today should be a wake call.

I believe you will make the right decision. We are not apart from nature we are a part of it. This is our collective future and Wilderness Park represents a common space for healing and cultural significance.

Dakota Altman

**From:** [Grace Gaard](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Save wilderness park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:52:48 PM

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Please do not approve development at wilderness park or the associated sacred sites! These places once lost are lost forever. Habitat for native species, culturally significant spaces, and environments of peace and quiet are far too often destroyed for the sake of more cookie cutter houses that do nothing to make Nebraska more special in anyone's eyes. Preserve this space that is way more important than someone's oversized house that will collect more crap and take us even further from being a conservation minded community.

Sincerely,  
Grace

**From:** [Aila Ganic](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 10:57:35 PM

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I strongly oppose the zoning case to wilderness crossing. It would be morally wrong to develop on sacred Indigenous land. The city of Lincoln should respect the religious freedom of their citizens.

Kind regards,

Aila Ganic

**From:** [Hanna Sonenberg](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:09:08 PM

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Dear City Council,

Please keep Wilderness Park a place for people to leave the city behind and enjoy the peace of nature. Please protect this beautiful park and vote no against the Wilderness Crossing development. Thank you.

Hanna Sonenberg

**From:** [Fran Kave](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please delay zoning change for proposed "Wilderness Crossing" development  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:28:09 PM

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James Michael Bowers  
Richard McGinnis  
Jane Raybould  
Tammy Ward  
Sandra Washington  
Bennie Shobe  
Tom Beckius  
Lincoln City Council  
555 S. 10th St.  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Members of the Lincoln City Council:

Please delay making a final decision on approving a zoning change for the land on First Street that has been proposed for a large high-intensity housing project.

Last October I took my little granddaughter and her cousin (both of Dakota, Lakota, and Omaha heritage) to witness the unveiling of the Dr. Susan LaFlesche statue and just generally take part in the first official Indigenous People's Day. They loved it. I was delighted that Lincoln was working on reconciliation with its Native peoples. I was delighted that my granddaughter would be one of the first Native children to attend Standing Bear High School. What an honor! But Reconciliation does not just mean nice gestures. In fact, the gestures look like hypocrisy if they are not coupled with real actions.

All of a sudden Lincoln's oldest and most used Inipi grounds are threatened with development far out of proportion to the place. We get why no one in authority bothered to notify the Indigenous community that a precious site was threatened with such an incongruous future. You didn't know the Inipis were there.

Sweat lodges are humble and close to the ground. They fit in with the grass and the trees, the hills and the creek. People meet there regularly and when a particular need arises—I first went to a sweat at the Fish Farm to honor the death of the mother of a friend of mine. My brother sweated regularly at the Oyate Tocaya grounds at the other end of First Street. Almost hidden from anyone who was not in some way associated with Lincoln's Native communities, the Inipis live for the people and for the land, for the people and the land are one and must nourish and protect one another. But now you have heard. The land directly across from this huge development is sacred. The houses and cars and lights need to go somewhere else.

Lincoln City Council, do you want to live up to the promise of the statues of Standing Bear and Dr. Susan? To the new high school's name? Or is it easier to honor dead Indians than to listen to live ones? That's a harsh way of putting it, isn't it? But it is true. At the very least, SLOW DOWN. Nothing dreadful will happen if you do not accept rezoning tomorrow. But dreadful things will happen if you just brush off human rights questions, questions of reconciliation and decolonization, questions of religious freedom. Once you bulldoze a tree, you cannot just stick it in a hole and make it grow again. Once you flatten natural swales and cause flooding, you cannot just put dirt back—the dirt needs native vegetation to flourish and hold back the water. this is true metaphorically as well. There were fifty or sixty people at the rally this afternoon at the Fish Farm. Maybe we are not very many. But we are committed. For the sake of the land and for the sake of the people, who are one.

Development is flourishing around my home in the southeast. I see many new apartment complexes in the northwest. The new Standing Bear High School is due to be surrounded by housing, just like the new Northwest High School. There are other places to build. Don't continue colonization by trashing sacred

sites.

Sincerely yours,

fran kaye

**From:** [Luke Norris](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing the change of zone for the property west of Wilderness Park southeast of 1st and Pioneers  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:29:33 PM

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Hello Lincoln City Council,

I am a fulltime beekeeper and I enjoy hiking through Wilderness Park. To me Wilderness Park is one of the reasons why I like Lincoln, because it has such great nature trails. Building housing so close to Wilderness Park will destroy its natural beauty. It is a bad idea to build a bunch of houses in a flood plain that most people can't afford. Please oppose the zoning change for the property west of Wilderness Park.

Sincerely,  
Luke Norris

**From:** [evswolf@gmail.com](mailto:evswolf@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:41:41 PM

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> I have been utterly bewildered by the plans to add apartments and more in such close proximity to Wilderness Park. I have attended several meetings about the future of Wilderness Park, and what improvements are planned and the timetable for those improvements. It genuinely seemed like the city was investing in this outdoor space that is accessible to all and enjoyed by people of many interests. In my opinion, Wilderness Park is one of Lincoln's greatest attractions. To even consider adding so much housing and the traffic it will generate nearby, indicates to me that the council is unaware of Wilderness Park's master plan and that council members have simply not stepped a single foot onto any of its trails. It's a magical place every day of the year. It's a sanctuary for humans, wildlife and nature.

I encourage you and plead with you to not approve this development. I think you would regret approving the development, and you'll never regret investing in Wilderness Park. There are so many opportunities to use Wilderness Park as one of the many reasons Lincoln is a vibrant community providing a high quality of life to its residents and visitors. No one will remember an apartment complex. In my opinion, Lincoln does not need another apartment complex. And once you build the development, you take away the green space forever. And then someday you might realize what a true gem Wilderness Park is and how you should've made it an even more wonderful place for people to enjoy.

Please, do not approve this development. Invest in Lincoln's public outdoor spaces and trails instead.

Thank you.

Valerie Wolf  
4248 A Street

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Bradley Clevinger](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:44:54 PM

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I, Bradley Cle, ask you to protect Wilderness Park, the sacred sites, and Snell Hill. Have some heart and don't take part in destroying something beautiful for money.

**From:** [Emily Levine](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** "Wilderness Crossing"  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:52:52 PM

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Hi all

I sent you a poem a week ago that I wrote about the loss of my friend Betty and the walks I took with her dog after she died---walks she and I took for so many years. On the land of the proposed perversely-named Wilderness Crossing development. And last Monday I testified about the power of the hill, its importance.

A lot has been said, a lot has been written. I want to add yet a few more things.

1. This should be a wake-up call about future development along Salt Creek south of town. Unfortunately, Lincoln keeps growing and we need to be ready. Wilderness Park and Salt Creek need a buffer. City-County government needs to start now buying up land along the creek; this is a good time, there is federal money available.

2. The developers were given a lot of time to present their "study" and their testimony. Adam Hintz, as Chair of Friends of Wilderness Park, should have been allotted the same. As well as Kathy Danker as the homeowner most effected (her property value would be destroyed). And the homeowners north of Pioneers. None of these entities/people got your time and attention in the way they should have.

3. I've been a landscaper my whole life and there are serious issues with this "ten-foot setback planted with natives." First I'm confused about what land is being used for this, the city's road and drainage ditch or the developers? Even doing this useless supposedly appeasing act hadn't dawned on the developers until they belatedly met with FWP. Ten feet, some native plants, and a six-foot fence isn't going to do anything. Who's going to prep the planting area? What are they going to plant? A lazy order to Stock Seed for a seed mix that says "native" but includes A LOT of non-natives? And who's going to water the seeding until it's established---and how? The Homeowners Association? LOL. That is a LONG stretch of road. And, of course, natives take a few years to get established and the weed competition is fierce. How are they going to manage this area? How are they going to even access this native strip planting?

And then they say they'll build a fence---to control pedestrian traffic? What about the animals someone must have asked. Oh, we'll make holes in the fence for the animals. Big enough for the deer? Well, then, it's not going to stop people. But there won't BE any animals once the whole parcel is terraformed, once the trees are cut down, once the calamus pond is destroyed. I imagine the badger peeking out of its hole as the dozers come ever closer. Where will it go? And the mighty cottonwoods? The ancient osage orange? Even the remains of Snells' lilacs where the house stood.

And the hurriedly thrown together lighting plan? Please. Even with baffling and a six-foot fence, with the street lights and unenforceable HOA recommendations---the place will be lit up like a Christmas tree, the whole area glowing into the sky, into KD's land, into the park.

And image in the spring when the homeowners all spray their dandelions at precisely the wrong time. 2,4-D formulations now almost all contain Dicamba. It's bad enough the farmers are using

it, but now 500 homeowners will be out spraying it across the road from Wilderness Park---just when the oak trees are leafing out and most susceptible to damage. 2,4-D is bad enough, it volatilizes in the air, i.e. turns gaseous, not just drifting in water droplets. And Dicamba does the same and is even worse. I imagine you've heard about the lawsuits and what happened in Arkansas. (Here's a webpage from my unit, the Nebraska Forest Service: <https://nfs.unl.edu/publications/herbicide-damage-trees>)

This development and these slapped together "concessions" to appease those of us who are concerned? It's all so poorly thought out. It would be funny if it wasn't so damn depressing.

4. We knew when the Snells died and his sister got the land we were in trouble. And then she sold to the Catholic Church. (I did a property search; they sure own a heck of a lot of land in this town.) What is the relationship between the Church and the developer?

Of course, the answer is obvious: the land must be saved as a buffer to the park. The church needs to do the right thing here and donate it to the city. For 500 years the Catholic Church has claimed land in this hemisphere, they enslaved the native populations of Central and South America (North American tribes were "luckier;" the French only wanted their souls.) The wealth of the Catholic Church is built upon the stolen lands, stolen lives, stolen gold and silver mined by indigenous slaves of this hemisphere. The cathedrals of Europe in all their ostentatious splendor are mortared with the flesh and blood of indigenous people.

Surely, the Church can give up this tiny piece of land. For the good of Lincoln, out of respect for the indigenous people who sweat nearby (what was it the Pope said just last month when he met with tribal representatives?), to protect our park and grow a buffer corridor along Salt Creek. As penance for their crimes.

I ask you to at the least postpone your decision until you can carefully study the impacts of this development. To see what the plans are for Highway 77 and the Pioneers intersection. (Not to mention figuring out how Lincoln will deal with all that new traffic on Pioneers---a road with no shoulders that countless people use to bike to Wilderness Park.

In truth, I ask you to reject this development outright. No one wants it. We need good-looking, affordable housing, IN TOWN, with greenspace. We don't need to destroy a very special piece of land to build expensive homes crowded in so tight that the residents wouldn't even be able to enjoy the spectacular view.

Please go out and walk that land. I'll meet you out there, show you around.

(When you're there, you'll see a mammoth boulder of Sioux Quartzite. It was found when they did the upgrading of 1<sup>st</sup> street a few years ago. When they graded, they ran into it. Dug and dug and dug and dug. It was too big to deal with but they managed to get it up onto Snell's hill out of the way. Who owns that boulder? It was under a city road. If it's worth anything and the city wants to deal with it, they should get the money. Just because it was dumped on land the Catholic Church owns, doesn't make it theirs.)

Best,  
Emily Levine  
life-long resident



Badger home





Pond



















**From:** [Anne Kingsley](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:01:17 AM

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I very much oppose Wilderness Development re-zoning! Please consider the plants, the animals, the beneficial bugs to name a few! My son rides his bike into Wilderness Park EVERY weekend! Collecting rocks & enjoying nature. This is a sacred place for many.

Anne Kingsley  
Lincoln, NE

**From:** [Randall Gilbert](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:54:11 AM

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Dear Councilmember;

As a long-time Lincoln resident and admirer of its excellent parks system, I would ask that you take the steps necessary to protect Wilderness Park and its surrounding area. This park has stood since its inception as a beacon for prudent, thoughtful, long-range urban planning, and if properly protected, will continue to serve Lincoln's residents and wildlife for generations to come.

Thank you for protecting our parks,

Randall Gilbert  
4503 Hillside St  
Lincoln, NE

**From:** [Dennis Vodehnal](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No To Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:56:29 AM

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We do not support this action. Leave Wilderness Park alone. There are other places to build besides this peaceful place to hike, bike, and get away from the city noise. Please vote NO to Wilderness Crossing.

**From:** [Wanda Vodehnal](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:56:41 AM

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We ride the trails in Wilderness Park all the time and do not want this extra noise to destroy this most beautiful spot in Lincoln away from the hustle and bustle and traffic. Please vote no on this development.

**From:** [Amelia Montes](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NO to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:31:20 AM

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To the City Council:

I strongly oppose the zoning change to Wilderness Crossing.

Thank you,  
Amelia Montes  
Lincoln Resident  
2615 C St.  
Lincoln, NE 68502



**From:** [linda fogerty](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** stop the development at wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 3:41:16 AM

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For the last the last 50 years I have walked the trails at wilderness park with my husband,our children and dogs. Every time we enter the the canopy of trees we feel a great sense of peacefulness. Over the years we have watched other young families enjoy wilderness hikes as much as we do. It is home to many species of birds. Please do not take this treasure away.

Sincerely,

Linda Fogerty

**From:** [Connie Beckman](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please leave them be.  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:31:09 AM

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The sacred burial area. If this goes thru, you have stooped to an all time low in this decision. Consider others. PLEASE?

*Auntcon*  
*Connie*

**From:** [Pat Halderman](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park!  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 5:37:09 AM

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Attention Council Members,  
Please Protect Wilderness Park. Do not approve zoning change for  
Wilderness Crossing development!  
Protect the Sacred Sites in the Park and Snell Hill!

We need to protect and honor the little bit of wilderness left in  
Lincoln. Everything does not need to be developed and paved over.

Thank you.  
Pat Halderman  
3180 S 72nd St  
Lincoln, NE 68506

**From:** [charles struble](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 6:27:07 AM

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Dear City Council members,

Wilderness park is a treasure that we have all been blessed with. I have spent my entire life enjoying it. Some of my fondest childhood

Memories include wilderness park. I caught my first pet garter snake there when I was about five years old walking with my father. We took it home and found out that day how terrified my mother was of snakes.(she got over that fear because of that snake) Mom also asked us to bring home clumps of thorns off a Locust tree to put in her flower garden.(which she promptly stepped on barefoot and her foot swelled up like a football) We were walking in Wilderness park when I looked into the creek and said "LOOK DADDY I FOUND GOLD!" Turns out it was the trophies that had been stolen from Southeast High as a senior prank. (They were recovered and returned) We we're there on a Cub Scout outing when I looked down on a sand bar in the creek and found a perfectly preserved arrow head(we took it to the Ne state historical society. Turns out it was from 600 ad or something... really old) Now we all know what happens when we as humans start to encroach on a natural treasure such as wilderness park. It becomes less natural, less beautiful and we never stop until it's gone. Please don not approve this measure.

"Author, lecturer, traveler, philanthropist, occasional hero and... US MARINE EXTRAORDINAIRE!"  
Charles E. Struble III

**From:** [Leigh Finner](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Keep wilderness park wild  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 6:29:57 AM

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I have been a resident of Lincoln since 2015 and I have seen green spaces disappear. Being from the country means that wilderness park has been a place that makes Lincoln feel like home. It's a break from the hustle and bustle of the city. Rezoning wilderness park and developing Snell Hill would devastate the sacredness of that park.

There is also danger in developing this land. Surely a Homeowners Association cannot be the last bastion of Lincoln when facing the flooding that comes with climate change.

I walk a dog for a old woman near 1st and Pioneers. She is frail. What happens if her home is suddenly flooded because Lincoln didnt protect wilderness park?

I emplor you, stick with the president of protection. This is not just your job, you hold peoples lives in the ballance.

Stay the course and defend the land.  
Vote no to the rezoning and development.  
You can do it.

**From:** [Darwin Michalski](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 6:40:23 AM

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Concerning Wilderness Park, please make the right decision to protect our local treasure.  
Thank you!

**From:** [DON WENDLING](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park, please save this this Sacred site, and Snell Hill  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 6:42:23 AM

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**From:** [Rosina Paolini](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing decision  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 6:49:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [22WCdecision.docx](#)

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Thanks to you all for your commitment to Lincoln-

May we keep her a float for centuries to come : )

All the Best

\*rosina



To the City Council Members –

Great to see some of you at Earth Day learning and sharing with others about the perspectives regarding the Wilderness Crossing Development.

In this case, maybe more than others, your decision effects the whole city. Don't let this decision be your biggest mistake because everyone is in a hurry for some reason and you are feeling pushed to make a decision. There is no harm in waiting.

If you are to put the Wilderness Crossing development in such a sensitive area, please have some foresight to scale it down significantly, leave the natural sandstone cap and meet a higher standard of codes for the all of the infrastructure. The housing isn't affordable anyway, so make sure they pay for messing with Mother Nature and her increased unpredictable behavior.

If the codes are sufficient and the development is delayed until supporting systems are in place (I-280 – Pioneers Blvd and 1<sup>st</sup> Street intersection, water quality and velocity mitigation, and calculate the damage to Wilderness Park and the current residents with the noise and destruction of the construction of a multi phase development). The intersection at Highway 77, Pioneers Blvd and 1<sup>st</sup> Street is already stressed.

Represent your constituency. Many are opposing the development have done good research and have valid reasons for concern. The over 1000 signatures, the over 50 letters to the Planning Commission, the numerous letters to editor and flood of emails and letter coming to you all shouts valid concerns for not moving forward to quickly on a development will curse Lincoln in the next flood, especially when the infrastructure is not in place.

Protect Lincoln for our children and grandchildren's future –  
\*rosina

Rosina Paolini 1850 Dakota Street , Lincoln, NE 68502 402-423-1260

**From:** [Carol](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** CZ21057 Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 7:04:45 AM

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Please oppose the zone change CZ21057. I will never understand why citizens of Lincoln have to beg our government representatives to preserve the beauty and cultural significance of a sacred area which ordinarily should be a no-brainer. Stop the atrocity of corporate greed whose main purpose is to line their pockets without considering how their developments would impact the citizens of Lincoln and in particular, the beauty and nature that is rare in the Lincoln metro. I have lived here all my life and Lincoln, NE has grown way too fast and the crime rate and traffic has only grown in proportion. At what point does our government stop and say enough is enough and focus only on maintaining what we have.

Carol Mitchell

**From:** [Linda Pawlenty](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NO to Wilderness Crossing Housing Development  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 7:08:02 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to ask you to vote **against** the proposed Wilderness Crossing Housing Development project.

You are already aware of the reasons why. As a concrete mixer truck driver (so, someone who is unfortunately in new housing developments very often) I can say with certainty that there is no possible way our Indigenous neighbors will go undisturbed during the construction or the later existence of this development. No fence, embankment, buffers, or planting of vegetation will do it - no homeowner's association is going to "protect" the interests of a community other than their own.

As others have stated, there is no need to develop THIS land. All of these housing developments have a negative impact on our natural environment, but there are other locations that will not also significantly, meaningful, negatively impact Indigenous peoples. It is 2022: high time to knock it off with colonization. Literally.

Please vote NO and do BETTER for ALL the people of the Lincoln area.

Thank you,  
Linda Pawlenty  
Ph.D., UNL English AND  
Concrete Mixer truck driver

**From:** [DiAnn White](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 7:40:52 AM

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I strongly oppose the Wilderness Crossing housing project! It is an irresponsible and morally objectionable project on two counts.

1) The City Parks and Rec and outdoor enthusiasts of Lincoln have worked hard and invested much to make Wilderness Park a space that can be enjoyed by all. Putting up a project like this proposed housing project will create too much traffic and too much noise near Wilderness Park and the bike trail. Once you violate this space with a housing project, there's no turning back. It is ruined forever.

2) I understand there is a sweat lodge belonging to indigenous people of the Lincoln area. It would be morally irresponsible to consider anything like this housing project near their sweat lodge. Over the past year I've read in the paper many articles about the great things happening at the Indian Center and all the support it is getting from the Lincoln community. Let's not be "Indian Givers" and say, "Here we support you at the Indian Center, but we're going to decimate the quiet of your church!"

DiAnn White

**From:** [James Vinton](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 7:49:54 AM

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This park is more than a swath of land. This park is an oasis to everyone, whether they know it or not. It's the needed escape into the wild we all need without driving over an hour to find it.

Not only is it a refuge for Lincoln citizens but there is a rare heron hatchery near this proposed building site among other sanctuaries for all the wildlife residing in the park

A rare unaltered winding river, with wetlands and marshes to keep Lincoln safe from the floods it experienced in the past. That is essentially what development, in this proposed site will put at risk.

Yes we need more housing, the market is tight.

No we do not need a new multiplex apartment basically right on top of this place.

There are many many alternatives for these investors to build that preserve this essential area for Lincoln's quality of life.

Vote against this development

Thank you,

Paul Ries  
2324 Bradfield Dr  
Lincoln, NE

**From:** [Joyce Pacula](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park housing project  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 7:57:51 AM

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Hello. My husband and I are avid fans and supporters of Wilderness Park and we strongly oppose the current housing project that is proposed for that location. Not only will there be environmental ramifications, but it will also disturb the peace and tranquility of the park. Having traffic, congestion, and increased population so close to the woods will disturb animals, promote vandalism, and cause unknown ecological issues. Please at least delay the approval of this project until a long term study can be accomplished. I would prefer it being denied completely but a delay at least buys the time needed to prove that this development in this location is a terrible idea. There are many other acres around Lincoln that people would love to sell to the city at an inflated price. Please have Manzitto look elsewhere.

Thank you.

Joyce Tontegode

**From:** [Mike Schneider](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 7:59:20 AM

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Wilderness Park is a Lincoln gem that no other Park in Lincoln compares. We are so fortunate to have Wilderness Park in Lincoln. I am respectfully asking you to vote no on the proposed development next to the park.

Thank you,

Mike Schneider  
9686 Topher Blvd.  
Lincoln NE. 68526

**From:** [DioseLina Estevez](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Save wilderness!  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 7:59:45 AM

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No one wants your development! Hasn't the Earth been destroyed enough for pointless monetary gain? Don't touch Wilderness Park!!



**From:** [Chris Baum](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:08:27 AM

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Council,

Please vote NO to the Wilderness Crossing project!! We should keep this small area as a buffer to Wilderness park. Many times as I drive on 77 I see wild turkey, deer and hawks us this piece of land as a feeding/hunting area for their food. I would like to see the area turned into a native prairie to enhance its connection to to Wilderness Park.

Thanks

Chris Baum  
Zip 68516

**From:** [@cs.com](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:14:53 AM

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I am writing to ask that you protect Wilderness Park from residential and commercial development.

Susan Schriever

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

**From:** [Mj Aldrich](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose wilderness park development  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:18:17 AM

---

Please do not approve of the large housing development set to go in near wilderness Park. We have enough housing development going on in Lincoln right now that is going west of Highway 77 into our beautiful acreage and agricultural area, changing the landscape entirely, affecting wildlife, and also affecting the sense of peace people who live in the country specifically paid for and went out to the country for. How about we build up instead of out? Continue to revitalize downtown instead.

Maggie

**From:** [Kerry Eddy](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please do not approve. . .  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:22:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---



With regards to item # 7j. 22R-131 on the agenda for today's city council meeting: Please do not approve the zone change proposed at HWY 77 and Pioneers Blvd. We need further expertly attained data to determine the environmental impact on future developments for this area. Wilderness Park is a delicate area that requires careful preservation and consideration considering multiple factors. I personally find this area a close-by sanctuary where I find peace and respite from urban development and noise. I visit the park almost every day, year round. I urge you all to consider delaying any future planning at this site until updated studies can be executed and the subsequent data reviewed.

Sincerely

Kerry Eddy



**Kerry Eddy**

*Project Associate*

*Elementary Education*

*Secondary Education*

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Teaching, Learning & Teacher Ed

[402-472-2231](tel:402-472-2231)

**From:** [Sue Dobson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:29:26 AM

---

Dear City Council,

Please protect wilderness park from the housing developments that would endanger the sacred place that I run, walk and ride my bike in year round.

Wilderness park is unique to Lincoln for so many reasons. It is a quiet place to go to be close to nature, full of wildlife and beauty. Building a housing development would chance the serenity of wilderness park, and bring pollution, lighting, traffic and possible flooding to the park.

Please protect wilderness park.

Thank you,

Susan Dobson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Saraphina Masters](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing Development  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:50:04 AM

---



Hello,

As a citizen and taxpayer in Lincoln, I strongly object to the plans for development at Wilderness Park. This land has been a spiritual home for Natives and their allies for generations, and currently serves a crucial function within the city as a natural resource.

Please do NOT vote to change the zoning from agricultural to residential, vote NO!

Thank you,  
Saraphina Masters  
4500 Prescott Ave  
Lincoln NE 68506

**From:** [Isabel Salas](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to rezoning motion  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:50:56 AM

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Dear Council members,

I'm reaching out today to voice my opposition to the rezoning action planned near Wilderness Park that would endanger the spiritual and cultural practices of our Native community. The rezoning would greatly endanger the ability for the Native community to continue seeking peace and well-being as they connect with their cultural roots, something our country has sought to stamp out through genocide and land-grabs through hundreds of years.

Besides the cultural aspects of this, the development planned for west of Wilderness Park has been promoted as an opportunity to address the city's need for housing. However, the development will be market-rate housing, while our city is most in need of affordable housing to attempt to address the disparities in housing stability and affordability. In my opinion, if the housing development were affordable to renters at 60% of the area median income, this conversation would be a little different, since there is a greater need for these units and even more affordable ones. Our city has passed the Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan, which solidifies the need for rental housing and especially affordable housing. The plan also identifies the greatest need for housing for low income renters. Allowing this development to proceed would not help the city achieve the goals laid out in the Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan.

Moreover, advocates for the housing continue to point to a plan passed by the city in 2002, designating the land to be used for urban residential development. However, it has been 20 years since this plan's adoption, and our culture as a city and nation have come a long way in recognizing the need to honor the diversity of cultural backgrounds that we have in our community -- including the first people to inhabit what we now call Lincoln, Nebraska. In the past few years, Lincoln has pledged to be a more inclusive city under the leadership of our council and the Mayor's office. When I served on the Parks and Rec board prior to my professional changes, I often had to bring up conversations of inclusion and diversifying our efforts in order to be more equitable in our practices as a city government. We are at a crossroads as a city where we can choose to honor the voices of a community that has withstood colonialism, genocide, and disenfranchisement.

I would love to remind you that [Native Americans did not have the right to vote until 1948](#), a fact that I did not learn until a few years ago. Our society's struggle to recognize, respect, and validate the Native community is not as historically distant as we might think. If the council should not turn down the request for a zone change near Wilderness Park, the council at least owes the matter more attention in studying the 2002 plan, the inclusion of diverse community members in that plan, and explore the history and significance of the sweat lodge currently on the grounds that is threatened by the close proximity of the development. Delaying the vote to study these matters is a responsibility owed to our Native community to respect their history, their culture, and their resilience despite all the struggles they've faced.

Sincerely,

Isabel Salas  
2411 J St.  
Lincoln, NE 68510

--

**Isabel Salas**  
She | Her | Hers  
(308) 320-0821



**From:** [Suzy Landreth](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:51:26 AM

---



Dear Council Members,

Please do the right thing! Vote to protect Wilderness Park, the sacred sites, and Snell Hill.

Sincerely,

Suzy Landreth  
7430 Otoe Court  
Lincoln

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

**From:** [Diane A.](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:51:55 AM

---



Dear Lincoln City Council Members,

Please vote no on the zoning change for Wilderness Crossing. I think the Friends of Wilderness Park are excellent stewards of Wilderness Park and the surrounding areas, and I trust their advocacy around this issue. I think it would be prudent to hit the pause button until their concerns are addressed.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

-Diane Amdor

**From:** [Maggie Wallace](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Development of Wilderness park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:53:33 AM

---



Please don't developers wilderness with the addition of 500 houses.

Keep building south of Lincoln, not in the heart of our beloved space, our refuge from the urbanization.

The land is vital for animals, they need to cross it to access the ever shrinking wild space that they need to survive.

Leave wilderness alone. Honor the original reason for it, to provide a sacred, wild space for people to go amongst the city. Wilderness is the reason I stay in Lincoln, my hometown. I can go there and be alone when I need to. Without it, I won't view the place I was born the same way.

I'm happy that Manzitto is getting rich. I hope he gets to buy lots of nice things, and develop as much land for sub-par houses as they want. But leave. Wilderness. Alone.

I beg you.

--

Warm Regards,

Maggie Wallace

**From:** [Corey Rumann](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please vote no on the Wilderness Crossing re-zoning effort  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:54:39 AM

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Good morning -

I am writing to you today pleading with you to vote no on the re-zoning efforts for the proposed Wilderness Crossing development just SE of Wilderness Park. I am a frequent visitor to Wilderness and it is one of the primary reasons me and my family love living in Lincoln. However, in the last few years that love and appreciation for Lincoln has dwindled for me and my family which includes our two young daughters who are 8 and 10. Both of them have grown up in Wilderness Park and recognize the increased need for spaces and environments like Wilderness Park. In the last few years I have seen the change in Lincoln and what some people call modernization which disturbs me. Now, I see that modernization impacting sacred spaces like the Fish Farm and beautiful spaces like Wilderness Park. Now we have soccer fields, apartment buildings and even casinos popping up along the border of Wilderness Park or near it. When will this stop and who will have the courage to support the residents of Lincoln who do not see continued expansion and building as good for Lincoln and its residents? So many of you talk about creating a city where young people want to stay and I would ask you would this re-zoning effort accomplish that or would it serve companies and rich investors in making more money?

Finally, we must support our Indigenous communities here in Lincoln and elsewhere. Too much damage has already been done and a Yes vote on this re-zoning would further show our Native and Indigenous communities that they do not matter.

Please vote NO on the rezoning tonight at your Council Meeting!

Thank you,

Corey Rumann  
2718 S. 12th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
402-840-7441

**From:** [marina kushner](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park Concerns  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:56:32 AM

---



To who it make concern,

I just wanted to make my voice known here against changing the zoning and adding housing developments to the Wilderness Park area. There are plenty of spaces all around town for housing developments, and I see them going up constantly. This is one piece of somewhat wild land in Lincoln, and it should be protected and cherished at all costs. During the height of the pandemic, I saw so many families on the trails out there every single day. This space means something to so many people, and it is something that makes Lincoln special. Our bike trails and Wilderness Park are superior to what many other towns, and even cities, have to offer. I've grown up in this park, and I want to continue enjoying it the rest of my life. I know making this change may not be a park death sentence in many people's eyes, however once people start developing, it usually expands pretty quickly, and even just a segment of the land being repurposed or put in danger isn't worth it, for all the reasons that the Friends of Wilderness Park can highlight about what rare and special ecosystems lie within that area. Thank you for your time. Please make a decision on behalf of your constituents today and not start developing Wilderness Park. It would absolutely break my heart, and the housing that gets created for us isn't accessible for any of us to live in anyway. We don't want it.

Best,  
Marina

**From:** [Barbara Straus](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:59:15 AM

---

To the members of the Lincoln City Council,

I join the many in our city asking you to safeguard Wilderness Park and vote against the proposed housing development. As a birdwatcher, I frequently visit the park and have observed a wide variety of species there, including owls, warblers, and tanagers rarely seen in other parts of the city. Wilderness Park is a unique treasure in Lincoln, preserving wildlife habitat, and serving in a flood control capacity. Building such large development on the edge of the park could be detrimental to the park's success in drawing and preserving wildlife. In addition, the proposed housing development would encroach on an area sacred to Native people.

I know that more housing is needed to serve the growing population of Lincoln, but preserving the quality of life in the city is also important, and Wilderness Park contributes to life quality here. Please find another location for the housing development, and vote against the proposed project.

Barbara Straus  
1430 Smith. St  
Lincoln, NE. 68502

**From:** [Nathan Judds](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:01:19 AM

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I heard that there is a housing development that is trying to build next to wilderness park. I go to this park all the time and really enjoy the wildlife and solitude of the woods. I believe that building a development close by would greatly affect the parks well being. It would bring many kinds of pollution to the park and potentially not be inhabitable to the current eco system that resides there. Please help stop this development, thank you :)

**From:** [Gretchen Demitroff](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:13:44 AM

---



Hello,

I am asking that you please vote NO on the zone change regarding the Wilderness Park housing development. Do the right thing!!

Sincerely,

Gretchen Demitroff



**From:** [Dena Noe](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:15:38 AM

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Good morning,

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed development adjacent to Wilderness Park. There is NO other area in Lincoln like Wilderness Park. It is something we should be protecting as green space is a significant positive for the city. In addition to the traffic issues this development will cause for our beloved trails system, this building will be right on top of land used for decades by indigenous persons for their sacred sweat lodge. We should not take that land away from these people.

We believe construction in this area is not warranted and other land would be less impactful to our green space. Additional runoff to the creek will have negative consequences.

Thank you  
Dena Noe  
Concerned Citizen

**From:** [Ava Bridges](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** !!DONT TEAR WILDERNESS PARK DOWN !!  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:20:32 AM

---

I strongly oppose the building of wilderness crossing! Lincoln does not need to expand where there is an abundance of wildlife that need the habitat & build on more sacred indigenous land!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! NATIVES ACROSS LINCOLN AND NEBRASKA HAVE USED THIS AS A PRAYER GROUND FOR DECADES & DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED AS SUCH, ITS 2022!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lindsay Limbach](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Wilderness Park Wild, please  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:30:48 AM

---



Dear Council Members,

I'm asking to please change the direction of the new construction that is planned to happen on Lincoln's sacred land within Wilderness Park. I'm honestly shocked this has passed as far as it has seeing as this is sacred, Native land Lincoln would be building over. What were the marches and rallies of 2020 for if we're just going to ignore our Native residents and Allies with this construction project? There are so many other places the city could be building, why take over land that is used frequently for rest, stress reduction, Native ceremonies, family exploration, and more?

I know I'm not the only one writing to you all - so please, please reconsider and have construction go elsewhere. The people have been speaking on this for a while. I ask now that you listen.

Lindsay Limbach  
She/Her  
308-293-0543  
[lindsay.limbach@gmail.com](mailto:lindsay.limbach@gmail.com)

**From:** [Brigid Amos](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:39:54 AM

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Dear City Council Member:

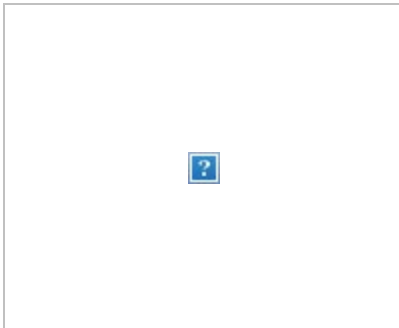
I hope I'm not too late. I just found out about what is going on with development next to Wilderness Park. My husband and I live at Stone Ridge, corner of Yankee Hill Road and 27th Street. Wilderness Park is where we hike, even in winter. This winter, my husband is unable to due to a spine problem, so we have not been able to take our usual winter hikes, which is why I was unaware. Wilderness Park is the best thing about living down here in South Lincoln. It's the only place we can escape the relentless development and get the feel that we are in wilderness. Please don't take that away. We know that part of the park, and having this development there will greatly diminish it.

Respectfully,  
Brigid Amos

--

Brigid Amos  
[brigidamos.com](http://brigidamos.com)

Listen to a free podcast of my play Covenant Farm  
from Wild Duck Theatre in London! Click on photo below:



[Plays on NPX](#)

Amazon Author Page: <https://www.amazon.com/author/brigidamos>

**From:** [Rice, Juanita](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Rezoning opposition re Wilderness Park area  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:45:42 AM

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Council Members,

After reviewing the impact of increasing impervious surfaces (roofs, driveways, streets, etc,) on the Wilderness Park water-holding capacity along Salt Creek I strongly object to the inadequate study that has been done for the Redevelopment proposal near Wilderness Park. The City has acknowledged that future flood events are inevitable and cannot be handled by building/engineering more levees alone. Maintaining soil porosity and organic content is a crucial objective for future protection of water, soil and people . That is especially true with our knowledge of the inevitability of more extreme weather events. Lincoln needs to revitalize its core and avoid sprawl at all costs. The impact of this development would have many negative results, I believe, but even a cursory glance would show that we have not adequately studied water management.

*Juanita Rice*

*619 South 30<sup>th</sup> Street*

*Lincoln, Nebraska 68510*

**From:** [GlennFriendt](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Avoid a monumental mistake  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:53:40 AM

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The saying "they aren't making it anymore" applies to our earth and specifically Wilderness Park. Do not compromise such a beautiful and rare public domain to Wilderness Crossing. Now is the time to leave your legacy as the leaders who have established a "no develop zone" between Wilderness Park and Hwy 77.

Never thought I would see the day where I wish Terry Werner and Patti Newman were back on City Council to help stop this madness.

Glenn Friendt

**From:** [Korynne Bolt](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:09:47 AM

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Please do not approve this housing development. I am a local resident who enjoys walking and cycling through Wilderness Park all the time, and the unique value is that it's an oasis of peace and nature. Please don't allow it to be marred by traffic noise and pollution.

Sincerely,

Korynne Bolt

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Catherine Shaner](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:12:13 AM

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Please protect Wilderness Park and vote 'no' to the planned development.  
We need to protect people, animals, and plant life along and near the park.

The development is not ideal for this sight. Realizing the development planned for Folsom and Old Cheney Road plus the housing development that is currently happening near the horse track, we do not need another development on Pioneers and Hwy 77.

I moved outside of the city to enjoy the country life. Please do not add to the noise and traffic that I have experienced over the years.

Thank you and make the right decision.

Cathy Shaner



**From:** [Susan Allen](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness crossing project  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:16:01 AM

---



Please note this message is to encourage members to protect Wilderness Park! I am very concerned that building so close to Wilderness Park will be detrimental to the 'naturalness' of the park. Please vote against this proposal.

Sincerely,  
Susan Allen  
1212 W Ryons St  
Lincoln, NE 68522

**From:** [Twyla Hansen](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:16:11 AM

---



Dear City Councilpersons--

There are many questions on how the proposed development near Wilderness Park will impact its sacred native people sites, the sandstone outcrop, and wildlife habitat / environment so important to Lincoln. As you know, once this area so close to the park is commercialized--with its intrusive lighting, pavement runoff, vehicle traffic, and human activity--its naturalness will be forever altered.

I urge you to reject this special permit request and the commercial development proposal. The city is presently investing time and money in WP; it is worthy of maintenance and preservation for future generations. I am a former board member of the Friends of Wilderness Park, an active group advocating and investing in this gem of a park, and have long appreciated its wildness.

Thank you.--Twyla Hansen  
4140 N. 42nd Street Circle  
Lincoln, NE 68504-1210  
[twylahansen@gmail.com](mailto:twylahansen@gmail.com)  
402-466-5839

**From:** [Emily Burkhardt](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park Development  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:17:56 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed "Wilderness Crossing" housing development. We need to protect Wilderness Park, the sacred sites, and Snell Hill.

I understand that the city needs more housing but not at the expense of these wild and sacred spaces. What the city needs is thoughtful development which will work with the ecosystem, not housing that will destroy them. As the climate changes we will surely regret destroying plots of land that absorb water and mitigate the effects of extreme weather.

Additionally, from a pr perspective, a Democratic city council that destroys a sacred Native space is not going to win voters to our side. It will just be one more example of Democrats promising to be better than their opponents, but in actuality ignoring those promises.

Please do not allow this development to move forward.

Emily Burkhardt

**From:** [Melissa Aguilar](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#); [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose the zone change for Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:20:14 AM

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This may be too late as the vote is today, but I am writing because the proposed zone change from agriculture to residential seems drastic and rushed. I oppose the change when there is no environmental impact study to know how this would affect Wilderness Park and the Salt Creek Watershed. Adding so many new homes and traffic would drastically affect the natural environment. Our community strives to do better for our natural resources.

The Inipi people have used this land for their sacred ceremonies. Have we not learned yet that they deserve our respect and consideration as well? Okay

Please consider delaying the vote until more voices are heard, study are done on the impacts and consider alternatives to the proposed zone change. Our weather is showing that we cannot disregard preserving our natural spaces.

Thank you,  
Melissa Aguilar

**From:** [chalkware50@windstream.net](mailto:chalkware50@windstream.net)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Zoning action next to Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:21:11 AM

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To whom this my concern;

Please oppose the zoning action next to Wilderness Park and preserve the park. The city needs to listen to the people and stop this terrible building of over 400 new homes. Let's think about Mother Earth and the animals that live in the park. Please do the right thing and oppsoe this new development. Thank you

C. Liesveld ( A lifelong resident of lancaster county)

**From:** [John Carlini](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't harm Wilderness Park!  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:24:17 AM

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Dear Council Member,

Many Lincolniters, including myself, had assumed our current relatively enlightened local government fully understood and appreciated the irreplaceable value of Wilderness Park, and that after years of staving off projects like road crossings and sewage plant development, we could stop worrying about our elected representatives approving proposals on behalf of their developer chums that would have devastating consequences.

Please STOP the terrible proposal to build hundreds of home on the doorstep of Lincoln's premier hiking/biking/birding destination. If this project is approved, it will open the floodgates for even more adjacent development and be the beginning of the end for the park. We don't have mountain or ocean views here in Lincoln, but we do have Wilderness Park which uniquely offers a natural scenic getaway from the urban hullabaloo. Please don't allow it to be destroyed on your watch!

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Shari Schwartz  
712 S. 11th St. Apt. 2  
Lincoln, NE 68508

**From:** [t.langan](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:25:34 AM

---



Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your interest in finding a more amicable compromise for our community in regards to the property on 1st and Pioneers.

I'm a member of the Cathedral parish and through several conversations and meetings with diocese officials, they are willing to explore other options for this property. They've also expressed great regret that the church has been seen to be in a partnership with this developer which they have adamantly denied. They have stated they were simply trying to sell this parcel and did so through a sealed bid process.

We are pursuing other options including a public-private partnership to formulate a conservation easement. This partnership would consist of a wide swath of community members including Indigenous tribes, private donors and foundations as well as local and national conservancy groups.

We would ask for a 60-day delay on your zoning decision to allow us the time to gather more data on the historical and cultural significance of this property.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely, Terry Langan  
6248 Las Verdes Lane  
Lincoln, NE  
402-770-4117

**From:** [Marilyn Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please Protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:25:47 AM

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I urge you to protect this wonderful resource we have in Wilderness Park. Please, please, please do not disturb Sacred burial sites & Snell Hill.

Marilyn J Wilson  
2864 S 35th St  
Lincoln NE 68506



**From:** [Sara Mann](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:26:11 AM

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Members of the Lincoln City Council,

Please protect Wilderness Park, the sacred sites therein, and Snell hill. It's important to me as a resident of Lincoln to keep free, safe access to public land. The proposed zone change is one that would negatively impact those who use Wilderness Park, particularly those seeking spiritual and mental respite from the many places in Lincoln that have been developed.

Thank you for your time and action to keep Wilderness Park unaffected by the proposed zone change.

Sincerely,

Sara Mann

**From:** [Heather Nobert](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:26:21 AM

---



Dear City Council,

Wilderness Park is an important part of the Lincoln community and important to me personally. It is one of a few places in Lincoln where we find large swathes of undeveloped, natural areas. These undeveloped areas have important cultural and ecological significance including stormwater management, wildlife habitat and habitat for rare wildflowers, and a place for spiritual and emotional respite.

I implore you to reconsider the development and rezoning of the property to the west of Wilderness Park, southeast of 1st and Pioneers streets. The protection of Lincoln's ecological and cultural resources is of the utmost importance for the well-being of our community.

Respectfully,  
Heather A. Kingery

Lincoln Resident  
4749 Duxhall Dr.  
Lincoln, NE 68516

**From:** [Kateri Lawson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:26:44 AM

---

Dear City Council,

Wilderness Park is the best outdoor space in Lincoln. As someone who moved to a Lincoln from a large city, I'm not alone in appreciating the layout and upkeep of Park. It feels very safe yet peaceful. Do not allow further development adjacent to it!!

Thank you,  
Kateri Lawson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Erin Peck](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park Development  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:30:27 AM

---



This development is short sighted and generally awful. Please just don't.

Erin Peck  
4119 F St

**From:** [kit romjue](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:31:44 AM

---



Good morning,

We are a family that has always enjoyed the Wilderness Park area and would very much like to see the members protect this unique area.

Thank you,

The Romjue Family

**From:** [Mary Jensen](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed zoning change CZ21057 - please protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:32:43 AM

---



Dear City Council Members,

Please vote NO against this proposed zoning change, at least until further studies can be done to assess the impact that the proposed housing and retail development will have on the potential for catastrophic flooding and the long-term impact on the environment. Once it's done, it's done and relying on outdated data to make these assessments is short-sighted and potentially devastating to both Wilderness Park and the surrounding community.

Thank you,

Mary Jensen

3136 Calvert St.

Lincoln, NE 68502

**From:** [Chris Brown](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:33:50 AM

---



Please protect wilderness park! It is so important to us! Chris Brown  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Sheldon B](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing zone changing for Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:33:58 AM

---



Lincoln City Council,

I am writing this to oppose the rezoning of the section of wilderness park for development. Wilderness park is a treasure and essential to the continued growth of green spaces in the city. I highly oppose development of this land especially since there are so many other places in this city that could use development without damaging more ecosystems and degrading the public use spaces for all lincoln residents. I encourage you to vote no on this project and have developers target areas that can enhance the entire city with housing and not just cut a slice out of our parks forever.

-Sheldon Brummel  
concerned citizen



**From:** [Betty Levitov](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** opposition to Wilderness Crossing plan  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:34:53 AM

---



Dear City Council people:

I am writing to oppose changes in zoning from agriculture to commercial (in areas east of 77<sup>th</sup> Street) for the development called the Wilderness Crossing community.

Five hundred and seventy-five proposed housing units will disturb the environment in construction, and the commercial usage will increase traffic and noise.

This land has been sacred to Native people and used for a sweat lodge for many years.

In the last few years, Lancaster County residents have witnessed the construction of many housing developments in and around Lincoln, showcasing the growth of our city. Development can be a sign of positive progress. However, the preservation of green spaces is crucial to the health and well-being of citizens and the environment. Our city of Lincoln and Lancaster country would be much diminished by the loss of open, undeveloped lands, our recreation areas, and our parks.

We want growth and we want preservation. Please listen to the Friends of Wilderness Park who have objected to this commercial development plan and proposed zoning changes and wish to preserve the area.

Thank you,

Betty Levitov  
710 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln 68503

**From:** [Jean Miranda](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:35:23 AM

---

Please Protect Wilderness Park.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ron Lawson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park - Stop rezoning that threatens the Park.  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:39:57 AM

---



Dear City Council,

Wilderness Park is a true treasure and attraction for those of us who live in Lincoln.

Please reject any action that would allow building hundreds of home in or right next to it.

Thanks, Ron Lawson

**From:** [Arden Hill](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:47:56 AM

---



This development would devastate both a sacred Indigenous site and the sanctity of Wilderness Park.

Please vote no to Wilderness Crossing.

-Arden Eli Hill

**From:** [Shari Rosso](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:48:34 AM

---



As a frequent user of Wilderness Park, I am **strongly against the development planned adjacent to Wilderness Park**. I am a cyclist who frequently rides the Park's trails. I have significant concern the affect this development will have on the serenity of the Park, as well as the impact it will have on our Indigenous population who have used the land for decades for religions ceremonies.

I urge you to deny the zoning application.

Thank you,  
Shari Rosso

**From:** [Amber Clough](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** OPPOSING WILDERNESS DEVELOPMENT REZONING  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:49:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

---



To whom it may concern, I strongly oppose the rezoning of Wilderness Park. Keep it natural! We don't want any more townhomes, shops etc in the area. Thank you



**AMBER CLOUGH**

Fire & Security Inspections Manager

O. 402-778-3742  
M. 402-699-8575  
24/7 Customer Care Center: 800.279.3667

2238 S. 156 Circle | Omaha, Nebraska | 68130  
[SEiSecurity.com](http://SEiSecurity.com)



**From:** [kit romjue](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** From our 9yr old, re: Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:51:10 AM

---



Hello, i have had alot of great memories at wilderness park. If you tear that down me and my friends would just have to be playing at an ordinary park with swings. That is not nearly as fun as wilderness park as it is. Believe it or not but you are actually hurting our generation. Another reason is that you would be hurting the habitat that has been there for the plants animals and bugs. Thank you for listening.  
Dia Jennings

**From:** [Lorene Ludy](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** wilderness crossing development  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 10:58:45 AM

---

Dear Member of City Council,

I urge you to NOT APPROVE the proposed Wilderness Crossing development. Or at least delay approval.

I believe the development threatens Wilderness Park and the sacred site of the sweat-lodge.

We can't un-develop. We can't restore what has been taken away. All we can do is prevent further destruction.

Please, please think about the planet, future generations and Native peoples.

sincerely,  
Lorene Ludy



**From:** [Carla Stormberg](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 11:09:25 AM

---



City Council:

Please do not change Zone 21057 from an Agriculture District to a Residential District. I have been hiking in Wilderness Park for 40+ years and I do not want to see residential development that close to the park. I like to go to Wilderness to escape the noise of the city. Please preserve it for us!

thanks, Carla Stormberg  
710 N. 24th Street  
Lincoln 68503, Nebraska

**From:** [Jeanne Hevener](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 11:12:34 AM

---



Hello,

I would like to register my disapproval for the proposed zoning change in the Wilderness Park area. This change, as well as the proposed project would be incredibly disrespectful for the native American community and not in the best interests of the park, and those who currently use it.

Sincerely,  
Jeanne Hevener

**From:** [Kim Hachiya](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** please delay Wilderness Park development vote  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 11:16:53 AM

---



I would encourage the Lincoln City Council to “pump the brakes” and delay final voting on the project that would allow residential development of the tract adjacent to Wilderness Park. I feel there are too many questions regarding how this development will adversely affect drainage in the park (and subsequently flooding), adverse affects on traffic in the area, and adverse affects on Indigenous use of nearby property. Until all of these can be more fully interrogated, it seems that a time out to study and perhaps create compromise among all parties would be a wise choice.

Thank you for considering this delay. When the council did so regarding issues at Nine-Mile Prairie, a suitable compromise was developed. Let’s do so again.

Thank you.

Kim Hachiya  
3000 Kucera Drive  
Lincoln NE 68502

**From:** [Stephanie Walker](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please Vote to Protect Wilderness Park - Please Vote No  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 11:27:13 AM

---

Dear Lincoln City Council Members,

Thank you for listening, last Monday, to over 3.5 hours of testimony against the Wilderness Crossing development proposed for SW 1st and Pioneers Blvd. Today, you all will make one of the most important votes of your term on the Council. We pray you vote your conscience.

We know in our hearts that you know in yours what the right thing to do is. Please honor your inner voice today, and bravely vote no.

We know that you recognize that there is much more at risk, much more is at stake if this rezone and development are allowed to proceed, than if it is discontinued. The benefit of developing these 75 acres, does not out weight the risk the development would pose to this Sacred area, and in turn Lincoln.

When we go gently into the wind, we allow it to bend and sway us. To move us beyond instead of within.

When we stand firm and only move with conscience intent, it allows us to honor our ancestors and the next generation with revered grace.

Thank you for your service today.

Kind regards,

Stephanie Walker  
3801 S. 1st Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502

**From:** [Bonnie Debus](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 11:35:47 AM

---



Please preservative integrity of wilderness park, and the natural habitats by denying the development as planned. There are always places to build, but once gone nature is seldom replaced. Thank you

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Lory Dance](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on Wilderness Crossing Housing Development (more signatures)  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 11:48:22 AM

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To the Lincoln City Council:

On April 6th, 2022, Native American lawyer Walter Echo-Hawk spoke at the Lied Center as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum. His talk included describing his difficulties of pursuing Native rights in court, because of how much of our law relies on the concept of precedence. So much of our law is based on how things have already been done, but this is especially challenging when the constituents are Native. Because for so much of our legal history, White judges have explicitly told Native Americans: "We conquered you. You have no rights."

Precedence is also a major factor in legislatures, all the way down to our City Council. Those of us who sat in the Council chambers on April 18th, joining dozens of opponents for the proposed Wilderness Crossing housing development, heard presentations from many city officials who are seemingly already in support of the project. Many of them said things along the lines of the city already intending to build housing there, according to the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. Before the Native-led opposition could testify about the cultural and spiritual significance of this land in question, and the adjacent sweat lodges in particular, they had to hear from city insiders about how people in higher places already had plans for the area. Where was the consideration for the plans of the descendants of the peoples who lived here centuries before this was even called Lincoln?

The City Council must understand that if they approve Wilderness Crossing, they will be acting in precedence with the settler-colonialist founding of Nebraska. The first White people who came to Nebraska found Native people already living here: Pawnee (like Walter Echo-Hawk), Ponca, Oto-Missouria, Umonhon (Omaha), Dakota, Lakota, Arapaho, Tsististas & Suhtai (Cheyenne), and Kaw Peoples. But those settlers and their descendants were willing to displace these Indigenous peoples (as well as the relocated Ho Chunk [Winnebago], Iowa, and Sac and Fox Peoples), because they too already had other plans.

Many in Lincoln believe in the importance of human rights, and want to do better in relation to Indigenous peoples in particular. Progress has been made. Land acknowledgements are becoming commonplace. We now celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in October. We have new statues celebrating historic Native heroes like Standing Bear and Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte. These are all merely a good start. Paying living Native authorities like Walter Echo-Hawk to come and share their expertise is a solid step in the right direction.

But we will not meaningfully move forward towards justice and reconciliation until our elected officials actually start serving the Natives who are still living here. And the Native community in Lincoln has spoken! The area around Wilderness Park is sacred ground, and the sweat lodges adjacent to it are perhaps the most important religious sites in Lancaster County. And the Wilderness Crossing development plan will disrupt, if not displace, these sweat lodges.

We respect the effort that city planners have to make on long-term planning, but we insist that Native people need to actually be involved in the making of these plans. That's the kind of precedent we want to see going forward. Right now, you need to protect these sweat lodges. We urge the City Council to vote NO on Wilderness Crossing.

*(The above text is exactly the same as the email sent on April 24, 2022. The list below includes a second set of signatures received on the morning of April 25, 2022. We will continue to collect signatures but wanted to send those already gathered prior to the April 25, 2022*

*meeting.)*

Sincerely,

**Signatures added by 9:30 p.m. on April 24, 2022**

Dr. Joy Castro, Lincoln  
Dr. Lory J. Dance, Lincoln  
Dr. Christina D. Falci, Lincoln  
Dr. Margaret Huettl, Lincoln  
Dr. Francis W. Kaye, Lincoln  
Dr. Amelia M. L. Montes, Lincoln  
Dr. Laura Muñoz, Lincoln  
Dr. Ingrid Robyn, Lincoln  
Dr. Luis Othoniel Rosa, Lincoln  
Dr. Colette Yellow Robe, Lincoln  
Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams, Pastor of New Visions United Methodist Church, Lincoln  
Jackson Meredith, Lincoln  
John Raible, Lincoln  
Margaret Williams, Lincoln

**Signatures added by 12:00 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

Kevin Abourezk, Lincoln  
Dr. Belinda Acosta, Lincoln  
Susan Alleman, Lincoln  
Joseph BadMoccasin, Lakota, Lincoln  
Dr. Stephanie Bondi, Lincoln  
Jennifer Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Charles Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Beau Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Brittany Cooper, Lincoln  
Lolita Esparza, Lakota, Lincoln  
Nebraskans for Peace  
Wyatt Nelson  
Shauna Oetting, Lincoln  
Jodi Reese, APRN-NP, Lincoln  
Dr. Corey Rumann, Lincoln  
Renee Sans Souci, Umoha Nation, Lincoln  
Dr. Sarah Sawin-Thomas, Lincoln  
Montanna Smallbear, Lincoln  
Phyllis Stone, Lincoln  
Freedom Thompson, Lincoln  
Nichole Vesely, Lincoln  
Nature Medicine Song Villegas, Lincoln  
Malana Yankton, Lincoln

(no subject)



4024327449@vzwpix.com

To Council Packet

Reply

Reply All

text\_0.txt  
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Good morning-I am writing to express concern about the possible re-zoning adjacent to wilderness park.  
-the negative impact building in/on or near the flood plain might have on the city of lincoln  
Please consider voting against re-zoning to build residential housing near wilderness park.  
Thank you Jenn Beebe  
Owner Relish Catering 601 Van Dorn

Ln 1, Col 1

100%

Windows (CRLF)

UTF-8

Ln 1, Col 1

100%

Windows (CRLF)

UTF-8



**From:** [Braxton Coleman](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NO TO WILDNERNESS CROSSING  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:02:10 PM

---



I oppose the build of Wilderness Crossing

Stop genociding the natives.

**From:** [Cindy Hayes](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#); [Cindy Hayes](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:14:43 PM

---



Good afternoon,

I would like to express my request that you would please protect Wilderness Park, the Sacred Sites, and Snell Hill. We need to protect our green spaces and our sacred sites from encroaching development. In a time where we need to be reconciling with marginalized groups and building bridges of cooperation, we should not be allowing over expansion of development to compromise that work.

Sincerely,

*Cindy Hayes*  
*3805 Orchard St, Lincoln, NE 68503*

**From:** [Judy King](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:15:04 PM

---



Please say no to this new development. Please think about what damage this will cause with all of the pollutants. This park is a jewel in Lincoln and needs to be saved for the future. Developments can be put anywhere but this amount of housing will ruin it forever.

Please say no to this new development. Please think about what damage this will cause with all of the pollutants. This park is a jewel in Lincoln and needs to be saved for the future. Developments can be put anywhere but this amount of housing will ruin it forever.

When I moved to Lincoln with my daughter and got a job making poverty level wages the cheapest way we could afford to have fun was to go to a park or ride a bike around the neighborhood. When I married my husband who had 2 kids, was divorced and paying child support and neither of us had any money. We wanted the kids to have something fun and cheap to do as a family, my husband suggested a hike in Wilderness park. Since then one of our wonderful kids Dan King grew up to be an avid hiker and was on the board of Friends of Wilderness Park and also wrote the grant for the recycling center for toxic waste here in Lincoln. My Daughter Ann King worked at the Health Dept for several years and is on the board of Friends of Wilderness Park and has been working to stop this development from being built. My oldest daughter is a nurse on Cayman Island and is also working with locals to teach them about disposing of medical waste on the island so that it does not pollute the water on the island. My youngest daughter graduated UNL with a degree in sustainability and went on to masters in DC at American University. I later worked at the State Fire Marshal's office in the pipeline and underground storage tank division. Was responsible for pipeline databases. Part of my job was to call tank leaks into NDEQ and provide grants information for the Feds. Was shocked to see how many leaks had not been cleaned up. This made me aware of the clean water issue and how precious the Ogallala Aquifer is. I became a water protector pipeline fighter and friend to the Native Americans on this issue. We worked together to stop KXL.

Those hikes through Wilderness spanned 18 years with our children and later with grandkids.

Please think about the future and stop this from happening.

Judy King  
402-314-3534

**From:** [Annie Bohling](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to proposed zoning change CZ21057  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:23:12 PM

---



I am a Nebraskan in opposition to CZ21057. Please protect Wilderness Park, the Sandstone Prairie, the sacred sites and Snell Hill!

-Annie Bohling

**From:** [Frances Wood](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed development of Wilderness park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:49:51 PM

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On Sun, Apr 24, 2022 at 10:38 AM Frances Wood <[wood.francesp@gmail.com](mailto:wood.francesp@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Lincoln City Council,

I'm sure it will come as no surprise that I am writing you today to urge you to vote AGAINST the proposed housing development at Wilderness Park. As a proud Lincolnite, I can not in good conscience support a project that will threaten not only the natural beauty of our city, but also the water that is so sacred to everyone who calls this land home. We must, as a city, protect our natural lands and respect the wishes of those people indigenous to these lands. It is with all of this in mind that I urge you to vote AGAINST the housing development.

Thank you for your service,  
Fran Wood

**From:** [jenny.tyner@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.tyner@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 12:59:45 PM

---

Hello City Council,

Just writing to add my voice in opposition to the Wilderness Development project. We don't need another housing development. We need to protect this land.

Thank you,  
Jenny

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Hollie Urbauer](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** I oppose Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:00:09 PM

---



Hello-

I am writing to share my opposition to the Wilderness Crossing development. I am hopeful that you will protect the sacred land and Wilderness Park, as Lincoln is lucky to have such an amazing site right here in our home community. Please vote 'no'.

Thank you,  
Hollie Urbauer

HOLLIE URBAUER, M.A., LIMHP, LADC, LPC

**From:** [Foster Collins](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Wilderness Crossing!  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:02:42 PM

---

Dear Council,

I encourage you to either vote NO or delay a decision until further study can be completed. This development simply violates too many ideas put forth in the Comp Plan, and does not meet the ideas of sustainability and community buy-in that you and the other members of the council have been rightly pushing for.

This is not simply a NIMBY issue. We need a serious study of what development should look like adjacent to Wilderness park before we approve such a large PUD. The wildfire raging in Furnas County is another reminder of the kind of unforeseen hazard climate change has brought about before we became aware of these risks.

This development does nothing to address the affordable housing shortage in Lincoln, and cannot be defended on that basis.

The fact is that we need to figure out how we can preserve the nature of Wilderness Park. What kind of development can be opened up and how close can it be to the park without destroying the park's integrity?

If this plan does go forward, we need a much larger buffer than the one proposed by Mr. Manzitto. Something in the nature of 100-200 yards might serve to somewhat protect the park from the intrusive presence of a large residential neighborhood on its border.

Please vote NO!

Thank you,

Foster Collins

2100 Calvert St.

Lincoln, NE 68502



**From:** [Mary Roseberry-Brown](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:16:47 PM

---



Dear City Council,

Please do the right thing and vote no on Wilderness Crossing.

Mary Roseberry-Brown

**From:** [Michelle Clifford](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:19:34 PM

---



Hello,

Wilderness Park means a lot to me. It is one of the few places within the city of Lincoln that I can go to feel connected with nature. Most urban areas do not reflect the natural environment, and Lincoln is no exception. However, I have recently become a homeowner and have been pleasantly surprised to learn about programs made by the city that are geared towards making our urban areas more sustainable. I am currently signed up for a rain-barrel workshop and will be participating in a rainscaping grant program. I take advantage of free mulch and am happy to live in an area that does not have yard restrictions that would prohibit me from growing native plants or composting.

All that said, I cannot understand how the same city that is empowering me to turn my own yard into a more sustainable, pollinator and wildlife-friendly slide of nature is attempting to take away the integral natural environment that is Wilderness Park. The damage that will be done by prioritizing more vast empty lawns, roads, traffic, pollution, etc. will splinter the wildlife communities that make the park their home. It will be a definite loss for humans who enjoy spending time in the park too, including the fact that Native people in Lincoln use Wilderness Park for religious-spiritual ceremonies.

There is so much more to be said, but I know you are hearing more fully-formed arguments from people who were aware of the proposed changes earlier than I was, and I hope you spend time considering those. In a time of so many disappointing decisions being made about natural environments all over the world, putting humanity and all other species truly in global crisis, I would love to see our city council make the decision that is both rational and empathetic by protecting Wilderness Park.

Sincerely,

Michelle Clifford

**From:** [Evelyn Kryzsko](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:20:21 PM

---



Hello.

I am writing this email to express my concern and disapproval regarding current plans to develop Wilderness Park. Wilderness Park is the home of sacred sites and the destruction of the natural landscape can and will have disastrous ecological consequences. At the very least, new data must be presented before any development commences to prevent flooding and other natural disasters that can affect all of Lincoln and the surrounding communities. Keep our people safe. Keep our nature sacred. Save Wilderness Park.

With urgency and sincerity,

Evelyn Kryzsko

**From:** [Dan Kirk](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:30:51 PM

---

Please don't develop this area.

Thank you

**From:** [Bruce Mellberg](#)  
**To:** [Bennie R. Shobe](#); [James M. Bowers](#); [Jane Raybould](#); [rmeginnis@NAIFMA.com](mailto:rmeginnis@NAIFMA.com); [Sandra J. Washington](#); [Tammy J. Ward](#); [Tom J. Beckius](#); [Mayor](#); [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Further thoughts on the Zoning change for the Wilderness Crossing Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:50:34 PM

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Greetings, Mayor Baird and Honorable Members of the Lincoln City Council,

(Please forgive my tardy remarks. I have been visiting the area of Wilderness Park in question over the weekend, speaking with residents there, and also reviewing the YouTube testimony of your 4/18/22 City Council Meeting online\*; for a clearer sense of what's at stake--)

Thanks to each of you who listened to and will weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the Wilderness Crossing proposal, at your most recent meeting on April 18.

First, I do not understand the urgency attached to pushing this measure through--

I stand opposed to the Zoning change #21057 and its accompanying development proposals for a complex of 575 dwelling units at the summit of Snell hill, so very near a precious place I have come to know and deeply value as Wilderness Park.

In the courts, I understand that a decision is rendered in view of evidence supporting a judgment beyond a reasonable doubt; or with a preponderance evidence favoring one outcome over another, depending on the effectiveness of opposing presenters representing their stakeholders in swaying such a judgment.

You have received much testimony and impassioned oratory about this issue as prelude to a consequential outcome that I and many others truly care about.

I truly believe that approval of the rezoning and resulting project would transform . . .

- the charm and integrity of the surrounding landscape and its neighborhood;
- the lives, peace and access of its adjacent long-existing residents;
- its safety from an increased risk of both wildfire and exacerbated flooding;
- the well-being and sustainability of living wildlife and fragile wildflowers dependent upon an existing dynamic with the urban interface in that area of Wilderness Park;
- along with the enjoyment and importance for hikers, birders, strollers, runners...
- as well as seekers of solace and curiosity or the sacred in that vicinity--
  - especially the local heritage of those participating in the sweat lodge at the nearby Flying Fish Farm for the last 40 some years.

The Park and that neighborhood is a rare treasure in the Lincoln Community. It serves as a tangible setting for learning, for growth and redemption, I believe, for its many and diverse users.

I once resided at the Flying Fish Farm and remember buying fresh milk from the Snell Dairy on the hill. I was amazed by that glacial erratic boulder left from the ice ages at the summit of the hill.

I felt that my fellow residents had been gifted with a profound sense of trust for the siting of the sweat lodge and its healing and praising significance, by our Native First American brothers and sisters, as it continues to be.

I marveled at the wonder of the seasons on the nearby trails of Wilderness Park--the dawn chorus of newly migrating songbirds in the spring, the stirring utterances of Great Horned, Barred or Screech Owls under a rising moon, the shy retreat of deer families close by; and

through it all...

...the reminder that this land once was homeland to countless generations of those who came before the trappers, explorers and a burgeoning civilization, ever crowding them out of their beloved environs.

It has served as a place of growth and learning, a sanctuary for grieving and mourning, but also a place of new beginnings and of celebration and deep gratitude in prayer from quite a number, as you have heard.\*\*

Who is to say that it is presumptuous to 'play God' with all of that? --and yet, that is your role as City Council members to weigh these things against the profitability for the developers, framed as progress. I don't envy you that task--

Metrics matter. --but so do Values. - Deeply -

You, as Council Board members all have been asked to search your hearts in deciding this.

I sincerely hope that you will agree to disapprove the rezoning and development proposal in favor of encouraging the developer to seek less vulnerable/less esteemed sites for their plans.

Most sincerely,

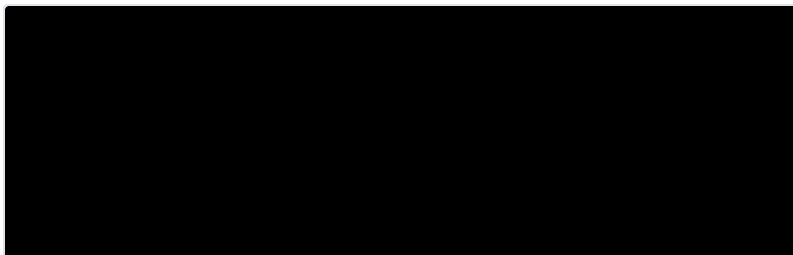
Bruce Mellberg with April Stevenson

3419 J. Street,  
Lincoln, NE 68510

\*\*When I studied plant ecology under Dr. Patricia Ryan at UNL in the late 1970's (after Earth Day had been launched), she tasked us with gathering metrics important in evaluating the many variables and factors that govern the growth, integrity and sustainability of native plant communities, as an understanding of prairie, riparian and woodland ecologies. Dr. Ryan was instrumental in establishing Wilderness Park with many of the values I have recounted...

*\*Also - I do wish to note that the YouTube testimony recording from LNK-TV, of 4/18/22 City Council meeting has clarity problems from hour 4:39 to about 4:42; which is compromised & garbled, such that Kevin Abourezk's remarks are incomprehensible, as are the next two speakers, who are notably non-white citizens. After that, the tape seems to recover for the later speakers -- very odd and concerning! I have relied on this recording to inform me of the impassioned pleas from the larger community to either delay or halt the project.*

[Lincoln City Council Meeting April 18, 2022](#)





Lincoln City Council Meeting April 18, 2022

**From:** [janelle corr](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Wilderness Park!  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:51:28 PM

---



Hello Lincoln City Council -

I am writing in regard to the proposed development near Wilderness Park. Approving this development will not only ruin the serenity of Wilderness Park, it will also destroy a sacred sweat lodge and land sacred to the indigenous people as well as kill off wildlife and native plants. Please do not do this. The Lincoln City Council is supposedly a Democratic supermajority. Please act like it for once instead of bowing to developers every whim to destroy what is good in our community.

Thank you,  
Janelle Corr



**From:** [Nick Svoboda](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 1:57:18 PM

---



Dear Council,

I am concerned about the development project proposed for the area immediately west of wilderness park. I urge the council to deny a zone change required for the development to proceed. I am concerned about the ecological impact on such an important biological area and i don't believe the development plan is suffieciently considering and mitigating it's impact. Lincoln needs affordable housing in accessible areas, and there are better sites and better planning that can be done than has been shown by this proposed development. Please do not approve allow it to proceed.

Sincerely,  
Nick Svoboda  
Resident of the Near South

**From:** [Sara Brubacher](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 2:14:48 PM

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I oppose the Wilderness Crossing development proposal being voted on today. It is too close to a public Wild area that is so important to the Lincoln people and watershed. And it is too close to the traditional sweat lodge. We have already taken too much away from our indigenous neighbors.

Please vote no.

Sara Brubacher  
3020 S Folsom St, Lincoln, NE 68522

**From:** [Karen Sue Amen](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Our opposition to the Wilderness Crossing development  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 2:18:52 PM

---



Several days ago my husband Jim Goeke and I explored the parcel of land that Manzitto wishes to develop. There are several detailed reasons for our opposing this project but rather than listing them all, here is our bottom line:

***Nomatter how many mitigating features the developer proposes for this project, it still is much too high density for an area just across 1st Street from Wilderness Park.***

Please turn down this project and then look further at creating appropriate guidelines for development along the western boundaries of the park.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Karen Amen and Jim Goeke

--

Karen S. Amen  
3220 Joy Court  
Lincoln, NE 68502

Home: 402.423.3220  
Cell: 402.499.7930

**From:** [Kitty Fynbu](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness adjacent development  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 2:22:22 PM

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Council-

I appreciate that our comprehensive plan encourages development in the under utilized spaces within the city limit. However, I think we need to revisit the plan in light of the new proposal to build to the west of the park near Pioneers Blvd.

I applaud the developers for their attempts to mitigate the impact but none of it could possibly be enough to keep the park as wild and tranquil as it is now.

Please reject this proposal and consider placing all these areas near the park into another category of use for the future.

Urban farming zone?

Kitty

**From:** [A Reinkordt](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** oppose the proposed zone change CZ21057  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 2:36:21 PM

---



I guess I was naive to think that Wilderness Park was up for consideration for development. The Park has fought against development before and it will every time. Please leave this space alone, it's vital to the health of Lincoln.

Keep it wild.

Thank you for preventing a zone change to this area. I always love to see the inner city restored - more of that!

Amber

**From:** [PatandJulia Miron](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 2:46:38 PM

---



Please protect our parks and keep them here for all to enjoy. So many people want to live on acreages and can't afford them. This place provides a beautiful escape for those who need a breath of fresh air.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Danielle Lee](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 3:06:07 PM

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I'm email you to consider opposing the Wilderness Crossing development. Please protect our park. It's so precious to our city. We really don't have much as far as outdoor spaces go in this city. Please don't take away what little we have. So many animals and plants call that place their home as well. Please save our park.

Thank you,  
Danielle Lee

**From:** [Bulent Tunakan](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** NO to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 3:06:56 PM

---



Folks,

There is plenty of land to develop around Lincoln. I see no reason to make special efforts so someone can benefit from land adjacent to Wilderness Park so they can profit extra from the community's loss. Leave the zoning and building rights as they have been. Make the developer find other land to exploit.

Bulent P Tunakan  
5836 Otoe Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska. 68506

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



**From:** [STEVEN LARRICK](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Delay Action on development bordering Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 3:12:33 PM

---



Dear City Council:

Our South Salt Creek neighborhood in Lincoln is already threatened with flooding due to poorly planned developments in recent decades. Too much stormwater run-off from additional rooftops and paved surfaces has already caused flooding in our neighborhood along Salt Creek.

If this development is to be approved, it must prove that additional flood control measures are incorporated to reduce the flooding threat. Otherwise, this development will assure more disastrous flooding events in Lincoln's future.

Thank you for delaying action on this development until further flood protection measures are included in the plan.

Sincerely,

Steven Larrick  
920 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

**From:** [Lory Dance](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on Wilderness Crossing Housing Development (even more signatures)  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 3:16:18 PM

---



To the Lincoln City Council:

On April 6th, 2022, Native American lawyer Walter Echo-Hawk spoke at the Lied Center as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum. His talk included describing his difficulties of pursuing Native rights in court, because of how much of our law relies on the concept of precedence. So much of our law is based on how things have already been done, but this is especially challenging when the constituents are Native. Because for so much of our legal history, White judges have explicitly told Native Americans: "We conquered you. You have no rights."

Precedence is also a major factor in legislatures, all the way down to our City Council. Those of us who sat in the Council chambers on April 18th, joining dozens of opponents for the proposed Wilderness Crossing housing development, heard presentations from many city officials who are seemingly already in support of the project. Many of them said things along the lines of the city already intending to build housing there, according to the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. Before the Native-led opposition could testify about the cultural and spiritual significance of this land in question, and the adjacent sweat lodges in particular, they had to hear from city insiders about how people in higher places already had plans for the area. Where was the consideration for the plans of the descendants of the peoples who lived here centuries before this was even called Lincoln?

The City Council must understand that if they approve Wilderness Crossing, they will be acting in precedence with the settler-colonialist founding of Nebraska. The first White people who came to Nebraska found Native people already living here: Pawnee (like Walter Echo-Hawk), Ponca, Oto-Missouria, Umonhon (Omaha), Dakota, Lakota, Arapaho, Tsististas & Suhtai (Cheyenne), and Kaw Peoples. But those settlers and their descendants were willing to displace these Indigenous peoples (as well as the relocated Ho Chunk [Winnebago], Iowa, and Sac and Fox Peoples), because they too already had other plans.

Many in Lincoln believe in the importance of human rights, and want to do better in relation to Indigenous peoples in particular. Progress has been made. Land acknowledgements are becoming commonplace. We now celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in October. We have new statues celebrating historic Native heroes like Standing Bear and Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte. These are all merely a good start. Paying living Native authorities like Walter Echo-Hawk to come and share their expertise is a solid step in the right direction.

But we will not meaningfully move forward towards justice and reconciliation until our elected officials actually start serving the Natives who are still living here. And the Native community in Lincoln has spoken! The area around Wilderness Park is sacred ground, and the sweat lodges adjacent to it are perhaps the most important religious sites in Lancaster County. And the Wilderness Crossing development plan will disrupt, if not displace, these sweat lodges.

We respect the effort that city planners have to make on long-term planning, but we insist that Native people need to actually be involved in the making of these plans. That's the kind of precedent we want to see going forward. Right now, you need to protect these sweat lodges. We urge the City Council to vote NO on Wilderness Crossing.

*(The above text is exactly the same as the email sent on April 24, 2022. The list below includes a second set of signatures received on the morning of April 25, 2022. In addition to the signatures added by 12:00 pm on April 25, 2022, the version below also includes the*

*signatures added between 12:00 pm and 3:15 pm on April 25, 2022. We will continue to collect signatures but wanted to send those already gathered prior to the April 25, 2022 meeting.)*

Sincerely,

**Signatures added by 9:30 p.m. on April 24, 2022**

Dr. Joy Castro, Lincoln  
Dr. Lory J. Dance, Lincoln  
Dr. Christina D. Falci, Lincoln  
Dr. Margaret Huettl, Lincoln  
Dr. Francis W. Kaye, Lincoln  
Dr. Amelia M. L. Montes, Lincoln  
Dr. Laura Muñoz, Lincoln  
Dr. Ingrid Robyn, Lincoln  
Dr. Luis Othoniel Rosa, Lincoln  
Dr. Colette Yellow Robe, Lincoln  
Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams, Pastor of New Visions United Methodist Church, Lincoln  
Jackson Meredith, Lincoln  
John Raible, Lincoln  
Margaret Williams, Lincoln

**Signatures added by 12:00 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

Kevin Abourezk, Lincoln  
Dr. Belinda Acosta, Lincoln  
Susan Alleman, Lincoln  
Joseph BadMoccasin, Lakota, Lincoln  
Dr. Stephanie Bondi, Lincoln  
Jennifer Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Charles Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Beau Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Brittany Cooper, Lincoln  
Lolita Esparza, Lakota, Lincoln  
Nebraskans for Peace  
Wyatt Nelson, Lincoln  
Shauna Oetting, Lincoln  
Jodi Reese, APRN-NP, Lincoln  
Dr. Corey Rumann, Lincoln  
Renee Sans Souci, Umoha Nation, Lincoln  
Dr. Sarah Sawin-Thomas, Lincoln  
Montanna Smallbear, Lincoln  
Phyllis Stone, Lincoln  
Freedom Thompson, Lincoln  
Nichole Vesely, Lincoln  
Nature Medicine Song Villegas, Lincoln  
Malana Yankton, Lincoln

**Signatures added by 3:15 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

Deveron Baxter, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Thunder/Lightning Clan, Lincoln  
Dr. Dawne Y. Curry, Lincoln

Maria Fortune, Lincoln  
Martha Haas, Lincoln  
Alison Hays, Lincoln  
Intertribal Spiritual Lodges  
Dr. Jeannette Eileen Jones-Vanzansky, Lincoln  
Terry Langan, Lincoln  
Jeff Mohr, Lincoln  
Jason Schmaderer, Lincoln  
Nicole Sica, Lincoln  
Stand In For Nebraska  
Ron Todd-Meyer, Lincoln  
Dr. Kara Mitchell Viesca, Lincoln  
Stephanie Walker, Lincoln  
Levelle Wells, Lincoln  
Larry Wexelman, Lincoln  
Linca WhiteEyes, Lincoln  
Catherine Lee Wilson, Lincoln  
Michelle YellowEyes, Lincoln

**From:** [Kalyssa Williams](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing Change to Zoning Regulations  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 3:31:33 PM

---



To Whom it May Concern,

I am reaching out to oppose changing zoning regulations and allowing development near Wilderness Park. This decision would blatantly contradict the Lincoln Climate Action Plan and increase destructive environmental events in addition to threatening the Indigenous Sweat Lodge. This proposal can not be allowed to pass.

Kalyssa Williams  
UNL Student

**From:** [Monica Starr](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park is worth protecting  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 3:37:34 PM

---



Dear Council Members,

As a long time member of this community, I am calling upon you, my fellow community members, to protect Wilderness Park, Snell Hill, The Sandstone Prairie and the Sacred Sites. Oppose the zone change. We need to protect more natural places. We have to live in harmony with this world and we take so much but fail to protect that which gives so freely to us.

Sincerely,  
Monica Starr

**From:** [Shah Uddin](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Re-Zoning  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 3:39:17 PM

---



Dear Councilmembers,

I write to you to urge you to vote against Re-Zoning near Wilderness Park. As a frequent user of the park, I see the value that it brings to the citizens of Lincoln and should be preserved for future generations' use. Assurances that the effects of re-zoning on the Park will be minimized before any changes take place.

Thank you for your time and your vote against Re-Zoing.

Sincerely,  
Shahriar Uddin  
5421 S Bristolwood Pl, Lincoln, NE 68516

**From:** [Karen Loseke](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please save Wildness Park.  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 3:58:35 PM

---

Once it's destroyed it's too late to have this beautiful place in our city.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [D. Stratman](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:01:12 PM

---



Please protect the future of Wilderness Park and reject the Wilderness Crossing development in its current state. I believe it is much too large and has a great potential for damaging the area.

Dan Stratman  
2001 Sewell St.  
Lincoln

**From:** [Chucky Darkside](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to wilderness crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:11:26 PM

---



Hello my name is Charles Spann I am a resident of Lincoln I say no to wilderness crossing my reasons being I am strongly connected to that area due to my culture as a native american man that area is sacred those grounds have been selected and blessed by a medicine man. The lakota believe in owanji in English this means one circle standing side by side shoulder to shoulder and that bio diversity is the most important from every form of life from eagles down to the plant life in this world.

I have seen the changes in people's life from the sweatlodge it is real I've seen people debilitated from car accidents barely able to walk on their own and more athletic then ever.

I've seen people battling addiction achieve victory over their battles .

Without places like the 2 sweatlodges and wilderness park I feel that would not be possible thank you for your time and consideration

**From:** [Wild Learning Students](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wild Learning Student's Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:13:19 PM

---



Dear City Council,

My name is Samara. My last name is Kuwa. I am 8 and my mom is Addis Brown. My Dad aka Baba is Mengistu Kuwa aka DJ Kef. And I disagree with the houses because Wilderness is amazing and important because it helps stop floods and the animals that live there are beautiful. And don't be like Emperor Palpatine.

Thank you for reading this and I hope you say no to the buildings.

Samara Kuwa

-----

Dear City Council,

My name is Mary. I'm 7 years old. I love Wilderness and I want to keep Wilderness wild and beautiful!

Thank you for reading,

Mary

-----

Dear City Council,

My name is Jude. I'm 8 years old. Land is important. Keep Parks alive.

Thank you,

Jude

-----

Dear City Council,

My name is Ruby Lynn Miller and I'm nine. I don't support this proposal. It's mean to Native people and I'm Native!!! And it will flood the town or something. (Star and Broken Heart drawing)

-Ruby

-----

Dear City Council,

My name is Gus. I disagree with this because I love Wilderness.

-Gus

-----

Dear City Council,

My name is Billy. I'm 8 years old. And I don't agree with building near Wilderness because I like Wilderness. And because Wilderness is important to help with flooding.

Please and hopefully thank you,

Billy

-----

Dear City Council,

My name is Lyra. I am 9 years old. And I DON'T SUPPORT THIS DEVELOPMENT!!! This is because: 1. We do not want any more city floods. 2. IT IS INDIGENOUS LAND!! 3. There is plenty more space IN THE CITY TO BUILD MORE HOMES. 4. Wilderness Park is an amazing land that we need to keep alive! 5. THINK OF THE ANIMALS! Don't be the Empire!

I am so angry! Even though I am 9 years I understand this is a horrid, monstourous, awful, Idiotic thing to do!!!! Please, please, please, PLEASE reconsider this development! Thank you for reading, hope you reconsider.

From,

Lyra

P.S. Think about how this would impact YOU TOO!

**From:** [L Olson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:18:53 PM

---



Dear members of the Lincoln City Council,

I agree with my fellow citizens that oppose the Wilderness Crossing development. I am dismayed the Planning Commission has approved such a high density development so close to the Wilderness Park area.

The Planning Department's Summary report states:

*Wilderness Crossing and the future residential area to the north are between Highway 77 and Wilderness Park, and are somewhat disconnected from surrounding development; therefore, it is important to provide an accessible neighborhood commercial center in this location.*

and proposes to change the existing Commercial FLU designation on the west side of Highway 77 to the Wilderness Crossing area instead.

It makes much more sense to leave the existing Commercial FLU designation where it is, across from Wright Park, where there is already a lot of extra traffic for kids' games (which a commercial center would benefit from) and where there is plenty of adjacent residential land for future residential development.

The area where Wilderness Crossing is proposed is much better suited to a low density residential area (such as acreages) or for a community gathering place (such as a church that desires a lot of land surrounding their building). The high density of the proposed housing of Wilderness Crossing - so close to a treasured Lincoln park, to a floodplain, on Pioneers Blvd. which has both a bike trail and a railroad crossing down the road - is ill-advised.

Please oppose the Wilderness Crossing development. At a minimum, please consider a Wilderness Park Environs Study for recommendations on how to better use land adjacent to our beautiful Wilderness Park.

From a concerned citizen, thank you -  
Ingrid Olson

**From:** [Joyce Porter](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please protect Wilderness Park and do not vote to have it annexed so residential and business" will be built on it. It's a special, peaceful place for many to retreat to. Thank you!!  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:19:56 PM

---



Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Ryan Martz](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park Zoning Regulations Vote  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:27:00 PM

---



Lincoln City Council,

I wanted to send a short message voicing my disapproval of the proposed zoning regulations change that would allow development near Wilderness Park.

Thanks,  
Ryan

**From:** [Jacob Purcell](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please Vote Against Rezoning #CZ21  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:36:05 PM

---



Council.

My name is Jacob Purcell. I am a proud Alumni of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Please vote against rezoning #CZ21. The noise pollution, traffic, and other environmental factors would ruin the tranquility of Wilderness Park. Nebraska is 99% private land and has an extremely limited amount of opportunities for wilderness lovers. Please help preserve the natural sanctuary that is Wilderness Park and vote against #CZ21. The equity of nature does not belong to an expensive, higher class, housing development.

Be at peace with a wooded path. Preserve nature's serenity.

Thank you,

Jacob Purcell



**From:** [Zoe Edlund](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Zoning Regulations Near Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 4:48:49 PM

---



Hello,

I am a student here in Lincoln and am emailing you regarding the vote later today about changing zoning regulations near Wilderness Park. I am asking you to please vote against the proposal.

If the proposed plan gets voted in, it poses a threat to the Indigenous Sweat lodge, along with the potential for climate related consequences (such as flooding and fires). The Lincoln community should be more respectful of the Indigenous Peoples Lodge, and if not for that reason, they should be more concerned about the contradictions it makes with the Lincoln Climate Action Plan.

Thank you, and I hope you vote in the most respectful way to our community,

-Zoe Edlund  
[zoe.edlund@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.edlund@gmail.com)

**From:** [Alex Houchin](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 5:10:22 PM

---



Hello once more Councilmembers,

I know you've heard plenty from the public in the last couple of weeks about why and how the proposed Wilderness Crossing development would jeopardize the ecological and spiritual sanctuary known as Wilderness Park, but I want to make one last plea for you to do the right thing and **vote this project down**.

There are plenty of other locations around the outskirts of Lincoln for real estate developments. Don't let "progress" destroy something that cannot be replaced!

Thanks,

Alex M. Houchin  
Lincoln, NE

**From:** [Carlee Koehler](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** oppose zoning wilderness park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 5:23:56 PM

---



To whom it may concern,

The decision on the rezoning issue west of Wildernss Park is happening very soon. My name is Carlee Koehler, and I am a 25 year old newly-wed female, resident of Lincoln, NE, and graduate student with the UNL School of Natural Resources.

I sincerely urge you to oppose the rezoning and to preserve the natural resources and one of the few spiritual retreats of the resilient city of Lincoln. I love my city, and I know it is best to not have development so near the Salt Creek and public park.

Thank you,

Carlee Koehler

**From:** [Lory Dance](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on Wilderness Crossing Housing Development (even more signatures than before)  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 5:29:11 PM

---



To the Lincoln City Council:

On April 6th, 2022, Native American lawyer Walter Echo-Hawk spoke at the Lied Center as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum. His talk included describing his difficulties of pursuing Native rights in court, because of how much of our law relies on the concept of precedence. So much of our law is based on how things have already been done, but this is especially challenging when the constituents are Native. Because for so much of our legal history, White judges have explicitly told Native Americans: "We conquered you. You have no rights."

Precedence is also a major factor in legislatures, all the way down to our City Council. Those of us who sat in the Council chambers on April 18th, joining dozens of opponents for the proposed Wilderness Crossing housing development, heard presentations from many city officials who are seemingly already in support of the project. Many of them said things along the lines of the city already intending to build housing there, according to the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. Before the Native-led opposition could testify about the cultural and spiritual significance of this land in question, and the adjacent sweat lodges in particular, they had to hear from city insiders about how people in higher places already had plans for the area. Where was the consideration for the plans of the descendants of the peoples who lived here centuries before this was even called Lincoln?

The City Council must understand that if they approve Wilderness Crossing, they will be acting in precedence with the settler-colonialist founding of Nebraska. The first White people who came to Nebraska found Native people already living here: Pawnee (like Walter Echo-Hawk), Ponca, Oto-Missouria, Umonhon (Omaha), Dakota, Lakota, Arapaho, Tsististas & Suhtai (Cheyenne), and Kaw Peoples. But those settlers and their descendants were willing to displace these Indigenous peoples (as well as the relocated Ho Chunk [Winnebago], Iowa, and Sac and Fox Peoples), because they too already had other plans.

Many in Lincoln believe in the importance of human rights, and want to do better in relation to Indigenous peoples in particular. Progress has been made. Land acknowledgements are becoming commonplace. We now celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in October. We have new statues celebrating historic Native heroes like Standing Bear and Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte. These are all merely a good start. Paying living Native authorities like Walter Echo-Hawk to come and share their expertise is a solid step in the right direction.

But we will not meaningfully move forward towards justice and reconciliation until our elected officials actually start serving the Natives who are still living here. And the Native community in Lincoln has spoken! The area around Wilderness Park is sacred ground, and the sweat lodges adjacent to it are perhaps the most important religious sites in Lancaster County. And the Wilderness Crossing development plan will disrupt, if not displace, these sweat lodges.

We respect the effort that city planners have to make on long-term planning, but we insist that Native people need to actually be involved in the making of these plans. That's the kind of precedent we want to see going forward. Right now, you need to protect these sweat lodges. We urge the City Council to vote NO on Wilderness Crossing.

*(The above text is exactly the same as the email sent on April 24, 2022. The list below includes a second set of signatures received on the morning of April 25, 2022. In addition to the signatures added by 12:00 pm on April 25, 2022, the version below also includes the*

*signatures added between 12:00 pm and 3:15 pm as well as those added between 3:45 pm and 5:30 pm on April 25, 2022. We will continue to collect signatures but wanted to send those already gathered prior to the April 25, 2022 meeting.)*

Sincerely,

**Signatures added by 9:30 p.m. on April 24, 2022**

Dr. Joy Castro, Lincoln  
Dr. Lory J. Dance, Lincoln  
Dr. Christina D. Falci, Lincoln  
Dr. Margaret Huettl, Lincoln  
Dr. Francis W. Kaye, Lincoln  
Dr. Amelia M. L. Montes, Lincoln  
Dr. Laura Muñoz, Lincoln  
Dr. Ingrid Robyn, Lincoln  
Dr. Luis Othoniel Rosa, Lincoln  
Dr. Colette Yellow Robe, Lincoln  
Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams, Pastor of New Visions United Methodist Church, Lincoln  
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John Raible, Lincoln  
Margaret Williams, Lincoln

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Jennifer Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Charles Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Beau Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Brittany Cooper, Lincoln  
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Nebraskans for Peace  
Wyatt Nelson, Lincoln  
Shauna Oetting, Lincoln  
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**Signatures added by 3:15 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

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Maria Fortune, Lincoln  
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Dr. Jeannette Eileen Jones-Vanzansky, Lincoln  
Terry Langan, Lincoln  
Jeff Mohr, Lincoln  
Jason Schmaderer, Lincoln  
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Stand In For Nebraska  
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Dr. Kara Mitchell Viesca, Lincoln  
Stephanie Walker, Lincoln  
Levelle Wells, Lincoln  
Larry Wexelman, Lincoln  
Linca WhiteEyes, Lincoln  
Catherine Lee Wilson, Lincoln  
Michelle YellowEyes, Lincoln

**Signatures added by 5:30 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

Nicole Church, Lincoln  
Susan Roan Eagle, Lincoln  
Carrie Fegley, Lincoln  
Carol, Flora, Lincoln  
Dr. Margaret Jacobs, Lincoln  
Wendy LittleElk, Lincoln  
Loretta McGeisey, Lincoln  
Heather Young, Lincoln

**From:** [joseph pahr](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing.  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 5:34:56 PM

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**From:** [Lory Dance](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on Wilderness Crossing Housing Development (signatures added since the 5:30 pm addition/edition)  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 5:54:04 PM

---



To the Lincoln City Council:

On April 6th, 2022, Native American lawyer Walter Echo-Hawk spoke at the Lied Center as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum. His talk included describing his difficulties of pursuing Native rights in court, because of how much of our law relies on the concept of precedence. So much of our law is based on how things have already been done, but this is especially challenging when the constituents are Native. Because for so much of our legal history, White judges have explicitly told Native Americans: "We conquered you. You have no rights."

Precedence is also a major factor in legislatures, all the way down to our City Council. Those of us who sat in the Council chambers on April 18th, joining dozens of opponents for the proposed Wilderness Crossing housing development, heard presentations from many city officials who are seemingly already in support of the project. Many of them said things along the lines of the city already intending to build housing there, according to the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. Before the Native-led opposition could testify about the cultural and spiritual significance of this land in question, and the adjacent sweat lodges in particular, they had to hear from city insiders about how people in higher places already had plans for the area. Where was the consideration for the plans of the descendants of the peoples who lived here centuries before this was even called Lincoln?

The City Council must understand that if they approve Wilderness Crossing, they will be acting in precedence with the settler-colonialist founding of Nebraska. The first White people who came to Nebraska found Native people already living here: Pawnee (like Walter Echo-Hawk), Ponca, Oto-Missouria, Umonhon (Omaha), Dakota, Lakota, Arapaho, Tsististas & Suhtai (Cheyenne), and Kaw Peoples. But those settlers and their descendants were willing to displace these Indigenous peoples (as well as the relocated Ho Chunk [Winnebago], Iowa, and Sac and Fox Peoples), because they too already had other plans.

Many in Lincoln believe in the importance of human rights, and want to do better in relation to Indigenous peoples in particular. Progress has been made. Land acknowledgements are becoming commonplace. We now celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in October. We have new statues celebrating historic Native heroes like Standing Bear and Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte. These are all merely a good start. Paying living Native authorities like Walter Echo-Hawk to come and share their expertise is a solid step in the right direction.

But we will not meaningfully move forward towards justice and reconciliation until our elected officials actually start serving the Natives who are still living here. And the Native community in Lincoln has spoken! The area around Wilderness Park is sacred ground, and the sweat lodges adjacent to it are perhaps the most important religious sites in Lancaster County. And the Wilderness Crossing development plan will disrupt, if not displace, these sweat lodges.

We respect the effort that city planners have to make on long-term planning, but we insist that Native people need to actually be involved in the making of these plans. That's the kind of precedent we want to see going forward. Right now, you need to protect these sweat lodges. We urge the City Council to vote NO on Wilderness Crossing.

*(The above text is exactly the same as the email sent on April 24, 2022. The list below includes a second set of signatures received on the morning of April 25, 2022. In addition to the signatures added by 12:00 pm on April 25, 2022, the version below also includes the*



*signatures added between 12:00 pm and 3:15 pm as well as those added between 3:45 pm and 5:30 pm and between 5:30 pm and 5:55 pm on April 25, 2022. We will continue to collect signatures but wanted to send those already gathered prior to and during the April 25, 2022 meeting.)*

Sincerely,

**Signatures added by 9:30 p.m. on April 24, 2022**

Dr. Joy Castro, Lincoln  
Dr. Lory J. Dance, Lincoln  
Dr. Christina D. Falci, Lincoln  
Dr. Margaret Huettl, Lincoln  
Dr. Francis W. Kaye, Lincoln  
Dr. Amelia M. L. Montes, Lincoln  
Dr. Laura Muñoz, Lincoln  
Dr. Ingrid Robyn, Lincoln  
Dr. Luis Othoniel Rosa, Lincoln  
Dr. Colette Yellow Robe, Lincoln  
Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams, Pastor of New Visions United Methodist Church, Lincoln  
Jackson Meredith, Lincoln  
John Raible, Lincoln  
Margaret Williams, Lincoln

**Signatures added by 12:00 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

Kevin Abourezk, Lincoln  
Dr. Belinda Acosta, Lincoln  
Susan Alleman, Lincoln  
Joseph BadMoccasin, Lakota, Lincoln  
Dr. Stephanie Bondi, Lincoln  
Jennifer Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Charles Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Beau Bordeaux, Spiritual Leader, Lincoln  
Brittany Cooper, Lincoln  
Lolita Esparza, Lakota, Lincoln  
Nebraskans for Peace  
Wyatt Nelson, Lincoln  
Shauna Oetting, Lincoln  
Jodi Reese, APRN-NP, Lincoln  
Dr. Corey Rumann, Lincoln  
Renee Sans Souci, Umoha Nation, Lincoln  
Dr. Sarah Sawin-Thomas, Lincoln  
Montanna Smallbear, Lincoln  
Phyllis Stone, Lincoln  
Freedom Thompson, Lincoln  
Nichole Vesely, Lincoln  
Nature Medicine Song Villegas, Lincoln  
Malana Yankton, Lincoln

**Signatures added by 3:15 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

Deveron Baxter, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Thunder/Lightning Clan, Lincoln

Dr. Dawne Y. Curry, Lincoln  
Maria Fortune, Lincoln  
Martha Haas, Lincoln  
Alison Hays, Lincoln  
Intertribal Spiritual Lodges  
Dr. Jeannette Eileen Jones-Vanzansky, Lincoln  
Terry Langan, Lincoln  
Jeff Mohr, Lincoln  
Jason Schmaderer, Lincoln  
Nicole Sica, Lincoln  
Stand In For Nebraska  
Ron Todd-Meyer, Lincoln  
Dr. Kara Mitchell Viesca, Lincoln  
Stephanie Walker, Lincoln  
Levelle Wells, Lincoln  
Larry Wexelman, Lincoln  
Linca WhiteEyes, Lincoln  
Catherine Lee Wilson, Lincoln  
Michelle YellowEyes, Lincoln

**Signatures added by 5:30 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

Nicole Church, Lincoln  
Susan Roan Eagle, Lincoln  
Carrie Fegley, Lincoln  
Carol, Flora, Lincoln  
Dr. Margaret Jacobs, Lincoln  
Wendy LittleElk, Lincoln  
Loretta McGeisey, Lincoln  
Heather Young, Lincoln

**Signatures added by 5:55 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

Dennis Carlson, Lincoln  
Nancy Carlson, Lincoln  
Tanya Encalada, Lincoln  
Pepe Fierro, Lincoln  
Wendell Bird Head, Lincoln  
LaFaya Helmstadter, Lincoln  
Dr. Alice Kang, Lincoln  
Stephanie Knight, Lincoln

**From:** [mmdbgia](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness park.  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 6:55:43 PM

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This project will have no effect on the park.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Jordan Ramaekers](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** !!DONT TEAR WILDERNESS PARK DOWN !!  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 7:12:46 PM

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I strongly oppose the building of wilderness crossing! Lincoln does not need to expand where there is an abundance of wildlife that need the habitat & build on more sacred indigenous land!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! NATIVES ACROSS LINCOLN AND NEBRASKA HAVE USED THIS AS A PRAYER GROUND FOR DECADES & DESERVE TO BE RECOGNIZED AS SUCH, ITS 2022!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Richard Piersol](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Diocese of Lincoln or Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 8:05:53 PM

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I'm not surprised. If we're so desperate for housing, sell Highlands Golf Course.

Res ipsa loquitur

**From:** [kit romjue](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Monday, April 25, 2022 9:32:22 PM

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Good evening City Council,

I had the opportunity to view tonight's meeting in regard to development adjacent to Wilderness Park.

I have to thank Council women, Raybould and Washigton, for their thoughtfulness surrounding the need to be educated on the impact of a development so close to Wilderness Park.

As for the rest of you? This was a shinning example of just how flawed this sytsem is...when there are very smart, legitimate concerns raised and those concerns fall on deaf ears.

I can't imagine why this had to be so rushed or why the developers 'survey' holds such weight over a proper environmental survey.

Something seems quite wrong and a bit curious about the haste of this decision.

Development is not always the right move in certain areas.

Sincerely,

Kit Romjue

**From:** [Lindsey Dudek](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park conservation  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 7:53:56 AM

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Please vote to conserve the land and ecosystems in, around and affected by Wilderness Park. There are valuable and irreplaceable plants and animals found specifically in this area. Losing them would be devastating for not only that specific ecosystem but for we as humans as well. Thank you for your vote to keep our wilderness areas protected. Sincerely, A Concerned Lincolnite.

**From:** [Lori Wood](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Please protect Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 8:45:53 AM

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Please protect Wilderness park and all of our parks from development.  
These spaces are for all to enjoy, not a select few that can pay more to live in the space that was set aside for everyone. If this is allowed to happen, none of our parks will be safe.  
Thank you.  
Lori Wood-2904 Raleigh Street-Lincoln,NE 68516



**From:** [Jeanne Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:07:33 AM

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Please reconsider the zoning for housing development so close to Wilderness Park. This proposal was done without consideration for the wide diversity of birds and wildlife in this park. There needs to be a plan for environmental resource protection in this area. The requirements for providing information on grading, drainage, and stormwater retention should not be waived at your discretion, they are requirements for a reason.

Thank you for reconsidering.

~ Jeanne Johnson  
6132 Fleetwood Drive  
Lincoln NE 68516

**From:** [Rosemary Thornton](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 11:49:53 AM

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Please, please protect Wilderness Park. It is forever for the earth and future citizens, whereas a business is for himself right now. He can find another piece of land that is not preserved for citizens.

jRosemary Thornton  
cirizen

**From:** [Kathy Neugebauer](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:10:59 PM

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Please, City Council, protect wilderness Park.

Sincerely,

Kathy Neugebauer

**From:** [Kathie Starkweather](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Wilderness park  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:21:03 PM

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Thank you to Jane Raybold and Sandra Washington for your vote on the Wilderness Park issue.

There has been continued reference to the need for housing. I agree that we need much more affordable housing in Lincoln, though I still strongly disagree about locating it where it is currently slated for the health of the park but also in recognition of what the space means to Tribal communities. I would love to hear why that was not a strong consideration, other than money.

My question - will this be affordable if housing to include low income folks?

Thank you and again special thanks to City councilwomen Raybold and Washington.

Kathie Starkweather

**From:** [Ali](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** No to Wilderness Crossing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2022 3:24:07 PM

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I oppose the zoning change for Wilderness Crossing. I urge you to consider slowing and/or relocate this development.

Ali Loker

**From:** [Marissa Kraus](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Video footage for Wilderness Park Hearing  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 1:04:31 PM

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Hello,

I am a journalism student at UNL and I was wondering if I could have the video footage of the public hearing for Wilderness Park that I believe was last Monday the 18th. I found it on YouTube but wanted a version that I could use and download. It features Kevin Aboureszk and his daughter.

Thank you,  
Marissa Kraus

**From:** [Pi Book](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Adopt an Ash  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 6:40:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [Adopt an Ash 500 Jeffery Dr.pdf](#)

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Council Members -

I am requesting your help and feedback. The city of Lincoln implemented an Adopt-An-Ash tree program to allow citizens to care for their ash trees rather than have them cut down. I completed the process and received the appropriate permit (attached). I did this according to city protocol and followed policies. A contracted tree company told me today that they were going to cut down my tree. I showed them my permit. I also contacted Pam Hoffman - whom I received my permit from. She sent me my permit months ago and confirmed to me on April 22 that I have one on file and she said it should not be cut down.

Today an employee (Adam Klingenberg) stopped at my home to tell me bluntly that he was going to cut down my tree. He said that he had marked my tree in February of 2021 and said he did not know we had completed the permit. Please bear in mind my tree is still standing. He said he looked and did see that we had a permit - but said he had already paid/contracted with a tree company to cut down the trees on our street so he was going to go through with cutting it down. I hope you can sympathize with my position. We followed protocol. My tree is still standing. Klingenberg repeated over and over that he was sorry that he did not know we got the permit, but followed each time by saying that he had already paid to have it cut down.

I am imploring some assistance with this issue. The tree is still standing - it is our only tree and we completed the process to assume responsibility to care for it. Klingenberg's reasoning is that he made a decision in February of 2021 to cut it down yet we still got a permit in September of 2021. I asked what we did wrong - why would we be issued a permit and make plans to pay to have it cared for and find out he was going to cut it down anyway. Again, he said he had already contracted/paid for it to be removed. I do not believe that this is right or just. If the arborist did not reconcile between Feb 2021 and Sept 2021 to see who had filed permits, I do not believe that my family and kids should lose their tree.

I believe Klingenberg understood that logic. I am disappointed that he then shifted his reasoning (after repeatedly saying he had paid/contracted to have it removed and that he was sorry he had already paid for it). When I expressed my concern about the process, he changed his reasoning to say that he could simply decide that the tree was sick, essentially that it was not worth my time or effort to challenge him. He repeatedly said that had he known we had a permit, he would not have contracted to have it cut down. After finding the paperwork in order, he changed his tone and said he would simply issue a decision that the tree was sick because of a branch he determined to be a hazard. I said that my family would pay the cost to care for the tree, handle the branch and any other, and uphold our end of the agreement. He said he was just going to be the bad guy and cut it

down anyway because he'd already told the contractors to do it -and if I protest, he will use his position to override my concern and simply assert his ability to deem it sick.

I am extremely disappointed and concerned about the direction of the conversation and the fact that my family has offered to do our duty as citizens by filing the paperwork and paying for the tree. I am asking for your help in intervening and allowing us to keep our family's tree. It is still standing. Will you please help us?

Your citizens,  
PJ & Laura Book  
500 Jeffery Dr



## Adopt-an-Ash Program

### Permit to Chemically Treat Ash Trees on Public Property



## PERMIT APPROVAL

This section for office use:

Date: 09/29/2021

Permit # 203015

Application complete and accurate? ☒ Yes ☐ No

ID # of street tree: T002650

Address of street tree(s): 500 JEFFERY DR

ID # of street tree:

(Attach additional sheet if more than 2 trees are part of this permit approval)

Name of staff member recording permit approval: **Roy Rivera Barcenas**

*This permit is approved upon receipt provided the statements on the application are complete and accurate. The permit is valid for 2 years from the date of issuance. Upon expiration, you will need to request a new permit if you wish to continue treatment of the tree. If a new permit is not requested, the tree will be scheduled into a phased sequence for removal.*

### NOTE:

Each person who submits an application is also responsible for completing the lower section of this form and providing a copy of the invoice received from the certified applicator after the tree has been treated.

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## CERTIFICATION THAT ASH TREE TREATMENT IS COMPLETE

This section for use by applicant to verify that treatment has been completed:

Treatment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit # 203015

*Complete this section of the form after the tree has been treated for EAB and you have received an invoice from the licensed applicator. Copy or detach the bottom of this form and return it with a copy of the invoice to verify that the treatment has been completed.*

The ash tree(s) in the public right-of-way adjacent to the lot where I live or have a business have been treated for EAB by a licensed applicator and the invoice for the work is attached:

☐ Confirmation of treatment street tree ID #: T002650

☐ Confirmation of treatment street tree ID #:

(Attach additional sheet if more than 2 trees are part of this certification)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: PJ Book

Applicant Address: 500 Jeffery Dr. Lincoln, NE 68505

Applicant Phone Number: 402-480-2153

Applicant Email: pjbook18@gmail.com

Return form to:  
Lincoln Parks & Recreation Dept.  
Attn: Community Forestry  
3131 O St., Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
forestry@lincoln.ne.gov

**From:** [Mary Gabel](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Save Wilderness Park!  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 7:50:07 PM

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Please support Wilderness Park. Lincoln needs parks and wild areas to enjoy the beauty of nature and enjoy the wide variety of wild birds present there!

Mary Gabel  
1426 Dakota St  
Lincoln, NE 68502-4624

**From:** [George Wolf](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** Another Entity in NC adopts Nondiscrimination Ordinance  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 2:05:57 PM

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Dear Council Members,

FYI:

<https://restorationnewsmedia.com/wakeweekly/news/wendell-adopts-nondiscrimination-ordinance-7578490>

George Wolf

**From:** [Ronald Case](#)  
**To:** [Council Packet](#)  
**Subject:** fyi  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 3:26:09 PM

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Council Members,

I want to thank councilwomen Raybould and Washington for their votes in opposition to the Wilderness Park planned development. This isn't truly a "wilderness" area but it is very unique, and has increased value because of its proximity to the city. I fear that big money (developers) has more sway than the public. Votes have consequences. Much like the "progressive" state legislators who could not muster a single vote in opposition to the tax plan that is going to benefit the wealthy, I am losing confidence in elected persons chosen to represent the majority. Mine is a single vote, but I will not support those who fail to represent the best interests of our state and, in this case, the city.

Ron Case  
Lincoln